

- American  
- Institute of  
- Architects

# AIA/EIC

eastwards

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

March 2025  
Issue 3.25  
[www.aiaeic.org](http://www.aiaeic.org)

## President's Message

by John Benware Jr., AIA, NCARB

Spring is beginning to peek around the corner, leaving a relatively mild winter behind. But, if past history is any indication, there is probably one last surprise snowfall remaining before the winter season is complete for the year.

Speaking of history, our chapter is coming upon a milestone. In 2028, the AIA Eastern Illinois Chapter will be celebrating its 50th year of operation. We have grown from the initial 35 founding members to around 115 members today. Generations of volunteers have contributed to the continued growth of the chapter and its influence on architecture in the communities south of the City of Chicago. We are starting to gather as much of the artifacts and background material of the chapter in preparation for celebrating the occasion. Most importantly, we will be reaching out to the people who have made important contributions to the chapter. If you have anything you wish to contribute, please contact Wayne Babiak or myself.



On a similar topic, I attended a recent event at AIA Chicago titled "Building Modern South Suburban Communities: The Work of McPherson, Swing and Associates". A lot of John McPherson's work was in the south suburbs,

particularly Homewood, Flossmoor, and Olympia Fields. He was prolific in designing mid-century modern homes and commercial and municipal buildings in those communities. His partner Jack Swing was also well known in the area and to many of our members. One of our founding members, Ray Brejcha, joined with McPherson and Swing and continued the firm's excellence.

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### March 26 Chapter Meeting

Program:

**Architectural  
Exposed Long Span  
Acoustical Decking**

Presenter:

**Darin Collings**

Sponsor:

**Epic Metals Corporation**

**See page 4 for registration.**

# President's Message

...continued

The presenter at the event mentioned, Marcy Dinius, is researching a book and looking for anyone who can provide information about the firms that evolved from McPherson, Swing and Associates. If anyone has any information about projects or drawings from that time period, please contact her at mdinius@depaul.edu.

One last note about history. This one is about making history. This year is our awards year, and we will shortly begin accepting submissions for the awards. I encourage everyone to submit your best completed projects over the last couple of years. This is your chance to be recognized and celebrated by your peers in the community. We look forward to seeing the wonderful work that our chapter members produce every day.

*John F. Benware, Jr.  
AIA, NCARB  
EIC President*



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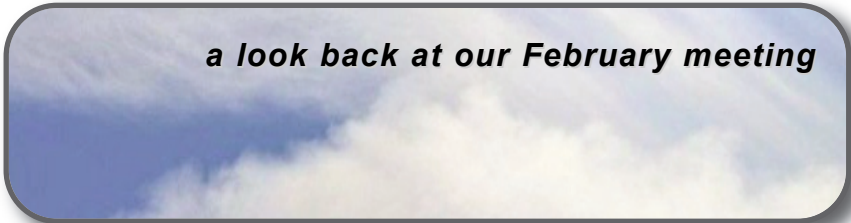
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Seth Michael ■ Scott Strnad ■ Andy Eck

# Rear View Mirror

BEAR VIEW MIRROR



## Designing with Innovative Architectural Blocks for Buildings

Joint meeting with Joliet Junior College Architecture Students

**Presenter:** Jack Chambers, Architectural Sales Rep.

**Sponsor:** Oldcastle APG / Echelon Masonry



For our February 26th meeting at Heroes West Joliet, we were joined by several JJC Architectural Technology students and instructors, in addition to KT's students from the KACC.

During the social hour we did an icebreaker, a team-building yarn-maze game, pictured at right. This was followed by dinner and the main presentation, "Design Tactics for Stone Masonry Products".

Many thanks to the evening's Host/Sponsor Oldcastle APG | Echelon Masonry, and to our presenter Jack Chambers, Architectural Sales Representative.



For more information, visit  
Oldcastle APG | Echelon Masonry  
<https://www.echelonmasonry.com/>

# Upcoming Meeting ♦ Wednesday, March 26

Program: Architectural Exposed Long Span Acoustical Decking - 1 CEU

**Presenter:** Darin Collings

**Program:** **Architectural Exposed Long Span Acoustical Decking**  
Check out all the Architectural, Acoustical and Structural features EPIC has to offer in this inspiring presentation, which qualifies for 1 HR of CEU. The presentation will be covering Structural Long Span Decking along with Exterior Cladding Materials, Screening and Interior Cloud Systems.

**Sponsor:** EPIC Metals Corporation



**Location:** **FLOSSMOOR STATION**  
1035 Sterling Ave  
Flossmoor, IL 60422  
<https://www.flossmoorstation.com/>

**MEETING IN PERSON**  
*Please register above right.*

**Time:** 5:00 pm Board Meeting  
6:00 pm Social Hour  
7:00 pm Dinner & Program Presentation

**Cost:** \$30.00 / AIA/EIC Member  
\$35.00 / non-member

**Reserve your spot!**

**Click here** to register online, or

for directions and venue web-link go to:

<https://aiaaic.org/meet-reg1.php?id=121>

If you are unable to register online, contact

**John Benware, Jr., AIA**

at [jfbjr@jfbjr-architect.com](mailto:jfbjr@jfbjr-architect.com) or 708-529-8346.

**Certificates will be e-mailed to registrants after the seminar.**



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# AIA/EIC Chapter History

by Wayne E. Babiak, AIA



At the 1977 AIA National Convention held in San Diego, we were granted Chapter status. We became a Chapter effective January 1, 1978. Prior to that, from 1966 to the end of 1977, we were the South Section of the Chicago Chapter of the AIA. Below is the Chapter Charter with the Charter Members.



## The American Institute of Architects Chapter Charter

Wayne E. Babiak	Walter W. Hultsch	Scott L. Seaton
Raymond J. Brejcha	Torrence Lee Johnston	Richard W. Snyder
Thomas E. Carpenter	Edwin H. Lugowski, Jr.	George W. Terp, Jr.
Raymond S. Chocholek	Ronald L. Moline	Donald Turner
Robert J. Curtis	Louis J. Narcisi	Ronald M. Utte
William H. Gold	Benjamin E. Nelson	Terry Lee Williams
Fra C. Hardman, Jr.	Loran D. Schonbacher	Richard Witt

members of The American Institute of Architects, resident in the counties of Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, LaSalle, Livingston, Will and the portion of Cook County which includes the townships of Bremen, Bloom, Calumet, Lemont, Corland, Palos, Rich, Thornton, and Worth, State of Illinois having duly complied with the requirements of The Institute, relating to forming a Chapter thereof, such Chapter has been constituted by The Board of Directors under the name of

## The Eastern Illinois Chapter The American Institute of Architects

to exercise all the privileges granted to a chapter under the conditions prescribed in the Bylaws of The Institute within the territory assigned by The Board of Directors of The Institute

### CHARTER MEMBERS NOT LISTED ABOVE

David L. Bowie, AIA	Teddy D. Dunaj, AIA
Albert A. Pacelli, AIA	Craig A. Podalak, AIA
Arthur A. Gouvis, AIA	Raymond A. Stevens, AIA
Kenneth Stromsland, AIA	Harold A. Jacobs, AIA

1 January 1978

*[Signature]*  
President  
*[Signature]*  
Secretary

Raymond J. Brejcha AIA was the first President of the South Section in 1966. He was also the first President of the newly formed Eastern Illinois Chapter in 1978.

There were several who were instrumental in the efforts to form our Chapter of the AIA, including Ray Brejcha, Ray Chocholek, Ed Lugowski, Ron Moline, Scott Seaton, George Terp and Terry Williams.

Do you have any historical information to share - print photos, photo negatives, slides - remember any of those media? If you do, contact me by email and arrangements can be made to get these to me. I can scan any of these into JPEG images.

Additional articles will follow in upcoming editions of "Eastwords."

Wayne E. Babiak, AIA [web44aia@comcast.net](mailto:web44aia@comcast.net)

# Chapter Corner

AIA/EIC Items of Interest



**T**his is right around the corner...

Friday, May 16, 2025

## Spring Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser

### Heritage Bluffs

24355 W Bluff Rd, Channahon, IL 60410

(Same location as last year.)

<https://www.heritagebluffs.com/>

Sponsorships & Registration is now available.  
[aiaeic.org/meetinginfo.php?id=128&ts=1740868919](http://aiaeic.org/meetinginfo.php?id=128&ts=1740868919)  
Event information found here will be updated soon  
with golfing instructions.



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## AIA/EIC CALENDAR

### March

- 18 Prairie Grassroots  
Springfield, IL
- 19 BURSI 2
- 26 Regular Chapter Meeting  
Flossmoor Station  
Epic Metal Decks

### April

- 23 Regular Chapter Meeting  
Gatto's Tinley Park  
Commercial Applications w/ SIPs
- 26 Wright in Kankakee  
AIA/EIC Bradley House Tour  
[aiaeic.org/meetinginfo.php?id=129&ts=1741663226](http://aiaeic.org/meetinginfo.php?id=129&ts=1741663226)

### May

- 16 Spring Golf Outing & Scholarship  
Fundraiser  
Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club  
Channahon, IL
- 28 Regular Chapter Meeting  
Flossmoor Station  
Gerflor Flooring

### June

- 6 White SOX outing  
Guaranteed Rate Field / Comisky Park  
Chicago White Sox vs. K.C. Royals

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# THE 2025 SUMMER OUTING

FRIDAY June 6th 2025 6:40 first pitch 4:40 tailgate starts.

**Cleveland Guardians vs Chicago White Sox**  
**TAILGATING STARTS AT 4:30pm**  
**GAME STARTS AT 6:40pm**

I am looking for Raffle Item donations anyone willing to donate a raffle item we will have a board showing all the people who donated items. Reach out to Dewain Peterson to get your donation included. All donations must be received by May 28th prior to the game.

## ASSA ABLOY

Questions please contact: Dewain Peterson, dewain.peterson@assaabloy.com or 630-338-5610 or register via link provided

Members, family and friends please plan to attend this fun summer event !

**Individual Tickets: only \$45.00 | Section 154/155 confirmed**

**Single ticket Price included 1 \$5 raffle tickets additional Tickets available upon request.**

We plan to meet-up at US Cellular Field Parking Lot "A or B" for tailgating.

Food and drinks at Tailgate provided by **ASSA ABLOY**.

**Parking cost is on your own.**

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION May 1st, 2025**

[Register Here](#)

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P.O. Box 1476, Homewood, IL 60430**

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