EIFS BRIEFS

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2024 Industry Events Calendar

World of Concrete

January 23-25, 2024 Las Vegas, NV

International Builders Show

February 27-29, 2024 Las Vegas, NV

Women in Construction Week March 3-9, 2024

EIMA Annual Meeting

March 12-14, 2024 Dallas, TX

AWCI Build 24

March 23-27, 2024 Orlando, FL

ASTM EO6 Committee Meeting

April 7-12, 2024 Philadelphia, PA

ABAA Conference

May 7-8, 2024 Reston, VA



EIFS INDUSTRY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

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GROWING THE FUTURE OF EIFS IN MINNEAPOLIS: INDUSTRY COALITION GETS RESULTS

After a several-year legislative battle where city planning staff had been recommending an outright ban of EIFS from the city's proposed exterior building materials guidelines, the members of the city's Planning Commission overruled its staff and voted unanimously to allow EIFS on all parts of the building in October. EIMA became involved in this matter over the summer, and this total reversal was only possible because of a multi-interest coalition coming together around the common cause of our industry.

This journey began as a defense—a fight to preserve the integrity and viability of EIFS in the future of Minneapolis which has a history of incorporating the materials. Through unwavering effort and collaboration, EIMA brought together the various experts, knowhow, and research to fight for the economically viable, and aesthetically pleasing future of EIFS in the Minneapolis landscape. Through a true coalition, we moved the Mayor and City Council leaders to see the value of our systems and support the sustained long-run incorporation of the ever-evolving materials.

The industry used the public hearings of the City Council and planning boards as organizing rallies for our members, affiliated organizations, and allies to come together and use our collective voices. EIMA organized local leaders in the industry to speak-up, turn-out, and ensure the entire perspective was not only clear, but understood: EIFS are crucial for reaching codified emission reductions, assist in producing cost-effective affordable housing, and create in-context design.

Unions in the Minneapolis Trades Council stood shoulder -to-shoulder with local installers, members of EIMA, renowned academics, and technical experts to fight for the future of EIFS. This coalition not only defended EIFS, but also highlighted its multifaceted benefits. The expert testimony (over 20 testimonies in two hearings) and mobilization of our industry successfully responded to the misnomers of decades' past and addressed how EIFS are facing the productive, proactive challenges created by the economy of the present and future.

The allowance of EIFS into the local guidelines marks a benchmark moment and turning point for EIMA and the EIFS industry. It is a testament to what we can achieve when all our groups and knowledge work in collaboration towards a better outcome. We know EIFS are an incredible tool because we use them and work with the systems every day. We are setting a precedent that cham-



Katie Cvelbar, Sika Facades



Terry Viness, Sto Corp.



Joe Fowler, Local 563



Marcin Ejsmont, Dryvit Systems, Inc.

continued on next page

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GROWING THE FUTURE OF EIFS IN MINNEAPOLIS (CONTINUED)

pions innovation, sustainability, and economic sense on the job site each-and-every-day, and that was made abundantly clear in Minneapolis. This is just the beginning, and we are excited to steer Minneapolis—and many other cities and states--towards a greener, more cost-effective, and design-conscious future.

Some of the tools EIMA helped mobilize to make this effort a success included:

 On-the-ground lobbying with professionalized, bound reports. Dryvit engaged their own public affairs firm that not only worked with EIMA's partners, but also proved instrumental to the outcome.

- A cross-section of interested local leaders of business & labor, including representatives from three union organizations.
- Experts across the industry able to articulate the technical capacities and benefits of EIFS. Employees from Dryvit, Sika Facades and Sto Corp all sent several people to testify.
- Signs for visibility of the issue and for members of the community to support EIFS and their contributions towards local family-sustaining jobs.
- A system to mobilize the affiliates of EIMA to use their voice in a strategic, coordinated way.

Given the strategic initiative for EIMA's Advocacy working groups, the association is invested in the future of cities like Minneapolis and many others across the country committed to codifying new standards incorporating EIFS. The support and expertise of EIMA's affiliates and members have also been a real cornerstone to this legislative success. We will continue to build on

the momentum, ensuring that EIFS remains synonymous with excellence and resilience, and EIMA is creating new opportunities for our affiliates,



Stephen Sears, EIMA



Bill Egan, EIMA Technical Consultant

members, and their communities building a more resilient and affordable future the industry can be proud of for decades to come.

EIMA HOLDS SECOND ANNUAL FALL BOARD AND WORKING GROUP CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA

50 Members Participated in a Successful Set of Meetings

As a consequence of the strategic plan adopted in 2022. EIMA's working groups tightly align the overall industry objective with the three strategic initiatives giving them the ability to serve as the engine of EIMA. The association's business model supports this approach because it utilizes a small number of seasoned, professional and dedicated full -time-employees coupled with outsourced professional consultants, first-rate data and partner collaboration. To maximize impact for the EIFS industry, the working groups incorporate extensive involvement and leadership from members. In fact, EIMA has already been able to realize many tangible outcomes

from the 2022 strategic plan. Here are some selected highlights of completed programs and/or those in the works – several of which are described in more detail elsewhere in this issue:

EIMA's Working Groups are Turning Strategic Planning into Strategic Action

Promotion

The Architectural Design Awards program, known as the "Hero" Awards, has expanded its geography to include Canada as well as introduced a new category and has a record number of entries this year. Additionally, EIMA launched its first AIA educational offering in five years. The overview course on EIFS with Drainage is being hosted by Hanley Wood University. The chairs of this group include:

 Chip Blome, L&W Supply, Inc. – Board Liaison

- Katie Cvelbar, Sika Facades (elected after the conference)
 Maggan Sivilar, ADFORS
- Meagan Siwiec, ADFORS-Saint Gobain (elected after the conference)

Advocacy - Federal, State, and Local

With a diverse coalition that included organized labor, the Minnesota Lath and Plaster Bureau and EIMA members from Dryvit Systems, Sika Facades and Sto Corp., the EIFS industry literally changed the minds of the City of Minneapolis Planning Commission. The commission had been considering banning EIFS for several years - even into the summer. After EIMA became involved in June, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to allow EIFS with Drainage on all parts of the building in October. This is a transformational win for the industry, and the



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FALL BOARD AND WORKING GROUP CONFERENCE

(CONTINUED)

success of Minneapolis will serve as a template in other locales. The chairs of this group are:

- Rafaël Bao, ADEX Systems
 Board Liaison
- Jay Winters, Dow

Advocacy - Technical and Research

With the group composing the technical experts from our manufacturers, associates and others, the Technical & Research Working Group is responsible for several significant industry outcomes - including getting EIFS into the international building codes in 2009 and authoring several industrystandard publications. During this meeting, the members had rolled up their sleeves and started developing several new, EIMA-branded technical bulletins as well as a Design Specification for the industry. The group will also help the industry submit a Federal grant application to the EPA as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. The chairs of this group include:

- Peter Daechsel, Sika Facades – Board Liaison
- Terry Viness, Sto Corp.

Education and Workforce Development

EIMA is supporting and promoting the <u>Association of the</u>

Wall and Ceiling Industry's brand new EIFS Doing It Right(R) online educational program, which is slated to be launched early next year in English and Spanish. With over 1,500 certificate holders in three separate categories, this education program is important to EIMA members and the entire EIFS industry members of EIMA, AWCI, the Operative Plasterers' & Cement Masons' International Association - OPCMIA and the EIFS industry at large. The chairs of this group are:

- Nate Katz, ADFORS-Saint Gobain – Board Liaison
- Mike Chaney, James River Exteriors – Board Liaison

All: A robust association management software system is in the works and will transform how EIMA serves and interacts with the EIFS industry. The new system will not only integrate EIMA's operations and greatly streamline operations for EIMA staff, but it will also give the industry a sharp and current new website.

Keynote Dinner Speaker
Presents Findings & Recommendations to Bring the
Industry to the Next Level
Since EIFS are modern building materials that combine
an enviable combination of

performance, energyefficiency, aesthetic flexibility and financial value, our cladding systems are truly poised to be a solution for climate change and affordability in today's built environment. To help provide recommendations on where the industry is and what we need to do to get to the next level, the Board approved the hiring of Shep Burr of Kingfisher Growth Strategies to research the industry and make recommendations.

His final report was circulated to all of the working groups earlier in the fall, and he delivered a passionate and informative presentation that focused on capitalizing on the strengths of EIFS with Drainage for the future.



Shep Burr, Kingfisher Growth Strategies

Board Approves 2024 Budget and Dues Schedule

During the Board meeting on the last day, the members approved next year's budget and dues schedule that will continue the progress made in 2023. The members recognize the need to keep pushing the industry forward, and they expressed a desire to have all eligible members in the EIMA umbrella so that all of those who have a vested interest are supporting the industry.

EIMA appreciates the 2023 Board's support in making these meetings and programs a real success. Thanks go to

- <u>Steve Smithwick</u> of <u>Master</u> Wall Inc.
- <u>Peter Daechsel</u> of Sika Facades
- Jose Berlingeri of Sto Corp.
- Vanessa Henley (Feldkamp) of Dryvit Systems
- <u>Eric Hindson</u> of <u>Parex USA</u>, <u>Inc.</u>
- Rafaël Bao of ADEX Systems Inc.
- Nathan Katz of Saint-Gobain ADFORS
- Chuck Robitaille of Dow
- Darryl Little of <u>Gypsum Management and Supply</u>
- Chip Blome of L&W Supply
- Mike Chaney of James River Exteriors

EIMA TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH WORKING GROUP EMBARKS ON SEVERAL NEW INITIATIVES TO TACKLE NEW CHALLENGES

Chaired by Terry Viness of Sto Corp. and Peter Daechsel of Sika Facades, the Advocacy – Technical and Research Working Group is the longest-standing group in EIMA. Focusing on technical matters in its first 40 years of existence, EIMA' technical concentration helped EIFS get into the building codes, spearhead the Oak Ridge research earlier in the millennium and publish three

trademarked documents that help designers, architects and other stakeholders learn how to specify, design, and install EIFS properly. With today's emphasis on climate change, there is a new set of issues confronting the industry . Consequently, the Technical & Research Working Group is developing new ways to put EIFS' best foot forward.

Codes and Standards: To help bolster EIMA's presence in codes and standards, EIMA started increasing the hours of our technical consultant, Bill Egan, in the second half of 2023. Moreover, EIMA has invested in executive committee membership of the North American Modern Building Alliance (NAMBA). As part of the American Chemistry Council, NAMBA focuses on fire safety through codes and

standards, and Bill Egan and Stephen Sears serve on numerous committees in this group – including the Fire Performance Technical Committee. Some of the projects that are currently underway in NAMBA include: reviewing code changes for the 2027 I code cycle, developing a national database repository for NFPA 285 and industry membership for New York City's 2023 Building Code Revision Cycle.

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TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH WORKING GROUP (CONTINUED)



Below are examples of ASTM technical committees that are developing standards and benefiting from ongoing participation by EIMA members.

ASTM C18 – Subcommittee on Dimensional Stone. There is currently language under consideration for the application of stone veneer finishes over EIFS. Several EIMA members participated in the most recent subcommittee meeting to guide and provide input on the standard development.

ASTM E06.58 - Subcommittee on EIFS. Besides attending to ongoing updates and improvements to existing standards there is discussion about the development of additional standards to address the use of growing technologies and applications such as noncombustible insulation, masonry veneers, etc.

ASTM E06.22 - Subcommittee on Durability Performance of Building Constructions. Some earlier draft standards had provisions that potentially impacted common fluid applied air/water resistive barriers when used behind claddings other EIFS. Due in part to EIMA member input, the current draft is more favorable. However, it is important for the EIFS industry to continue to participate and guide this in this committee.

Finally, it is apparent that EIMA and its members need to establish relationships with other groups such as RAINA, ABAA, IIBEC, etc. as activities within these associations can impact the EIFS industry. For example, the 2024 IBC has a new definition of "Rainscreen" which is subject to interpretation in terms of compliance. While EIFS with Drainage are generally regarded as Rainscreen Systems, the industry will be monitoring future code development in anticipation of additional compliance requirements for Rainscreen Systems.

NEW: Technical Bulletins.

While the three EIMA-branded technical documents on EIMA's website provide excellent educational resources for architects, engineers, and contractors, EIMA's working group members unanimously decided to create new, succinct, "Technical Bulletins" tab that furnish the industry's best practices on major topics associated with design, installation, and maintenance. Further, these items - authored by the technical experts of EIMA's manufacturer and associate members - will be available for download at no charge when EIMA's new website goes live next year. Now, EIMA's members are developing bulletins on the following topics:

- •International Residential Code Requirements for EIFS and EIFS with Drainage
- •International Building Code Requirements for EIFS and EIFS with Drainage
- •Liquid-Applied Water Resistive Barriers
- •Critical Light and Minimalization of Aesthetic Irregularities
- Mesh and ASTM Impact Levels

- Proper Sealant Joint Selection for with EIFS and EIFS with Drainage
- Owners' Responsibilities for Proper Cleaning and Maintenance

NEW: Specification for EIFS with Drainage. For the first time ever, EIMA's manufacturers are developing a complimentary, downloadable specification that can be used in preparing specifications for projects utilizing EIFS from EIMA members. This spec focuses on the typical EIFS with Drainage that is adhesively fastened to an integral/water resistive barrier, and applicable to both fieldapplied and panelized installation methods.

NEW: Technical Research that **Provides Ouantifiable Data** about EIFS with Drainage. Since EIFS is new, evolving, and modern building material compared to old-fashioned claddings such as brick, stone and wood, the industry uses first-tier, robust technical data to prove the efficacy of the system. Here is an example. Back in the early 2000s, the U.S. Department of Energy, through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Building Technologies Program and EIMA, sponsored a study that was conducted by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The findings? EIFS with Drainage outperformed brick, stucco and cementitious fiberboard siding in DOE tests measuring energy-efficiency, moisture intrusion and temperature control. Additionally, liquid applied barrier technology provides

substantially better protection for the building substrate than traditional, sheet barrier products.

With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, the emphasis on curbing the effects of climate change is bigger now than it has been in decades. To help position EIFS against competing wall claddings in a consistent and acceptable manner, EIMA has engaged a professional grant writer to pursue a grant with the Environmental Protection Agency for the development of industry-wide Environmental Product Declarations. The grant is part of the Inflation Reduction Act section 60112 - Reducing Embodied Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Construction Materials and Products. This program seeks to improve transparency and disclosure of embodied greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data associated with construction materials and products to facilitate the procurement of lower embodied carbon construction materials and products throughout the United States.

This is a very fast-moving initiative as the grant sub-mission is due on January 16, and EIMA staff and working group members are working on creating the strongest grant application possible.

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EIMA LAUNCHES AIA COURSE ON EIFS WITH DRAINAGE

The EIMA Promotion Working Group is pleased to announce the launch of an AIA course titled "Performance and Design Benefits of Today's High-Performance Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) with Drainage".

Approved in the 2023 program of work, this course marks the first time that EIMA has launched an AIA-CES educational offering on behalf of the industry in several years. The course is meant to provide a general overview (e.g. EIFS 101) on EIFS with Drainage. The course-taker will learn the outstanding performance attributes of EIFS with Drainage, and how EIFS has evolved and offers drainage, AWRBs, and more finishes than ever.

To expand reach, EIMA engaged professional copywrit-

ers and is housing the course on Hanley Wood University's portal.

While Hanley Wood will promote the course as part of their university offering, EIMA encourages members to publicize the availability of the course so that as many architects and designers as possible can get educated about today's EIFS with Drainage. Depending on the availability of resources and response to this course, we anticipate that this could be the first of several EIMA educational offerings to the architecture and design audience.

The hour-long online course went live on December 13th, and as of this writing, nearly 400 architects have enrolled in the course.

Performance and Design Benefits of Today's High-Performance Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) with Drainage



Learning Objectives

- Define modern EIFS products and how they provide added features including drainage, air- and water-resistive barriers, and a variety of new finishes for new and retrofit construction in all
- Describe the many benefits of modern EIFS, known as EIFS with Drainage.
- Explore how EIFS with Drainage are typically single-source solutions for a building's exterior wall cladding and how they meet model building codes and standards.
 - Examine important considerations when designing with EIFS with Drainage.

EIMA ANNUAL MEETING HEADED TO DALLAS, TEXAS IN MARCH 2024



The 2024 EIMA Annual Meeting will be held on March 12-14 at the Omni Las Colinas Hotel located in Irving, Texas, just minutes from downtown Dallas.

Mark your calendars now for this one-of-a-kind, can't miss event where EIFS industry professionals will gather, share insights, and stay updated on the latest developments in the Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS) sector.

At this well-attended event, EIMA members will hear firsthand from insightful speakers and panelists, form close-knit communities that build valuable relationships, and find common ground to advance the industry.

More details about the meeting, including a schedule of events and announcement of speakers, will be available in after the first of the year, but for now SAVE THE DATE!

EIMA looks forward to seeing you at the 2024 Annual Meeting next March!

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EIMA ENHANCES ITS ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS PROGRAM

EIMA is pleased to announce enhancements to the EIFS Hero Awards program, an awards program that recognizes and promotes excellence in the EIFS industry.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Expanded Geography

Project eligibility requirements have been expanded to include projects in all of North America. This will have several positive implications for the competition, including:

• Diverse Participation: By including projects from all of North America, the competition becomes more diverse. This allows for a broader representation of architectural styles, building types, and regional influences in EIFS projects.

•Increased Participation:
Expanding eligibility beyond the United States opens the door for EIMA members from Canada and other countries within North America to participate. This has increased the number of submissions, making the competition more competitive and vibrant.

Additional Categories

Two new categories are being introduced this year:

- Renovation/Retrofit
- Prefabrication/Panelization By introducing new categories, the competition is adapting to industry trends and addressing specific challenges and opportunities within the EIFS sector. This expansion provides a platform for showcasing the expertise and capabilities of EIFS profes-



sionals in both renovation and innovative construction methods.

These enhancements are designed to make the awards more prestigious and reflective of the evolving EIFS industry.

The deadline for submitting entries was November 30 and EIMA has received more than

60 entries, a record number for the 6-year program. The judging will take place January 22-26, 2024, winners will be notified on February 6th, and the Awards Ceremony will be held during the 2024 EIMA Annual Meeting on March 13th.

For questions or more information, please contact Laurie Joseph at (703) 538-1615 or Ljoseph@eima.com.

ATLAS MOLDED PRODUCTS JOINS EIMA



EIMA is pleased to welcome Atlas Molded Products, the nation's largest EPS manufacturer, as its newest Associate Member. A division of Atlas Roofing Corporation, the company services clients throughout North America with a network of shipping and distribution partners in the USA, Mexico and Canada.

"We are very pleased that Atlas is joining EIMA," said Steve Smithwick, the

SHINGLES & UNDERLAYMENTS MOLDED PRODUCTS ROOF & WALL INSULATION WEB TECHNOLOGIES

2022/2024 president of EIMA and president of Master Wall, Inc. "Atlas is the nation's largest EPS manufacturer and has the most extensive polystyrene processing capabilities in North America. The rigid insulation board Atlas manufactures is an integral component of EIFS, and Atlas' participation in EIMA will help all of us promote EIFS as the technically superior, energy-efficient, flexible and aesthetically-

appealing wall system that we all know it is."

Stephen Sears, EIMA's Executive Director and CEO said, "this is great news for both EIMA and our industry. Since the "1" in EIFS stands for insulation, Atlas' leadership in the insulation manufacturing and distribution space will benefit everyone in the EIFS value chain."

Steve Heaton, Vice President & General Manager of the Atlas Molded Products division, agrees. "The advocacy and educational work that EIMA has been doing in our industry to support the growing demand for energy-efficient building solutions has been very impressive. We are looking forward to being a part of EIMA and working together to further support EIFS industry initiatives"

Atlas joins ADFORS Saint-Gobain, Clark Dietrich Building Systems, Dow, Rockwool, Wacker, and Wind-Lock as associate members of EIMA.

For more information on Atlas Molded Products, please visit their website at: www.atlasmoldedproducts.com Page 7 Volume 14, Issue 2, 2023

ENHANCED EIFS DOING IT RIGHT ONLINE EDUCATION COURSE TO LAUNCH IN FEBRUARY 2024

One of the initiatives in the EIMA strategic plan is to deliver resources that assist all companies to attract and maintain a "best in class" workforce. EIMA's Education and Workforce Development Working Group accomplishes this through its support of AWCI's "EIFS Doing It Right®" Online Education Program.

With contributions of subject matter expertise, imagery, and financial support, EIMA was thankful for the opportunity to play a role in the development of the new online course that offers national certification for EIFS Mechanic, EIFS Industry Professional and EIFS Inspector designations.

AWCI plans to launch its EIFS Doing It Right® 2.0 online program in February next year. The robust, 13-17 module course will again be available in both English and Spanish.



EIFS-Doing It Right® 2.0 English & Spanish

February 2024



THE LATEST EIFS INSURANCE TRENDS

In July 2023, EMA contracted with Buck Buchanan of Buchanan Business Consulting, LLC to advocate for the EIFS industry with insurance brokers. Having done work in this arena in the past, Buchanan has spent significant time talking to brokers, underwriters, and contractors, and is well-versed on EIFS insurance. He was the logical choice to handle the uptick of inquiries EIMA began receiving last summer from stakeholders in the insurance industry.

Below is a report on the findings of Buck's months-long and ongoing research:

Brokers List on EIMA.com

There are currently a total of six fully-vetted EIFS insurance brokers on EIMA's <u>EIFS Insurance</u> webpage.

Some of the brokers previously listed have left the EIFS sector due to lack of demand. However, new brokers are

being added as they contact EIMA with interest, and fulfill EIMA's due diligence process.

EIFS Insurance Today

What is the availability and cost of EIFS insurance for EIFS contractors today? (this is an overall view of EIFS insurance and conditions will vary by market)

In western markets, EIFS insurance is available but there are still a limited number of underwriters. When it comes to the cost, there hasn't been much of a change. This is related to the overall insurance market, as companies have seen their profitability impacted by unexpected losses from events such as wild-fires and urban destruction.

In the east, EIFS insurance is more readily available than it has been in the past. Most brokers that Buchanan spoke with said insurance was more affordable, and rates are less than in years past. Further-

more, contractors, building owners, and even homeowners are now able to get EIFS coverage.

A New Wrinkle: Wind and Hail Damage

As Buchanan continued his research, he discovered another insurance issue which involved EIFS, but is not EIFS specific. In coastal states (predominantly Florida and South Carolina), a number of insurance companies have stopped writing insurance or are not renewing policies for properties along the coast. There are some underwriters that are still writing policies. but are including exclusions for any damage because of what is referred to as wind or hail. Simply put, this means they are not covering any damage to roofs or walls that are related to wind or hail. This means EIFS would be included in this type of exclusion, but so would any other type of cladding or roofing material.

Over the past several years insurance companies have suffered significant losses due to natural disasters, which is one of the reasons why they are trying to limit their exposure. While EIFS is lumped in with all the other claddings, EIFS has demonstrated outstanding performance when it comes to hurricane force winds.

EIMA will continue to monitor the wind and hail issues and will continue working with Buck Buchanan to advocate for the EIFS industry in the insurance arena.

For more information on EIFS insurance, please contact Buck Buchanan at buck.bize@gmail.com.

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COMING SOON: NEW EIMA WEBSITE



In a transformative move, EIMA is implementing a comprehensive association management software program which will seamlessly integrate into a brand-new website. This state-of-the-art solution marks a significant milestone in optimizing EIMA's operations and providing an enriched experience for members.

The AMS will empower EIMA to streamline member engagement, event planning, and communication, and will

also ensure efficient membership tracking, simplify registration processes, and enhance overall organizational productivity.

With a user-friendly interface and intuitive navigation, the website will serve as a centralized hub for members, fostering stronger connections and collaboration. This forward-looking approach not only modernizes our digital presence but also reinforces our commitment to leveraging technology for the betterment of our com-

munity, setting the stage for a more connected and vibrant future.

The software implementation and data conversion projects are underway, and the website project is in initial planning stages. Rollout is tentatively scheduled for first quarter 2024.



EIMA Wishes You a Joyous Holiday Season and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year

