

# Insulation Advocate

## Insulation Advocate: Update on March's Activities Success in San Antonio

First, I am thrilled to report that NIA's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, which took place from March 25–28 in San Antonio, was a tremendous success! I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who attended—it is the active participation of our members that helps NIA to grow and continue to serve the industry. During the Convention, attendees enjoyed a Foundation update from Matt Keelen, the President of The Keelen Group. He shared the victories from the past year, including the inclusion of our insulation language in the Farm Bill, the passage of the Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improvement Act in the House of Representatives, and our successful inclusion of mechanical insulation language in the 2014 year-end appropriations bill. We will continue to push for more legislative success in 2015.

NIA holds a Silent Auction every other year, and the proceeds were split between NIA's Foundation for Education, Training, and Industry Advancement and the Mesothelioma Applied Research (Meso) Foundation. At the beginning of this month, the Meso Foundation presented NIA with the 2014 Fundraising Award in recognition of our contribution to their organization from the 2014 Silent Auction. We are so proud that we were able to contribute to the Meso Foundation, and hope to continue to give back to the charity members choose when we hold the 2016 Silent Auction next year at NIA's 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention and WIACO in Boca Raton, Florida.

In other news, NIA has finalized and implemented updates to our Insulation Energy Appraisal Program (IEAP). These changes represent updates based on attendee experience and feedback, and include introduction to infrared thermometers and cameras, more detailed information on what to look for during an insulation assessment, added real-life practice problems, overall updates to the new mechanical insulation resources, and an updated multiple choice test. This modernization addresses the real-life application of this program and knowledge, making our appraisers even more effective than ever before. The first training course using the new materials will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, May 20–21, 2015.

Member feedback is absolutely crucial to NIA, and we are always mindful of members' wishes in creating our communications and other programs. In response to member feedback, we will be changing the way *Insulation Advocate* will be distributed. Instead of sending out a separate email, *Insulation Advocate* will be posted on NIA's homepage at [www.insulation.org](http://www.insulation.org), faxed to our contractor members, and a short update will be included in the monthly *E-News Bulletin* email. We hope this new system will be more in line with how our members prefer to receive Foundation updates.

We are ramping up our plans to move our legislation forward on Capitol Hill, so make sure to stay tuned for the next issue of *Insulation Advocate!*

Best Regards,  
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NIA EVP/CEO

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NIA is a not-for-profit trade association representing both merit (open shop) and union contractors, distributors, laminators, fabricators, and manufacturers that provide thermal insulation, insulation accessories, and components to the commercial, mechanical, and industrial markets throughout the nation. Since 1953, the northern Virginia-based association has been the voice of the insulation industry and is dedicated to keeping the commercial and industrial insulation industry up to date on the latest industry trends and technologies. For more information, visit [www.insulation.org](http://www.insulation.org).