

American Institute of Architects

**AIA/EIC** eastwords

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Sept. 2025  
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# President's Message

by John Benware Jr., AIA, NCARB



I hope everyone had a safe, fun, and fulfilling summer. For the most part, there was wonderful weather all around, and with the exception of the baseball diamond, good times outside. Thankfully, football season has arrived, and everything is going to be great his year.



I was in Boston this summer for the AIA National Conference on Architecture. There were many interesting speakers and seminars on a variety of topics impacting the practice of architecture. Can anyone say artificial intelligence? The general business session was relatively controversy-free this year. More information about this year's conference is on page 3 of this newsletter.

We are starting to meet again this month for the remainder of the year, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our meetings. Check out the calendar of upcoming AIA/EIC events on the next page.

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

**Sept. 24**  
**Chapter Meeting**

Program:  
**Insulation and Cover Boards**

Presenter:  
**Art Scheidecker**

Sponsor:  
**Architectural Building Solutions / Johns Manville**

See page 6 for registration.

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# Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser

by Gabe Hocking, Assoc. AIA



May 16, 2025

Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club, Channahon, IL

We had an OK turnout at the annual golf outing this year, even though a few of our 'normal' foursomes had conflicts. We had 32 golfers, 8 foursomes and 30 at dinner. The day, weather and course were perfect! Albeit a smaller group and amount, the outing was successful in providing some funds for our scholarships.

- The low gross - winner was Jake McCollum with a 66 (using a modified shamble format and Peoria scoring).
- The high gross - winner was Jim Prybys with an 89 (using a modified shamble format and Peoria scoring).
- Winner of the raffle was Steve Quinlan - winning a set of camping gear donated by Ryerson Metals.
- Winners of the 50/50 split-the-pot putting contest were Dave Fixel on hole 1 and Billy Papadopoulos on hole 17.
- Winner of the longest drive competition was Gabe Hocking, who narrowly beat out Jake McCollum (low score winner).
- Tri-State Brick and Stone, also a generous outing sponsor, held a closest-to-the-pin putting completion 50/50, and the winner donated his winnings back to the scholarship fund.



## AIA/EIC CALENDAR

**September**  
20-21 AIAspire Student Leadership Conference - Springfield IL

24 Regular Meeting @ Flossmoor Station

**October**  
29 Regular Meeting @ Gatto's Tinley Park

**November**  
19 Regular Meeting @ Gatto's Tinley Park

**December**  
7 Annual Holiday Meeting

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# AIA National Conference on Architecture & Design

recap by John Benware, Jr., AIA



In addition to the education sessions at the conference center, the conference offered a variety of architect-led tours throughout the Boston area. I was on a walking tour of some of the historic downtown buildings paired with samples of some of Boston's famous cuisine. On the final day of the conference, I took a boat tour of the Boston harbor showing the new developments around the harbor.

The general business session of the AIA National component took place on Wednesday, with voting on updates to the by-laws that clarified some issues of leadership and transparency. There was the adoption of a resolution to study the effect of

AI on the architecture profession. This was followed by the elections for the national board leadership.

On behalf of the chapter, I attended the 2025 AIA Conference on Architecture and Design held this year in Boston, Massachusetts from June fourth through June seventh. There were nearly thirteen thousand attendees from around the world, along with about six hundred representatives of manufacturers and industry vendors gathered in the conference center.

Artificial Intelligence expert Allie K. Miller was one the featured keynote speakers, and she discussed the rapid evolution and integration of AI tools in architectural practice. There

were a lot of other seminars and education sessions exploring AI-driven design tools, digital twinning, sustainable building automation, and advanced construction materials. I made a point of attending those sessions that featured the integration of AI tools into the architectural design process.



I did reserve time to walk and browse the conference expo floor. Many of the major vendors and manufacturers are at the conference every year. It is interesting to see what new products are planned for the upcoming year. I stopped by the booths for Autodesk, NCARB, Andersen, and other familiar names. I also

looked to explore and talk with new companies. There were a number of new software tools and new manufacturers that I hope will turn into new presenters for our monthly meetings.

The trip wasn't all work; I was able to join some of our colleagues from AIA Illinois on Tuesday for a baseball game at Fenway Park. We got a tour of the stadium before the game, which included being on the field and on top of the Green Monster.

Next year, the AIA Conference is planned for San Diego, California.



# AIA White Sox Outing

by Dewain Peterson, AIA/EIC Allied



June 6, 2025 ~ Chicago White Sox vs. Kansas City Royals  
Guaranteed Rate Field / Comisky Park

This year's AIA White Sox outing attendance was 58 people. In addition to great weather, the White Sox pulled out a win. The final score was Sox 7, Royals 2. It was one of the few wins for the Sox, but a win is a win.

For refreshments ahead of the game, we had ribeye steak sandwiches, hamburgers, hotdogs, beer, soda, wine... all the great things you need for a tailgate.

This year's prize autographed jersey was won by Northwestern Alexander Lee Milovancevic's son.

As a fundraiser, it was profitable, and money went to the scholarship fund. I will be presenting a check for \$1500.

*Pictured: tailgate party hosted by Dewain Peterson* ▽



## Chapter Corner

AIA Eastern Illinois welcomes our newest chapter Members as of June 2025!

Katie Eberth, AIA (Aspen Group)  
Dominik Pituch, Assoc. AIA  
Martina Smith, Assoc. AIA  
Patrick Sullivan, Assoc. AIA

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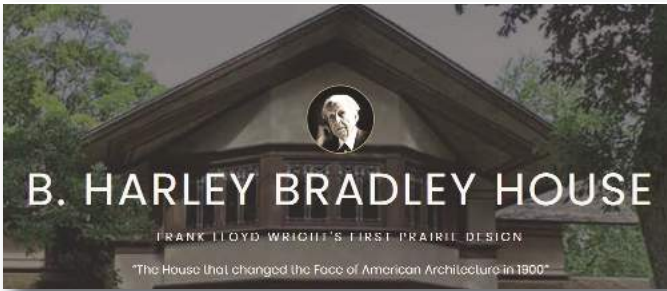
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# Evening Events at Wright House in Kankakee

by Wayne Babiak, AIA



Over the last few months, two evening events were held on the lawn at the Bradley House in Kankakee. The weather cooperated for both events.

A variety of music was enjoyed in a relaxed atmosphere with the Bradley House serving as the backdrop. Mr. Wright would have been pleased.

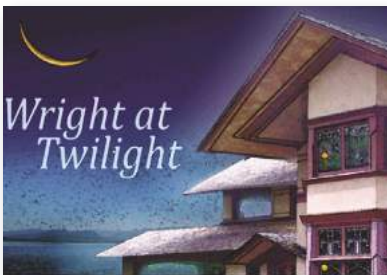


## June 17th event: 125th anniversary

Bob Bohlmann, AIA Emeritus and Bradley House Executive Director thanks all for attending.

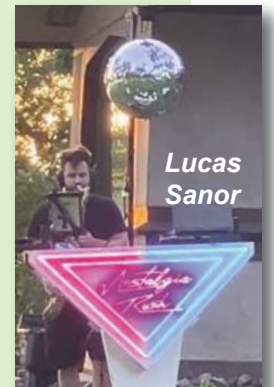


Jerry Downs performed a variety of songs ranging from Elvis to Jimmy Buffett. Other groups performed as well.



## September 4th event: An evening of music

The Bradley House sets the background for the evening.



◁ AIA/EIC Member K.T. Walker is involved in various activities at the Bradley House.



Another evening event, *Twilight Tour*, will be held **Sunday October 19th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

Make plans to attend! For this and other events go to: <https://wright1900.org/>

# Upcoming Meeting ♦ Wednesday, Sept. 24

Program: *Insulation and Cover Boards (1 LU HSW)*

**Presenter:** Art Scheidecker - Owner & Managing Partner

**Program:** Insulation and Cover Boards (Polyiso, Perlite, HD Polyiso, Gypsum, Tapered Insulation, Energy Conservation, Moisture Condensation) 1.0 LU | HSW

- Objectives:**
- Gain a better understanding of both high density and low-density roofing insulation.
  - Review thermal resistance design along with dewpoint calculation.
  - Comparative analysis of all primary low slope roofing insulations and cover boards.
  - Tapered insulation overview and system design.



This seminar is especially appropriate for architects and design professionals involved with the preparation of CAD documents, specifications and project management.

**Sponsor:** Architectural Building Solutions / Johns Manville

**Location:** FLOSSMOOR STATION  
1035 Sterling Ave  
Flossmoor, IL 60422

**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.starchapter.com/meet-reg1.php?id=124>

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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# Rear View Mirror

REAR VIEW MIRROR



*a look back at our May meeting*

## Emerging Priorities in Green Building

**Presenter:** Vince Vicini

**Sponsor:** Gerflor

Thanks to our presenter Vince Vicini, Northern Illinois Territory Manager of GERFLOR USA, for May 28th's presentation on *Emerging Priorities in Green Building* (1 LU HSW) at the Flossmoor Station Restaurant.

Also thanks to our evening's Host/Sponsor GERFLOR USA. <https://gerflorusa.com> #aiaaic

◀ *Board President John Benware, Jr., AIA addresses the meeting attendees.*



*Vice President Scott Piper, AIA and Presenter Vince Vicini; all systems "GO"!*



*Wayne/Director/Architect/Guest Lecturer and Miss KT's KACC Students, learning about architecture.*



*Vince Vicini, Northern IL Territory Sales Manager, Gerflor USA*

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