



# POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

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## BEN ELLIOTT ELECTED; YEAR'S ACTIVITIES REVIEWED



Our new president and executive committee turn on the charm in their first picture appearance: L. to r. (seated) Treasurer Jack C. Cohen, Secretary Theodore Cromar, Jr., President Benjamin P. Elliott, and Vice President Milton P. Prassas. Standing: Directors Stanley H. Arthur, Charles B. Soule, and James T. Thomen.

The Potomac Valley Chapter has had a busy year as evidenced by the Executive Committee report submitted to the Chapter. Chuck Soule can now retire in the knowledge that the chapter has moved ahead and continued active during his administration.

At the start of his term President Soule recommended that matters of importance to the membership be brought up at regular membership meetings, discussed and acted on to stimulate individual interest.

The Executive Committee wholeheartedly concurred, and the results throughout the term definitely justified the adoption of this policy.

During this past term of the Executive Committee, the following was accomplished:

The Chapter sent two delegates to the 1958 convention of the Institute in Cleveland. In addition three other members of the Chapter attended the convention.

Relative to the issue of extending the East Front of the Capitol building, the Chapter preferred to assume a neutral position, and accordingly sent the delegates to the convention uninstructed on this matter.

The Chapter approved a resolution to the convention pertaining to misuse of brochures. Material included in this resolution has been incorporated subsequently into a policy recently adopted by the Institute's Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee authorized the secretary to prepare and have executed and distributed to the membership the Chapter By-Laws.

This was accomplished the first of the year, 1959.

The Executive Committee authorized the president to create an award certificate to Gene Glasgow, Public Relations Counselor for the Chapter, for "Exceptional Service to the Chapter" in Public Relations. This was executed and a presentation was made.

The Executive Committee endorsed the continuation of the drafting pool service now being conducted by one of the members of the Chapter gratis.

The Executive Committee encouraged members of the Chapter to avail themselves of every opportunity to speak at public gatherings. There was good response by several members who did speak about the profession and the Chapter to various groups during the year.

The Chapter received a message of appreciation from the Montgomery County School Board for the work of the Joint Architects' Advisory Committee which resulted in the preparation of "Reports 1-5". These reports subsequently were awarded "Document of the Month" by the Institute.

The Office Practices Committee conducted Seminars on (1) Hardware Consultant Services to Architects, (2) Professional Liability Insurance, (3) Construction Bond.

Through its president, the Executive Committee effectively resisted restrictive portions of the Montgomery County proposed Fire Code.

The president appointed a special legislative committee to take such steps as necessary to protect the best interests of the Chapter and the profession on legislation pending in the Maryland State Legislature affecting the practice of the profession. Those Bills which would work adversely to the best interests of the profession were either defeated or never brought to vote in the Legislature.

With the approval of the Executive Committee, the president appeared before the County

(continued on page two)



POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER  
OF MARYLAND

American Institute of Architects

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BENJAMIN P. ELLIOTT, President  
MILTON J. PRASSAS, Vice President  
THEODORE CROMAR, JR., Secretary  
JACK C. COHEN, Treasurer  
JAMES T. THOMEN, Director  
STANLEY H. ARTHUR, Director  
CHARLES B. SOULE, Director

Potomac Valley Architect

Benjamin P. Elliott, Chmn., Pub. Rel. Comm.  
8485 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Md.  
JU. 9-2546

Don Burke, Public Relations Counsel  
15 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, Md.  
GA. 4-9300

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

12 Noon, June 1, 1959  
Stone House Inn  
Four Corners, Silver Spring, Md.  
July Meeting — July 6, 1959

Council to resist special restrictions in zoning relative to preventing construction of less restrictive type structures in certain zoning areas.

The Chapter position was recognized and acknowledged recently by the Maryland-National Capital Planning Commission.

The services of an outstanding public relations counselor were retained by the Chapter.

A member of the Chapter was appointed representative on the Board of the "Architect's Report", sponsored by the Baltimore Chapter, AIA.

The Executive Committee authorized the Secretary to design and prepare for presentation by the president, certificates to the Chapter Associate Members, which took place on May 4, 1959.

The Chapter sent to the Regional Conference of the Middle Atlantic District, AIA, held at Greenbrier, four delegates. They were instrumental in achieving a successful conference.

The Executive Committee encouraged the Education Committee to do everything possible to achieve a school of architecture at the University of Maryland. Reports indicate that considerable headway is being made in this direction.

The Chapter generally, and the Executive Committee specifically, corresponded to members of Congress, that they support the Keogh-Simpson Bill for tax relief of professional retirement funds.

Delegates were sent to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Convention held during the month of April, 1959.

The Chapter nominated Ronald S. Senseman to the Office of Regional Director, Middle Atlantic District, AIA. The Executive Committee also endorsed the nomination of Roy Carroll as Institute Secretary.

CERTIFICATE OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP



Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland  
The American Institute of Architects  
Certificate of Associate Membership

John Doe

Having duly qualified and been duly elected and admitted by the Chapter's Executive Committee, is hereby declared to be a

Chapter Associate Member

Entitled, under the conditions prescribed in the Chapter by laws, to exercise all the rights and privileges granted thereunder to associate members.

President

Dated

Secretary

The Potomac Valley Chapter is proud to have honored its associate members with a scroll such as the one above. We believe this action to be a "first" among the AIA chapters of the country and for the information of other chapters have reproduced this "John Doe" in the event that they may wish to so recognize their associate members. Our secretary reports that the Potomac Valley Chapter can make them available to other chapters with the name of the chapter suitably inscribed. Our Secretary would be glad to furnish further information and costs on request.

The Chapter continued the effort of obtaining Fellowship status for E. B. Morris (in April 1959, Mr. Morris was elected to the College of Fellows, AIA).

The Committee recommends to the Chapter and the incoming Executive Committee for the 1959-60 term, the following:

1. A study be made to ascertain the possibility of increasing Chapter membership fees.
2. Luncheon meetings be started on time and completed promptly.
3. Consideration be given to the changing of the place and time for the luncheon meetings.
4. Continue vigorously to follow up on the improvement of the Maryland Registration Act for Architects.
5. Continue the Chapter's interest in local and State affairs as well as civic matters pertaining to the profession.

Sullivan No. 5

Mrs. John Henry Sullivan presented Jack with a bouncing baby girl on May 28. The expanding Sullivan family now numbers three girls and two boys — enough to keep Jack cracking for the next several years.

Tent Type Structure Wins Award

An AIA jury announced last week that the \$25,000 Reynolds Memorial Award for 1959 has been conferred on an Australian architectural firm for designing the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne, Australia.

The special AIA jury "enthusiastically selected the Music Bowl as the most significant work of architecture selected, in the creation of which aluminum has been an important contributing factor."

The Bowl already carries the approval of musical conductor Alfred Wallenstein who conducted the symphony orchestra at the formal opening of the bowl and said: "The Music Bowl is acoustically perfect and it is beautiful.

The award-winning firm is Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths and Simpson of Melbourne. Parry B. Patten was named as the firm member most responsible for the Music Bowl design.

Resembling a giant circus tent, open at one end, the Music Bowl has a soaring roof whose 40,000 square feet of aluminum surface give concert hall acoustics — from full orchestra down to pin-drop pianissimo.



## PV Architects Assigned To Do Thirteen Of Thirty New Montgomery School Jobs

A list of new Montgomery School projects in the planning-under-study stage reveals that Potomac Valley Chapter members will do thirteen of the thirty projects listed in the 1959-1960 Montgomery County School appropriation.

Potomac Valley Chapter members listed are:

- Stanley H. Arthur Kemp Mill Elementary Addition, Travilah Elementary (new)
- Elliott & MacIntire Washington Grove Elementary Addition
- Johannes & Murray Sligo Junior High Addition
- Philip H. Mason Clarksburg Elementary Addition, Fairland Elementary Addition
- McLeod & Ferrara West Bethesda High School
- John S. Samperton Darnestown Elementary Addition
- John F. Stann Laytonsville Elementary Addition, Montgomery Jr. College Gymnasium
- John H. Sullivan, Jr. Brookmont Elementary Addition, Chevy Chase Elementary Alterations

tary Addition, Chevy Chase Elementary Alterations

Other projects currently under construction and nearing completion by chapter members are:

- Johannes & Murray Sligo Junior High School
- Stanley H. Arthur Ashburton Elementary Addition
- John H. Sullivan, Jr. Chevy Chase Elementary Addition
- Philip Mason Forest Grove Elementary Addition
- Stanley H. Arthur Kemp Mill Elementary Addition
- Johannes & Murray Maryvale Elementary Addition
- John F. Stann Science Building, Montgomery Jr. College
- McLeod & Ferrara North Bethesda Jr. High Addition
- Johannes & Murray Springbrook High (New)

## Jack Cohen Wins Washington Board Of Trade Architecture Competition

An outstanding remodeling job of our Treasurer, Jack Cohen, was singled out for an award in the 20th Biennial Washington Board of Trade architectural competition.

Jack took an older building at 224 E. Capitol St. in Washington of the first floor commercial and two other residential stories variety and remodeled it into an attractive three-story colonial law office.

The competition, the twentieth of its kind sponsored by the Washington Board of Trade, has as its objectives the following: "Washington is a city of beautiful, natural conditions and of superior public buildings. It must be recognized, however, that private improvements are not entirely worthy of the city, and that some

stimulus to create more interest in such buildings is desirable. The Washington Board of Trade desires the co-operation of owners, architects, builders, and real estate operators in improving the design and character of the buildings erected and as an incentive thereto proposes to award prizes for meritorious buildings . . ."

The jury of awards consisted of C. E. Silling, F.A.I.A., Charleston, W.Va.; Milton L. Grigg, F.A.I.A., Charlottesville, Va., and Henry Powell Hopkins, F.A.I.A., Baltimore, Md.

Chapter member Dana B. Johannes AIA serves on the Architecture and Architectural Awards Committee of the Washington Board of Trade.

## School Fire Safety Conference Slated in September

Recent school fires have directed the nation's attention to the need for absolute safety in our educational institutions. The AIA has recognized the problem and after several conferences on the subject has scheduled a National School Fire Safety Conference for September of this year.

Suggested overall conference topics include: means of minimizing human error in fire emergencies, minimizing of fire hazards in school buildings, enforcement procedures of mandatory regulations, and the effective dissemination of the best information on these subjects to the nation's 48,000 school districts. Falling under these categories are such matters as planning and designs of buildings, materials and equipment, code requirements, fire detection and warning methods, fire control, and human behaviour.

The conference was announced at a recent AIA meeting presided over by AIA 2nd Vice-president Henry L. Wright who stated that the major emphasis would be on human safety. He pointed out that while there has been no loss of life from fires in school buildings completed since World War II, constant attention must be given to the best ways of incorporating new materials and construction methods into new schools so they may be as fire-safe as possible while still providing an environment conducive to learning.

Wright also stated that as a result of the Chicago fire in which many lives were lost, many local officials are now leaning over backwards and imposing unreasonable and frequently excessive requirements which radically affect the design and costs of school buildings.

## HERE and ELSEWHERE

### Convention Bound? Notify Secretary Ted Cromar

Secretary Ted Cromar would like all members planning to attend the AIA Convention in New Orleans on June 22nd through June 26th to let him know so that official notification may be made to the convention committee regarding chapter delegates.

### Architect's Work in Special PVA Awards Issue Honored

The Potomac Valley Chapter has recognized the work of Howard Juster as an active architect on the Green Acres School, one of the award winning buildings in our competition of last year.

It was brought to the attention of the chapter that Mr. Juster was an active member of the firm of Davis, Brody and Wisniewski of New York City during the Green Acres School construction but that he was not identified when the awards were made. The chapter is taking steps to give Mr. Juster appropriate recognition.

### PVA Story Noted in N.Y. Chapter Pub

BLUEPRINT, the official organ of the Westchester Chapter AIA, notes our recent story reviewing a review of a book citing the good company or architects. We thought the story amusingly interesting, too, and hope to reciprocate with some Westchester copy soon.

## AIA Updates State Construction Rules

The many procedures used by the various states to procure public buildings have been rather confusing to architects through the years and in 1955 the AIA undertook to centralize the information in an official publication.

AIA has recently released a publication entitled "State Construction Procedures" which brings up to date all information on the official procedures in the various states.

In obtaining the information the following questions were asked:

- A. What state agency is responsible for state construction?
- B. How are the architects selected?
- C. What method of providing architectural services is used?
- D. What form of contract between state and architect is used?
- E. What fee schedules are used?

Procedures vary greatly as before but it is still gratifying to note that most state construction work is done by private architects. Twenty-nine states engage private architects for all nine states engage private architects for all but minor projects.



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