



Reflecting on Progress Achieved through Unity

It is difficult to imagine that my tenure as NIA President is already ending, but it is time to reflect on all we have accomplished as an association and an industry in the past 12 months. My theme as President has been *Progress through Unity*. To that end, I focused my efforts on building stronger relationships and unity among the various organizations NIA works with—including U.S. regional associations and our international neighbors, the Thermal Insulation Association of Canada, as well as the Mechanical Insulators Labor Management Cooperative Trust—to strengthen our industry’s voice. We raised the profile of the mechanical insulation industry by helping leaders in government and business recognize its value as a vital resource for achieving environmental sustainability. NIA partnered with eight other organizations to craft and release a joint statement of policy principles on building decarbonization; and as a proud Department of Energy Better Climate Challenge Ally, NIA promoted this initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency.

A vital component of progress is learning, and this year NIA unveiled its Education Center, which promises to be the go-to resource for training and information specifically geared to our industry (www.insulation.org/niaeducationcenter). Because the content is accessible on demand, the Education Center offers even the busiest among us the opportunity to progress toward meeting career and business goals. It is supported by the Foundation for Mechanical Insulation Education, Training, and Industry Advancement (Foundation), now an independent, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Tax-deductible contributions from NIA members are another way we are manifesting progress through unity. More information on the Foundation is provided in “Foundation President and Treasurer Share Plans for 2023” (page 20) and the Foundation update on page 22.

I would be remiss if I took this space only to look back, though, especially as this double issue of *Insulation Outlook* offers insight on virtually every aspect of where our industry is today and where it is headed. From “The State of the Industry” (page 8) to “The State of Fire Resistance, Compartmentation, and Firestop Systems” (page 24), “Project Delays Are Coming: Develop a Strategy Now” (page 32), “Insulation Economics: Insulation against Recession... and Global Warming” (page 40), and “Gazing into the Crystal Ball” (page 44), the issue provides a blueprint for business growth.

Although *Progress through Unity* has been my theme, I know it is actually a core value of NIA. The opportunities we create working together as industry members, association members, and individuals are endless, and I look forward to seeing what we accomplish in the years to come.

Thank you all for trusting in me, and for your kindness, support, and cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Leo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Leo
President