



**Dear Eastern Section Member:**

The decision was made in the special called meeting on Monday January 16th, to indicate to AIA National and AIA North Carolina that the Eastern Section wishes to become a Voluntary Section of the AIA.

This decision was made by more than a 2/3 majority vote of those attending the meeting and is also confirmed by the ballots sent in by the membership. Thus, the decision is in compliance with our bylaws. Ninety six ballots were sent to the dues paying members of the Eastern Section in November of 2016. Fifty one ballots were returned and three ballots were added to this total to make a combined response to this question of over 50% of the membership. This is an impressive response from the membership and the margin of voting was roughly 3 to 1 in favor of becoming a Voluntary Section. Thus the attendees of the called meeting on Monday were presented with both a clear mandate and a representative sample of the wishes of those who belong to the Eastern Section.

The second question decided on Monday was to take \$40,000 out of our current funds on hand and to distribute it equally between the two architectural programs in the state. Thus, \$20,000 will go to the Dept. of Architecture in the College of Design at N.C. State and an equal amount to the College of Arts + Architecture at UNC Charlotte. The money that will be donated to these architectural programs will be split equally between scholarships for students of architecture who are from the geographic area represented by the Eastern Section, support of the iPAL program and advancement of programs for preparation of students and our Associate Members for the new Architectural Licensing Examination. This will be a onetime donation to an endowment intended to encourage young professionals to choose to practice Down East. It will also replace the Golf Tournament which transferred money for student scholarships in the past.

These are two major changes in the way our section does business. To many of us there will be no apparent change in real services to the membership. We will still be hosting continuing education, development of our young associates, maintenance of our website, and design awards. We will still have operating funds sufficient to do what we have been doing for the past three years. However, if you have any questions do not hesitate to address them to me. I will give you the best answers that I can find in regards to the transition of our section from a mandatory to a voluntary section.

Hunt

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