

# ARCHITECT'S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

In 2012, the AIA Michigan Board approved the establishment of a separate Architect's Political Action Committee to provide financial support to those Michigan lawmakers that support legislation beneficial to Michigan Architects. APAC takes a non-partisan approach: we support Democrats, Republicans and Independents who have demonstrated their support for our goals and objectives. The APAC By-Laws require that we focus on state elections only- not local or national elections. This is because state law affects the practice of architecture, not local laws.

A key goal of APAC is to be responsive to campaign funding requests that come in from state legislature candidates. APAC financially supported 18 legislative election campaigns in 2013 and 10 campaigns in 2014. Donations to state legislator campaigns were typically \$250. APAC spent a total of \$8,500 in the last two year to support friends of Michigan Architects.

Kelley-Cawthorne, AIA Michigan's lobbyist in Lansing, provides recommendations to APAC. The key person at Kelley-Cawthorne is Melissa Yutzey. She advises us on legislators we should support financially based on action they have taken on legislation supported by AIAMI, or who have voiced their support for AIAMI goals during their campaigns. Melissa maintains records on all legislators and those bills affecting architects they have supported in the past. AIA members who have attended Legislative Day know the depth of knowledge of Melissa Yutzey and her ability to guide us in our support of AIA Michigan's friends at the state level.

APAC coordinates their financial support efforts with the AIAMI Government Affairs Committee. GAC supported approval of PA 162 of 2011, which reduced the statute of limitations for architects and engineers from six years to two years. In 2012, the GAC worked to support Public Act 468, which prohibits public entities from requiring design professionals to indemnify owners from the owner's own negligence. In 2013, GAC supported PA 178 that allows design professionals to submit drawings electronically, including seal and signature. GAC also supported continuing education rules, which were approved in 2013. Most recently, the Governor signed PA 193 of 2014, which deregulates interior designers.

Funding of the Architect's Political Action Committee is made possible by personal donations made by AIA Michigan members. We need your commitment and support to make the APAC system work. Please help APAC by making a pledge at future AIAMI meetings, or by just writing a personal check to **Architect's Political Action Committee**. If you have any questions, please contact APAC Board Chair Ralph Moxley, AIA, at: [Ralph.Moxley@comcast.net](mailto:Ralph.Moxley@comcast.net)