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AIA/EIC eastwinds

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Summer 2026
Issue 6.26
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President's Message

by John Benware Jr., AIA, NCARB

We are halfway through the summer season, and I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather, despite some of the recent storms over the holiday weekend. There has been a lot going on with the World Cup and reaching the All-star break in baseball. There is still plenty to look forward to for the rest of the summer.

I have already done a lot of travelling this year. Most recently, I was in San Diego in early June for the AIA National Conference on Architecture. Please refer to page two for more details and photos.

Just before the conference, the chapter had our annual golf outing. The weather was excellent, and everyone who came out had a great time. It was all for a good cause to support our scholarship fund. If anyone knows a student attending school for



architecture, please encourage them to apply.

We have announced a few more events coming before the summer ends. Take a look at the upcoming calendar for more information. We will be getting back to our regular meeting schedule in September.

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

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Summer + Events

July 29

Field Trip

Accurate Metal Fabricating

August 26

Casino Night /

Celebrating Sponsors

@ Flossmoor Station

Sept. 18 & 19

100th Anniversary

Ford Hangar

See inside for registration.

2026 AIA National Conference

by John Benware, Jr., AIA, NCARB

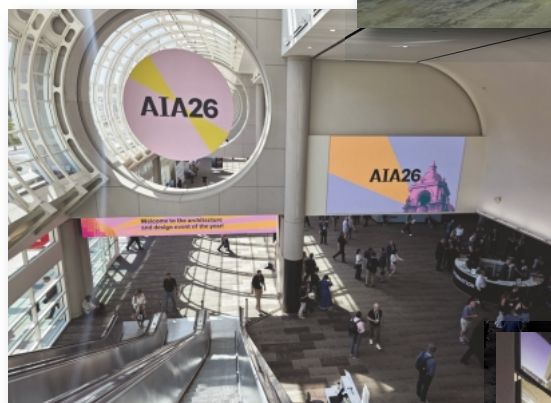


The AIA National Conference on Architecture and Design took place June 10-13 in San Diego. I went on behalf of our chapter in order to attend the business sessions and vote for the next group of AIA national leaders.

There were no major issues to report, and the national organization is in good shape financially. Things are going



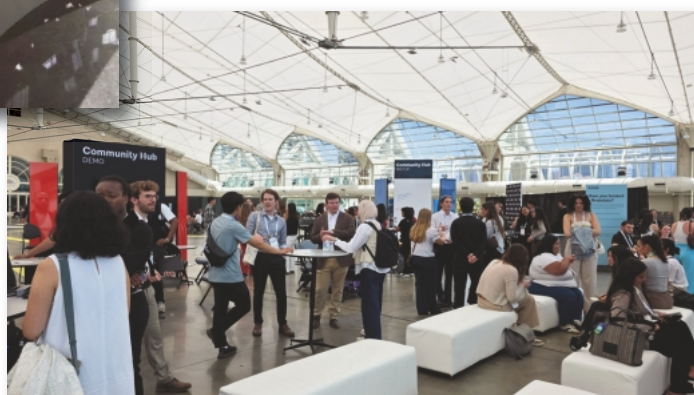
conferenceonarchitecture.com/



so well that they announced there will be no dues increase by the national component for next year.



There were plenty of interesting products on the expo floor and a couple of interesting tours as well. Next year's conference will take place in Philadelphia, PA. ■



Rear View Mirror

REAR VIEW MIRROR



a look back at our May meeting

Window Selection for Sustainability and Long-Term Performance

Presenter: Chad Walter, Rep for Apogee Architectural Metals

Sponsor: Apogee Architectural Metals

Chad Walter, Architectural Sales Representative at APOGEE Architectural Metals, gave an outstanding presentation at our May chapter meeting. He shared valuable insights on window selection for sustainability and long-term performance—a crucial topic for high-performance design.

We also appreciate Wausau Window and Wall Systems (Apogee Architectural Metals) for generously sponsoring our dinner and bringing this informative CEU session to our group. Explore Apogee's architectural solutions at <https://apogearchmetals.com/>.

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JMA Architects hosted a rapid sketch contest during social hour. Contestants sketched Flossmoor Station



in 180, 90, and 30 seconds. Judging at the meeting and on Facebook revealed sketch #2 as the winner, and #8 and #5 were runners-up. ■



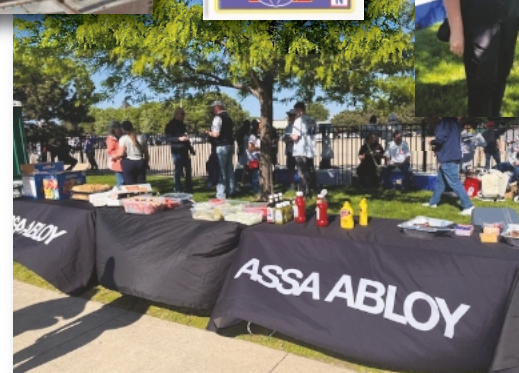
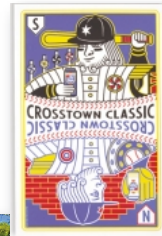
White Sox Outing

May 15, 2026



The White Sox outing was a great time! Dewain and his crew made ribeye steak sandwiches, burgers, and hotdogs for 140 tailgate party attendees before the game. Then in the game between Chicago's White Sox and Cubs, Carson Kelly hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning and drove in four runs as the Chicago Cubs stopped a five-game White Sox winning streak with a 10-5 victory over their crosstown rivals.

This outing and fundraiser for AIA/EIC architectural scholarships, sponsored by ASSA ABLOY, was a success; a great time was had by all!



Golf Outing

June 5, 2026

The AIA/EIC 2026 Golf Outing and scholarship fundraiser was held at the Bluffs in Channahon, Illinois. Thanks to Gabe Hocking for organizing this event, K.T. and crew for the field support, and all the sponsors for making this a successful event!

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Chapter Corner

items of interest and coming events



AIA/EIC CALENDAR

July

29 Field Trip
Accurate Metal Fabricating (see pg 6)

August

26 Casino Night / Celebrating Sponsors
Flossmoor Station

September

18-19 Historic Ford Hangar
100th Anniversary Celebration (pg 7)

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

We are pleased that one of our own chapter members, Bob Bohlmann, AIA, has been nominated for the prestigious Gold Medal award from AIA Illinois. Announcements will be made later this year, and you can learn if Bob is honored to be selected for this award in future "Eastwords."



2026 is an **AIA/EIC Architectural Awards** year. Visit <https://aiaaic.org/Awards> to enter your project and to see past award winners.

August 26, 2026 — 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Casino Night celebrating sponsors
at Flossmoor Station
Restaurant

\$25 entry fee
includes game tokens, appetizer
buffet & two drinks from beer &
wine selections.



Event Sponsors:

Moria Vaughan - ASSA ABLOY
Gabriel Hocking - D. Architectural Metal DAMS
Justin Reed - Garland ♦ K.T. Walker - Kankakee Area Career Center ♦ Ron Weszelits - Linden Group Architects ♦ Seth Michael - McClusky Engineering ♦ Dave Janney - Millies Engineering Group
Alex Tsebelis - Oldcastle/APG ♦ Katy Leedom - PPI, Kaplan Architecture ♦ Michael Schlichter - Schlichter Health Solutions
Scott Piper - SPM Architects ♦ Robert Lentz - Stonehard
Jim Prybys - Stromsland, DeYoung & Prybys Architectural Group
John McKevitt - Tri State Brick & Stone

Register aiaaic.starchapter.com/meet-reg1.php?id=130
Limited to just 40 registrants - sign up soon!



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Chapter Corner

items of interest and coming events



Special Field Trip
July 29, 2026
11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

**Accurate Metal
Fabricating**
4620 19th St
Cicero, IL 60804



Register here!

<https://aiaaic.starchapter.com/meet-reg1.php?id=144>

Designing with Architectural Expanded and Perforated Metals

FREE EVENT (1 HSW CE)

Expanded mesh and perforated metals offer excellent opportunities to bring new design elements, textures, and in some cases functionality to your project. In this lunch and learn presentation some of the properties of these two materials will be discussed, covering considerations you should make while designing, and expanding on different applications and their functional benefits.

Accurate Metal Fabricating is the metal fabricating arm of AMICO Architectural Metals.



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Significant Historical Architecture

by Wayne E. Babiak, AIA



Check out this building that is right in our "backyard," in our Chapter, and in Steve Reardon's *Significant Architecture of the South Suburbs* project. The Ford Hangar is a unique building designed by Albert Kahn. Over his career he pioneered some structural systems that were ahead of the times, adding to their architectural significance.

To read about the architect, Albert Kahn, check out this link:

<https://albertkahnlegacy.org/life-of-albert-kahn/> Within that link there is an interesting article about the Ford Hangar published several years ago at

<https://albertkahnlegacy.org/blog/kahns-hangars-part-two-the-lansing-illinois-ford-airport/>



Some fun facts...

JMA Architects, where Edvin and I work, has been involved in the rehabilitation and restoration of this hangar. JMA has completed several phases of the work over the years, such as repointing, reroofing, and some structural work, with more to come. We are currently involved in conceptual interior studies and further exterior work, collaborating closely with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency in coordinating various aspects of the project.

The Ford Hangar is somewhat personal to me, beyond the privilege of being involved in this project at JMA. Some of you may know that I have a pilot's license, and still fly. I have been flying out of the Lansing, IL Municipal Airport (KIGQ) since I started to learn to fly in September 1976. Yikes! That's coming up on 50 years! For a number of those early years, the Ford Hangar had a flight school/FBO (fixed base operator) and aviation repair shop in it. I spent countless hours hanging out there, helping open the big hangar doors to pull planes out, and so forth.

The Village of Lansing acquired ownership of the Lansing Airport in the mid 1970s. This was a good move, otherwise the airport might not be here today. The Village values the Hangar, and is planning to give it new life for various events to include aviation-related themes. JMA and our team are proud to be associated in this endeavor.

"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. Submit all articles to the editor, Roxanne Paukner, Hon. AIA, at rp.entasis@att.net.

The 100 Year Celebration will include a Friday night Gala, and on Saturday a tour of historic places, expo, and aviation showcase. For tickets, pricing and more, go to fordhangar100.org. I plan to attend, and hope to see you all there.

Wayne E. Babiak, AIA

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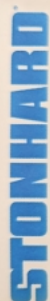
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