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- Institute of  
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eastwards

AIA/EIC

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER



April 2025  
Issue 4.25  
www.aiaeic.org

## President's Message

by John Benware Jr., AIA, NCARB

It looks like Spring has actually arrived with some warm and sunny weather. I hope that this will continue for a little while in order to defrost the garden.

Another indication of Spring is the annual trip to Springfield for AIA Illinois' Prairie Grassroots event to visit our state legislators. I feel that they must have been reading my remarks from last month about historic preservation because most of the bills we were asking for support were focused on expanding the use of tax credits for historic preservation. One of the bills addressed expanding the total amount of funding available for projects renovating historic properties. The other bill would add additional communities to the River's Edge Tax legislation for renovation. I was successful in meeting with both my senator and representative in their offices.

I have been updating and preparing documents for this year's Awards Program, and already put together this year's jury. More information about the jury and the process will be forthcoming. There will be an email



announcement for the opening of submittals for this year's awards. We will present awards at the Annual Meeting and Holiday Event in December.

We are coming up on the beginning of our summer events, including the White Sox Baseball

Outing and the Golf Outing. Both are important in raising money for our scholarships. The number of tickets available for the baseball outing is limited, so I encourage everyone not to wait to get tickets. Sign ups for the golf outing typically languish to the last minute. Please get your foursome together soon.

I look forward to seeing you later this month.

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

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**April 23**  
**Chapter Meeting**

**Program:**  
**Commercial Applications  
with SIPs**

**Presenter:**  
**Jonathan Golz**

**Sponsor:**  
**Enercept SIPs**

**See page 3 for registration.**

# Rear View Mirror

REAR VIEW MIRROR

*a look back at our March meeting*

## Architectural Exposed Long Span Acoustical Decking

**Presenter:** Darin Collings

**Sponsor:** EPIC Metals Corporation

Your AIA/EIC Board at work before the regular chapter meeting, pictured below left and right.



Pictured at right, Darin Collings and Mike Winkleman of EPIC Metals. Thanks to our presenter Darin Collings for the March program at Flossmoor Station Restaurant.



Also thanks to our evening's Host/Sponsor EPIC Metals Visit [www.epicmetals.com](http://www.epicmetals.com)



# Upcoming Meeting ♦ Wednesday, April 23

Program: Commercial Applications with Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs)

**Presenter:** Jonathan Golz

Jon has been in the SIP industry for over seventeen years, ten of those as a builder/contractor working in the field. His knowledge set revolves around the real world use of SIPs and the construction of high performance buildings. For the last eight years Jon has worked as sales manager for Enercept. They have been producing high quality SIPs since 1981.



**Program:** Commercial Applications with Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs)

This course discusses the benefits of commercial building design with SIPs, including energy savings, waste minimization and other sustainable contributions. The designer will gain a better understanding of how to properly utilize SIPs.

This course prepares design professionals to:

- ♦ Discuss the basics of SIPs, including their composition, common engineering methods, applicable codes and standards, and how SIPs contribute to sustainable design.
- ♦ Identify the energy-efficient characteristics of SIPs and how they improve whole building energy efficiency.
- ♦ Describe the waste reducing and product life cycle benefits of building with SIPs relative to traditional wood framing.
- ♦ Explain how SIPs contribute to better indoor air quality through a reduction in both air infiltration and interior off-gassing.

**Sponsor:** Enercept SIPs

**Location:** GATTO'S TINLEY PARK  
005 W. 183rd. St.  
Tinley Park, IL 60477

**MEETING IN PERSON**  
*Please register at 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=122>

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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# Prairie Grassroots 2025

Architects' Day at the Capitol



On Tuesday, March 18 several members, colleagues and partners were in Springfield to hear about the current issues impacting the profession in Illinois at a luncheon. They met with their legislators at the State Capitol to advocate for the profession, and ended the day at a reception.

If you weren't able to attend, you're encouraged to learn about current issues and contact your Senators and Representatives. Urge them to take action on the priorities of the architecture profession.

## 2025 Issues Summary

### ✓ SUPPORT

Preservation Tax Credit | SB0240  
Increase annual allocation from \$25M to \$75M so more qualifying projects can benefit. (Historic preservation)

### ✓ SUPPORT

River Edge Redevelopment | HB1919/SB1309  
Amend the RER Zone Act to certify two additional pilot Zones in the City of Alton and the City of Sterling.

### ✗ OPPOSE

Fire Districts – Design-Build | HB2894/SB1827  
Fire stations and many other municipal projects require highly specialized designs that prioritize safety, functionality, and adaptability, which are better achieved through more collaborative methods.

To help support AIA Illinois' advocacy efforts and learn more, click here. [www.aiaill.org/advocacy](http://www.aiaill.org/advocacy)

## Prairie Grassroots Member Spotlight

2025 marks 20 years of Prairie Grassroots programs. Bob Bohlmann, AIA is one of the longest running attendees and a dedicated member. Over the 20 years of Prairie Grassroots programs, he has participated in educating newbies about meeting with their legislator, brought guests and family members, and been an unyielding advocate at the statehouse and in his community.



Bob shared his thoughts on Advocacy Day:

"I had been to AIA National Grassroots as vice-president and president of AIA-EIC and found the event very educational

and worthwhile. When I heard AIA Illinois was going to initiate 'Prairie Grassroots' I was all for it. Bringing the dialogue and information sharing process to the local and state level was a good thing, in my opinion.

*(Continued on next page...)*




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# Prairie Grassroots 2025

Advocate for Your Profession



(...continued) “I have the good fortune of meeting with multiple Representatives and Senators when visiting Springfield. My home is in Iroquois County, whereas my practice and now, as Executive Director of Wright In Kankakee, I also meet with Kankakee County's delegates. I have gotten to know many representatives and senators on a personal level over the years.

“What I like about AIA Illinois' approach is that we don't go down to Springfield with complaints; but what we take to our governing bodies are positive ideas, suggestions and information as to bills (or ideas for bills) that have an impact on the built environment and the public.



“As you can see, I haven't missed a PG yet, and hope to continue the tradition.”

Bob & fellow EIC members  
Steven Reardon, AIA,  
John Benware, Jr. AIA and  
Jim Maciejewski, AIA

Bob is happy to share highlights from attending PG, legislators he's met and talked to over the years, including meeting then-Senator Obama, and even those he's reconnected with when they visited the Bradley House.

Thank you, Bob for your ongoing support!

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or contact our membership coordinator  
John Benware for more information.

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# Chapter Corner

AIA/EIC Upcoming Events



**Frank Lloyd Wright ~ B. Harley Bradley House**  
AIA Accredited Architectural Tour provided by Wright In Kankakee through the sponsorship/registration of AIA/EIC  
**Saturday, April 26, 1-3 p.m.**

Bring your family and friends to this unique tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's FIRST Prairie Design house.

Limited Tickets available, 15 MAX ATTENDEES  
\$35.00 General Admission / \$25.00 Student Admission  
Register [here](http://aiaeic.org/meetinginfo.php?id=129&ts=1741663226): [aiaeic.org/meetinginfo.php?id=129&ts=1741663226](http://aiaeic.org/meetinginfo.php?id=129&ts=1741663226)

## And right around the corner...

Friday, May 16, 2025

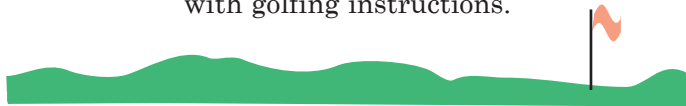
### Spring Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser Heritage Bluffs

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.



*"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 Edvin Mertdogan, AIA at [emertdogan@yahoo.com](mailto:emertdogan@yahoo.com). Submit all articles to the editor, Roxanne Paukner, Hon. AIA, at [rp.entasis@att.net](mailto:rp.entasis@att.net).*

## AIA/EIC CALENDAR

### April

- 23** Regular Chapter Meeting  
Gatto's Tinley Park
- 26** Wright in Kankakee  
AIA/EIC Bradley House Tour

### May

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

### June

- 4-6** AIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE on  
Architecture & Design 2025, Boston MA
- 6** White SOX outing  
Guaranteed Rate Field / Comisky Park  
Chicago White Sox vs. K.C. Royals

### September

- 20-21** AIAspire Student Leadership  
Conference - Springfield IL
- 24** Regular Meeting @ Flossmoor Station



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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](#)

# AIA/EIC Chapter History

by Roxanne Paukner, Hon. AIA



This is my 300th issue as “Eastwords” editor. There have been so many production changes since I began in 1991. It’s interesting to travel back and see a few of the old issues. And WOW, it seems like the age of dinosaurs the way things were done then!



use their equipment after hours for my freelance jobs. I had to retype all text onto the word processor, then literally cut and paste articles, clip art, and advertisers onto pre-waxed pages. Few photos were used, as they had to be screened and sized on a photostat camera, a big 4’x6’x4’ behemoth. I took the final boards to R&B Printing in Mt.

Greenwood. Three days later I’d pick up 125 freshly printed copies, and my original artwork to be stripped and remade for the next issue. The newsletter had to be folded, addressed, stamped and taken to the post office. Three to five days after that, every member received a hard copy of “Eastwords” in their mail.

(continued on next page...)

**EASTWORDS**  
NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

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**CHAPTER MEETING**  
October 28th  
Ron Moline AIA, Architects

Our program will feature the Wright designed office of Ron Moline, AIA Architects at 701 S. Harrison, Kankakee, Illinois. Please plan on joining us for what will be a most interesting program. (see page 4 & 5)

We will have a board meeting on this day, starting at 4:00 P.M. at Ruby's Restaurant, 500 S. West Avenue, Kankakee, Illinois. Cocktails will be hosted from 6:45-8 P.M., with a mini presentation and dinner following, and the program starting at approximately 8:00 P.M. Please attend and bring a guest/prospective member.

**SCHEDULE:** 4:00-6:00 Board Meeting  
6:00-6:45 Cocktails  
6:45-7:00 Mini presentation  
7:00 Dinner in office of Ron Moline  
8:00 Program

**LOCATIONS:** Kankakee, IL (see page 6 for map)

Reservations to Ted Dungey by Oct. 23th (708) 349-6262

When I first began, type-written or cursive articles were brought to my home or sent by what we now refer to as “snail” mail. I worked at a publishing house and was allowed to

**EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER / AIA**  
CHAPTER MEETING - OCTOBER 28, 1991  
SULLY'S RESTAURANT / RON MOLINE OFFICE - KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS

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These inside pages included a hand drafted map to a special meeting location. Advertisers were all on the same pages due to typesetting and layout limitations. Do you notice any of them who remain with us today?

The earliest “Eastwords” were simple typed pages, then changed to 2 columns with a header. Shown is one from my first year as editor. The back page had room for mailing addresses. Board listings have since been moved to the back page.

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# AIA/EIC Chapter History

...continued



First big change - fax machines made it easy to get articles immediately. The end of late submissions, right? No, that didn't actually change human nature.

Rapidly evolving computer developments made layout work far easier. I could adjust text to fit without guess work, and obtain perfect alignment, resulting in a cleaner layout.

As the internet developed, email became favored over faxing. Text didn't need to be retyped - a real time saver! Scanners later made it possible to email graphics, and

include more photos in the work. Expensive, once-coveted photostat cameras quickly became obsolete albatrosses.

I've made design changes gradually so as to maintain familiarity. There was one major revamp to the look in 1997 (below), courtesy of Grant Currier. With moderate modifications over the years, his design carries through to today.

Once the internet was in wide use we opted to email "Eastwords" as a pdf, under Bob Bohlmann's leadership in 2007. He also voluntarily printed and mailed hard copies from his office to a few members lagging in technology. Production time as well as printing and postage fees were saved. Another benefit of digital was the ability to use full color graphics, which is cost-prohibitive for printing.

As everyone developed websites, links were added to advertisements and registrations in 2014. Now instead emailing a pdf of the newsletter, a link to "Eastwords"

on the AIA/EIC webpage is sent to members. Archives there can be accessed going back to 2008.

In recent years there have been fewer major process changes. Of course there are ongoing updates to software, and always improvements. Any architect who's been in business over these same years can attest to how much has changed in how we do our jobs. Technology has made all of our work faster, more accurate, and less labor-intensive. Laptops allow us to work anywhere and anytime - both advantageous and not.

While there was some satisfaction to the old hands-on ways and having/taking more time to do our jobs, modern technology has removed so many of the limits. There's obviously no turning back! But it's fun once in a while to revisit how we used to work, and to see how our work continues to evolve. It's also good and important to meet in person regularly, which connects us in tangible ways that technology cannot.

That's a key function of the AIA/EIC, providing opportunities for real connection at chapter meetings and events - an advantage for which there is no replacement. After all, human nature hasn't changed.

Roxanne Paukner  
Hon. AIA  
Editor



1997 redesign

'97 technology article by Steve Reardon



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