



By **Brian Pallasch, CAE**

How to Give Back to IIBEC

IT'S NOW OCTOBER, and fall has arrived, bringing with it cooler temperatures and, in Canada, a day of thanksgiving on October 14. (US Thanksgiving takes place several weeks from now, in late November). In the spirit of the season, I've been in a thankful mood lately—not only for a successful 2024 IIBEC/OBEC BES, with its great educational content and in-person networking, but for all of the staff and volunteer hours that went into making BES a success.

That success extends beyond IIBEC's meetings—to our education, our technical content, and our efforts to engage emerging professionals. All of these things benefit from the input provided by our volunteers. They have the experience—and the expertise—that fuels IIBEC and that will continue to strengthen us as we move through our fifth decade as an organization.

Volunteering is a crucial way that you can give back to IIBEC and the building enclosure profession. Want to mentor an emerging building enclosure professional? IIBEC needs you. Want to help shape our education content? IIBEC needs you. Are you willing to provide technical guidance and recruit articles for *IIBEC Interface*? IIBEC needs you. Ready to help take your local IIBEC chapter to the next level? IIBEC needs you!

We simply can't do all that we do—from technical articles to convention speakers, ethics, and advocacy—without our volunteers. A key part of the value of IIBEC is found in the community of members that give back to IIBEC and the profession as volunteers. It's not only a great way to give back, but a way to grow your professional network.

As I wrote in these pages last April, volunteers are critical to achieving IIBEC's mission. "We are truly humbled by the number of IIBEC members and family members who give so freely of their time to help advance our mission that *IIBEC is universally recognized as the leading authority in building enclosure consulting*. The roles you serve are critical to IIBEC and its mission, and we would not be successful without you."

But don't take it from me alone. Other IIBEC members have sung the praises of our volunteers for many years. In October of 2023, IIBEC's immediate past president, Amy Peevey, RRO, REWC, PE, CDT, used her

IIBEC Interface "President's Message" to express her appreciation of IIBEC volunteers, even as she called for new participants who could bring fresh ideas to the table.

"My priority is to continually strive to recruit and welcome new members and volunteers," Peevey wrote. "In doing so, IIBEC can further support our present membership, including our volunteers, and evolve to lead our profession. Continuing to increase our membership and volunteer pool will help us diversify our perspectives, innovate, and implement positive changes for the building enclosure consulting practice."

"If you have not volunteered or you only occasionally volunteer with IIBEC, I personally ask you to consider joining today's team of IIBEC volunteers. I have found that my involvement in IIBEC and the profession vastly improved when I transitioned from a member to a member-volunteer. It has been an extremely rewarding experience to discover that the more I give, the more I receive. If you already are a volunteer, I hope you will also invite your colleagues and mentees to get involved. Let them know why you volunteer and why you think their input matters."

I join Amy in her call for new participants and fresh ideas that can keep IIBEC focused on members' needs. The call for volunteers for 2025 is open right now. I encourage you to look over our committees (go to iibec.org/membership/committees) and find the options that are best suited to you and your areas of interest. Then fill out the form at iibec.org/amplify-your-voice-join-an-iibec-committee-2024 before January 3, 2025. IIBEC's president and first vice president will meet with staff liaisons on each committee and make decisions on appointments to the various committees.

I hope you'll join your fellow members by contributing your ideas to keep IIBEC at the forefront of the building enclosure industry.