

- American
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eastwards
AIA/EIC
NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

May 2026
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President's Message

by John Benware Jr., AIA, NCARB

This is the last month before our chapter summer break. We are planning on a big series of events blowout before everyone heads for their summer vacations. For those who are staying close to home this summer, we have big plans to continue getting together around the area.

Our annual summer baseball outing will have already taken place by the time this newsletter hits your inbox. We completely sold out all the tickets and raised a good amount of money for our annual scholarship program. No matter who won the game, everyone can be happy that a team from Chicago won. Our thanks go out to our generous friends at Assa Abloy for their sponsorship, for putting together the pre-game tailgate, and arranging the group tickets.



Next up on the schedule is our annual golf outing. We have been fortunate that we have had great weather the past couple of years since moving it to spring, and this year is looking to be more of the same. Don't wait until the last minute to register your foursome for this outing. This event also raises money for scholarships. Go to our Chapter Corner on page 6 for details, sponsorship opportunities, and a link to register.

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Wednesday, May 27 Chapter Meeting

Program:
**Window Selection for
Sustainability and Long-Term
Performance**

Presenter:
Chad Walter

Sponsor:
Apogee Architectural Metals

See page 4 for registration.

President's Message

...continued



Right after the golf outing is the AIA National Conference. This year's conference is being held in San Diego. I will be there attending the annual business meeting, representing the chapter, and casting votes for the next slate of candidates for national board. I will give everyone an update in the next issue of "Eastwords."

Keep an eye out for our announcements on upcoming summer and fall events. Also make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram. We are going to try to expand our outreach to raise the visibility of architecture in the greater southland.

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

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Go to https://aiaeic.org/PPI_Test or contact our membership coordinator John Benware for more information.

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AIA/EIC CALENDAR

May

- 15** White Sox vs. Cubs
Guaranteed Rate Field
- 27** Regular Meeting @ Flossmoor Station

June

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

August

- 26** Casino Night / Celebrating Sponsors
Flossmoor Station

September

- 30** Regular Meeting @ Flossmoor Station

October

- 28** Regular Meeting @ Gatto's Tinley Park

November

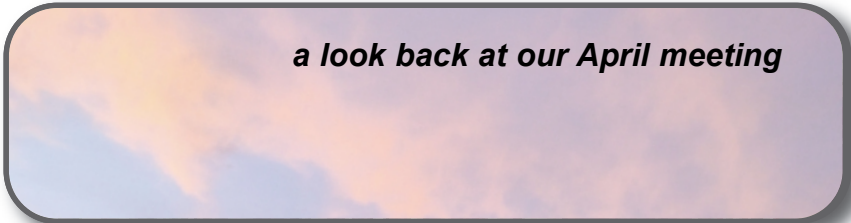
- 18** Regular Meeting @ Flossmoor Station

December

- 6** Annual Dinner & Design Awards
B. Harley Bradley House

Rear View Mirror

BEAR VIEW MIRROR



a look back at our April meeting

Heavy-Duty Flush Doors for Commercial Entrances

Presenter: Nickolas Shurba - Special Lite Sales Representative at S.D. Walker Company

Sponsor: Special-Lite

Our appreciation goes out to Josh Blair of S.D. Walker Co., representing Special-Lite, for an outstanding presentation on modern sliding architectural doors. The deep dive into industry applications—particularly the nuances of healthcare environments—was incredibly timely and informative for those in attendance.



We also want to extend our gratitude to Special-Lite for hosting a fantastic dinner. These partnerships are what make high-quality CEU/LU sessions possible for our community.



Upcoming Meeting ♦ Wednesday, May 27

Program: Window Selection for Sustainability and Long-Term Performance - 1 HSW LU

Presenter: Chad Walter, Rep for Apogee Architectural Metals

Program: Window Selection for Sustainability and Long-Term Performance
(1 HSW/LU)

This program explores design, manufacture, and installation at a basic technical level.



The importance of “balanced design” will be reviewed, with particular emphasis on those criteria most appropriate for selecting fenestration used in commercial, institutional, and high-rise residential occupancies. Criteria include weather-ability, structural integrity, energy efficiency, condensation resistance, and sound control.

Recommendations for specifications and application will be given, along with an in-depth look at industry standards and test methods, from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA), National Fenestration Ratings Council (NFRC), and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), as well as the US Green Building Council LEED® Green Building Rating System™.

Objectives: Upon completion of this program, the learner should be able to:

1. Distinguish between fenestration types.
2. Establish appropriate window selection criteria.
3. Use industry standards to define performance levels.
4. Compare products.
5. Understand LEED® impacts.

Sponsor: Apogee Architectural Metals

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://aiaaic.starchapter.com/meet-reg1.php?id=135>

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

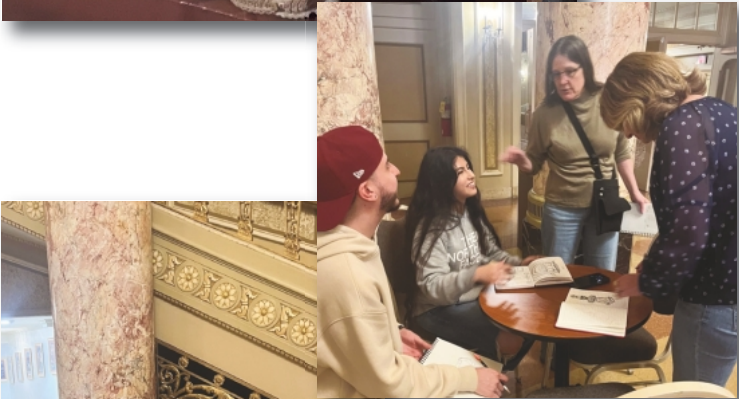
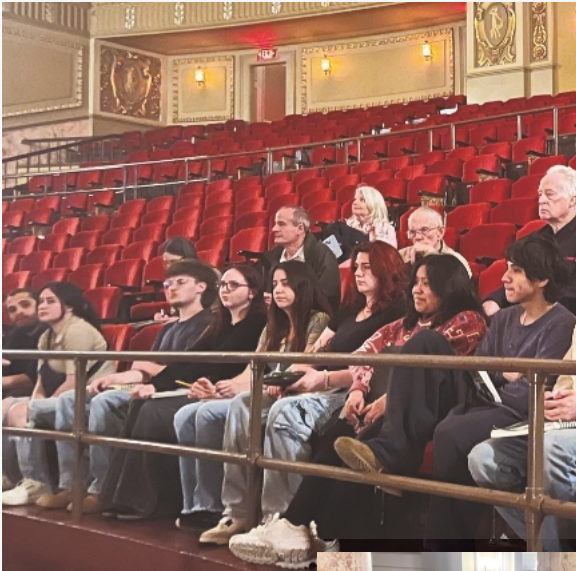
to registrants after the seminar.

Rialto Square Theatre Tour

by Katelyn Walker, AIA/EIC Allied



The American Institute of Architects Eastern Illinois Chapter and Joliet Junior College architecture students got together and toured the Rialto Square Theatre, learning about the history and beauty of the building. The tour included a beautiful entrance, the theater, the stage and some of the rooms under the stage. After touring the whole facility, the students and the professionals took some time to sketch some key features of the theater and the stairway area at the Rialto. Afterwards the professionals went around and gave notes to the students on their sketches.



Chapter Corner

items of interest and coming events

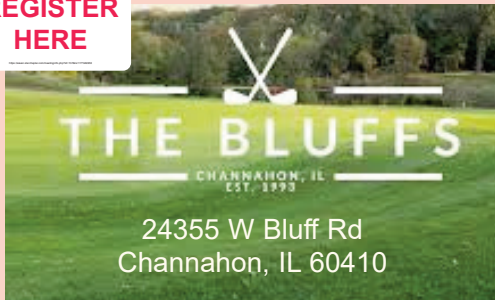


The 2026 golf outing is around the corner. Foursomes or individuals **sign-up** for this **Scholarship Fundraising** event!

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.

Save the Date: August 26, 2026

Casino Night at Flossmoor Station
Restaurant

\$25 entry fee

(includes fake money, appetizers & two drinks)

FREE for Sponsors & Advertisers.

More details coming in future issues of "Eastwords."



Chapter members

~ remember to reach out to your vendors for these and other sponsorship opportunities!

[aiaaic.org/Sponsorship Opportunities](http://aiaaic.org/Sponsorship_Opportunities)

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Significant Architecture Guide

by Roxanne Paukner, Hon. AIA



The Guide to Significant Architecture of the Chicago South Suburbs is a project in the works by AIA/EIC Emeritus Member, Steve Reardon. As of this writing it includes 167 buildings, photos, descriptions, and interesting details. The two shown here were included in last month's "Eastwords" and discussed at the April chapter meeting. Did you identify them correctly?

To explore 165 more, please visit our website [https://aiaaic.org/Significant Architecture](https://aiaaic.org/Significant_Architecture). Feedback can be shared with Steve, along with gratitude and encouragement for his work!



#27

Andrew McDougall Residence
1905.

119 East 155th Street, Harvey, IL

Prairie School style. The low-pitched roof, stucco wall surfaces accented with dark cypress wood trim, horizontal bands of windows, broad roof overhangs, are characteristic of the Prairie School. The balcony and front projecting porch were enclosed later.

148 **Old Iroquois County Courthouse** 1866



Additions in 1881, 1927
Architect: C.B. Leach.
Cherry St. at 2nd St.,
Watseka, IL

Italianate style. NRHP, 1975. A low roof with wide eaves and a heavy cornice with brackets. The original octagonal tower was replaced with a square tower and the copper dome was removed and replaced by a mansard roof. Now the Old Courthouse Museum, and Iroquois County Historical Society.
www.iroquoiscountyhistoricalsociety.com

Please note: Wayne Babiak is looking for historical information for "Eastwords" articles. If you have a "remember when..." please contact Wayne at web44aia@comcast.net or give him a call at 708-989-6214.



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