



New Year, New Opportunities from NIA

The end of the year is always a good time to take stock and make sure plans are in order to meet goals for the next year. Coming after another highly successful and well-attended NIA Fall Summit, the start of 2023 is a reminder of all the ways NIA helps its members and our industry make *Progress through Unity*. Events like the Fall Summit and the Annual Convention (described more below) provide so many opportunities for business and personal development—from educational sessions about the industry, safety, human resources topics, and ways to grow your company and career, to networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities with peers, subject matter experts, potential customers, and other industry contacts. These alone provide ample reasons to be a NIA member, but on top of that, add all the resources and tools available free or at deep discount to members, including access to training and certification programs like NIA’s Insulation Energy Appraisal Program™, Thermal Insulation Inspector Certification™, and Mechanical Insulation Basics, as well as newly developed offerings like Understanding Specifications and Understanding the Submittal Process; a seemingly endless array of webinars on subjects relevant to your career and business; and best practices and tools all available from one source. And NIA never stops developing new ways to support members, such as the soon-to-be-launched NIA Education Center (see www.insulation.org/niaeducationcenter), or the new, independent Foundation for Mechanical Insulation Education, Training, and Industry Advancement—now a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization (www.insulation.org/foundation). Less tangible but equally important benefits come from NIA’s strong representation of our industry on Capitol Hill and before federal and state agencies like the DOE and state energy offices, where NIA has played a vital role in getting our industry a seat at the table in the discussion of initiatives targeted at energy savings and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

NIA EVP/CEO Michele M. Jones offers an overview of the impressive *Progress through Unity* NIA and our members achieved in 2022 (see page 6). As a proud DOE Better Climate Challenge Ally, NIA also recognizes members who have signed on as DOE Better Climate Challenge Partners, setting and reaching GHG reduction, energy efficiency, and other key goals (see page 22).

Particularly during challenging economic cycles, the value of the business relationships NIA members develop is incalculable. Two articles in this month’s issue give views into different aspects of the short- and long-term economic forecast: See “More Inflation and Likely Recession—Economic Outlook for ’23 Not Particularly Upbeat,” on page 8, and FMI’s “North American Engineering and Construction Outlook” (page 20) to see how our industry is expected to fare in the coming months and years, including what segments will be hit hardest and how U.S. federal initiatives may mitigate economic stressors for our industry.

An interesting case study, beginning on page 26, describes another kind of forward-looking initiative. We often talk about the need to increase understanding

of mechanical insulation, as well as growing concern over the potential “brain drain” as seasoned subject matter experts in the industry retire, with insufficient numbers of new recruits coming up in the ranks. “Educating Engineering Students with PVC,” by Nicole Miller, describes a new facility at Western Colorado University designed with a specially outfitted mechanical room to serve as a tutorial for engineering students. By using different colors to differentiate between different system components, the facility is an active lesson in how these systems work and how insulation makes them efficient. NIA member company Johns Manville was part of that solution.

More good news comes from Tim Taylor, P.E., Ph.D., whose article on page 14 explores how and why “Most Construction Craft Professionals Like Their Jobs.” And rounding out this issue is a piece from the American Institute of Architects on “Understanding Resilience” (page 18), which lays out a common vocabulary for those in construction to be clear on what it means for buildings and communities to be resilient.

It can be easy to fall into the trap of taking NIA and your membership benefits for granted, but just

from reading this magazine, your complimentary (and members-only) *NIA News* newsletter, and posts on social media you can see how NIA is always working for its members and the industry. Another great reminder of the value of your membership is rapidly approaching: Have you finalized your plans to attend NIA’s 67th Annual Convention March 15–17 in Maui (www.insulation.org/convention2023)? Attendees always get so much from the outstanding keynote and educational sessions, networking opportunities, and other favorites (Safety Excellence and Premier Industry Manufacturer Award presentations, hosted dessert hospitality suites, and the golf tournament, to name just a few). I plan to be there and to make these last few months of my tenure as NIA President count—just as you should make the most of your NIA membership.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and let’s plan to see each other in the new year in Maui.



Joe Leo
President
National Insulation Association



NIA | 67th Annual Convention
Maui, Hawaii

●●● PROGRESS THROUGH UNITY

**REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN—
JOIN US IN MAUI
IN 2023!**

www.insulation.org/convention2023