



AIA
Pennsylvania

2017 in Review

An Annual Report

A message from the President

On February 23, 1909, a small band of politically minded architects convened the first meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of the American Institute of Architects in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. On the agenda that day were discussions about what position the fledgling organization should take on a proposal requiring all architects to be licensed by the state of Pennsylvania. As if that issue were not momentous enough, the other item on the agenda was how to go about promoting the concept of a statewide “uniform” building law to the legislature.

As it turned out, it would take another ten years for the Pennsylvania Association to craft and then shepherd the licensure legislation into law. The statewide building code was another matter entirely. Success would take a bit more time – eighty years, to be precise when, in 1999, Governor Tom Ridge signed The Uniform Construction Code into law.

The stories of these two historic pieces of legislation not only underscore the historic impact of the AIA Pennsylvania mission but also the vision and artful persuasion that, more often than not, are required to craft legislation designed to protect and enhance the practice of architecture in Pennsylvania. To be sure, 2017 was no exception.

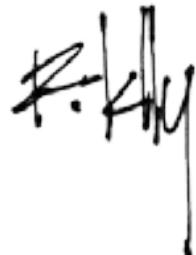
2017 was a busy year with numerous challenges, bumps and roadblocks in the way of the AIA PA Legislative Agenda. But the year was not without significant victories for our membership, and we have the governor’s signature and three framed pens to prove it.

Read on to learn what more about these victories and the challenges that lie ahead. – and join us in giving three cheers to the hard work performed by our dedicated staff and colleagues of the Government Affairs Committee who testified before numerous committees, and to those who took the time to advocate in Harrisburg and in their home districts on behalf of our organization.

Let me offer an extra special thanks to all of our fellow members who contributed so generously to the PA Architects PAC. While our PAC is still the small kid on the block compared to our competitors, we have learned to punch way beyond our weight. We are growing, and I want to thank our PA PAC Board who have so skillfully managed every dollar contributed for maximum impact.

I would like to say a brief word about the PAC. Over the years, we have heard your voices on this topic: “Why do architects need a PAC?” “PACs are what is wrong with our system” and “Architects don’t do that.” It is accurate to say that many political action committees do not have a positive reputation these days. Arguably, many have earned our cynicism.

However, the reality is that until campaign funding is reformed, creating a level playing field for all, your contribution remains an essential weapon in our ongoing fight to protect our profession. So, please go to www.paarchitectspac.org and make your commitment to the future of our profession. I promise you, it will only take ten minutes and it will enable us to continue the good fight on your behalf.



Robert (Bob) Kelly, AIA, IDSA
2017 AIA Pennsylvania President

Join me in reviewing 2017’s highlights and a look ahead to the newly formed AIA Pennsylvania Strategic Council



Robert (Bob) Kelly pictured with Senate Majority Leader, Jake Corman, during the Pennsylvania Architects PAC October meet and greet at AIA Pennsylvania headquarters.



Elizabeth (Betsy) Masters passes the Presidential A to Robert (Bob) Kelly during 2017’s first board meeting.



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Government Affairs & Advocacy

- >> In 2017, AIA Pennsylvania transitioned from three to two in-house lobbyists solely dedicated to the legislative issues affecting the practice of architecture.
- >> Amal Mahrouki seamlessly transitioned from Manager of Member Relations and Advocacy to Director of Legislative Affairs
- >> Amal and Executive Director, Stephen Swarney logged nearly 290 direct lobby hours in 2017, an **141% increase from 2016.**



Amal Mahrouki, Director of Legislative Affairs, meets with Senator Guy Reschenthaler.



AIA Pennsylvania members pose for a picture in the Capitol Rotunda during Architects Action Day.



AIA Pennsylvania attended two Pennsylvania Society Receptions in December: Small Business and Small Banks Reception & Celebrating the Construction Industry Reception.



In early 2017, AIA Pennsylvania was honored with three PASAE Laurel Awards including the Large Association Government Affairs/Advocacy for Architects Action Day 2016. In early 2018, AIA Pennsylvania earned four PASAE Laurel Awards. Two Government Affairs initiatives were recognized for excellence in the Communications and Meetings/Events/Education categories. Learn more [here](#).

Architects Action Day

In March of 2017, ten groups of nearly 45 AIA Pennsylvania members and AIAS students met with over 45 legislators and/or legislative staff and dropped off over 200 educational materials during [Architects Action Day](#).

AIA Pennsylvania advocated for the legislative initiatives impacting you and your profession as dictated by our [annual legislative survey results](#).

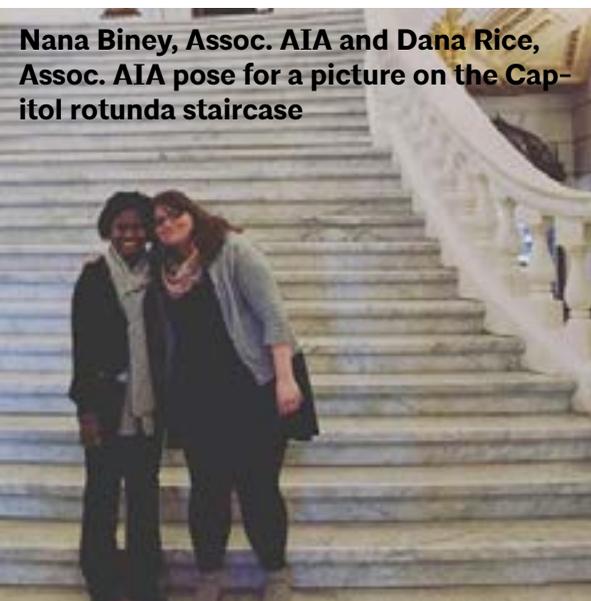
- > Building Codes
- > High Performance Buildings
- > Mandatory Continuing Education
- > High Performance Building
- > Professional Services Tax
- > Architect's Student Loan Forgiveness
- > Mechanics' Lien
- > PlanCon and School Construction Reform



AIA Pennsylvania members Adam Trott, Kelsey Leed, and Joe Adiutori find a friend at Architects Action Day



AIA Pennsylvania President, Bob Kelly, gives the group a pep talk before heading over to meet with legislators across the street at the Capitol.



Nana Biney, Assoc. AIA and Dana Rice, Assoc. AIA pose for a picture on the Capitol rotunda staircase



AIA Pennsylvania members tour the the Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee's restoration of the Pennsylvania Law Library

Legislative Outreach

Designing Schools for Success

>> AIA Pennsylvania hosted “Designing Schools for Success” back in February at Harrisburg University to further the discussion on K-12 design and building throughout Pennsylvania. The networking and panel event was a continuation of AIA Pennsylvania’s September 2016 AEC Education Summit, which brought nearly 150 design professionals, K-12 education experts, and state legislators to discuss the integral role and responsibilities of the AEC Industry in advocating for a brighter future.

Panel topics included:

- > An Introduction to the PLANCON Process
- > Building Lifecycle and Maintenance
- > How Learning Spaces Have Changed & Public Involvement in Planning
- > High Performance Schools & The Value of an Architect

SEPARATIONS ACT DEBATE: Single-Prime vs. Multi-Prime

>> In the summer of 2017, AIA Pennsylvania convened key players on both sides of the Separations Act for a lively debate at Harrisburg University. Learn more [here](#).

President-elect Scott Compton sharing his building lifecycle expertise with the PlanCon Committee, as presentend during the “Designing Schools for Success” panel



press play
to view the
recordings





Pennsylvania Architects PAC
The Political Action Committee of
AIA Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Architects PAC enables architects to become the voice of the design and construction industry by positively impacting the relationship AIA Pennsylvania has with the legislature.



2.3% of AIA Pennsylvania members donated to the Pennsylvania Architects PAC in 2017, up 28% from 2016. In comparison, 1.07% of AIA members donated to the federal ArchiPAC in 2017.



46%  from \$7,084 in 2016



34%  from \$13,550 in 2016



AIA Pennsylvania PAC Committee chair, Michael Skolnick, and Marc Mondor, Government Affairs Committee chair, welcomed Senator John Gordner, Majority Whip and Senator Jay Costa, Minority Floor Leader to the Barn at Fallingwater for a PA Architects PAC fundraiser in August.



AIA Pennsylvania Small Firm Roundtable representative, Gwen Dakis, cracks a smile during the Q & A session with Senators Costa and Gordner.

Legislative Victories

Two new pens courtesy of the Governor adorn the walls of the AIA Pennsylvania offices. Distributed at will of the Governor, these pens serve as a commemorative keepsake for key players in the passage of legislation. The last pen to grace our walls is 18 years old and commemorates AIA PA's role in the establishing the UCC.

MCE

Moved our Mandatory Continuing Education bill out of the house and into Senate Committee with 189 ayes and only 8 nays. The last time our bill passed the house was in 2013 with 31 nay votes.

ACT 36 of 2017

Passed Act 36 of 2017 which will potentially update the UCC to the 2015 ICC codes and provides a provision for the City of Philadelphia to adopt the 2018 IBC. Read more [here](#).

ACT 40 of 2017

Passed Act 40 of 2017 which closes the PJM borders and ensures the growth of the renewable energy industry in the Commonwealth. Read more [here](#).



Steve Krug, Chairman of the Pennsylvania DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee, attends the Governor's signing of Act 40 of 2017



Member Appointments

The UCC Review and Advisory Council (RAC)

In 2017, Governor Wolf appointed three AIA Pennsylvania members to the UCC Review and Advisory Council (RAC).

- >> Maureen Guttman, AIA | Chair
- >> Charles Coltharp, AIA, LEED AP
- >> Joseph Lavalle AIA, MCP



Maureen Guttman, AIA
Chair, PA UCC RAC



Charles Coltharp, AIA



Joseph Lavalle AIA, MCP

The Architects Licensure Board

In 2017, two AIA Pennsylvania members were appointed to the Architects Licensure Board.

- >> Mary McClenaghan, AIA, NCARB
- >> Jerry Roller, AIA, LEED AP

Mary and Jerry join existing AIA Pennsylvania Architects Licensure Board members:

- >> John Hill, AIA, LEED AP | President
- >> Douglas Carney, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB
- >> Philip Leinbach, AIA



Jerry Roller, AIA, LEED AP



Architects Licensure Board meeting candid



Mary McClenaghan, AIA, NCARB

Executive Committee & Staff

In 2017, AIA Pennsylvania was governed by a [board of 19](#) representing the local eight chapters from across the state. Six of those board members hold (pictured below) Executive Committee positions.



President
Robert C. Kelly, AIA
AIA Philadelphia



President Elect
Scott Compton, AIA
AIA Philadelphia



Secretary
Raymond J. Sinagra, AIA
AIA Pittsburgh



Treasurer
Jeff Pastva, AIA
AIA Philadelphia



Government Affairs Chair
Marc Mondor, AIA
AIA Pittsburgh



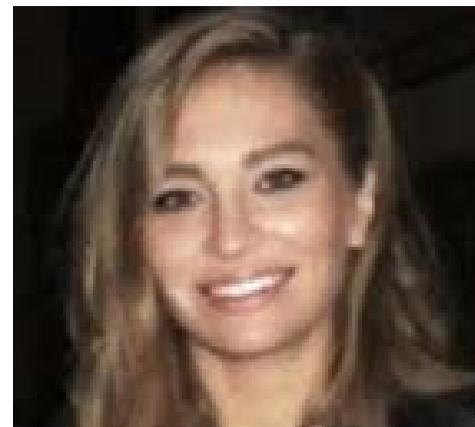
Regional Representative
Chip Desmone, AIA
AIA Pittsburgh



Executive Director
Stephen M. Swarney, JD



Director of Legislative Affairs
Amal Mahrouki



Manager of Communications
Olivia Perry



Membership Coordinator
Meghan Baird

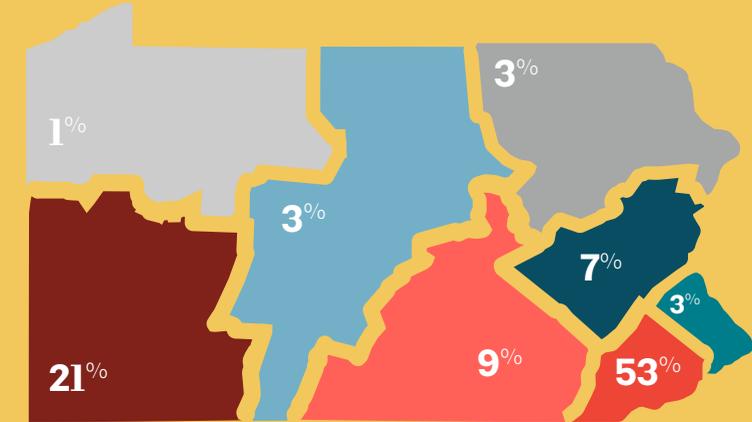


Legal Counsel
Anthony Potter

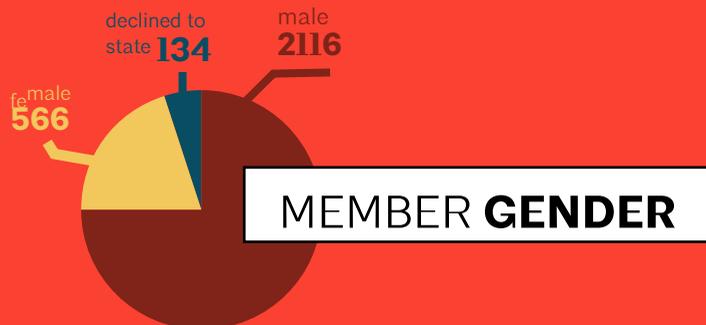
Membership by the Numbers

An overview of 2017's allied members and corporate partners is available [here](#).

2816
members
92% retention rate

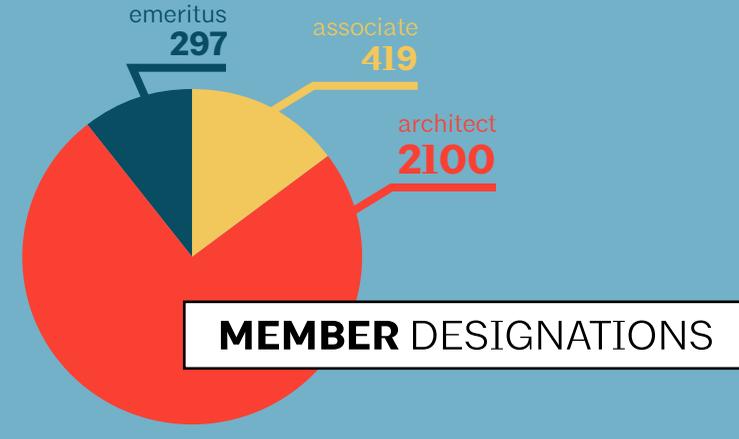
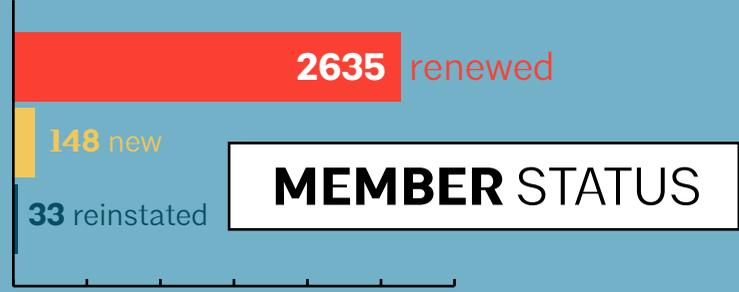


MEMBER CHAPTER BREAKOUT



members earned their license to practice architecture in Pennsylvania

4 members inducted into the College of Fellows



Architectural Excellence Design Awards Broadcast

AIA Pennsylvania announced its 2017 Architectural Excellence Design and Special Awards recipients with an inaugural simulcast streamed into viewing parties, offices, and homes across the Commonwealth. **Over 30 firms and individuals across Pennsylvania were honored for excellence in design and innovation, contributions to the profession of Architecture and commitment to the quality of life in the built environment.**

Over 300 viewers from across the state tuned into the simulcast. AIA Central Pennsylvania, AIA Eastern Pennsylvania, AIA Northwestern Pennsylvania, AIA Pittsburgh, and AIA Philadelphia hosted pop-up viewing parties to celebrate local award recipients.

2017's Architectural Excellence Design Awards recipients were selected by a jury of nationally recognized architects and designers spearheaded by architecture critic Reed Kroloff, AIA and rounded out by Debra Lehman Smith of Lehman Smith McLeish and Claire Weisz, FAIA of WXY. The jury was filmed on location at the firm of Lehman Smith McLeish in Washington, DC. View all the the award recipients [here](#).

click [here](#) to view the broadcast recording



“It was an honor to chair a jury with such distinguished colleagues as Debra Lehman-Smith and Claire Weisz, and we were all mightily impressed with the quality of the work submitted—particularly those selected for Architectural Excellence Awards. It is abundantly—and delightfully—clear that Pennsylvania architecture is at a very high point right now.”

Reed Kroloff, AIA
Head juror



AIA Pittsburgh/AIA Pennsylvania award recipients celebrate at AIA Pittsburgh's screening of the Architectural Excellence Design Awards Broadcast.



AIA Philadelphia provided buttery concessions and the Center for Architecture and Design to host their pop-up party.

The Paula Maynes ARE Grant

In the Fall, the Emerging Professionals Committee announced the 2017 class of Paula Maynes ARE (Architect Registration Examination) Grant recipients. Since 2015, the grant has recognized outstanding architectural graduates pursuing licensure and their contributions to the architecture profession and their communities at large.

Six AIA Pennsylvania Associate members were granted a \$210 award, the cost of each division of the six part ARE 5.0 exam and a full Brightwood Architecture Education ARE Study Guide Library.

Read more about Paula's legacy, the grant, and the 2017 class of grant recipients [here](#).

In 2017, **AIA Pennsylvania established a 501c3 foundation (AIA Pennsylvania Foundation Ltd)** to continue to award grants to aspiring architects following in the footsteps of Paula Maynes through their dedication to achieving licensure and towards positively impacting their profession and community.



Paula Maynes, AIA

Kassandra Garza, Associate AIA, LEED AP BD+C | AIA Pittsburgh

David Golden, Associate AIA | AIA Philadelphia

Anna Perez, Associate AIA, LEED AP BD+C | AIA Philadelphia

Garrett Rauck, Associate AIA | AIA Pittsburgh

Steven Seminelli, LEED Green Assoc., Associate AIA | AIA Philadelphia

QUAD Conference

AIA chapters from four states, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, convened in Albany for the 2017 AIA QUAD (Quality Unites Architectural Design) Conference. Over the three full days, participants attended keynotes, a trade show, tours, educational sessions, and presentations. AIA Pennsylvania was represented throughout the program, with presentations by AIA Pennsylvania members, corporate partners, and emerging professionals.

AIA Pennsylvania members were honored with [10 of the 29 awards](#) presented at the 2017 QUAD (Quality Unites Architectural Design) Design Awards ceremony.



AIA Pennsylvania President Bob Kelly, board member Rick Beattie, President-elect Scott Compton and member/QUAD Design award recipient Jeff Goldstein attend the opening night reception.



Young Architects Regional Director, Christian Jordan represents AIA Pennsylvania/AIA Philadelphia on an Emerging Professionals & Advocacy Panel at the QUAD Conference



Leigh Stringer opens her keynote session, "The Healthy Workplace" on day two of the QUAD Conference

Looking Ahead to 2018

An Introduction to the AIA Pennsylvania Strategic Council

This year, AIA Pennsylvania is 109 years old. Needless to say, much has changed in the practice of architecture over the past century. When a small group of architects gathered at a local watering hole to discuss the future of AIA Pennsylvania and our eight local chapters nearly five years ago, we discussed these and other crucial questions:

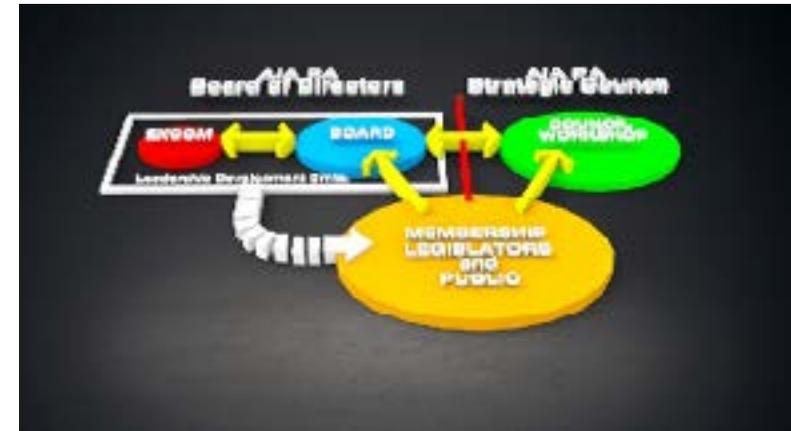
- >> “How should we adapt our organization to address the rapidly changing social, technological and economic world we find our practice in today?”
- >> “How can AIA PA retain its relevance in this environment?”
- >> “How can our organization capture the imaginations of the new technologically-savvy generation of architects?”
- >> “How can we stretch our members’ dollars and, at the same time, provide more and better member services and programming?”

Discussions continued over many months. As more and more members became involved with the discussion, a focused initiative was born and given the name “The Race for Relevance,” inspired by the book of the same name. Over the course of the next eighteen months, seven Design Thinking Workshops and countless more meetings and discussions were held.

Central to each of the workshops was the basic challenge to the board to imagine a new, more responsive 21st century governance model for AIA PA. They challenged us on such topics as “How might we design an organization that is more attractive to a new generation of architects and entrepreneurs?” Other challenge questions were asked about how we could design an organization that would creatively seek out alternative sources of revenue to reduce reliance on member dues; an organization that truly valued every member volunteer hour donated by eliminating extraneous activities and committees.

We pondered how AIA PA could be redesigned to provide innovative, cost-effective and scalable member services and programming statewide, and discussed how we could create and maintain a platform for statewide knowledge networks to encourage more equitable member collaboration and learning opportunities across the state.

Finally, the group sought to find ways for AIA PA to develop a stronger presence in our communities. In particular, there was much discussion around ways to bring our design and problem-solving skills to bear on countless unmet needs in underserved and under-resourced communities throughout the state that are well beyond the practical reach of our urban chapters.



Throughout 2017, your AIA PA board of directors challenged each other to design a platform for innovation to carry out the aspirational questions noted above. It became clear that this innovation platform would clearly need to be designed with a membership service focus and include a community-focused mission adaptable to a variety of tasks and initiatives. It would also have to accommodate the needs of a new and evolving state chapter structure as chapters opt to change their status from Chapter to Section, Notably, Northwest Chapter has made the choice and is in the process of becoming AIA PA Northwest Section.

The group decided that the new AIA PA governance model would consist of two groups – the board of directors plus a new innovation platform or a think tank called the AIA PA Strategic Council.

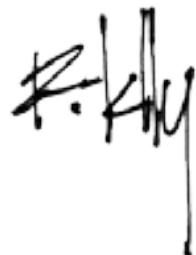
In this new configuration, the AIA PA board of directors will have the same important fiduciary responsibilities it currently has. In addition, the new AIA PA Strategic Council will have at its core the leaders and members of all the existing committees and subcommittees. They will be charged with using the new think tank structure to innovate in the realm of member services and delivery. On an initiative driven basis, they will at times also be part of a larger council comprised of a statewide network of influencers and thought leaders.

At any moment in time, the Council could be made up of different combinations of AIA PA members at-large and government leaders; community leaders and business leaders; academic and NAAB leaders, EPiC and AIAS student leaders. It will be this larger group of Strategic Council members that will be charged with looking outward across the state with a community-focused mission.

The new model illustrated on the right is the flexible initiative-oriented model we have developed. It will be ramped up over the next year, with our first full initiatives planned for 2019. Stay tuned ... and if you think you would like to participate on AIA PA Strategic Council Initiatives in the future, please contact the AIA offices in Harrisburg.

As you can see, 2017 was an eventful year. I am happy to report that we are increasing our influence in the Capitol more and more each day that passes. We are well on our way to fulfilling our goal of becoming the voice of the construction industry in Pennsylvania. Our membership numbers are strong, and we are in the best financial shape ever with balanced budgets that are performing well. We have strong cash reserves for a rainy day and our non-dues revenue is increasing nicely year after year.

We also have a top shelf board of directors, a fantastic Executive Director and an unbelievably responsive, talented, hardworking and pleasant staff. All is well, and we believe we have a plan designed to guide AIA PA through to the next century.

 **Robert (Bob) Kelly, AIA, IDSA**
2017 AIA Pennsylvania President

