



## Friday Facts

August 29, 2008

### In This Issue

[Headquarters Closed for Holiday](#)

[FAPAC Makes Campaign Contributions](#)

[Disaster Assistance Program](#)

[Welcome New Members](#)

### AIA Florida News

#### AIA Florida Office Closed for Holiday

The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida) headquarters will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 in observance of Labor Day. Regular office hours, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

#### Florida TaxWatch Files Friend of the Court Brief

On Monday, the FloridaTax Watch filed an amicus brief in support of Amendment 5 opponents. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments from both parties on Sept. 3 (a change from the original Sept. 8 date) with each side allotted 20 minutes to present their case.



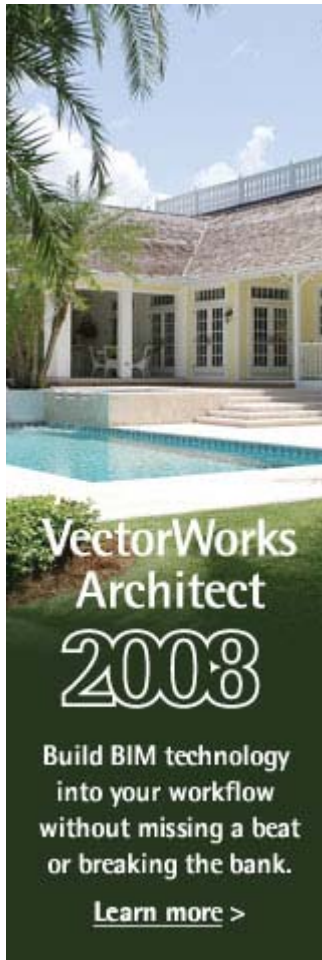
Literally translated, an amicus brief means "friend of the court" and is a written statement prepared and filed by a person and/or group who is not a party in a lawsuit, but who has a strong interest in the subject matter.

In the brief, Florida TaxWatch stated that "the questions to be addressed by this Honorable Court are whether the ballot title and summary of Amendment 5 fairly inform the voter, in clear and unambiguous language, of the chief purpose of the amendment and whether the language of the title and summary misleads the public. This issue is of substantial importance to Florida TaxWatch because of the organization's specified mission of improving citizen understanding about taxation and fiscal policy, which includes ensuring that the voters of Florida are adequately and accurately informed about the implications of proposed tax policy changes when they are taken directly to the public through referenda."

As a reminder, this proposed amendment would create a

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## Quick Links

- [AIA Florida Website](#)
- [Contract Documents](#)
- [Classified Ads](#)
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## Did You Know...

The members area of the new AIA Florida website has an archive of all Association newsletters such as *Friday Facts* and the *Component Newsflash*, as well as other member resources that are beneficial to the way you do business.

nearly \$11 billion shortfall in state revenues and would, in many opinions, force the Legislature to institute a sales tax on services.

The Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit research institute that serves as the watchdog of citizens' tax dollars. To read the brief in its entirety, [CLICK HERE](#).

### FAPAC Makes Contributions to Deserving Candidates

The Florida Architects' Political Action Committee (FAPAC) acts as



the political arm of AIA Florida. The committee has several responsibilities one of which is to raise funds that are used to support those candidates and elected officials who believe in the architecture profession.

The committee's commitment to supporting architecture-friendly candidates is realized through Breakfast of Champions events across the state and the annual Night at the Ballpark. Both programs allow AIA Florida members to connect with candidates and incumbents in informal settings to discuss those issues pertinent to the industry.

#### ***A Night at the Ballpark***

It wasn't your typical game night at Thursday's Tampa Bay Rays game. As the Rays' players took to the field, key FAPAC members met with local candidates to support their efforts for state office.



As part of "Night at the Ballpark," FAPAC members presented campaign contributions to candidates in amounts allowed by Florida election laws.

The "Night at the Ballpark" is an annual event where FAPAC hosts a casual night at a Tampa Bay Rays baseball game. Since its start seven years ago, it has evolved into a significant event that raises the visibility and influence of AIA Florida in the political process while building personal relationships between AIA Florida members and candidates.

The event was hosted by Stephen Koontz, LEED AP of Tampa Bay Trane and was sponsored by Mark House and Ted Silence of The BECK Group.

FAPAC contributions are critical to the Association's

## AIA Working For You

AIA Florida has added a new tool for web site visitors to search for AIA Florida firm members by firm name, city or zip code. [CLICK HERE](#) to take a look!

## Quote of the Week

"A great architect is not made by way of a brain nearly so much as he is made by way of a cultivated, enriched heart."

-Frank Lloyd Wright

Have a favorite quote?  
Send them to  
[mmcdonald@aiafla.org](mailto:mmcdonald@aiafla.org).

[aiaflanews@aiafla.org](mailto:aiaflanews@aiafla.org)  
[www.aiafla.org](http://www.aiafla.org)

:: 850-222-7590

political involvement. It's not too late to make a donation. [Donate Today!](#)

*(Pictured above l-r: FAPAC Chair, Rick Logan, AIA; AIA Florida Regional Director Mickey Jacob, AIA; Rep. Jim Frishe, R-54; and AIA Florida Regional Director, Henry Woodroffe, FAIA)*

### A Breakfast of Champions

Recently, several candidates and chapters participated in the Breakfast of Champions program where FAPAC presented campaign contributions with additional individual contributions by local AIA Florida members.

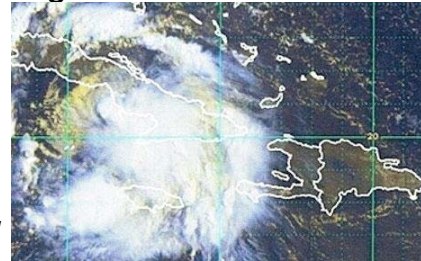


AIA Florida Regional Director, Mickey Jacob, AIA believes the key to the success of the program is getting the personal checks in the hands of the architect members who then deliver them personally. "It's not a paid lobbyist handing over the check," Jacob said. "It's our members who live in that legislative district doing it. And that carries, in my opinion, a lot more weight than any other way we distribute PAC funds or communicate with the legislators."

*(Pictured above l-r: AIA Florida Vice President, Charlie Clary, FAIA; Rep. Ray Sansom, R-4; and AIA Florida President-elect Steve Jernigan, AIA)*

### Disaster Assistance Training Available for Members

Last week, Tropical Storm Fay moved sluggishly across Florida leaving several feet of water that led to flooding in some areas. While Fay was not categorized as a hurricane, the storm caused



significant damage that prompted Gov. Crist to seek federal aid for several water-logged counties.

Natural disasters such as this one, and those that occurred during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, are the reason AIA Florida has taken proactive steps to develop a disaster assistance/mitigation program. In September, the Association will offer a six hour post-disaster assessment certification course. The free training will allow architects to become certified Post Disaster

Safety Assessors where they can assist local law enforcement after a disaster strikes.

Members interested in taking the course should contact AIA Florida Vice President, Michael Lingerfelt, AIA, at [mlingerfelt@mcg-fl.com](mailto:mlingerfelt@mcg-fl.com) for more information.

### **Architecture Laced throughout Pages of Popular Magazine**

Architecture was a prominent theme in the *Florida Trend's* 50th anniversary issue, which was distributed this week. The self-proclaimed "magazine of Florida business" explored several topics related to architecture, many of which mentioned AIA Florida members. Coverage included:

The logo for Florida Trend magazine, featuring the word "Florida" in a smaller, red, serif font above the word "Trend" in a larger, bold, red, serif font.

- Pg. 16-The Sarasota School of Architecture is featured.
- Pg. 80-The remodeled Brown's Hotel in Miami Beach, which won a Merit Award of Excellence in the 2005 Florida/Caribbean Design & Honor Awards. The award went to Shulman & Associates.
- Pg. 94-Bullock Tice Associates, AIA Florida Firm Member, is recognized for 50 years of existence.
- Pg. 100-Mickey Jacob's, AIA Predictions for 2058.
- Pg. 118-Sam Holladay and Tim Seibert of Seibert Architects were both quoted in a piece about the big three trends defining home design.
- Pg. 22 (an insert)-Florida's Green Advantages mentions Larry Maxwell's Sustainable Florida Green Building Best Practice Award.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read a few of the articles.

### **Century Commission to Host Planning Session**

The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida will host the 2008 Water Congress: Planning for Florida's Water Future, in Orlando on Sept. 25 and 26. The two day event will be held at the Orlando World Center Marriott and is open to the public.



AIA Florida's Commission on the Environment (COTE) Chair, Larry Maxwell, AIA, was invited and will attend the event as a delegate representing the Association.

The Century Commission plans to bring together people and organizations that represent water from all aspects-environmental, agricultural and public use. The goal is to come away with a concrete set of recommended policies and action steps that will respond to Florida's water needs over the next 50 years.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information or to register.

### **Florida Workers' Comp Rates to Drop**

For many AIA Florida firms and members, workers' compensation is an expensive, but necessary type of insurance to own. In the past, Florida rates have been so exorbitant that the state was consistently ranked among the top 10 most expensive rates in the country. However, since 2003, the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) has continued to lower rates and it looks like another reduction is in the near future.

Yesterday, the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation announced that NCCI has proposed another workers' comp rate decrease for the ensuing year. The filing calls for an average rate decrease of 14.1 percent throughout Florida, which would produce a savings of more than \$465 million for Florida employers.

If approved, the rate decrease would be the sixth consecutive drop since the Legislature passed sweeping reforms to the state's workers' compensation system in 2003. The cumulative overall statewide average rate decrease since 2003 would total 58.3 percent.

The rate change would be effective for new and renewal business as of Jan. 1, 2009.

### **Codes & Standards Committee Applications Due Monday**

The AIA is now accepting applications for members to join the Codes and Standards Committee. Interested members should submit a letter of intent, along with a current resume, that focuses on knowledge and interest in the codes and standards process. The deadline to submit applications is **Monday, Sept. 1**.

The AIA Codes and Standards Committee is responsible for code adoptions, recommendations for code changes and participating in committee meetings with related code organizations. Six committee members are appointed by the AIA National president.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please forward the requested information to the current committee chair, Henry Kosarzycki, AIA at [hkosarzycki@commerce.state.wi.us](mailto:hkosarzycki@commerce.state.wi.us).

## **Continuing Education**

### **Earn Required Credits with Hot Topics**

Next month, AIA Florida

**HOT TOPICS**

will offer Hot Topics, a three-part, day long seminar pertaining to the Florida Building Code. The seminars offer 6.5 LU hours and 6.5 HSW hours.

The state requires a minimum of two hours of an advanced FBC course every biennium. Hot Topics will include five hours of advanced FBC courses.

Hot Topics will be held Sept. 24, 25 and 26 in Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando and Pensacola, respectively. The cost to attend is \$275 for members and this excellent price covers an entire day and the three courses listed below. The topics are:

- **Significant Differences in the New 2007 Florida Building Codes- Advanced Course.** This course is worth 3 LU Hours (3 HSW).
- **Selection of Windows and Doors in Compliance with Current Building Codes.** This course is worth 1.5 LU Hours (1.5 HSW).
- **Advanced FBC Accessibility Compliance Course: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly - Or Why Did I Do That?** This course is worth 2 LU Hours (2 HSW).

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register today!

### **EP Conference Provides Opportunities for Young Professionals**

The Annual Emerging Professionals Conference, which is for students, interns, associates, architects and other design professionals who have been licensed 10 years or less, provides great networking opportunities and continuing education (CE) courses. This mini-convention is designed to give younger architects the professional development and unique experiences that will enable them to succeed, and support them in embarking on new challenges.

Registration for the 4th Annual EP Conference is now available. The cost to attend is \$150 for AIA Florida members, \$200 for non-members. Prices increase by \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members for onsite registrations. Registrations will be accepted in the AIA Florida office until Oct. 10.

This year's conference will be held Oct. 17-18 in Miami Lakes at the Shula's Hotel & Golf Club. For more information and to register, please [CLICK HERE](#).

## **Component Happenings**

### **AIA Southwest**

*2008 Design Conference and Awards Celebration*  
Saturday, Sept. 6  
Bonita Bay Clubhouse in Bonita Springs  
[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

#### **AIA Ft. Lauderdale**

*The Built Environment and Health Seminar*  
Thursday, Sept. 18. Admission is free.  
Exact time and location to be determined.  
1 LU HSW Hour.

#### **AIA Orlando**

*Annual Meeting & Lecture by Jonathan Segal, FAIA -  
"Architect as a Developer"*  
Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
The free event will be held at the Orlando Museum of Art  
(2416 North Mills Avenue).  
Please RSVP to [rsvp@aiaorlando.com](mailto:rsvp@aiaorlando.com) by Friday, Sept. 19.

Have your component's event listed here. Email them to  
Monica McDonald at [mmcdonald@aiafla.org](mailto:mmcdonald@aiafla.org).

[For more events, visit our calendar.](#)

#### **Welcome New Members**

Clayon George Carr, Assoc. AIA (AIA Palm Beach)  
Evan G. Siegel, Assoc. AIA (AIA Miami)  
Christopher M. Walczak, Assoc. AIA (AIA Southwest)

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AIA Florida | 104 East Jefferson St. | Tallahassee | FL | 32301