# NIA News

THE OFFICIAL NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL INSULATION ASSOCIATION (NIA) REPRESENTING THE MECHANICAL AND SPECIALTY INSULATION INDUSTRY

ISSUE 1 2025, VOL. 32

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JEFF DEGRAAF NIA Consultant, SC 27 Chair



Johns Manville, SC 27 Vice Chair



MICHAEL PARDO S&B Engineers and Constructors, SC 27 Secretary

### **EVP/CEO MESSAGE**



### Convention Countdown, Standards Progress, and More to Keep You Connected

As we put the finishing touches on our upcoming 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Scottsdale, I am excited to see everyone April 28–30 at the beautifully updated Grand Hyatt Scottsdale Resort. It looks like I'm not the only one excited—our advanced registrations have been especially robust this year, and attendees are claiming rooms in our discounted room block! Haven't registered yet? There is still time! Advanced discount rates end soon on April 4. However, if the room block sells out, the hotel will not honor the rate even before April 4. Turn to page 6 to check out the latest education, training, and networking events we have in store for you.

Plus, you'll find some "Grand" Tips from myself and Erin Penberthy, NIA's Senior Director of Meetings and Education. We had the chance to experience all the updates to the resort and we shared some of the things we loved. From the pools to the spa (this is the nicest on-property spa we've seen in a few years!), to our cocktail recommendations, turn to page 9. As NIA President Jack Bittner has emphasized all year long, there is **Strength in Numbers**, and Convention won't be the same without you there!

Speaking of Jack, we had the opportunity to tour JM's Houston facility together late last year, and it was a fantastic experience to not only see the cool products, but also to meet a few new people and see familiar faces. If you are interested in hosting NIA for a facility tour, please reach out to me at mjones@insulation.org.

As you are probably aware, NIA is working with the Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP) to facilitate the development of mechanical insulation standards for the commercial and industrial markets. The first meeting of the NIA/AMPP Standards Committee 27 is on April 9, 2025, in Nashville. NIA Consultant Jeff DeGraaf is Chair of this committee. We would like to have as many NIA members attend as possible. Turn to page 10 to get caught up on this initiative.

I do want to make sure that you are aware of several opportunities to be involved in the standards development:

 NIA members can request to join the NIA working group by emailing Jeff DeGraaf at jdegraaf@insulation.org.

continued on next page

### **NIA LEADERSHIP**

### **Executive Leadership**

### President

Jack Bittner, Johns Manville

### President-Elect

Rick Sutphin, Performance Contracting, Inc.

### Secretary/Treasurer

John Stevens, JT THORPE

### **Assistant Treasurer**

Lee Stuckenschmidt, Systems Undercover, Inc.

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NIA Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer
Michele M. Jones

### **Board of Directors**

### **Regional Representatives**

CSIA—Brian Willett, Gribbins Insulation Company, Inc.
ESICA—Rick Baptista, Irex Contracting Group
MICA—Matt Hymer, Midwest Materials Company
SEICA—Matt Caldwell, Caldwell Insulation, Inc.
SWICA—David B. Patrick, Specialty Products & Insulation
WICA—Shawn Reichenbach, Performance Contracting, Inc.

### Associates' Committee Appointee

Louis Walton, Proto Corp.

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R. Dean Burows, DKB, Inc.
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Russ Huff, Bay Insulation Systems, Inc.
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Marc Napolitano, Insulation Materials Corporation
Jon Perry, Specialty Products & Insulation

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2025 Convention Planning

Rick Sutphin, Performance Contracting, Inc.

### Associates

Louis Walton, Proto Corp.

### Distributors/Fabricators

Brian Blazek, Specialty Products
& Insulation

### Education and Training

R. Dean Burows, DKB, Inc.

### Health and Safety

Mike Hill, Performance Contracting, Inc.

### Membership

John Stevens, JT THORPE

### Merit Contractors

Mike McCowan, L.C. Insulations, Inc.

### **Metal Building Laminators**

David Tomchak,
Bay Insulation Systems, Inc.

### Technical Information

Doug Fast, Owens Corning

### **Union Contractors**

Rick Sutphin, *Performance Contracting, Inc.* 

### Young Professional Advisory

John K. Freeman, Jr., Petrin, LLC

EVP/CEO Message, continued

NIA members can request to join the NIA/AMPP Standards Committee 27 at www.insulation.org/nia-insulation-standards (you do not need to be an AMPP member to join).

Also included in this issue of NIA News is an update from NIA Legal Counsel Gary Auman on page 19 with the latest developments and industry comments on OSHA's proposed rule on Heat Illness and Injury Prevention Programs.

Make sure that you also get caught up on NIA's education and training offerings. There is always something new—turn to page 15

to get the latest Education Center updates and to page 17 to see how you can become a Certified Inspector and/or Appraiser

Thank you for being part of NIA for another year as we advance the industry together!

Michele M. Jones

Hichele The pres-

Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer



In this issue, we are excited to welcome the following new companies. We encourage you to read the information each company has submitted and see if they are potential new business partners for your company. To view new NIA member companies, visit www.insulation.org/newmembers.



### November 2024

ISO Services, a division of Ergon Construction Group, Inc.

Attn: Chad Watts 911 Flynt Dr. Flowood, MS 39232 (888) 476-7265 \$6-10 Million

### www.isoservices.com

Specialties: Distribution, Fabrication, Heat Tracing, Industrial Insulation, Removable Insulation, Scaffolding

### **About ISO Services**

Established in 1979, ISO Services is an industrial maintenance and construction contractor. Our services include civil, mechanical, and soft-craft service trades of insulation, fireproofing, coatings, scaffolding, and heat tracing. ISO Services is also a manufacturer of tank sidewall and roof insulation systems. These systems include both panels (ISO Panels) and welded clip/frame designs. Our headquarters is in Flowood, Mississippi, with additional branches and maintenance sites in Louisiana, Texas, and West Virginia.

### Why did you join NIA?

ISO Services is joining NIA to access industry standards and training.



### December 2024

### Contractor

### Bi-State Insulation, Inc.

Attn: Greg Rushing 109 Jordan Dr. La Vergne, TN 37086 (615) 793-9180 \$10–15 Million

### www.bistateinsulation.com

Specialties: Cold Storage, Commercial Insulation, Fabrication, Firestopping, Heat Tracing, HVAC Insulation, Industrial Insulation, Marine, Plumbing Insulation, Power, Refrigeration Insulation, Removable Insulation

### **About Bi-State Insulation**

Bi-State Insulation, founded in 1999 and headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, is a nationally bonded contractor specializing in mechanical insulation and lagging.

Serving the industrial, institutional, and health care sectors, we operate across the Midwest, including Kentucky, Tennessee, and St. Louis. Renowned for craftsmanship, safety, and precision, our union workforce ensures high-quality service for projects ranging from new construction to energy-efficiency upgrades and system retrofits by building lasting client relationships and exceeding industry standards.

### Why did you join NIA?

Bi-State Insulation, Inc. is choosing NIA to access industry-leading resources, training, and networking opportunities that will enhance our expertise, expand our market reach, and strengthen our reputation. Our goal is to grow the business, improve efficiency, and stay ahead of industry trends while building valuable relationships.



### January 2025

### **Contractor**

### **Masters Mechanical Insulation**

Attn: Grant Bieniek 23129 County Road 44 St. Augusta, MN 55320 (320) 293-9190 \$0–1 Million

### www.mastersmechanicalinsulation.com

**Specialties:** Commercial Insulation, HVAC Insulation, Industrial Insulation, Plumbing Insulation, Refrigeration Insulation

### **About Masters Mechanical Insulation**

Masters Mechanical Insulation is a mechanical insulation contractor specializing in commercial and industrial plumbing insulation, HVAC insulation, and refrigerant insulation and serving Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Michigan.

### Why did you join NIA?

I chose NIA because I want to continue my education in the mechanical insulation industry. I have a passion for the trade and strive to learn as much as I can. I hope to complete the Thermal Insulation Inspector Certification and the Insulation Energy Appraisal Program along with other courses within the association and bring exposure to my company.

### **Proud Member of**





### January 2025

### **International Affiliate**

### **General Coating & Insulation Services, Ltd.**

Attn: Anthony Ramkissoon 124 Ramsamooj St. Marabella, Trinidad (868) 219-0641

### www.gcis.tt

Specialties: Acoustic Products/Services, Fabrication, Industrial Insulation, Paintings/Coatings, Removable Insulation, Scaffolding

# About General Coating & Insulation Services, Ltd.

General Coating & Insulation Services Limited (GCIS) is a provider of thermal and cold insulation solutions, dedicated to helping industries conserve energy and reduce their environmental impact. Established in 1981, we specialize in insulation installation, sandblasting, painting, scaffolding, and sheet metal fabrication, alongside the fabrication and distribution of high-quality insulation materials. Our STOW-certified team ensures safe and efficient project execution, supported by advanced fabrication techniques and a commitment to continuous improvement. GCIS serves a diverse clientele across the petrochemical, manufacturing, and food processing sectors, both locally in Trinidad & Tobago and internationally, while actively contributing to community initiatives and sustainability goals.

### Why did you join NIA?

We joined the National Insulation Association to align with global best practices, enhance our technical expertise, and stay ahead of industry advancements. Through this partnership, we gain access to cutting-edge insulation technologies, certified training, and a network of industry leaders—allowing us to deliver superior energy-efficient solutions while maintaining the highest safety and quality standards for our clients.



### January 2025 Contractor

### **Central Mechanical Services, Inc.**

Attn: Samantha Sperry 11 Progress Dr. Cromwell, CT 06416 (860) 632-5500 \$3-6 Million

### www.centralmechct.com

Specialties: Commercial Insulation, HVAC Insulation, Industrial Insulation, Plumbing Insulation, Refrigeration Insulation

### **About Central Mechanical Services, Inc.**

Central Mechanical is a woman-owned business founded in 1999 and offers commercial/industrial service and installations of all HVAC/R and plumbing equipment and systems, specializing in brewery systems.

### Why did you join NIA?

We chose to join NIA in hopes of using the education resources as a means of continued education as well as training resources, and to obtain certifications to pursue sales.

### Do you know of a company that could benefit from becoming a member of NIA?

For more information or to refer a potential member, please call Rianna Gleeson at (703) 464-6422, ext. 113, or email membership@insulation.org.

# **PEOPLE & PLACES**

### In the News

SPI Acquires Bellis Australia, Expands Global Operations Outside North America Specialty Products & Insulation (SPI), a North American provider of insulation solutions recently announced the acquisition of Bellis Australia Pty Ltd. Founded in 1981, Bellis is an industrial insulation distributor and fabricator based in Brisbane, Queensland, with five branches across major markets in Australia.

"I am very excited to welcome the Bellis Australia team to the SPI Family," said Ray Sears, CEO, SPI. "Our organizations share a deep commitment to safety, quality, and innovation, and an unwavering dedication to exceptional customer service. Most importantly, we are united by a shared belief in the value of our people, who are the foundation of our success."

The acquisition of Bellis marks an exciting milestone for SPI: This is the company's first expansion beyond North America, further reinforcing its commitment to delivering exceptional, localized service on a global scale. SPI has many years of experience doing business in Australia through its exports operation, partnering with worldwide customers and suppliers. Now operating as Bellis throughout Australia, SPI is positioned to directly serve local customers in the large and growing Australian market.

SPI has been a member of NIA since 1984 and is headquartered in Charlotte, NC.

### **Johns Manville (JM) Industrial Insulation Hosts NIA for a Tour of Houston Facility**

NIA EVP/CEO Michele M. Jones and NIA President Jack Bittner, who is a Senior Product Manager for JM, were welcomed for a tour of the JM Industrial Insulation's facility in Houston, Texas. A special thank you to Senior Account Specialist Julia Torralva for her expertise as the tour guide.

If your company is interested in hosting NIA for a facility tour, please reach out to Michele M. Jones at mjones@insulation.org.





# Set the Stage in Scottsdale for Industry Growth

Picture yourself gaining fresh industry insights amid Scottsdale's majestic mountain views at the beautifully transformed Grand Hyatt Scottsdale Resort. The inspiring desert landscape will set the stage for professional growth at NIA's 69th Annual Convention, April 28-30, 2025.

The Sonoran Desert backdrop creates an ideal space for dedicated time away from daily demands, where you can fully focus on connecting with industry thought leaders and expanding your expertise. Applying NIA President Jack Bittner's theme, *Strength in Numbers*, you will find opportunities for innovation and collaboration in an environment where fresh perspectives come naturally,

and professional relationships grow stronger.

NIA's 69th Annual Convention

April 28-30, 2025

**Grand Hyatt Scottsdale Resort** Scottsdale, Arizona

**Key Dates and Deadlines** April 4, 2025: Advanced, Hotel Reservation, and Golf Tournament Deadlines

April 14, 2025: Regular **Registration Closes** 





Systems Undercover's Lee Stuckenschmidt shared, "Having been a member of the Convention Planning Committee, I'm excited about our keynote speaker and the sessions on AI and economic trends—

these topics are exactly what we as contractors and our industry need right now. Plus, getting to reconnect with everyone from NIA and share this experience in beautiful Scottsdale at a completely renovated resort is an added bonus!"



### **Experience the Upgrades to the Grand Hyatt**

The Grand Hyatt Scottsdale Resort has been transformed with a \$110 million renovation to create an even more vibrant and elevated experience for guests. NIA's Michele Jones and Erin Penberthy visited the resort in January to finalize details for the event and saw the upgrades firsthand, and they have fun, practical tips for attendees to make the most of their time in Scottsdale (see "Grand Hyatt Insider Tips from Michele & Erin" on page 9.)

NIA has blocked rooms at a significantly discounted rate of \$399 per night, plus state and local taxes. Among NIA's room block are a limited number of upgraded rooms with mountain views, available at a discounted rate of \$439 per night, plus state and local taxes. These rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The hotel service fee has also been reduced to \$30 per room per day (compared to \$45). Take advantage of NIA's discounted rates by making your reservation before April 4, 2025. Our room block will sell out—make your reservation early! Access NIA's room block from April 22 to May 6 by clicking here or visiting NIA's Convention website.

The Grand Hyatt's mountain setting energizes learning and encourages creative thinking. Consider extending your stay to fully take advantage of NIA's significant discounts to embrace this unique environment. Whether you prefer desert adventures or peaceful reflection, you will return to work refreshed and equipped with new insights.

Have you considered registering your family, spouse, or guests? Typically, about 40% of attendees bring someone along. The schedule of events on NIA's website indicates which events are family friendly and those where spouses are encouraged to attend. All attendees must be registered.

Register at www.insulation.org/convention2025 to join your colleagues at this once-a-year national industry event.

### CONNECT WITH YOUR NATIONAL **NETWORK EVERY DAY**

- NIA's Golf Tournament at Gainey Ranch Golf Club: Gather your industry colleagues and friends for an afternoon of networking and friendly competition on Monday! Pre-registration is required, and the per-player fee of \$485 includes all tournament costs and a boxed lunch.
- The **Welcome and Appreciation Dinner** takes place on Monday at 6:30 p.m. The theme is Desert Denim under the Stars—boots and denim Western attire is welcome and encouraged (but not required, of course!).
- On Tuesday, do not miss the **Networking Breakfast** and Safety Excellence Award announcements. Enjoy the Open Evening to meet with clients and explore Scottsdale.
- We have built specific time for **networking breaks** on Tuesday and Wednesday morning to ensure you can connect with your peers and grab a cup of coffee in between sessions!
- New this year, on Wednesday we will have an Education Session and Lunch, which will feature a technical topic presentation. This is also when we will announce the winners of the Premier Industry Manufacturer Awards.
- The Farewell Reception and Dinner is on Wednesday evening, when we will celebrate our Strength in Numbers and NIA President Jack Bittner. The manufacturers' Hosted Dessert Hospitality Suites will take place directly after dinner.

### Plus, two special events are designed just for first-time attendees.

- First-Timers Happy Hour: If this is your first NIA Convention, be sure to
  RSVP to this invitation-only cocktail reception on Monday evening, where
  you will have the opportunity to network with NIA and industry leaders,
  and enjoy getting to know fellow members of NIA.
- New and First-Time Member Orientation and Breakfast: On Tuesday, join NIA's Membership Committee and NIA staff for a focused, informational session to help you learn how to make the most of your time at Convention and your NIA membership year-round.

### **EDUCATION SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

- Keynote Presentation:
   Together, We Are Limitless
   SPEAKER: Jeremy Poincenot,
   World Blind Golf Champion
- Al Innovations for the Construction Industry SPEAKERS: Pasha Ameli, Ph.D., P.E., Managing Director, Ankura, and Kellen Shearin, Associate, Littler Mendelson P.C.
- 2025 Economic Outlook
   SPEAKER: Economist Chris Kuehl,
   Managing Director, Armada
   Corporate Intelligence
- Distributors and Fabricators Session:
   Innovative Benefits and Compensation
   Trends to Maximize Value
   SPEAKER: Brett Addis, Practice Director,
   Human Capital Advisory, Moss Adams
- Health and Safety Session: OSHA
   Legal and Regulatory Update
   SPEAKER: Adele L. Abrams, Attorney,
   Law Office of Adele L. Abrams, PC
- Merit Contractors Session:
   Innovative Compensation Strategies
   to Attract and Retain Top Talent
   SPEAKER: Brett Addis, Practice
   Director, Human Capital Advisory,
   Moss Adams

- Practical Guide to Industrial
   Sound Control
   SPEAKER: Kevin Herreman, Principal
   Acoustic Scientist, Owens Corning
- Thermal Insulation
   Performance Outlook
   SPEAKER: Ahmad Raza Khan Rana,
   Technical Director, Integrity
   Products & Supplies Inc., Canada
- Union Contractors Subcommittee
   Session: CBA Negotiations,
   Grievances, and Arbitration in
   Today's Construction Landscape
   SPEAKER: Matthew Marcellis,
   Attorney, Management Guidance, LLP
- Young Professional Advisory
   Committee Session: Al and
   Sustainability in Construction
   SPEAKER: Pasha Ameli, Ph.D., P.E.,
   Managing Director, Ankura

### What's New for 2025

- The schedule has shifted to run Monday (April 28) to Wednesday (April 30) for most attendees—Past Presidents' and Board of Directors' events take place over the weekend. We suggest attendees plan to arrive by Monday afternoon, ready for the evening events.
- NIA's Golf Tournament has moved to Monday at 1:00 p.m. local time.
- Welcome events for first-time attendees and new members get started on Monday evening with the First-Timers Happy Hour and continue on Tuesday morning.
- An Education Session and Lunch has been added to the schedule on Wednesday after the committee meetings.
   During this session, we will also announce the recipients of the Premier Industry Manufacturer Awards.



More sessions and educational topics will be added. Stay updated with NIA's communications. You can also visit the Convention website (<a href="https://www.insulation.org/convention2025">www.insulation.org/convention2025</a>), where you can find all the latest information, or email <a href="mailto:events@insulation.org">events@insulation.org</a>.

# **Grand Hyatt Insider** Tips from Michele & Erin

NIA EVP/CEO Michele Jones and Senior Director of Meetings and Education Erin Penberthy had the chance to experience the newly renovated Grand Hyatt Scottsdale Resort on the convention planning visit in January, and they are sharing their top tips!



- Enjoy Newly Renovated Sleeping Accommodations—You will love the clean, crisp style of the new rooms. Most rooms feature a large walk-in shower, REALLY soft towels, two comfy robes, a small refrigerator, comfort-height toilets, a big flat screen TV, balconies, and plenty of light.
- **Book an Appointment at Spa Avania**—This facility is full service! It includes a hair salon, nail salon, professional makeup artists, dry saunas, steam rooms, private men/women hot and cold plunge pools, indoor and outdoor showers, 19 treatment rooms (including a salt room and a "wave" room), a separate outdoor mineral pool, and a special spa food and bar menu. This is one of the nicest spas we have been to in the last few years, and we highly recommend it! The spa has a variety of unique treatments, and NIA members receive a 10% discount. NIA has a block of appointments on hold for our guests until April 4. Call the spa directly at 480-483-5558, and use our booking code "NIA" so the receptionists know you are part of our group. More information can be found on NIA's website.
- Golf on the Property—The Gainey Ranch Golf Club is a private, members-only club. There are very limited tee times available for Hyatt Resort guests. To ensure yourself a tee time, sign up for NIA's Golf Tournament. We have moved the tournament to Monday, April 28, at 1:00 p.m. You will not want to miss playing on this beautiful course!
- Sip a Craft Cocktail (or Two)—The resort features a variety of unique bars on the property, all with extensive menus and unique cocktails. Our favorite bar was the Grand Vista Lounge in the lobby, which features indoor and outdoor seating. Our favorite cocktails were the Elder One, the Smoked Old Fashioned, and the Gainey Club (if you want something a little sweeter)!
- Take Advantage of the Resort Shuttle—A convenient shuttle is included as part of your resort fee. You can take the shuttle to Kierland Commons shopping area, Scottsdale Fashion Square,

- Old Town Scottsdale, the botanical gardens/zoo/Papago Park, and a variety of local hiking trails. Make sure to ask for a shuttle service schedule at the concierge desk when you arrive.
- Look for Birds of Prey—Keep an eye out for Joe, who works for Liberty Wildlife! You can find him throughout the resort, showcasing a new bird each day. He has a wealth of knowledge about these amazing animals. We saw Maggie (a Great Horned Owl) and Salsa (a Harris's Hawk) during our visit.
- Plunge into a Pool for Every Occasion—There is something for everyone at the newly renovated pool deck! Whether you are looking for an adults-only pool or prefer a waterslide for the kids, you will find plenty of chairs and spaces to enjoy the sun! This area also features two restaurants and newly renovated cabanas available for rental. Bring your sunglasses and sunscreen!
- Visit Canyon Market—This shop features a coffee bar, grab-and-go food options, and retail for hiking gear. It is your ultimate stop before exploring Scottsdale. The shop opens early, so be sure to stop by during your stay.
- Take a Hike—The McDowell Sonoran Preserve has a variety of hiking trails close to the property. The shuttle departs for this area each morning and will take you back to the resort. The hike the resort recommends is considered moderate and typically takes 2 hours. Take some time to enjoy this beautiful area.
- Relax at Z Bar—This bar is a hidden gem located at the entrance of La Zozzona restaurant, which features Italian American cuisine and is led by celebrated Chef Richard Blais. Grab a drink before your reservation in this cozy space.
- Team Up Together—Enjoy the perfect weather and get your game on. Whether you are more the pickleball type (eight courts) or the tennis type (two courts), there is something for everyone right on property.



# Mechanical Insulation Standards

NIA, working closely with the Association of Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP), is preparing for its initial meeting of the Joint NIA/AMPP Standards Committee 27, Mechanical Insulation (SC 27).

### A Message from Jeff DeGraaf, SC 27 Chair and NIA Consultant

I am excited to collaborate with a team of experts in the mechanical insulation industry to develop a set of insulation standards that are accurate, practical, and consensus-based.

Over the past 40+ years as a contractor, I have encountered a wide range of specifications—from lengthy 60- to 80-page documents that are difficult to navigate without an engineering background to brief, vague descriptions such as, "Insulate with 2 inches of the 'chosen insulation material' and metal jacket." The former can be overwhelming, while the latter leaves too much open to interpretation, making it difficult to ensure fair and consistent bidding.

Our goal with the NIA/AMPP insulation standards is to create a document that is easy to read with optional layers of technical detail for those who need more in-depth information. These standards will give owners and engineers the flexibility to select the specifications they want while ensuring contractors can easily interpret and accurately bid projects.

It is important to note that our standards **will not** be tied to specific materials or manufacturers. Instead, they will categorize materials by their generic names and organize them by temperature range, keeping manufacturers' specifications in mind.

If you are involved in the insulation industry—whether as an owner, engineer, manufacturer, or contractor—and want to contribute to creating the best standards in the industry, we would welcome your involvement.

### **PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES**

### The NIA Process—NIA's Standards Committee Working Groups

Initial drafts of insulation standards are in development and will be reviewed by NIA's Standards Committee Working Groups, which will consist of NIA members from the contracting, fabrication, and manufacturing segments, and those from the SC 27 who wish to participate. The drafts will be subject to consensus approval by multiple NIA groups, and ultimately, by a review committee consisting of members of the NIA Technical Information Committee. Drafts will then be subject to approval by NIA's Board of Directors before being sent to the SC 27.

Ultimately, each one of the NIA original drafts will have gone through multiple reviews and then further review with the SC 27 before becoming an official NIA/AMPP Standard.

For more information, please contact please contact Jeff DeGraaf at *jdegraaf@ insulation.org*.

# The AMPP Process—Joint NIA/AMPP Standards Committee 27, Mechanical Insulation (SC 27)

The joint committee will be hosted within AMPP's standards program structure. AMPP Standards Committees (SCs) allow committee members to share subject matter expertise, expand and enhance their relationships with industry professionals, and make a lasting impact on industry. The committees are responsible for generating, publishing, and maintaining all AMPP products that require a consensus-driven process.

Currently, while the AMPP website and login portals are being updated, the instructions for joining the SC 27 are to email *standards@ampp.org* with your name, title, company, email address, phone, and the type of company you work for, such as contractor, manufacturer, etc.

The development process will be discussed at the first meeting of the SC 27. The suggested process will be for NIA to create the initial draft of each insulation standard, with an arduous review process through NIA's new Standards Committee. Within that committee, there will be Working Groups that NIA members and SC 27 members can join. Once the draft is complete, NIA will submit the draft standard to the SC 27 for that committee's discussion and review process. Then, the draft of the insulation standard will be approved by the AMPP's Standards Program Committee (SPC). Suggested projects for the SC 27 to consider can also originate from AMPP members or other industry stakeholders.

### SC 27 COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



JEFF DEGRAAF NIA Consultant, SC 27 Chair



Johns Manville, SC 27 Vice Chair



MICHAEL PARDO S&B Engineers and Constructors, SC 27 Secretary

### **Questions?**

For more information about NIA's Insulation Standards, please contact Kristin V. DiDomenico, Vice President, NIA, at *kdidomenico@insulation.org*, or visit *www.insulation.org/nia-insulation-standards*.



The first meeting of the SC 27 will take place Wednesday, April 9, 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. CT, during AMPP's 2025 Annual Conference and Expo in Nashville, Tennessee. Participation through Zoom will also be an option. For more information, please visit <a href="https://ace.ampp.org">https://ace.ampp.org</a>.

During the initial meeting, committee members will be introduced, leadership will review suggested ways the insulation standards program could be executed, members will discuss the thinking behind how initial standards drafts will be structured and developed, and the committee will solicit feedback. An agenda and additional details for virtual participation will be posted at a later date on www.insulation.org/resources/



nia-insulation-standards.

# From the Foundation **Board of Directors**

# **Update on the Foundation for** Mechanical Insulation Education, Training, and Industry Advancement



The Foundation for Mechanical Insulation Education, Training, and Industry Advancement's (Foundation's) Board of Directors met on February 10, 2025, and continues to recommend its support for important initiatives, including the development of educational content, mechanical insulation standards, and the biennial Industry Measurement Survey.

### **Educational Content**

NIA's Education Center boasts over 70 courses for every experience level, and it is the go-to national resource for information and training tools specifically designed for anyone who is involved in the mechanical insulation industry.

New courses recently added to the Education Center include:

### **Carbon Credits for the Insulation Industry** (free for NIA members)

Insulation and sustainability go hand in hand, but are you leveraging the potential of carbon credits? During this course, Baker Tilly's Construction and ESG & Sustainability experts will provide an overview of the carbon credit market, outline the types of products currently available in voluntary and compliance markets, and provide key updates regarding challenges and opportunities in the marketplace.

### **Confined Space Hazards** (available for Premier Training Subscribers)

This course will help you understand the risks associated with confined spaces and the procedures your employer has in place to protect you and those around you.

For more information about NIA's Education Center, please see page 15.

### **Mechanical Insulation Standards**

The Foundation is proud to support the development of mechanical insulation standards. The Joint NIA/AMPP Standards Committee 27, Mechanical Insulation is scheduled to meet for the first time on Wednesday, April 9, 2:30 p.m. CT during AMPP's 2025 Annual Conference and Expo in Nashville, Tennessee. (In-person and virtual participation options are available.) For more information about standards, please see page 10.

### **Industry Measurement Survey**

The Foundation has engaged Industry Insights, an independent, third-party company, to conduct the biennial Industry Measurement Survey, a confidential survey to gauge the size of the insulation industry. This survey began in 1997 and seeks to gain data about the size of the insulation industry and growth rates for the U.S. commercial and industrial mechanical insulation market. The current survey is now underway.

As the mechanical insulation industry has evolved, and as the need for additional industry data has surfaced, the survey now collects a wider range of information than what had been collected in previous years. With industry consolidations, the increased use of flexible removable/reusable covers, changing mechanical insulation systems, and other similar type changes, the new approach began with the 2023 survey. (To access the 2023 survey results, click here.) Surveyed members have been asked to report separate numbers in various product groups for the products they represent in the U.S. mechanical insulation market.

This change in reporting will allow us to:

- Provide Industry Insights with the necessary formulas to apply
  to the applicable product to account for the cost of fabrication.
  Without a breakdown by product group, the value of applying
  various formulas and methodologies to account for fabrication
  and system variances is extremely difficult.
- Report an estimated "national market share" by the overarching product group.
- Potentially provide a general separation as to the size of the commercial and industrial markets with interpretation and estimates.

We look forward to sharing the results of the survey in an upcoming issue of *Insulation Outlook* magazine.

To learn more about the Foundation and the programs it supports, please contact Kristin V. DiDomenico or Michele M. Jones at *foundation@insulation.org*. The Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) and is managed by the NIA professional staff.



### Mechanical Insulation

### GOLD ELITE

### Annual Contribution of \$15.000

Distribution International, Inc. Johns Manville Knauf Insulation, Inc. Owens Corning Performance Contracting, Inc. ROCKWOOL Technical Insulation

### GOLE

### **Annual Contribution of \$5,000**

Specialty Products & Insulation

Aeroflex USA
Alpha Engineered Composites, LLC
Armacell
Bay Insulation Supply
Caldwell Insulation, Inc.

Eastern States Insulation Contractors Association Insulation Contractors Association of New York City

### **2024 CONTRIBUTORS**

The Foundation's Board of Directors would like to thank all of the following contributors who make the work of the Foundation for Mechanical Insulation Education, Training, and Industry Advancement possible.

FOUNDING ORGANIZATION CONTRIBUTOR: National Insulation Association—\$86,000

Insulation Materials Corporation Irex Contracting Group Lamtec Corporation

Thermal Insulation Association of Canada

### SILVER

### Annual Contribution of \$3,000

General Insulation Company, Inc. Midwest Insulation Contractors Association R.P.R. Products, Inc.

Southwest Insulation Contractors Association

### **BRONZE**

### Annual Contribution of \$1,000

Advanced Industrial Services, LLC Advanced Specialty Contractors, LLC

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WICA Wisconsin Insulation Advancement Fund

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To learn more about becoming a Foundation contributor, please see a staff member, visit www.lnsulation.org/foundation, or email foundation@insulation.org.

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National Insulation Association

Email Justin Wolfe at ads@insulation.org to customize your marketing for 2025.





# **Elevate Your Team's Expertise at** NIA's Education Center

### **PolR Vice President of National Initiatives Darryl Schmidt shared,**

"PolR Insulations team members are enjoying the excellent industry training tool that is provided through NIA's Education Center. It's easy to use, making learning a smooth and enjoyable experience. The course content is great, offering material that is informative and engaging."

Transform your workforce training program with NIA's Education Center, featuring more than 70 specialized courses designed for every skill level and role. Beyond core insulation training, our curriculum spans essential areas including Business Management, Workplace Safety, Human Resources Development, and Energy Efficiency. Our flexible, on-demand platform lets you learn at your own pace—whether you have just a few minutes or a few hours to invest in professional growth.

Ready to discover what's new? Explore our latest offerings and take the next step in professional development with industry-leading education from a trusted source.

### **UPDATED RESOURCE:**

Course Catalog



The Course Catalog has been updated to help you better navigate NIA's Education Center. In addition to the name of each course, a short description, topic category, course length, course website link, and professional development hour (PDH) credits available, you can now find

recommendations for courses related to estimating or project management professionals, insulation training, health and safety professionals, human resources, and information technology.

### **NEW COURSES:**

### Carbon Credits for the Insulation Industry (free for NIA members)

Insulation and sustainability go hand in hand, but are you leveraging the potential of carbon credits? During this course, Baker Tilly's Construction and ESG & Sustainability experts will provide an overview of the carbon credit market, outline the types of products currently available in voluntary and compliance markets, and provide key updates regarding challenges and opportunities in the marketplace.

# Confined Space Hazards (available for Premier Training Subscribers)

This course will help you understand the risks associated with confined spaces and the procedures your employer has in place to protect you and those around you.

### **COMING THIS SPRING:**

### • Killer Contract Clauses for Contractors

As a contractor, it's important to recognize and neutralize one-sided clauses and identify potential red flags with your agreements. This module will provide you with the knowledge to identify and avoid "killer clauses" that can jeopardize your profits, expose you to undue risk, and lead to costly disputes.

### • Mechanical Insulation 102: Technical Resources

This track will explore the top technical terms you should know, how to use NIA's three technical documents, the importance of NIA's Design Guide, and how to better understand k-, R-, and U-values. After completing this track, you will earn a completion certificate.



# NIA EDUCATION CENTER MECHANICAL INSULATION 101

If you are unsure where to start, or which courses a new professional should take, the Mechanical Insulation 101 Track (www.niaeducationcenter.org/courses/70989) is designed for you. This track covers fundamental concepts and essential knowledge crucial for understanding mechanical insulation, including:

- Overview of the Mechanical Insulation Industry
- Mechanical Insulation Basics Course
- Insulation Product Categories
- Insulation's Energy Efficiency and Emissions Reductions Capabilities
- 3E Plus® Basics
- Mechanical Insulation Installation Videos Series
- NIA Resources

After you complete this track, you will receive a completion certification and 9 Professional Development Hours. This educational track is exclusively available for Premier Training Subscribers.



You can check out NIA's Education Center tips and tricks video to learn more about how to navigate the platform, track your courses, and download certificates. For more information, or to become a Premier Training Subscriber, visit <a href="https://www.insulation.org/training-tools/niaeducationcenter">www.insulation.org/training-tools/niaeducationcenter</a>, or email <a href="mailto:training@insulation.org">training-tools/niaeducationcenter</a>, or email <a href="mailto:training@insulation.org">training.

# **Virtual Certification** Opportunities

NIA is offering several virtual certification courses for the insulation industry, including the Thermal Insulation Inspector Certification™ and the Insulation Energy Appraisal Program™. Learn from the comfort of your office location and save money on travel and accommodations by taking advantage of one of the five virtual course options this year.

If you are new to the industry, there is also an option to take Understanding Mechanical Insulation, which covers the first 2 days of the full 4-day Thermal Insulation Inspector Certification course.

As always, NIA members receive exclusive registration discounts.

More project specifications now require Certified Inspectors, especially for data center and liquefied natural gas projects. Ensure your team is prepared to bid on upcoming projects by getting certified today.

For learning objectives, prequalification details, and course benefits tailored to your business, visit www.insulation.org/ training-tools.

### JUNE & DECEMBER





Training Level: Intermediate Course Length: 2 days Member Registration Fee: \$1,665

This course is excellent training for new employees to gain an overview of the mechanical insulation industry and products, focusing on a review of industry market segments; the need for and importance of inspection; the purpose of mechanical insulation systems and why that is important to the inspection process; primary insulation materials and protective coverings; the importance of Safety Data Sheets; and codes, standards, regulations, and guidelines, and how they are intertwined.

### **COURSE DATES**

June 4-5

Registration Deadline: May 15 Virtual Course

December 3-4

Registration Deadline: November 12 Virtual Course



### **Thermal Insulation Inspector Certification**

Training Level: Certification Level Course Length: 4 days Member Registration Fee: \$2,805

This certification-level course is designed for experienced insulation professionals ready to learn a new specialty, and for companies ready to add insulation system inspection as part of their services. Who should take this course? Anyone who has responsibility for contracts, maintenance, business development, quality assurance/quality control, project oversight, safety, inspections, estimating, management, product development, mechanical insulation system design, and specification development.

### **COURSE DATES**

June 4-5 and June 11-12

Registration Deadline: May 15 Virtual Course

December 3-4 and December 10-11

Registration Deadline: November 12

Virtual Course

### **NOVEMBER**



### **Insulation Energy Appraisal Program**

Training Level: Certification Level
Course Length: 2 days
Member Registration Fee: \$1,555

This certification-level course teaches students how to determine the optimal insulation thickness and corresponding energy and dollar savings for a project.

Learn how to conduct a facility walkthrough, use the 3E Plus® software, utilize infrared cameras during inspections, understand steam efficiencies, analyze and complete an appraisal spreadsheet, and present your customer with a final report that outlines the potential savings and emission reductions mechanical insulation can provide.

### **COURSE DATES**

November 12-13

Registration Deadline: October 22 Virtual course

# Welcome Back Jeff DeGraaf, NIA's Newest Instructor



NIA Consultant and Instructor Jeff DeGraaf, a well-respected industry veteran, is a former contracting business owner, a past NIA Board Member, and former Midwest Insulation Contractors Association (MICA) President. Jeff retired from the industry with 45 years of experience in petrochemicals, power

plants, cement plants, and food and beverage facilities.

He is an NIA Certified Thermal Insulation Inspector, a Certified Energy Appraiser, and an instructor for both of these NIA certification-level classes. Jeff notes, "Whether you are new to the insulation industry or have 40+ years of experience like I do, I highly recommend both of NIA's certification-level courses: the Insulation Energy Appraisal Program and the Thermal Insulation Inspector Program. The scope and depth of the information provided over the course of just a few days may surprise you and will provide a new way to see to our industry."

Jeff joins fellow instructors Garry Caudill, Gordon H. Hart, Erica Schneider, and Scott Sinclair. To read more about NIA instructors and courses, visit www.insulation.org/training-tools.

Jeff is also Project Lead for the development of national insulation standards. He currently chairs the NIA/ Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP) Standards Committee 27. Jeff holds safety and equipment certifications and has served as a subject matter expert to the National Center for Construction Education and Research, MICA, and for the National Commercial and Industrial Insulation Standards Manual (Standards Manual). Jeff sits on the Standards Manual committee and has chaired several committees.

# Find Certified Inspectors and Appraisers Online

- To find an NIA Certified Thermal Insulation Inspector, visit www.insulationinspectors.com.
- To find an NIA Certified Insulation Energy Appraiser, visit www.insulationappraisers.com.
- Inspectors and Appraisers listed under a company name denoted in green are current NIA members.

For more information, please visit www.insulation.org/training-tools. If your company is interested in hosting a course for 10 or more team members, or a group of customers, special pricing is available. For more information, email training@insulation.org.



# **Safety Corner**

# NIA and Industry Comment on OSHA's **Proposed Standard on Heat Illness and Injury Prevention Programs**

By Gary Auman

On August 30, 2024, OSHA published a proposed rule to require businesses to develop Heat Illness and Injury Prevention Programs (HIIPPs) for their businesses. Fixed-site businesses would be required to develop a program for each location. Construction companies would have to establish a program for every single jobsite.

Many businesses believe the proposed rule to be onerous, and this is especially true for the construction sector. Auman, Mahan & Furry represents construction industry trade associations; and approximately 10 trade association clients, including the National Insulation Association, directed us to prepare comments regarding their members' concerns about this proposed standard. Comments on the proposed rule were to be filed with OSHA no later than December 30, 2024, with the rule to take effect on December 31, 2024. OSHA delayed the deadline for comments to January 14, 2025, and stated that it would hold public hearings on the proposed rule in June 2025. We believe this means that we will not have a final rule taking effect until after the public hearings.

Of course, without a standard, everyone will continue to be governed by the General Duty Clause. This means employers must still have a plan to prevent employees from being injured by working in high-heat environments.

As part of the process of developing comments for our clients, we surveyed the members of each association, and we received comments from the members of all 10 associations. Since OSHA limited the length of submitted comments to 5,000 characters (not words), we submitted separate comments from each association, allowing us to identify their concerns.

After processing the member survey results for NIA, we focused on several key points. First, we discussed why requiring separate, site-specific HIIPPs would be burdensome. We pointed out the number of projects insulation contractors operate concurrently and the size and quantity of smaller, short-run projects many NIA members have going on at any given time, highlighting the inherent difficulties to all businesses—and especially small businesses with limited staffing and resources—in developing a unique HIIPP for every work site. Some projects might last only a day or two. The efforts to build such a plan could distract a small company's safety management from other, more important potential hazards, especially when the

short-duration job could be completed before a heat issue has developed.

We also commented on the issue of providing adequate break areas, as well as the definition of "adequate" break areas, which tie into mandatory breaks. While many fixed-site locations might have air-conditioned break areas near the employees in the production operations area, other construction sites could have break areas that are located a far distance, requiring a long walk from the physical location where work is being performed. Also, descending a scaffold or ladder to get to a break area might expose employees to fall hazards and other more significant dangers than working consistently in an area with a temperature of 90°F. That exposure would increase by the number of times the employee would have to use the break area.

Some commented that having a buddy system, or having the Site Supervisor



### **Construction Safety Week Is May 5-9**

NIA is proud to be an Advocate for Construction Safety Week 2025, taking place May 5-9. Safety Week, which started in 2014, is an annual week-long campaign to inspire everyone across the construction industry to be leaders in safety.

This year's theme is *All In Together*, which will focus on three key pillars: Plan-Own-Commit.

Participants can access and download tools and resources for planning activities for the week, including tips, best practices, and materials to support company events and communication. Visit www.constructionsafetyweek.com to learn more.

monitor his/her employees for signs of heat-related illnesses, can be onerous. However, we did not include these comments because even without a HIIPP, Supervisors should frequently monitor employees working under their control for safety compliance throughout their shifts.

### We provided the following suggestions for OSHA.

- We recommended that plans be simplified and generic, with only minor adjustments necessary to make an HIIPP fit a particular work site.
- We recommended flexible monitoring requirements that would fit better with rural jobsites, rather than near-constant monitoring. Also, monitoring frequency could be tied into the National Weather Service and its predictions for temperature variances in different locations.
- We noted that the frequency of breaks should be left to the employer, with possible input from a company doctor.
   Some employers are following this approach now, so that breaks are taken when needed and not on a fixed schedule

established by an agency with no information or idea of the conditions on any particular jobsite.

Association members and others must commit to the safety of their workforce, but they should not be burdened by requirements unrelated to any actual hazards—just conditions perceived as hazards by individuals who have no familiarity with an individual project site or its actual hazards. OSHA should not burden employers who are already protecting their employees from heat illnesses because a few other employers have not been willing to implement worker protections for heat illnesses, injuries, and other hazardous working conditions.



GARY AUMAN (www.amfdayton.com) is a Partner in the law firm of Auman, Mahan & Furry in Dayton, Ohio. His practice focuses on counseling and defending employers in safety and health matters. He frequently works with employers and OSHA to find workable solutions to OSHA enforcement actions. He represents four national and

regional trade associations in the construction industry and can be reached at gwa@amfdayton.com.



# Fall Summit

# Mark your calendar!

Fall Summit 2025 October 28-29, 2025

Fall Summit 2026 October 28-29, 2026

MGM National Harbor 🥌 National Harbor, Maryland







# insulation

### **The Only Magazine Engineers Read for Mechanical Insulation**

Insulation Outlook magazine's content is driven by members, and NIA's staff will help your company share educational content with the readership. Email editor@insulation.org to be interviewed or to have us ghostwrite an article for you.







"Having Elite Insulation's project highlighted in Insulation Outlook magazine gave us valuable exposure to new audiences in the insulation industry. The NIA team made the process simple from start to finish. If you have an interesting project or industry insights to share, they will help you help transform your story into a polished article."

**Brooks Holmgren** Elite Insulation Inc. www.eliteinsulationinc.com

### **2025 Editorial Offerings**

Insulation Outlook is written by insulation professionals to educate engineers, specifiers, architects, and insulation end users. Article submissions on insulation and press releases are welcome for every issue. Send content to editor@insulation.org. NIA Members can submit information about their products in special columns again in 2025.

### TOPICS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

2025 will feature a new column on bad specifications and articles showcasing successful contractor projects.

### June 2025

**Editorial:** Industrial Insulation Systems & CUI Prevention **Editorial Due: 4.2.25** 

**Ad Space and Materials: 5.7.25** 

### July 2025

**Editorial:** American Building Projects—Examining Current Green Programs and **Member Projects Editorial Due: 5.7.25** 

Ad Space and Materials: 6.3.25

### August 2025

**Editorial**: Commercial **Insulation Systems Editorial Due: 6.4.25** 

Ad Space and Materials: 7.2.25

### September 2025

**Editorial:** Building Envelope & Metal Buildings **Editorial Due: 7.2.25** 

**Ad Space and Materials: 8.5.25** 

### October 2025

Editorial: Condensation and Mold Prevention **Editorial Due: 8.6.25** 

Ad Space and Materials: 9.3.25

### November 2025

**Editorial:** Codes and Standards **Editorial Due: 9.3.25** 

Ad Space and Materials: 10.1.25

### December 2025

Editorial: Life Safety/ Fire Safety

**Editorial Due: 10.1.25** 

Ad Space and Materials: 11.5.25

2026 Buyer's Guide: **Insulation Products** & Providers

Purchasing Guide & Membership Directory **Ad Space and Materials:** 

11.13.25

### **EVENT CALENDAR**



(703) 464-6422

www.insulation.org/events/calendar events@insulation.org

### **NIA MEETINGS**

### NIA's 69th Annual Convention

April 28–30, 2025 Grand Hyatt Scottsdale Resort Scottsdale, Arizona

### Fall Summit 2025

October 28–29, 2025 MGM National Harbor National Harbor, Maryland (just outside of Washington, DC)

### NIA's 70th Annual Convention

March 24–26, 2026 el Conquistador Resort Fajardo, Puerto Rico

### NIA News

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Design Ashley J. Lopez

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### **NIA EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

For information about education programs and training opportunities, please visit <a href="https://www.insulation.org/training-tools">www.insulation.org/training-tools</a>

### **REGIONAL INSULATION MEETINGS**

www.insulation.org/events/ regionalcalendar events@insulation.org

### Central States Insulation Association (CSIA)

Contact: Rachel Pinkus

(937) 278-0308, www.csiaonline.org

### 2025 CSIA Spring Labor Conference

May 12–14, 2025 French Lick Resort French Lick, Indiana

### **Eastern States Insulation**

### **Contractors Association (ESICA)**

Contact: John F. DeLillo (516) 922-7855, www.esica.org

### **ESICA Spring Conference**

May 7–9, 2025 LaPlaya Beach and Golf Resort Naples, Florida

### Midwest Insulation Contractors

Association (MICA)
Contact: Rachel Pinkus

(937) 278-0308, www.micainsulation.org

### MICA 68th Annual Conference

June 15–19, 2025 Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa Bonita Springs, Florida

### Southeastern Insulation Contractors Association (SEICA)

Contact: Erin Penberthy (571) 266-3129, www.seica.org

### **SEICA 2025 Spring Conference**

June 22–24, 2025 Omni Amelia Island Resort Fernandina Beach, Florida

### Southwest Insulation Contractors Association (SWICA)

Contact: Catie Duhon

(832) 971-5989, www.swicaonline.org

### **SWICA Annual Conference**

May 28–June 1, 2025 The Lodge Gulf Shores, Alabama

### Thermal Insulation Association of Canada (TIAC)

Contact: Robin Baldwin (613) 724-4834, www.tiac.ca 2025 TIAC Conference August 13–16, 2025 Sternwheeler Hotel and Conference Centre Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada

## Western Insulation Contractors Association (WICA)

Contact: Robert Bergman (801) 364-0050, www.wica1.com WICA Annual Convention September 14–16, 2025 Everline Resort & Spa Lake Tahoe, California

### **NIA'S ONLINE RESOURCES**

Insulation.org
InsulationOutlook.com
www.niaeducationcenter.org
InsulateMetalBuildings.org
www.linkedin.com/company/NIAinfo
www.twitter.com/niainfo
www.youtube.com/NIAinfo

Instructions on how to use NIA's new membership and educational portals are available at: https://insulation.org/about-nia/makingthemostofyourmembership