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President



## THE REWARDS OF ENGAGEMENT

**H**appy new year and welcome to 2023! This year marks our 40th anniversary as a professional association. Over the past 40 years, our name may have changed a few times, but the strong membership community and solid character of the association have been unwavering.

IIBEC has big plans regarding our anniversary celebration, and I hope you will join in. One of the best ways to get the IIBEC experience is to become more active in the association. You can become involved locally at the chapter level, and you can also find many opportunities to participate in our national and international efforts, perhaps by serving on an IIBEC committee.

Why should you get engaged with IIBEC? Wherever you are on your career spectrum, there are many reasons why you will find engagement rewarding. IIBEC provides unparalleled educational content on the building enclosure industry, incredible professional networking and mentorship opportunities, and the ability to influence the construction profession.

You can jump in at any time, but the start of a new year is an ideal time to get involved. Typically, in January, the IIBEC executive leadership gathers in Raleigh, North Carolina, for what has been termed the “peaceful transition of power.” One of the key tasks performed during this meeting is a review of all of the various committee appointments. During this time, committee rosters are evaluated and new committee members are added. It’s critical that we continually find new committee members to fill vacancies left by members who have resigned or reached the end of their terms. Plus, the committees benefit from the new perspectives and fresh ideas that incoming members provide.

IIBEC has several committees that help to serve the membership. (Visit <https://iibec.org/membership/committees> to see the full list.) These committees recommend policy to the IIBEC Board of Directors on a quarterly basis, so they provide opportunities for individuals to actively shape the direction of the association and its involvement within the building enclosure industry. Your contributions might range from developing new technical advisories regarding technical issues the industry is experiencing to developing new educational content and reviewing the articles found in this magazine.

Recently, a longtime IIBEC industry member who was just finishing up his series of terms as a chapter officer approached me to discuss ways he could remain engaged in the association. I asked if he were aware of the Industry Liaison Committee, and he was not. This committee was formed under the Card administration to provide a vehicle for industry members to share issues, concerns, and guidance with the IIBEC Board of Directors. This committee benefits industry members by giving them a greater voice in our association, and the committee’s work also benefits consultant members, who may not always be fully aware of the issues that the Industry Liaison Committee tackles. One of this committee’s first accomplishments was developing a “Welcome Kit” for new IIBEC industry members to help them become engaged in our association.

Locally, getting engaged and participating in one of our chapters is the best way to get to know your local market, get some great education, network and socialize with your peers and colleagues, and learn more about the benefits of IIBEC. At the IIBEC Leadership Workshop held in Raleigh, North Carolina, in October, various chapter representatives gathered together to discuss chapter leadership and meet leaders from other chapters. These workshops are opportunities for chapters to exchange ideas on how to improve their own operations. Participants at the October meeting discussed several effective strategies that chapters could use to “build their bench” and develop chapter succession plans. I do not recall any chapter leaders at the workshop saying, “We do not need any more help.” If someone wants to help or become more involved with a chapter or branch, there is always a role that could be filled or created.

Now is a great time to reach out to me, First Vice President Amy Peevey, your local region director, or Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice President Brian Pallasch to learn more about getting your name on a committee roster. Alternatively, make plans to attend a local chapter meeting. If you bring a colleague, you’ll double the fun!