

American
Institute of
Architects

AIA/EIC eastwinds

NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Sept. 2026
Issue 7.26
www.aiaaic.org

President's Message

by John Benware Jr., AIA, NCARB

The summer season is coming to an end. Baseball is entering the playoffs, and football games have started. The leaves are starting to change colors, and the time has come to start meeting together in preparation for the upcoming license renewal deadline in Illinois. We will be starting this month at Flossmoor Station. We will be learning about the history and significance of the Joliet Prison. We will then have two more monthly meetings before we get together to celebrate the end of the year at the B. Harley Bradley house in Kankakee. Other meeting topics will be announced soon.

We are also looking for new board members for next year. As a volunteer-led chapter, we rely on members getting involved in the chapter leadership in order to keep provid-



ing services to the membership. If you have the ability to give a little bit of time every month, we would appreciate having you join the board. Please reach out to any board member if you have any questions.

I hope that everyone has had a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to meeting with everyone this fall.

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

in this issue...

Upcoming Meeting

Joliet Prison 2 & 3

Chapter Corner 4

Rearview Mirror

Metal Fabricating Tour 5 & 6

Officers and Board 7

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Chapter Meeting

Program:

Old Joliet Prison

Presenter:

Joliet Historical Society

Sponsor:

Repco Sales

See page 3 for registration.

Upcoming Meeting ♦ Wednesday, September 30

Program: Old Joliet Prison

Presenters: Joliet Historical Society

Program: Old Joliet Prison

Our September chapter meeting will enjoy a presentation by the Joliet Historical Society on the Old Joliet Prison. This is the Joliet limestone site made famous in the film “The Blues Brothers,” the TV show “Prison Break” and numerous other moments in pop culture. The JHS will provide a slide show presentation of the construction, history, preservation, and ongoing mission of the prison.



In 1858 a contingent of 53 prisoners began the task of constructing the very walls that would encase them during their incarceration. This included the quarrying of limestone from the vein which runs through Will County just a few hundred feet from the prison. Within 20 years the prison had swelled to nearly 2,000 inmates, which was well over capacity. This led to reports of unsanitary and dangerous conditions. By 1905, calls for the closure of the “old prison” were made. While the prison continued as a vital part of the Illinois penitentiary system, those calls persisted to one extent or another until the prison was officially closed to offenders in 2002.



The city of Joliet took ownership of the site in 2018 and the Joliet Historical Society has overseen and managed the facility since that time. In 2023 the prison was placed on the National register of Historical places as the city and the historical society continue their commitment to preserving this crucial piece of area history.

Continued on next page...

ASSA ABLOY

Moria Vaughan

Architectural Consultant
Door Security Solutions

ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions
235 Lies Road East
Carol Stream, IL 60188
USA

Mobile +1 319 800 5498
Moria.Vaughan@assaabloy.com
assaabloydss.com

**KATELYN
WALKER**



Kankakee Area Career
Center, Bourbonnais, IL.
ktwalker59@gmail.com
815-258-6259

Upcoming Meeting ♦ Wednesday, September 30

Program: Old Joliet Prison

Some more recent activities in the prison and its grounds have included Haunted Prison tours, Dan Aykroyd and Jim Belushi performances of “Blues Brothers con” in both 2022 and again in 2024, an outdoor screening of “The Blues Brothers” in October of 2025 to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the film, and in April of this year the Joliet Slammers played the visiting Gateway Grizzlies in the Big House Ballgame.



We hope that members can make plans to attend our September meeting at Flossmoor Station to experience the history of this area landmark. The presentation will focus on the construction and preservation but will also delve into the ways the society is adapting the facility to make it appealing to a new generation of users. (All Eastern Illinois Chapter members, without or without a criminal record, are invited.)

Sponsor:

Repco Sales

Repco Sales serves the commercial construction marketplace in Illinois as Manufacturer’s Representatives of premium plumbing products. For over 50 years Repco Sales has been committed to delivering realistic, timely and cost-effective ideas. They work hard to provide solutions to all your commercial plumbing needs; delivering products and services in the state of Illinois to an ever-increasing base of Architects, Engineers, Wholesalers and Contractors. They have offices in Addison, IL and Peoria, IL.



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=142>

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 meeting.**

Chapter Corner

items of interest and coming events



AIA/EIC CALENDAR

September

18-19 Historic Ford Hangar
100th Anniversary Celebration

30 Regular Meeting @ Flossmoor Station
Old Joliet Prison

October

28 Regular Meeting @ Gatto's Tinley Park

November

18 Regular Meeting @ Flossmoor Station

December

6 Annual Dinner & Design Awards
B. Harley Bradley House

The Ford Hangar 100th Anniversary is around the corner! Go to fordhangar100.org, scroll down to the video of the radio interview by WGN done a few weeks ago; I am sure you will recognize some of the faces. Our architectural firm has been to working on this project, with additional phases of work to follow. We're also working on graphics and other items for a presentation on Friday evening. My wife Marge and I plan to attend, and hope to see you all there.

Wayne E. Babiak, AIA



Casino Night

celebrating
sponsors

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 McKeivitt - Tri State Brick & Stone

POSTPONED Due to weather
events, will be reschedule soon,
either in Fall '26 or Spring '27.
Check back for updates.

Got tickets? Don't worry—all
current registrations will be hon-
ored at the rescheduled event.



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

Rear View Mirror

REAR VIEW MIRROR

a look back at our July field trip

by Scott Piper, AIA



Designing with Architectural Expanded and Perforated Metals (1 HSW CE)

Sponsor: Amico-Accurate Metal Fabricating

The Amico-Accurate Metal Fabrications team recently took us on a “lunch and learn” plant tour of their Cicero, Illinois facility, which gave us a look at the multitude of products and industries for which they provide products. Accurate Metal Fabricating is the metal fabricating arm of AMICO Architectural Metals.

The primary architectural products focused on the options for perforated metal panels and their applications in architecture. Expanded mesh and perforated metals offer excellent opportunities to bring new design elements,



textures, and even functionality to our projects.

Many of the products produced by Amico end up as components in architectural sheathing, screening, sunshades and more, but their architectural applications are almost limitless. There was also a powder coating line (shown at left) that was baking on factory finishes in all the colors of the rainbow, though mostly black and white.

The tour also provided access to the full line of industries that the plant services in one >>>



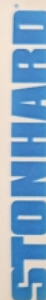
10333 Van's Drive
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-469-7550

Blake Vande Kamp
blakevk@stone-brick.com



3640 Lake Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
847-251-5511

cell: 708-541-5125
fax: 815-469-2623



ROBERT LENTZ, JR., CSI, CDT
ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING REPRESENTATIVE
CHICAGO MIDWEST

HQ 1000 East Park Avenue
Maple Shade, NJ | 08052
C: 574.229.4388
O: 800.854.0310
rlentz@stonhard.com

www.stonhard.com

Rear View Mirror

...continued



- ◁ perforated panels
- data center racks ▷
- ▽ EV charging station



way or another. Electrical boxes, components and other related items where in various stages of fabrication throughout the plant. A large portion of their products find their way into Data Centers as well as data racks in any variety of applications. They also were producing EV charging station cabinets, as well as many of the components related to this market.

The tour was greatly appreciated by all involved and provided a good

glimpse at the many ways Amico can partner with architects on future projects.

Most importantly, there was a catered street taco lunch provided, yum.

*Scott Piper, AIA
EIC Vice President*

"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.

GabeHocking
Project Manager

gabe.hocking@damsinc.com
p: 708.224.4324 | c: 815.545.0836
5919 West 118th Street Alsip, IL 60803

ACM & Plate Panel Systems
Sun Control Devices
Grilles & Louvers
Entrance Metal

damsinc.com

MICHAEL SCLICHTER
LICENSED INSURANCE ADVISOR
NPN: 18370983

443-623-5489
SchlichterHealthSolutions.com
Licensed in 31 States

**The American Institute of Architects
Eastern Illinois Chapter
P.O. Box 1476, Homewood, IL 60430**

<i>President</i>	John F. Benware, Jr., AIA
<i>Vice President</i>	Scott E. Piper, AIA
<i>Treasurer</i>	Edvin V. Mertdogan, AIA
<i>Secretary</i>	Gabriel D. Hocking, Assoc. AIA
<i>Directors</i>	Wayne E. Babiak, AIA Dewain Peterson, AIA/EIC Allied Phil Traynor, AIA/EIC Allied Katelyn Walker, AIA/EIC Allied
<i>Illinois Council Delegate</i>	Jacob Carlile, AIA

**PROVIDING EXPOSURE TO SUPERIOR
DESIGN AND THE MANY TALENTS OF
AIA ARCHITECTS**



9711 Valparaiso Dr., Munster, IN 46321 • 219-924-8400 • 708-474-0104
221 N. LaSalle St., Ste. 3100, Chicago, IL 60601 • 312-332-8400 • 219-924-5082 F

PPI® PPI2PASS.COM
A KAPLAN COMPANY

Students and emerging professionals can purchase study materials from PPI/Kaplan with a 15% discount.

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

To view the available catalog products through PPI/Kaplan, go to:
https://ppi2pass.com/customer/account/login/?partnerid=AIAEI&redir=%2F&utm_source=AIAEIaffiliate

STRUCTURAL



McCluskey Engineering
1887 High Grove Lane - Naperville, IL
www.mccluskeyeng.com 630.717.5335

Seth Michael ■ Scott Strnad ■ Andy Eck



THE GARLAND COMPANY, INC.
HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING ENVELOPE SOLUTIONS

Justin S. Reed
Chicago Area Manager

<http://jreed.garlandco.com>

p 312.550.5548
jreed@garlandind.com