

Texas Society of Architects  
January 2009 Winter Board of Directors Meeting

LRGV-AIA TSA Director  
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The 2009 TSA winter board meeting was held in Austin at the Omni Austin Hotel, Jan. 23-24. Members engaged in discussion with Donna Howard about key issues facing the Texas Legislature during the 81st legislative session which commenced Jan. 13. The board then approved legislative issues to be carried forward during this session. These included fighting the engineers practice act which will almost certainly be back. There has also been discussion by the interior designers group to amend their practice act to require an interior designer for all projects requiring TAS review. In the case of buildings that require an architect, we the architects would be a subcontractor to the interior designer. Needless to say, the practice of architecture would then be reduced to envelope designer, and if proposed, TSA will fight very hard to defeat it.



We were asked to get to know our state legislators, including relatives and friends for use in making a TSA connection. I am asking all of you who have a connection to Chuy Hinojosa or Veronica Gonzales to let me know. These connections could be helpful to our profession. TSA is considering forming a LEED task force to assist in advising state government. Treasurer Dan Hart, AIA presented a preliminary year-end financial statement that re-confirms TSA's solid financial footing. He insured the board that an action plan is in place if the Society experiences a downturn in dues, advertising, or other revenue after the first quarter of this year. Beginning this year every Board director will serve on a TSA committee as our chapter has done for years. This closer relationship will increase the Board's knowledge of how TSA functions and what the Society's priorities should be.

Regional Directors Jeff Potter, AIA and Gabriel Durand Hollis, FAIA participated by sharing items from the AIA Board Meeting and asked TSA Board for input on a number of issues. The liveliest discussion involved the designation AIA International for Registered Architects of other countries. AIA is seeking to upgrade the national headquarters to a high LEED level as funding permits.

President Bill Reeves, AIA engaged the board to move ahead in an effort to finish the work of strategic planning begun last fall. TSA has been looking to purchase land or an existing building in close proximity to the Capitol. The intent of a new or renovated TSA building would be to build equity instead of paying rent and a more dynamic presence designed by a TSA member firm. This search is ongoing. The next Board meeting is April 17-18 in Dallas. For more details, minutes are posted on the Governance page of the TSA website following Board approval. Friday evening, Board members were given a reception and tour of TSA offices.



**Action items for the local chapter:**

Local chapter Executive committee members have been asked to sign Conflict of Interest Policy and Antitrust Policy similar to the one the TSA Board Members signed at this meeting. Jeanette Alison will forward a copy to me for Ex Com Signatures. The chapters must also designate a disaster relief coordinator for our chapter. If one is not appointed the chapter president will be appointed. This person would be the TSA contact point in the event architects are asked to volunteer or advice, according to the Texas good Samaritan rule, in the event of a natural disaster. As your TSA rep. I am a rookie at this, and there is a learning curve. I enjoyed this meeting greatly and advise chapter members to sign up for TSA Committees and attend TSA events whenever possible. Please share with me

your ideas and concerns.