

OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

SEPTEMBER, 1971

VOLUME 45, NUMBER 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During our 1971-72 year I shall be working and hoping for progress by the Chapter in these or other similar areas of concern to our profession:

- The establishment of a New York Metropolitan Chapter which will bring together *all* New York City architects and give us more power politically.
- Refurbish and expand our headquarters to provide better space for us and possibly for related organizations in an effort to create an architectural center.
- Keep the pressure on all city agencies which relate to architecture for better performance on their part, for a better understanding of our aims and objectives, for equitable contracts, and for paying us properly and promptly for our work—all to help make our city a better place to live and work.
- Continue our efforts to deal with the problem of political contributions.
- Try to contribute toward a more meaningful AIA Convention in Houston next May.
- Make more effective our work for and with minority groups through our programs in Architectural Scholarships, the Architect's Technical Assistance Center, and in other and new ways.
- Explore ways for architects to make a greater contribution to the formulation of national, state and local policies.
- Promote the production of more and better housing and the public understanding of the relationship of what planning and design can do for the urban environment. Assist the City Planning Commission by constructive criticism of its zoning and planning proposals.
- Assist the Buildings Department to improve the Building Code and its administration.
- Help our members to keep abreast of new developments in building technology and office practice and to contend with current economic conditions.
- Create a climate in which architects can practice more effectively and profitably.

How can we make progress toward these and other desirable objectives? By the work of the more than forty committees now preparing for action.

What can Chapter members do to help? Join a committee and really work at it.

(Continued on Page 5, col. 1)



Max O. Urbahn, FAIA

NEW YORKER HEADS NATIONAL AIA

Since 1930, five New Yorkers have been President of the AIA and now, once again, we have the honor of sending one of our own to lead the national organization. Max O. Urbahn, a former NYCAIA President, will officially take office later this year, but has already made his presence felt "on the Hill" as a vocal representative of American architects.

Along with housing and the reversal of city decay, Mr. Urbahn places a high priority on national land use policy and the environment. The man with the boutonniere in his lapel has a gardener's love for the land, and as a member of the Sierra Club, is also committed to preserving it.

He contends that architects, as the shapers of the land, have considerably more "muscle" than their numbers would indicate. However, by uniting with the other design professions, he hopes to also increase our powers as a voting block. Towards this end, a national policy statement will be prepared, which will be brought to the attention of the Presidential candidates next year.

When queried by OCULUS about the AIA's controversial convention stand on the reordering of government policies and Viet Nam, Mr. Urbahn replied that although the three past conventions saw the passage of strong resolutions, they "did not have the teeth that I would like to see".

LY

NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
20 West 40th Street, New York, New York 10018 212 565-1866
George S. Lewis Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Frederick G. Frost Jr., FAIA, President	Lawrence Litchfield
James S. Polshek, 1st Vice-Pres.	Howard H. Juster
Robert F. Gatje, Vice President	James A. Rossant
James Max Bond, Vice President	T. Merrill Prentice, Jr.
Der Scutt, Secretary	Richard Stein
James B. Baker, Treasurer	Judith Edelman

OCULUS COMMITTEE

Kurt Karmin	J. Arvid Klein, Editor and Chairman
Linda Yang	John Doran
David P. Helpert	Joel D. Kaufman

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

June 9, 1971

- Appointed Robert F. Gatje Chairman of the Ethics Committee.
- Approved the final draft of Methods of Compensation which had been prepared by the Fees & Contracts Committee, and which will be included with "A Statement of Professional Services," along with the previously issued Schedule of Compensation.
- Appointed a subcommittee consisting of Mrs. Edelman and Messrs. Polshek and Prentice, with Messrs. Frost and Lewis, ex-officio, to develop a program for the improvement of facilities at Chapter Headquarters.

July 14, 1971

- Accepted the resignation of Armand Bartos as a Director and appointed Lawrence Litchfield to take his place.
- Appointed Mr. Litchfield as Acting Representative to the State Association of Architects.
- Mr. Frost reported on efforts in opposition to extension of the unincorporated business tax to include professionals (the City Council has since approved the extension).
- Mr. Polshek reported on actions of the Subcommittee on Headquarters, which was developing a program of tenant space allocation on the basis of our possibly renting additional space in the building. See article on page 3.
- Mr. Gatje reported receipt of a new draft of the all city agencies contract, and that many objectionable sections which had been discussed with officials were still included.
- Mrs. Edelman reported on a call from Councilwoman Greitzer inviting her to attend a meeting on women in architecture.
- Mr. Rossant reported on a meeting which he and Mr. Lewis had with representatives of the architects of the proposed combination school and telephone tower in lower Manhattan.

July 28, 1971

- The principal purpose of this meeting was to discuss the shortcomings of the June AIA Convention in Detroit. See article on this page.
- Accepted the resignation of John Grifalconi as a Director (he is moving away from New York) and appointed Richard Stein to take his place until the next Chapter election.

August 11, 1971

- Discussed determination of committee budgets: Commission chairmen will meet with committee chairmen to formulate budgets; these will be reviewed at a meeting of all chairmen and the Executive Committee in the third week of September, and final budgets will be acted upon by the Executive Committee on October 8.
- Noted the impending resignation of Alexander Cooper from HDA.
- Raised questions concerning the proposed combination school and office building at 34th Street and Park Avenue.
- Discussed the Technical Assistance Center's need for funds. A grant from the J.M. Kaplan Fund was noted with appreciation.
- Mr. Gatje reported on issues of the utmost concern which were raised by the latest draft of the city-wide contract.
- Engaged Arnold Saks, graphics designer, to develop a graphics program for the Chapter.

DETROIT AIA CONVENTION

Delegates who attended the Convention in late June have commented like this: Socially—quite agreeable. The "Hard Choice" seminars and the Building Team Conference—stimulating, on the whole.

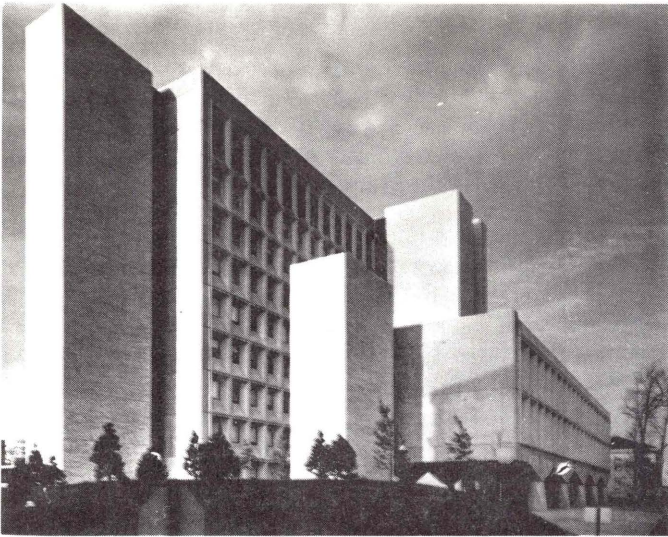
But the business sessions—dreary. AIA business was scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, June 21 and 22, with anything that might be left over to be taken up on Thursday afternoon. As it was, changes in Bylaws, taken up through a parliamentary process permitting lengthy discussion of amended wording and long roll call votes, consumed most of Tuesday, so that resolutions of great interest to this Chapter came before a Thursday session attended by the relatively few who had not left Detroit.

The proposal to enlarge the Board of Directors (which would have given the New York Region 5 members) was defeated despite months of careful preparation under the direction of Vice President George White of Cleveland and thorough discussion at Grassroots meetings last winter.

The Chapter's effort to amend a resolution on national priorities to include a paragraph reading "Urge the President to promptly initiate a unilateral and total cease-fire in Indochina....." was defeated. A resolution on political contributions submitted by the Chapter with the understanding that it would be referred to the Board was read from the rostrum with some reluctance. The pervading question, not listed on the program, was how far the AIA should get into politics. This surfaced continually during speeches; there were admonitions that architects "should not be sociologists" or "military strategists," but also there were calls "to do everything within our area of competence."

James Polshek promptly wrote Robert Hastings, Institute President, recommending that more conven-

(Continued on Page 4, col. 1)



Technology Building II

BARD AWARDS & BARD JURY CRITICISM

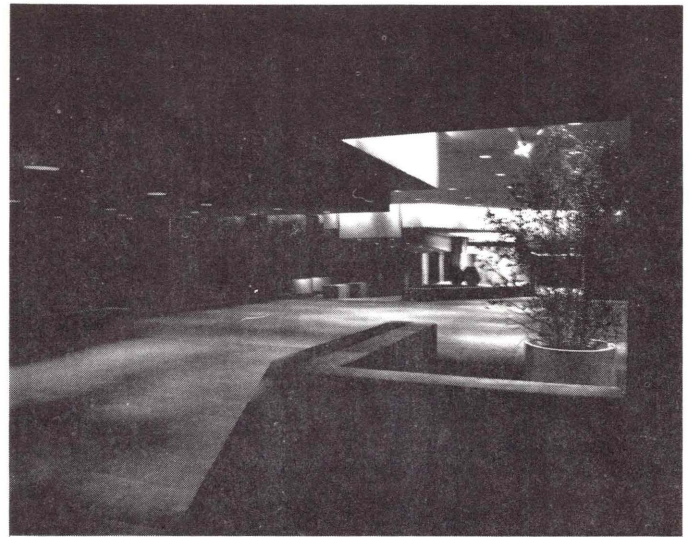
The 1971 Bard Awards for Excellence in Architecture and Urban Design was made in an atmosphere of concern for the future. "The political and economic situation is now such as to make it impossible to build in New York City at the present time." So commented the 1971 Bard Awards Jury in submitting its report and selection of this year's winners to The City Club of New York.

1971 Bard Awards were presented last June at a reception and ceremony at the St. Regis-Sheraton Hotel. The 1971 Awards, as in alternate years, were given for outstanding achievement in publicly sponsored construction completed in the last two years within the five boroughs of The City of New York. The winners were selected by an awards jury including: Lewis Davis, FAIA; Romaldo Giurgola, AIA; Sidney L. Katz, FAIA; and Richard Meier, AIA.

Recipients of the Bard Awards were: Award for Merit for Special Urban Spaces—The Graduate Center Mall of The City University of New York designed by Carl J. Petrilli, AIA; and Award for Merit for Special Building Types—Technology Building II at New York University, for which Marcel Breuer, FAIA, and Hamilton Smith, AIA were the architects. No award was made in the top Honor Award category.

The Graduate Center Mall in Manhattan is a street level arcade connecting 42nd and 43rd Streets between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. The Jury expressed the hope that more groups or sponsors of buildings in the densely populated center city areas would be inspired to follow the suggestion incorporated in The Graduate Center Mall concept and permit the public to participate more meaningfully in the life and activities about them.

Technology Building II, a teaching and research complex, is located on the University Heights Campus of New York University in the Bronx.



Graduate Center Mall

The 1971 Bard Awards Jury was generally disturbed with the quality of both residential and civic architecture in the City. While the Jury summed up quite accurately with the statement, partially quoted here: "No doubt about it, there's something wrong going on somewhere." One would have wished for some precise statements as to what exactly is wrong.

Looking back over the history of non-Bard Awards for publicly sponsored construction, the Bard Juries are going to have to make some hard decisions, i.e., are they going to judge between buildings or between buildings and some platonic standard? JAK

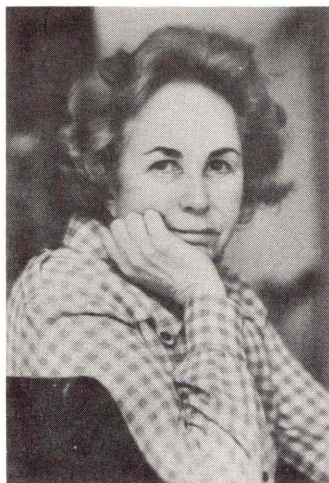
HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER TO STAY AT 20 W 40

Last year's speculation, which precipitated the search for a new headquarters for the chapter, have not become reality. Simon Breines, last year's chairman of the Headquarters Committee, indicated that the City University of New York, which was negotiating the purchase of 20 West 40th Street, is not now in a position to buy it. As a result of this, combined with the uncertain construction market, it is felt that the chapter will be able to remain at its present location for the next few years.

As we are to remain here, at least temporarily, it will be necessary to improve the appearance and function of the entrance floor and elevators. To accomplish this the chapter will seek to negotiate a lease for possibly three to five years, which it presently does not have, to justify the expenditure of funds for the improvements. Improvements to the entrance floor would include a re-design to reflect that the building is tenanted by the architectural profession and could include exhibition space visible to the street.

Mr. Breines noted that the Architectural League must vacate its present location and is looking for space. 20 W. 40th St. could be ideal for their use. Several discussions have been held with the League regarding

(Continued on Page 6, col. 1)



Elizabeth Janeway

WAA

Elizabeth Janeway, author of the best-selling *Man's World, Woman's Place*, will be the Guest of Honor at the Women's Architectural Auxiliary's luncheon, Wednesday, October 5th at the Princeton Club, 15 West 43 Street.

In this latest book, Mrs. Janeway—novelist, essayist, critic, and wife of prominent economist Eliot Janeway—set herself the ambitious task of objectively searching out the myths and realities surrounding the current women's rights controversy. We are most fortunate to have the benefit of her insights in person.

Is it a man's world? Chapter members are also welcome to attend, and Frederick Frost, Jr., Chapter President, will also be an honored guest. Co-Chairmen for the event are Mrs. Morris Ketchum, Jr., and Mrs. David F.M. Todd.

The WAA's Semi-Annual Business Meeting will precede the luncheon at 10:30 a.m. Cocktails will be at Noon; lunch, at 12:45.

Reservations can be made by mailing a check for \$8.00, payable to the Auxiliary, to Mrs. Daniel Schwartzman at WAA Headquarters, 20 West 40 Street, or by calling the Chapter at 565-1866.

CONVENTION (Continued from page 2)

tion emphasis be put on consideration of resolutions "dealing not only with substantive matters pertinent to the practice of architecture but also social issues involving the fabric of our society" in order to "re-assert our own traditional leadership in the community" by our having "the toughness and the wisdom to take stands."

An ad hoc Chapter committee is being appointed to begin immediately to make plans—and recommendations to the Institute—concerning the 1972 Houston Convention.

G.L.

APPOINTIVE COMMITTEES REORGANIZED

The structure of the Chapter's 35 Appointive Committees has been reorganized to reflect a more logical grouping within the six major commissions. In addition, every attempt will be made to publish constructive material developed by the Committees.

The **Commission on Architectural Education**, under Judith Edelman, will further the programs of the former Education Commission, which encompass the total education of the Architect. Committees will deal with architectural schools, continuing and technical education. Scholarships and the Equal Opportunities Program will continue. The development of environmental education in the elementary and secondary schools will be a special area of concern.

The **Commission on Building/Site Design**, under the direction of Howard H. Juster, will continue under its new name, to bring the Chapter's attention to new developments in techniques and specialized design areas, such as hospital and health facilities. Other responsibilities are the residential awards and consulting programs.

The **Commission on Environmental Planning**, the successor to the Urban Planning Commission, under James A. Rossant will reflect the inseparability of the City from the Region, and the interconnection of all the elements within the City—historic buildings, parks, transportation. With a new Committee on Zoning, it recognizes the increased awareness of zoning as a major tool for planning.

Richard Stein's **Commission on Internal Affairs** will now focus exclusively on Chapter concerns, taking *Oculus* under its wing. In addition, there will be a new Graphics Committee as well as Bylaws, Headquarters and Membership.

The new **Commission on Professional Affairs**, headed by Lawrence Litchfield, replaces the Commission on City/State Affairs, and will be exclusively concerned with the management problems of the Profession.

The sixth commission, **Public Affairs**, under T. Merrill Prentice, will be concerned not only with putting our professional best foot forward, it will also be the base of active lobbying on such topical concerns as the environment, and will be the catalyst for the Chapter on public service and raising the moneys for the Chapter's on-going educational assistance to minority student's programs.

In addition to these appointive committees, four independent committees (Awards, Brunner Scholarship, Le Brun Fellowship, and Stewardson Fellowship) and three ad hoc committees (Public Agencies, DPW Liaison, and National Convention) are under the direction of James Baker, Chapter Treasurer.

Chapter members should all have received the yellow form for committee membership assignments. If you wish to participate, just send in the form or call the Chapter direct.

DH

FINANCING: HOW IT ORIGINATES WHERE IT COMES FROM

A paper is available, free, at the Chapter Office on this subject. It was written by Arthur Holden and is a product of the Committee on Financing of Construction. The Foreword explains the value of this paper to all architects and is here quoted in full:

"In our complicated life of today no specialized group can make itself effective unless it has an understanding of what money really is, how it originates and where it comes from. We as Architects who are responsible for planning and programing cannot maintain our integrity if we are merely the ignorant tools and hirelings of others. Architects do not make as important decisions as do those few who have found how to manipulate and pervert the workings of finance for their own advantage by making paper gains appear to be as valuable as gains through the production of goods and services.

"The following pamphlet does not pretend to offer a panacea. It does aim to talk about the role which MONEY and CREDIT play in the financing of creative work in terms calculated to awaken architects to dangers which threaten not alone their profession but the foundations of our society."

CHAPTER MEMBERS GUESTS AT EXAM REVIEW

On July 7th Kurt Karmin and Joel Kaufman were invited to the New York State Board of the Examiners of Architects review of the design portion of the examination. Also invited were Herbert Epstein, President, and Dickson McKenna, Executive Director, of the NYSAA, and Thomas Sapolsky, President of the Brooklyn Chapter, AIA.

Unexpectedly the guests were asked to grade randomly selected problems. Out of the ten reviewed, two and possibly three were given a passing mark of 75 or over, which coincided with the examiners opinions. The quality of the solutions was disappointing.

Afterward discussion was held on the need to inform candidates on criteria for judging. It was agreed that examples of passing solutions and an interview with the examiners would be published later in the Empire State Architects.

KK

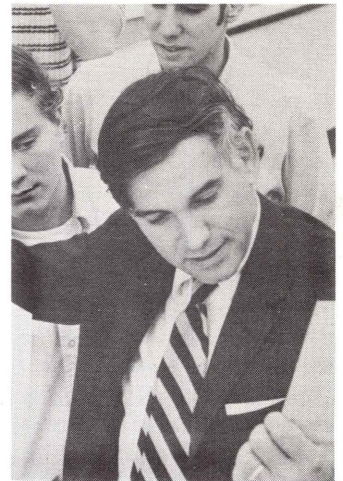
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from page 1)

What can the Executive Committee do? Maintain a close liaison with the committees. Stimulate their efforts. Assist them to communicate the results of their work to public officials, the general public, and our own membership.

Please feel free to ask questions or offer comments and suggestions to me, the Executive Committee, or the Staff at any time.



F. Frost Jr., President



James Polshek, 1st Vice Pres.

CHAPTER OFFICERS 1971-72

The election of new Chapter officers and Executive Committee members was announced at the Annual Meeting in June. They are: Frederick G. Frost, Jr., FAIA, President; James Stewart Polshek, 1st Vice President and President-elect; Robert F. Gatje and James Max Bond, Vice Presidents; Der Scutt, Secretary; James B. Baker, Treasurer; T.M. Prentice, Jr. and Judith Edelman were elected to two year terms on the Executive Committee and James Rossant and Howard H. Juster begin the second year of their terms. Lawrence Litchfield and Richard Stein continue the terms of John W. Grifalconi and Armand P. Bartos.

President Frost, a member of the AIA since 1937 and elected to the College of Fellows in 1955 in recognition of his service to the profession, is a principal in the firm of Frost Associates. His professional life is marked by numerous governmental and civic posts including representative to the Union Internationale des Architects at the U.N., member of the New York State Board of Examiners 1961-64 and Director since 1951 of the Citizen's Housing & Planning Board.

President-elect Polshek is a Fullbright Fellow and principal in his own firm since 1964.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS POLL

In response to a series of articles that appeared in the Long Island newspaper Newsday that detailed large contributions to political parties by architectural firms, the Executive Committee drew up a guideline that barred political contributions by firms and requested that individual contributions be limited to \$500. Individual contributions exceeding \$500 are to be reported on an annual basis to the Chapter.

A special Chapter meeting was held in April to discuss the Executive Committee action. The members attending the meeting generally opposed the regulation. Following the meeting the Executive Committee decided to poll all Chapter members by mail.

(Continued on Page 6, col. 1)

CONTRIBUTIONS (Continued from page 5)

As of June 17, 309 replies to the six item questionnaire have been received. In response to the question as to whether or not it was possible or desirable to prescribe ethical conduct in regard to political contributions and whether or not the ethical standards should be applied to political contributions 72% of the respondents thought it was possible to prescribe such conduct and that it should be covered by the Standards. 82% think that Chapter members should make contributions only as individuals and not through firms. 60% think there should be guidelines for a voluntary limit on the amount of contributions. Only 51% believe members whose contributions exceed guidelines should disclose information regarding such contributions to the Chapter while 55% think the membership should not be informed of such contributions by reports in the Oculus. 59% think this information should not be kept available to members at the Chapter office. Many of the returned questionnaires included comments.

A resolution regarding political contributions was submitted by the Chapter to the National Convention in June. It proposed an addition to the Ethical Standards that would permit contributions by individuals provided they report the nature, amount and recipient of contributions to the local Chapter and upon request to the A.I.A. Judicial Board. This resolution has been referred to the A.I.A. Board which, it is understood, will establish a task force to study the problem. JD

HEADQUARTERS (Continued from page 3)

their subletting space from the chapter. If both the Architectural League and the NIAE sublet space, sufficient capital could be provided for substantial improvements. Also to be considered in any long range plans is President Frost's commitment to work towards the establishment of a Metropolitan Chapter. The combined strength of a Metropolitan Chapter could make possible the purchase of this or another building for headquarters, meeting space, library, lounge, studio and exhibition space to provide the New York Metropolitan area with a true Architectural Center. JK

WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE?

In economically slow times some corporate members may find Institute, State Association and Chapter dues a bit too much to handle. There is an alternative. Anyone who is licensed, works within Chapter territory, and is not a principal, partner, or profit sharing member of a firm may become a professional associate. He cannot be a member of the Institute and therefore does not pay Institute dues. He may use the words "Professional Associate of the New York Chapter The American Institute of Architects" as a title. He may serve as a member or chairman of a committee, but has no vote at Chapter meetings and may not hold an office. KK

NOTE:

State Agencies. The N.Y. State Council on Architecture has issued an "Inventory of New York State Agencies Responsible for Design, Planning and Construction: Phase 2, Methods and Procedures."

Changes In Address. For the forthcoming revised Membership Directory, please notify Evelyn McGrath at the Chapter office before September 15.

Associate Members Who Have Become Registered. It should be noted that your category of membership should be changed to Corporate or Professional Associate.

File Of Members' Work At Chapter Office. Check yours to see how up to date it is. New members are asked to submit files, but most members are not aware that potential clients come to the Chapter Office to look at them. Some are more up to date than others, and Evelyn McGrath adds some published material from time to time.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

CORPORATE

Roger Stover

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The NYCAIA welcomes the following members:

CORPORATE

George E. Drake
Zygmunt M. Zakrewski
Kenneth Dawson Coles
Robert F. Ladau
Richard D. Miller
William L. Thole
Ralph Arthur Heisel
David C. S. Chang
Sherif H. Erfan
Raul Eugenio Fernandez
Jorge Abel Foussats
Harold Fredenburgh
Edward Thomas Groder
Francis Charles Gunther
Sam Anson Haffey
Percy Karl Keck
Pak Chu Kwong
Vincent S. LaGanga
Ferdinand George Large
George Kazuo Matsuda
Whitsom Makamie Overcash
Robert M. Rhodes
Dominick L. Segrete

Hussein A. Shahine
Heino Tammerk
Wallace James Toscano
Mario Anthony Zambetti
Martin Rich
Charles A. Barresi
Ernest Edward Burden Jr.
Geoffrey Ian Freeman
Barry Leo Greenholz
Lawrence Ives Harvey
Anthony Peter Louvis
Richard Alan Maitland
Agustin Lopez Maldonado
Robert A. Mayers
Dennis Miller
Thomas H. Price, Jr.
Martin D. Stein
Vivian Joseph Steinberg
Richard Howard Stone
Peter Lee Strauss
Vincent T-C Tai
Gerald Clayton Whiteford
Walter Gi-Hong Zang

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE

Lewis Silverstein

ASSOCIATE

Ira M. Berliner
Thomas William Carney
Richard Potofsky
Joseph M. Santopetro
Sarelle Toback Weisberg

Albert Edward Faber
Clark H. Neuringer
Richard Visconti
Peter Ripullone
Stanton Eckstut

UNASSIGNED James R. Lamantia