

Here's the January WASLA Government Affairs report & update:

At the AELC meeting on Thursday, January 5, a strategy was developed relative to the licensing legislation sought by LSAW, SEAW, AIA and WASLA. Organization representatives came to a unanimous decision to engage in a united effort during the 2007 legislative session. Due to the fact that the legislature is likely to see proposed legislation to license interior designers, soil scientists, and building designers, it was agreed that the effort to defeat these bills in 2006 Session would be hindered by seeking the passage of the licensing bills sought by the AELC.

The AELC Licensing Task force will resume meetings in March to work on refinement of the proposals. The immediate goals include getting the AIA bill into bill language format, working to combine the LSAW and SEAW proposals into one bill, and all organizations determination of the need for continuing education to be included. Over the summer the focus will be to work the bills with legislators, an effort that will be enabled by fundraising activity and PAC campaign donations for the November 2006 elections.

The Task AELC Force will meet again during the second or third week of March.

OTHER GAC ITEMS

We are organizing for 2006 LARE Seminars, no specifics are available yet.

We are developing mailing information and requests for letters of support for RCW 18.96 changes from WASLA firms and individuals as well as others. I've heard some promises to send letters, yet I've seen none in hand yet.

The draft bill still needs a few edits requested on January 4, 2006. The draft will go back to code revisers office first, then come to WASLA and AELC for review, then widely routed for folks to have in their hand to discuss the revised draft bill with legislators.

As mentioned above, continuing education provision will now be added, it is assumed that we should do this in manner similar to architect's proposal for RCW 18.08 changes. Essentially, it's planned to be one short paragraph in RCW 18.96 enabling the professional societies to deliver ongoing education, based on rule making by the LA Board (if needed) to make the program rules comparable to other nearby states with CE requirements.

Bill sponsors are being discussed. The 36th District (Seattle) and 29th District (Tacoma / University Place) electeds may be approached soon after edits on the draft bill are completed.

In case you missed it above, WASLA is actively working in the 2006 session to defeat the interior designers, soil scientists, and independent building designers bills in the 2006 session, instead of submitting our draft bill for RCW 18.96 changes, based on the advice from our AELC Lobbyist.