

# OCCULLUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MARCH, 1971

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 7

## SPECIAL CHAPTER MEETING TO BE HELD TO VOTE ON SCHOLARSHIP FUND ASSESSMENT

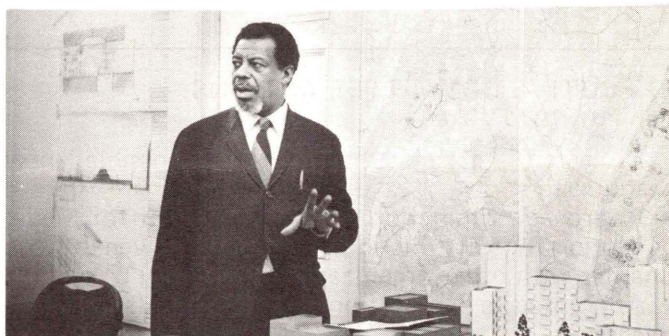
President Giorgio Cavaglieri has called for a special Chapter meeting to be held on March 8th, 5:30 P.M. in the Second Floor Auditorium, 20 W. 40th Street. The Executive Committee has recommended that a Public Service Fund-raising Program be established with a goal of \$300,000 over a five year period, which will be used to support and expand the Chapter's existing minorities scholarship programs. The proposal recommends that 25% of the goal, or \$75,000, be paid for by assessing each Corporate member \$10 per year and adding \$3 per technical employee to sustaining firm dues. The By-laws require a vote on the recommendation.

According to Tim Prentice and David Glasser, originators of the program and its details, the purpose of the assessment is to provide a "real" commitment. They have proposed that fund-raising efforts be extended to the broader construction community. Consultants, general contractors, sub-contractors, manufacturers and owner-builders will be approached with knowledge that the Chapter has committed itself to providing \$75,000 over five years. Prentice and Glasser feel an assessment policy is more equitable and will channel fund-raising energies outside the Chapter rather than within its own membership.

If passed, the Public Service Fund-raising Program will begin by the formation of a Central Committee of eight Chapter members consisting of Prentice, Glasser and six members, each of which is to superintend fund raising for one of the funding sources (consultants, engineers, etc.). Each sub-chairman will develop a subordinate system of architect contacts to personally follow up a maximum of three sources. So far Richard Roth, Rolland Thompson and Saul Edelbaum have volunteered to serve on the Central Committee.

The Executive Committee passed the proposal unanimously. Tim Prentice has pointed out that with \$75,000 each year the Chapter's commitment to assist graduates of the Chapter ARCH Training Program through architectural school would be assured. Furthermore, the Equal Opportunities Awards Program, which has given financial assistance to minority architectural students since 1963, could

(Continued on page 2, col. 2)



Josh Lawrence, TATAC Executive Director

Photo by Richard Tobias

## TATAC MEETING REPORT

The Chapter-sponsored meeting Feb. 11 on progress of the Architects' Technical Assistance Center (TATAC) produced an impressive turnout—over 100—responding to a call to "help save this City". David Todd, the Chapter's liaison with the Center, introduced Joshua Lawrence, TATAC Executive Director, who voiced the hope that efforts of the Center could help turn the tide that is engulfing the City's housing stock and community spirit.

Lawrence and Walther Grunwald introduced several Center volunteers who presented some of the more than 60 projects showing the breadth, scope of and need for Center activities.

Lawrence and Todd made clear that the need for the Center's technical services has been amply demonstrated; a momentum has been building up both in inquiries and in accepted and assigned projects. Lawrence is engaged full-time through a grant from the New York Urban Coalition; further funding and additional volunteers are essential if the momentum is to be maintained. Todd asked for volunteers, not only students, graduate and registered architects, but those who would be willing to lend advice and counsel on handling the bureaucracies and those who could give assistance with the Center's clerical and secretarial needs. Those who did not attend the meeting can call Lawrence at 594-0259.

Tim Prentice and David Glasser have been appointed by the Executive Committee to work with the Center on a continuing basis. The strongest possible support by the New York Chapter is the order of the day.



NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
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George S. Lewis ..... Executive Director

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA, President	David E. Glasser
Frederick G. Frost, Jr. FAIA, 1st Vice-Pres.	Lawrence Litchfield
Leon Brand, Vice President	T. Merrill Prentice, Jr.
Thomas Galvin, Vice President	Armand P. Bartos
Der Scutt, Secretary	Howard H. Juster
James B. Baker, Treasurer	James S. Rossant

#### OCULUS COMMITTEE

Kurt Karmin	John Doran, Editor and Chairman
Linda Yang	Joel D. Kaufman
Edward L. LaMura	Barry Stanley
	John B. Schwartzman

J. Arvid Klein

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Feb. 10, 1971

- Discussed matters relating to possible new headquarters.
- Approved nomination of Geoffrey Platt for Medal of Honor for City Planning, an award given by the Chapter with other organizations.
- Appointed a Resolutions Committee (see article this issue).
- Resolved to establish a Political Affairs Committee (see article this issue).
- Accepted a report from the Office Practice Committee submitted by Peter Hopf, Chairman, recommending possible actions in response to the economic situation.
- Decided to meet twice monthly when required by lengthy agenda.

#### POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO BE ESTABLISHED

Plans for a Political Affairs Committee, as proposed by Leon Brand and Thomas P. Galvin, were approved unanimously by the Executive Committee at their last meeting. The new committee would endeavor to positively affect critical public issues that relate to the Chapter's special knowledge and professional expertise. This would be accomplished directly by initiating and monitoring public discussion of issues concerning: housing, mass transit, ecology, parks, urban planning, etc., and indirectly by publicly rating, in the manner of the Citizens Union, elected and appointed officials.

Specifically its aims will be accomplished by:

1. Participation in public hearings.
2. Appearance on public interest radio and TV programs.
3. Organizing public forums and/or press conferences.
4. Interviewing individual elected representatives.
5. Polling and rating of candidates for elective office.
6. Rallying support on key issues by creating a Chapter "Minute Man" program patterned after the national AIA program.

Policy determination would remain the function of the Executive Committee. Its membership will consist of nine members to be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve overlapping year terms, with an unlimited number of contributing members. J.A.K.

#### CHAPTER MEETING (Cont. from page 1)

be enlarged to meet increasing demands; this year 26 students received a total of \$12,000, and the number of applicants increase yearly.

The New York Chapter originated the concept of scholarship assistance to potential minority architects as a means of dealing creatively with the urban crisis and the Executive Committee has recognized the success of this effort. You have your opportunity to vote "yes" or "no" on March 8th.

K.K.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

In your February issue a report was given of a December 17 meeting of the Housing Committee which heard several speakers express their feelings and opinions on the present state of housing programs and on their experience with federally funded turnkey programs.

Unfortunately, I was not able to be present at that meeting, but I must stress my concern and disappointment at not seeing reported any opposition to the statements made by Mr. Susci.

According to Oculus:

"He listed 3 goals: fair return, good housing, and good architecture, but pointed out that they were often mutually exclusive. Shelter housing is more important than 'good architecture', he contended."

As for me, I strongly object to what in my opinion is a misunderstanding of the overall goals of housing and also perhaps the cause of many of our urban problems.

Housing must be the creation of communities and not the construction of sheltered dormitories. This means that housing must be architecture and not shelter engineering.

The recent tragedy of an abandoned 30 million dollar new urban housing project in St. Louis testifies to the lack of identification and the lack of acceptance for these shelters from our slum dwellers. A ruined old building in the heart of an easily reached commercial area is still more desirable than an oppressive new tower in a sea of parking lots.

Until all our officials and legislature open their eyes beyond the statistics and the arithmetic of the filing cabinets, the problems of our cities will not be solved.

Giorgio Cavaglieri  
President, NYCAIA

*Housing Committee Chairman, Seymour Jarmul reports that similar opinions were expressed by Committee members during a panel discussion at the meeting. A subcommittee headed by Jonas Vizbaras is working on the situation. Among the recommendations being studied is the transfer of Turnkey sponsorship from builder-developers to quasi-public agencies that could keep the overall goals in focus. The problem, Jarmul notes, would be to prevent these agencies "from setting up the bureaucratic gauntlets that made it necessary to create Turnkey in the first place. And the key to this freedom lies in getting the Agencies to trust their architects."*



## REVIEWING A MASTER PLAN ISN'T EASY

After black militant accusations of a "Masters' Plan", it has been considered politic to refer to it simply as "A Plan for New York City", as it appears on the covers. But master or no master, the proposed document is a huge, complex, and yet generalized publication to study. When adopted, it will carry practically no legal weight and yet its proposals may well determine whether the City develops to be livable or not.

On Feb. 4th Walter Rutes conducted a special meeting of the Urban Design Committee and representatives of the Housing, Parks, & Recreation, Traffic & Transportation, and Historical Buildings Committees as part of a continuing review process designed to grow into a Chapter white paper on the Plan. Their deadline is June 1971.

Ninety percent of the review will be on Manhattan. Special subcommittees are reviewing the other boroughs. Each member of the Urban Design Committee is writing his own opinion of the "Critical Issues" and Manhattan sections. A chart system is also being used to analyze both the physical and non-physical elements asking 1. Is the information adequate? 2. Is the policy good? 3. Is implementation planned? At this meeting there were many different opinions expressed on the few items discussed. Compiling the results will be a formidable task.

Betty Martin, Director of Reports and Publications of the City Planning Commission, spoke briefly to the Committee. She described the process of review by the 52 local planning boards but agreed the NYCAIA approach should be broader, more in the order of organizations such as the Community Service Society. According to Miss Martin, public hearings on the Manhattan section won't begin for at least a year because of staff schedulings. During that time there will be Planning Commission experts on subjects such as housing and transportation available for questioning by the Chapter. In addition to producing a white paper, the Chapter intends to make statements at public hearings on the Plan.

K.K.

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FORMED

Resolutions for consideration by the AIA convention in Detroit this June must be received by the national AIA Resolutions Committee by April 21. The Chapter's Executive Committee has established a Resolutions Committee to solicit proposed resolutions from the membership for forwarding to Washington. Appointed to this new committee are Thomas Galvin, Chairman; Leon Brand, David Glasser and Lawrence Litchfield.

Formerly resolutions could be submitted from the convention floor. The decision to require advance submission was based on the desirability of preliminary coordination by the national Resolutions Committee, with texts distributed in advance of the vote; these resolution texts are expected to be distributed to local chapters by May 14.

## THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON ARCHITECTURE

Charged with the broad goal of encouraging "excellence in architecture" in State constructed buildings, the New York State Council on Architecture was established by the Legislature in August 1966. With George A. Dudley, Chairman, and John P. Jansson, Executive Director, the Council's task essentially is the simplification and coordination of all the methods and procedures involved in the development of State funded structures.

The five member council includes Burnham Kelly, George Nelson, G.E. Kidder Smith and William J. Strawbridge, Jr., who were appointed for terms varying from 1 to 5 years by Governor Rockefeller and the State Senate. A small office staff in its mid-Manhattan headquarters is augmented by part-time professional consultants from throughout the State. Last year the Council received an appropriation from the Legislature of approximately \$203,000.

Not a design review board, Mr. Jansson pointed out, the Council proceeds on the basic assumption that the heads of State agencies responsible for building wish to improve their procedures and coordinate their efforts with those of other agencies. Under the direction of consultant Daniel Sullivan, the Council published an inventory listing those agencies using State funds for any phase of construction. This was the first such centralized source established for State work, and it was noted that 45 agencies had under contract over \$3 billion for the fiscal year of March 1968 to 1969. Thus, New York State was involved in virtually 10% of all government building in the United States.

Each month, the heads of some dozen State agencies meet at the Council's Broadway office to exchange information and explore common problems. Sub-Committee studies are pending in such areas as improved fee systems for architects and their consultants, and updating specifications formats and programming standards. Recommendations have been made to the Governor for simplified and more efficient architectural statutes for enactment in the State Legislature.

In its recognition of the need for preserving important architectural and historical buildings, the Council has proposed an inventory of all organizations involved in historic preservation. A central listing of significant buildings in jeopardy would be established and available for agencies desirous of additional space but unaware of the existence of sound, architecturally important structures.

And finally, included in the Council's program is the proposal for establishing a Governor's Award for Excellence in Architecture. By bringing quality design to the attention of the public, the State would be further encouraged in the selection of talented architects.

L.Y.



## MASTERSPEC AUTOMATED SPECIFICATIONS SYSTEM REVIEWED

On February 9, the Technology Committee and Office Practice Committee held a joint meeting to present and discuss the Automated Master Specification System (Masterspec) produced by Production Systems for Architects and Engineers (PSAE), a non-profit corporation sponsored and initially funded by the AIA. Peter Hopf, Chairman of the Office Practice Committee, introduced the program. Frederick G. Frost, Jr., a member of the AIA National Task Force to Promote Masterspec, and its New York State Region coordinator, presented a brief history of master specification development and how the AIA became involved in its development.

John H. Schruben, President of PSAE described the reasoning behind the Masterspec approach to specification writing, its present state of development and its future capabilities.

To date, most so called specifications systems have been oriented to the selling of hardware and software for use with an existing system, not with the development of the specification system itself. PSAE is concerned with the specification content rather than just automation (the computer program without the specification, as with the CSI sponsored COMSPEC). The goals of PSAE include: the service of all offices, large and small; cost control through reduction of errors and omissions by means of standardization; avoidance of excessive promotional cost which is reflected in the cost to the user by utilizing the profession itself to do promoting; the reduction of the unit cost to the architect through a high volume of use across the country. Also, Mr. Schruben noted that the architect's service is one of the few today that has hardly been touched by automation. Government and industry have each separately developed their own sets of specifications because, in part, they feel that the professionals have failed them and, as a result, they must have some standards. Masterspec is an attempt to gain some of that leadership back and improve the position of the architect in the market place psychologically and physically by employing automation. Definition of standards of practice in production areas could help promote architecture as a national practice and result in the development of a national construction standard.

Yearly subscription to Masterspec, whose cost averages \$300, includes: a complete current copy of the Masterspec Reference Catalogue including specifications sections, table of contents, associated instructions and drawing coordination notes; a copy of the Masterspec user manual; a copy of every additional section issued during the subscription year. At the present time 155 sections are completed covering 84% of the requirements of a normal project. For an additional charge an Edit Copy Service and Data Processing Service is available for use by the subscriber.

Masterspec is set up to reflect a scaling up of detail from the earliest design decisions. As the design is developed, Masterspec edit copies of sections can be requested by checking off items on the table of contents, based on the Uniform System, for each item expected to be in the building. Each section is returned complete with Instruction Sheets, project evaluation notes (including trade association material in shortest context and product quality data), and drawing board coordination sheets indicating what must be shown on the drawings for coordination with the specifications. Various levels of specification writing are accommodated—broad scope, narrow scope, performance type and product specification by name. Sections are updated to reflect new methods and materials, or just better ways of doing things. The Masterspec Edit Copy is edited; insertions, deletions and provision of graphic inclusions, if any, are made. It is then sent, if desired, to a data processing center for final printing of a master copy suitable for offset and xerox.

A study of cost savings with Masterspec notes that a 50% reduction of technical labor for specifications-related work, independent of whether automated data processing or manual typing was used, can be expected once familiarity with the system is achieved.

The limits of Masterspec's potential have only begun to be explored. One integrated operations system is possible whereby a decision in one area will be automatically accounted for in all other related sections. The system could be used as an aid in estimating construction costs, detail implementation procedures and routine schedules (hardware, finish, etc.). All can be developed as Masterspec's use increases. This is dependent upon the acceptance and use of Masterspec by the profession.

Following Mr. Schruben's presentation, Ronald Woodward, Chairman of the Technology Committee led a panel discussion. Participants included: Bill Duffy, John Haley, Howard Hirshberg, and Philip Dworkin. Some of the comments made during the discussion included:

There is an advantage of one uniform specification over many individual texts that say the same thing.

Many offices that use computer methods for their own specifications are not able to keep them current.

The value of Masterspec is not so much in saving time but in providing a base and an assurance that nothing is omitted. It provides sound professional guidance in its use and collection of material.

It is a workable tool as a reference.

The reproduction capabilities are limited at present.

Edited copy can be typed more cheaply than a master produced by a data processing center.

Further information about Masterspec can be obtained from Mr. Frost or by contacting Mr. John H. Schruben, AIA, Production Systems for Architects and Engineers, Inc., 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

J.D.K.





NYC Pollution—Target of recommended AIA Code

## CHAPTER CALLS FOR AIR QUALITY CODE

New York City may yet have the nation's toughest air pollution code if a currently proposed law is enacted. At the January hearings of New York City Council, the NYCAIA, called for passage of pollution control measures submitted by the city's Environmental Protection Agency. Additional Chapter recommendations were also presented to the Council hearing by John W. Grifalconi, Chairman of the NYCAIA Natural Environment Committee:

1. Both air pollution and building codes must be closely coordinated.
2. Radioactive pollution should be governed by the new code and the Environmental Protection Agency.
3. Noise control should be fully incorporated into the proposed program.
4. The public should be safeguarded against contamination of buildings over or adjacent to highways from hazardous air pollutants.

Councilman Eldon Clingon called attention to the Chapter's previous support of action to eliminate hazardous construction methods (such as sprayed asbestos insulation) which are included in the proposed law. The NYCAIA position was originally proposed by the Natural Environment Committee in a draft by Marvin Mills and acted upon by the Chapter's Executive Committee.

## MAYOR'S PANEL OF ARCHITECTS

Application blanks are obtainable in Room 1800, DPW, Municipal Building, Centre and Chambers Street, New York, N.Y. 10007. Monday through Friday from 9 to 4. They will be mailed on request provided that the request is accompanied by a stamped (6 cents) self-addressed 9½" envelope for each application requested.

All applications with accompanying photographs, where required, must be mailed or delivered to the DPW, at the above address, not later than March 17, 1971.

Applications will be examined by a jury appointed by the presidents of the City AIA Chapters, the N.Y. Society of Architects, the Fine Arts Federation and the Municipal Art Society. The jury will submit their recommendations to the Mayor.

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS ELECTED

Elisabeth Coit, Arthur C. Holden, Daniel Schwartzman, David Todd and Edgar Tafel have been elected by letter ballot to the Committee on Nominations. Five hundred of the 1410 Corporate Chapter members voted.

The Committee will select candidates for Chapter offices. Nominations will be announced at least 37 days before the Annual Meeting in June. Independent nominations must be made 30 days prior to the Meeting and must be supported by ten or more Corporate members.

## OFFICE BUILDING FIRES SPUR CODE REVISION STUDIES

Frederick G. Frost, Jr., reports that the New York Building Congress is acting as a clearing house for all suggestions of remedies to problems noted in the Mayor's interim report on the two fatal high rise office building fires of last year. Frost is a member of the Building and Construction Advisory Council to the Buildings Department.

The Buildings department, meanwhile, is rapidly (in the opinion of some in the industry too rapidly for a reasoned approach) drafting proposed legislation to amend the Code in the seven areas singled out in the interim report.

The seven areas are:

- Early notification by use of smoke and heat detection devices.
- Evacuation planning requiring instruction of occupants in exiting procedures and the capability of placing elevator operation under Fire Department control during an emergency.
- Reevaluation of elevator installation requirements to prevent malfunction during emergencies.
- Provision of vestibules at exit stair entrances.
- Installation of communication lines in hung ceiling spaces in conduit.
- Shaftway partition design to resist stresses related to fires.
- Venting of floors during fires.

Frost senses that there is a feeling in the building industry that there generally hasn't been an adequate hearing or testimony by experts on some of the points in the Mayor's report on which the Buildings Department is preparing amendatory legislation. The hasty acceptance of portions of this proposed legislation, without further discussion and documentation, could result in inefficient solutions and an unnecessary rise in the cost of construction, rendering many projects infeasible. Frost feels that the attitude of the Chapter and its members should be one of cooperation with the Building Congress in its attempt to provide recommendations for solving the problems as well as any others which may be brought to light in the course of investigation. Chapter members are invited to channel their suggestions through Leander Economides, Chairman of the Building Code Committee.

J.D.K.



## CHAPTER ASSISTED TV SERIES SHOWN

Latent Thespian talents of Messrs. Alan Schwartzman, Jaquelin Robertson and M. Paul Friedberg were apparent on television last month. Schwartzman, Chairman of the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education, was consultant for three of a series of teacher-training programs entitled "Man and His Environment" to be shown February and March on WNYE-TV (UHF) Channel 25. The last, with Friedberg, will be shown at noon March 12 and at 3:30 P.M. March 13.

Video tapes from this series will be available to the Committee for review. The possibility of developing future programs is being considered. Members interested in partaking of these ventures or in contributing to a training manual to be used by teachers should contact Alan Schwartzman. L.Y.

## CAVAGLIERI: ARCHITECTS NOT TO BLAME FOR HIGH CONSTRUCTION COSTS

In a letter to the Times recently, NYCAIA President Giorgio Cavaglieri contested the view that Architects' extravagant designs were responsible for much of the high cost of construction in City projects. He noted that many items that appear exorbitant such as tinted glass and air conditioning actually save money over the life of the building.

"The continuous search for the cheapest space is a strange request indeed in the historical time of the highest standard of living in the wealthiest urban community in the world!" he said.

Far more will be added to building costs by proposed added reviews intended to remove extravagances, he concluded, then the few savings that may be achieved.

## GENERAL NOTES:

Cintas Fellowships: The Institute of International Education has announced that 8 Cintas Fellowships will be offered in 1971 to young professional architects, artists, musicians and authors of Cuban citizenship or lineage who presently reside outside Cuba. Applications, due April 1, may be obtained from the Secretary, Cintas Fellowship Program, IIE, 809 U.N. Plaza, New York 10017.

Art Exhibit: An exhibit of paintings by Marjorie Kanny based on environmental themes will be presented at the Caravan House Gallery, 132 East 65 Street, March 30 through April 17.

Code Manual: The N.Y. Society 1970-71 Code Manual is available at the office of the Society, 101 Park Avenue for \$18.55. It will be mailed at a cost of \$20.05. The Manual includes the New Administrative Code as well as other regulations that pertain to construction in the City.

Women: Dean Bernard Spring of the City College School of Architecture is puzzled because no women, in this day of their Lib, have applied for teaching positions.

## NEW PLANNING COMMISSIONER

John E. Zuccotti, 33 year-old lawyer and former Special Assistant to The Undersecretary of HUD, has been appointed by Mayor Lindsay to an eight year term on the City Planning Commission. The new commissioner was Secretary and General Counsel to the National Corporation for Housing Partnerships which is the \$50 million government-created private corporation designed to provide financial and technical assistance to sponsors of low and middle income housing throughout the country.

J.S.

## WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

The WAA has announced its calendar for the rest of the year. Handicraft workshops will continue to meet; sessions in March will be held the 3rd, 24th and 31st. Boutique items from the workshops will be sold April 28, the President's Tea, from 4:00-8:00 P.M., husbands invited.

The Annual Meeting will be May 12.

New members of the WAA are Mrs. Seymour Jarmul, Mrs. Howard Juster, Mrs. Jan Pokorny, Mrs. Bernard Spring, and Mrs. Ida B. Webster (Patron).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Mon. Mar. 8**—Special Chapter Meeting for Special Assessment for Public Service Fund at 20 West 40th Street, 2d Floor Auditorium at 5:30 P.M.
- **Tues. Mar. 16**—Technology Lecture at Chapter Headquarters, 5:15 P.M.
- **Tues. Mar. 16**—Starting of 10 consecutive Tuesdays Educational Program for Illuminating Engineering Society on Fundamentals and Applications of Commercial and Industrial Illumination. Contact educational Chairman D. L. Barnwell, Port of N.Y. Authority, 620-8213. Cost of course \$50. and includes IES Handbook.

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

Information received by the Secretary of NYCAIA regarding the qualifications of candidates for membership will be considered confidential.

### CORPORATE

Maria S. Eldar  
Leslie Malcolm Good  
Alfred Richard Klein

Kenneth Ritchin  
George E. Taft  
William L. Thole

### ASSOCIATE

Perry Green  
Jan Joseph Kalas  
Andrew Nagy

David William Parry  
Leo Phillip  
Manuel Christopher Yanez

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

### CORPORATE

Irena V. Bielski  
Martin Goodman

Harry P. Jaenike  
Roger M. Lang

### ASSOCIATE

Donald L. Jewell, Jr.

Emmanuel A. Manarte  
Frederic C. Weckel