

- American
- Institute of
- Architects

AIA/EIC eastwords

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

March 2026
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President's Message

by John Benware Jr., AIA, NCARB

The weather outside the window is starting to look less dreary and cold than last month. The snow has disappeared, and the temperatures have started moving in a positive direction. Basketball madness has yet to descend as I write this month's introduction to "Eastwords."

We had a great meeting last month with all the students from Joliet Junior College. A big thanks to all our architect members who came out to inspire and encourage the next generation of architects and designers. There will be more opportunities coming this year to engage with students. Last month I attended a career fair at my high school, reaching out to juniors looking at the profession. There is another career event scheduled this month in Minooka. If you know of a local high school having a career fair and would like the chapter to attend the event, let the board know. We already have handouts and information prepared for students.

We are still looking for volunteers to have events during Architecture Week. Please get in touch if you have



an idea that you would like the chapter to help to bring about. You can visit the national AIA Architecture Week site listed at the end of this article for more information and ideas.

AIA Illinois is having its annual Prairie Grassroots event at the end of the month. This year it conflicts with our regular meeting date, so we are adjusting our meeting date to allow for people to attend both events. Prairie Grassroots is a day spent visiting our state representatives and state senators to lobby on behalf of the architecture profession in Illinois. It is vital to let our legislators know the importance of architecture and great work that architects do in Illinois. *(continued...)*

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Tuesday, March 24 Chapter Meeting

Program:

**Designing Facades with Coil
and Extrusion Coatings**

Presenter:

Jack Hanssen

Sponsor:

Sherwin-Williams

See page 6 for registration.

President's Message

...continued

Chapter Corner

items of interest and notable news

There is no cost to attend, lunch and dinner are provided, and there is a bus from Joliet to Springfield and back. See below for more information and to register.



I look forward to seeing everyone later this month.

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

March 25 AIA Illinois **Prairie Grassroots** details:
<https://aiail.org/events/#prairie-grassroots>

April 12-18 National AIA **Architecture Week** details:
<https://www.aia.org/about-aia/press/celebrate-architecture-week-2025-april-13-19>

June 10-13 AIA **Conference** on Architecture & Design:
<https://conferenceonarchitecture.com/>

Melissa S. Roberts, AAI
Vice President
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Mark your calendars for the 2026 AIA/EIC Golf Outing, gather your foursome, and consider sponsoring this **Scholarship Fundraising** event!

FRIDAY, June 5, 2026

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**REGISTER
HERE**



Tickets

\$85 GOLF (Includes 1/2 Cart)
\$40 DINNER

Sponsorship Opportunities

\$50 Par (Advertiser)
\$150 Birdie (Hole Sponsor)
\$250 Eagle (Dinner Sponsor)
\$350 Hole-in-one (Prize Award)
\$500 Double Eagle (Prize Award)

Questions: contact Gabe Hocking
(708) 224-4324 or
gabe.hocking@damsinc.com.

**ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026
5:00PM - 8:00PM**

U-Building Auditorium
1215 Houbolt Rd, Joliet, IL 60431

Join us for an inside look at the Architectural Studies Program at Joliet Junior College. Catered dinner, informative presentations, and student networking are included.




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Chapter Corner

items of interest and notable news



AIA/EIC CALENDAR

March

- 18 Joliet Junior College
Architectural Studies Program
Advisory Committee meeting
- 24 Regular Meeting @ Flossmoor Station
- 25 Prairie Grassroots

April

- 12-18 National Architecture Week
- 29 Regular Meeting @ Gatto's Tinley Park

May

- 15 White Sox vs. Cubs
summer outing
- 27 Regular Meeting @ Flossmoor Station

June

- 5 Golf Outing
The Bluffs Channahon (Heritage Bluffs)
- 10-13 AIA Conference on Architecture & Design
San Diego, CA

December

- 6 Annual Dinner & Design Awards
- Save the date!



MAY 15 - Summer Outing 2026 Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox "Crosstown Classic"

Guaranteed Rate Field
(Comiskey Park/White Sox Park)
4:30 pm Tailgate Party / 6:40 pm First Pitch

The 2026 Chicago White Sox game and tailgate outing is against the hometown rival Chicago Cubs! Thanks to ASSA ABLOY for planning this popular event *plus* covering part of the costs! Tickets are very limited and going fast, so register now.

\$50 value ticket includes SPONSORED seating in Section 155, Rows 26-32, as well as Dewain/Assa Abloy's delicious tailgate, and a raffle entry for a White Sox jersey and more. Additional raffle tickets are also available at \$5 each. Proceeds benefit our scholarship fund.

REGISTER HERE before the end of April.

aiaaic.starchapter.com/meet-reg1.php?id=136

Questions? Contact Dewain Peterson.

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Wayne Babiak, AIA is collecting historical information for "Eastwords" articles. If you have a story or recommendation, please contact Wayne at web44aia@comcast.net or give him a call at 708-989-6214.

Rear View Mirror

BEAR VIEW MIRROR

a look back at our February meeting



Architectural Precast Concrete: Materials, Systems, Detailing, and Resilient Design

Presenter: Joe Lombard

Sponsor: PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin

Being that February was a joint meeting with Joliet Junior College, we had a good turnout of both EIC members and Architecture students in attendance at Cemenos in Joliet.

(Below) AIA/EIC President John Benware, Jr. addressed the meeting.

Joe Lombard, Executive Director of PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin, (at right),



delivered an exceptional overview of Architectural Precast Concrete. The course he presented aimed to enhance architects' ability to design safer, more resilient structures by
(continued on next page)

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Rear View Mirror

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addressing precast concrete's contributions to occupant protection and structural integrity. Topics included material durability, energy-efficient envelope design, weather-resistant detailing, and performance under extreme loading conditions (storm, blast, and impact resistance), all of which support the creation of buildings that prioritize life safety, occupant well-being, and long-term environmental health. The program contributed to our understanding of materials and systems,



as well as the nuances of detailing and resilient design.

We are also grateful to PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin for their dual role as host and sponsor. Partnerships like this make high-quality HSW-LU sessions possible! Please click their logo above to visit their website.

KATELYN WALKER



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Upcoming Meeting ♦ Tuesday, March 24

Program: *Designing Visually Dynamic Facades with Coil and Extrusion Coatings*

Presenters: **Jack Hanssen**, Extrusion Coatings Sales Representative,
The Sherwin-Williams Company
Susan Sienkowski, LEED Green Associate,
Enterprise Account Executive

**Note the meeting
is one day early,
on a Tuesday.**

Program: **Designing Visually Dynamic Facades with Coil and Extrusion Coatings**
This course explores how the use of color and coil and extrusion coated metal building products can help you make a big visual impact on your next facade design. Coil and extrusion coatings can help contribute to the health, safety and welfare of building occupants through color and sustainability. Color has the power to impact emotion (health), celebrate cultures, and serve as a wayfinding tool (safety). 1 LU | HSW

Objectives: 1) Understand what coil and extrusion coatings are and why they matter.
2) Review coil and extrusion coating methods and end-use applications.
3) Explore how color and metal coatings can be used to design visually dynamic building facades.
4) Understand coating performance and how to specify the right coating for your next project.

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Sponsor: **The Sherwin-Williams Company**

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

MEETING IN PERSON
Please register at right.

Time: 5:00 pm Board Meeting
6:00 pm Social Hour
7:00 pm Dinner and CEU
Program Presentation

Cost: \$30.00 / AIA/EIC Member
\$35.00 / non-member
\$20.00 / student or educator

Reserve your spot!

Click here to register online, or
for directions and venue web-link go to:

<https://aiaeic.starchapter.com/meet-reg1.php?id=133>

If you are unable to register online,
contact **John Benware, Jr.**, AIA
at jfbjr@jfbjr-architect.com or
708-529-8346.

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

*"Eastwords" is the monthly publication of the American Institute of Architects/
Eastern Illinois Chapter. Opinions expressed are those of the particular author
and not necessarily those of AIA/EIC. For advertising information, contact
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