



Normal? What's normal ... is ... well... relative. But these don't seem like normal times. The business of architecture, gas, traffic, air quality, the weather ... on an on I could go ... for most of us I think these times seem ... well...*unsettled*. For the AIACV these are also unsettled times ... but in the best of ways, as we are *going gangbusters*.

July is normally a 'dark' month – a quiet time when the staff has a chance to catch their breath, lick their wounds and get ready for the fall...as that's when things NORMALLY start hopping again. *This year*, however, we've kept the **pedal to the metal**. For me, halfway through my year as president, it seems a good time to take a moment and look at what's been going on. While I'm trying to do a little name dropping, I know I'm *leaving more names out than in* – so for those many active in AIACV not mentioned here - please excuse me!

Don and I both returned pretty recently from extensive Europe trips – and barely got over the jet lag before being swept up into the thick of things. Our event calendar has been ROBUST and will continue

in that vein. The **Golf/Tennis** tournament was a huge success – see the photos of the great time



enjoyed by those who braved the smokey start and rallied to a rousing finish with great food, drink, company and prizes galore. Wow. While I'm not a golfer, I love a party – and this ended up with quite the party! I'm glad



that even though our AIACV camera ended up 'missing' ... I managed to snap some pix between the steak, wine and laughter And don't worry I've deleted those embarrassing shots (or most of them ... I think).

We're well along with a complete **re-write of the chapter bylaws** – the first in over 50 years!!! This is a task that Carl and Don have been carrying forward (Richard, Kim, Phyllis and a few others laid some groundwork a few years ago; now we've picked the ball up and fully intend to bring it to the finish line!). The **code conversation** program that I hatched as a cute little gathering some five years ago has grown each year, and this year is going to be the biggest and best ever, with separate events for accessibility, the IBC, and the building official forum. Our **NEW chapter office** build out is winding



down to the final pick up of odds and ends – it turned out incredibly well thanks to Bruce, Don Steve, Jeff, Maria, Laura and company – and the grand opening is event **Encounter Design** is fast approaching. I predict record breaking attendance, fun and connectivity - thanks to the planning group led by Jack with key efforts from John, Eric, Valerie, Kim, many others ... it will be a blockbuster! Along those lines, we already have the submittals in place for our kick off exhibit **SHARE** thanks to the exhibits committee with Jeff, Steve,

Francis and more ... and the follow up exhibit for the fall is booked – national AIA’s **‘America’s Best Architecture’** that will be opening as a two part display spanning between our chapter office and a highly public place such as the lobby at city hall ... planning is underway for next years design awards ... we’ve formed a blue ribbon steering group (thanks Richard, Bruce, Nick, Morris, Cynthia, Laura, Don et al) for the launch of the **AIACV Leadership Council** (a newly forming group that will tie the past and future of the chapter together more seamlessly) ... we have planned building tours coming up of the **Globe Mills** ... a first ever **tour of ‘small offices’** ... a newly formed exploratory committee which will I predict lead to a launch of a **Political Action Group** thanks to Maria Carl and Brian, a **Continuing Education Academy** being launched for the first time where members can get their full complement of credits in one fell swoop ... presentations ranging from **Kit Miyamoto’s report from China** on the Earthquake to a **Dubai Presentation** with Eric Tomich and Walter Horsting, **Sacred spaces** ... a national **Docs seminar, Firm Principals roundtables** ... **Sustainability and Green building initiatives** began the year modestly with a booth at **earth day** that I manned ... and have grown to include co-sponsorship of a **Speaker series** that attracted over 100 attendees on its launch and growing, a seminar with AIA Students (thanks Bob and Ron), Alicia and Gordon leading the **Design Review Task Force**, continued chapter prominence on the city’s **Development Oversight Commission** (thanks Darryl, Dennis and John); Saxon is doing his **‘spirit’** thing to the delight of his many fans and followers, and kudos to Clair for launching the **Pecha Kucha** events which have gotten bigger and bigger in attendance (the last one I was at must have had over 30 people) ... there are discussions beginning about a new connection with our neighboring (unstaffed) sierra chapter ... and ... MUCH MUCH more ... NOW ... let me catch my breath ... and see you at the Encounter Design Event!

With continued passion, drive and breathlessness I am your humble President ... egad ... Mike Malinowski AIA ... on a ‘not so dark’ July 1st evening

