The contract is signed and it is official that the spring 2018 RIMA-I meeting will be combined with the 2018 I-RIM Conference to be held May 8 – 10 at the beautiful Marriott Los Suenos in Costa Rica!

The RIMA-I meetings will be consolidated down into a single day on Tuesday, May 8th. The bulk of the day will be the committee meetings followed by a very concise membership meeting doing a short review/reporting of each of the committee discussion. A cocktail reception is planned immediately following to open registration and welcome guests to the I-RIM Conference.

The conference will officially begin Wednesday May 9th with an official “Welcome” followed by a full lineup of guest/industry speakers. The International Conference Committee recently sent out a call for topics requesting input for presentations and inviting those with new information they might like to present to contact us. The priority now is putting together a dynamite program that industry professionals simply cannot resist. We have already begun confirming speakers so we look forward to sharing a full program soon.

One very popular segment of the conference is to hear of the various trends on how reflectives are being used, installed, and researched around the world. If you are from outside the US and Costa Rica and would like to present on the reflective trends in your region of the world, we want to hear from you.

Travel information was recently completed and added to the RIMA-I website at www.rimainternational.org under the I-RIM Conference menu option (select 2017 of course). Details about the hotel, the airport, recreational activities and more are included along with website links to plan additional adventures while you are there. While you’re on the conference webpage be sure to book your room using the hotel link provided. We have a rather limited block of rooms at the group rate, so book your rooms early to guarantee that rate.

Sooooo – let’s do this! Mark your calendars, invite your associates, forward your presentation outlines (if you’d like to present), and we will see everyone next spring in beautiful Costa Rica!

With the loss of our President, Jeff Thistle, last spring, there were some changes to the Board and a new Board Member added that we wanted to acknowledge.

According to the Bylaws, Vice President Bobby Byrd stepped in to the President position and has been acting President since Jeff’s departure. This left an opening for Vice President. Mr. Doug Kinninger was elected to fill in the Vice President position for the completion of Bobby’s term. Of course with Doug moving into the VP role, that left his Director position open. We were very pleased to welcome RIMA-I’s first woman to the Board as Veronica Ataya of Celplast was voted and approved as Director.
At the end of 2017, five Board of Director positions will expire, and elections to fill those positions will be held at or directly after the fall meetings in New Orleans, depending on the number of nominations received. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of these individuals for their contribution to the association and to the industry. Their voluntary act of service is greatly appreciated and is a key factor in the ongoing growth and development of the reflective products industry. Thank you!

Nominations Open for Board Positions

The Nominations Committee is working to identify and confirm nominees to fill the positions that will expire at the end of this year. The committee will identify one candidate for each position and present those at the fall meeting. Since there are requirements for the Executive Officers positions, those positions must be filled by individuals who have already served on the board; however, there are two Director positions that would be open to interested candidates. If you would like to be a nominee to a Board Director position or would like more information on what is involved with serving on the Board, contact the RIMA-I office. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at our full Membership Meeting held Sunday, October 8, in New Orleans.

UPCOMING MEETING DETAILS . . .

The 2017 fall working meetings will be held October 7-8 at the Astor Crown Plaza Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. Attendance forms have been distributed and are due in to the RIMA-I office by September 5. Individuals can make room reservations by using the reservation link on the RIMA-I website (under News/Meeting/Misc.), which will take you directly to our room block with our group rate. The hotel does not guarantee the group rate after September 5th so be sure to make your reservations before the deadline.
The fall meetings will be on Saturday-Sunday this trip but we are encouraging people in a day early for some social/networking time. The Board will continue to review feedback and adjust the meeting schedule as they deem appropriate for future events. For this meeting, committees will meet throughout the day on Saturday to discuss ongoing issues, set goals and assign tasks. This is a working day for all committees. This all-day event will conclude with a sponsored cocktail reception at The Pelican Club (hosted by Innovative Insulation) followed by a private group dinner at the same location.

**NOTE:** If you are a new member or new to these meetings and would like to get involved on a committee, please contact the RIMA-I office. If you aren’t sure which committee(s) you would like to participate in, you are welcome to sit in as an observer on Saturday to see where your interest and expertise can best contribute to the association and industry’s goals. We will have seating around the perimeter of the room for guests. Just indicate your interest on your attendance form.

The full membership meeting will be held on Sunday. This is a reporting day for the association. Committees will report on their discussions outlined in the previous day’s committee meetings; and old and new business will be addressed. Non-member guests interested in learning more about the Association are welcome to attend as a guest on Sunday. All attendees must register in advance to attend. No walk-ins will be received. Invitations are sent out six to eight weeks prior to the event. If you would like to be added to the invite list to be a guest at the next RIMA-I meeting, please contact the RIMA-I office at 800/279-4123 or e-mail us at rima@rima.net.

**Let’s Explore NOLA!**

We are inviting everyone to come in a day early so we can enjoy some social outings on Friday afternoon, October 6. We are working on one or two tour options to choose from. A list of city tours has been distributed to the membership so you can put your 2 cents in on what tour is of interest to you. We invite you to speak up and join in so we can make the most of our time in the city. Room rate discounts are available 3 days before and 3 days after the meetings, so plan to spend some extra time in the city and have some fun with your RIMA-I crew.

(For more information on New Orleans, check out www.neworleanscvb.com )

**Steve Baden of RESNET to Speak on Sunday**

Steve has worked in the residential energy efficiency field for over 25 years, including eighteen years with home energy ratings and energy mortgages on both the state and national levels, and 10 years administering a state energy office. He initiated the "Warm Homes for Alaskans Initiative" which received the "1993 National Award for the Most Outstanding State Housing Program" from the National Council of State Housing Agencies and was also awarded "Lifetime Achievement Awards" from the U.S. Department of Energy and RESNET.

As our guest speaker on Sunday, Steve will be discussing updates on the new Energy Rating Index option in the EICC and what changes are in store for the 2018 IECC. He will update us on penetration of HERS Index in the US housing market; and provide details on the new partnership with the Appraisal Institute in having residential real estate appraisals factor in the energy performance of a home. We are very pleased to have Steve join us in New Orleans and look forward to his presentation.

**Join us for Cocktails Saturday Night Compliments of**

To keep the theme of networking and socializing going, we are finishing our long day of committee meetings on Saturday at The Pelican Club where we have a semi-private room with a hosted bar sponsored by Innovative Insulation. Dan has arranged for them to set up our own private bar for the group so we can sip and socialize from 6-7 followed by dinner thereafter. It's always a great time for everyone so plan to come, mix and mingle. Thank you Innovative Insulation!
**Dinner to follow – The Pelican Club**

Eating in New Orleans is simply a joy. There is so much great food and this evening’s dinner is no exception. The Pelican Club has prepared a special group menu for us that is sure to please. You can’t come to NOLA without enjoying some seafood but if that’s not your pleasure, there is a filet mignon option and a vegetarian/vegan option as well. These dinner outings are always great social events and lots of fun. What could be better than great food and great friends? This event is included in your meeting fees so you don’t miss out on this special Saturday evening event.

**Who Will Be the Next “Love the Links” Winner?**

On Friday afternoon, those that love the links can enjoy a little friendly competition at TPC Louisiana. This championship course was designed by master architect Pete Dye who worked in conjunction with PGA Tour players Steve Elkington and Kelly Gibson (a New Orleans native). Named “the #4 best upscale public golf course” by *Golf Digest* magazine when it debuted in 2004, TPC Louisiana is consistently included in *Golf Week*’s “Best Courses You Can Play.” *(Golf Digest Top 100 Public Golf Course)*

The breathtaking scenery stretches over 250 acres of wetlands along the Mississippi River delta. This course is part of the Audubon Golf Trail and a proud member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program – providing a landscape that many have compared to a private nature reserve. The layout incorporates stately stands of cypress and oak trees with over 100 bunkers and five ponds to make for a highly interesting game. If you’re wanting to get in the game and possibly having bragging rights along with temporary custody of the ‘Love the Links’ trophy (picture inset), contact the RIMA-I office so we make sure we have enough tee time booked. For more information on this course, visit www.tpc.com/louisiana.

**Distributor and Contractor No More**

Recently, the membership categories for Distributor and Contractor were reviewed by the PR/Marketing/Membership Committee. It was agreed that with the creation of the Advanced Building Code Coalition (ABCC) along with the lack of participation in these two categories, that the categories should be streamlined. It was recommended and reviewed by the Board and ultimately agreed to discontinue these two categories for 2018.

Once the decision was approved by the Board, changes to the association Bylaws were needed. Those changes have since been presented (to Board and membership) and approved. The updated Bylaws were distributed to all members and are now available/accessible through the RIMA-I Member Portal. Current Distributors were notified and invited to the fall meeting so they can learn more about the work the association is doing and perhaps get more involved in 2018 than their membership category provided for in the past. We look forward to seeing ALL our members in New Orleans.

*RIMA International extends a BIG THANK YOU to ALL our members for their involvement, dedication and support. We know each member contributes and is vital to this association and plays an important role in advancing this industry. We would not exist without you, and you are greatly appreciated!*
The #1 top priority within RIMA-I is code work, which is why the association has established the Advanced Building Code Coalition. The ABCC is a division of RIMA-I within the Code & Legislative Committee that allows people that may not qualify for membership but want to support our industry to contribute to the vast amount of work code involvement requires.

If you haven’t checked it out yet, the Advanced Building Code Coalition site is up and running. You can find a link to the ABCC page from RIMA-I’s opening page at www.rimainternational.org in the “Building Codes” column under the banner. You can also use the www.advancedbuildingcodecoalition.org address.

Included on the ABCC page is a new donation button. If you have associates that you would like to encourage to support our work, direct them here. Donations are made through Paypal so they may need to set up an account to donate. We will be sending out the passcode shortly for the Members Only section. This is a strictly confidential page that contains details on our code efforts. Watch for more information on how to access this via e-mail shortly.

We look forward to providing you with better access to the issues that are critical to your business and we welcome your input at any time. Take a look at this new page and we will continue to work to put your membership to work for you!

New Incentives Can Really Pay Off -

As previously mentioned a new member incentive program has been established to give existing members a $1,000 credit for each new member that joins RIMA International. This can add up quickly and go a long way to defray some of the costs of annual RIMA-I membership.

We took a poll in Orlando and almost every member indicated they know one or more companies that qualified for RIMA-I membership, so this is a GREAT time to get your associates to join the organization. Not only will it give the new member a good year to learn about and get involved with RIMA-I and all the various projects underway, but it will also start earning you fees to either pay toward the next quarterly payment or stash away for renewal for next year.

If you need assistance talking with any prospective members, let us know as we are always happy to help. There is membership information on our website at www.rimainternational.org (see the ‘Join’ button in the upper right-hand corner) along with descriptions of the categories, testimonials and application forms. We all know we are much stronger the more we work together, so let’s make bringing in a new member one of your top goals for 2017!

Are You LinkedIn?

In case you are not aware, RIMA-I has two groups on LinkedIn we use for discussions, press releases and other announcements. One group is the RIMA International group, and the other is a broader discussion group for Radiant Barrier & Reflective Insulation.

We’ve made it easy for you to find both groups as there are links to these groups right on the RIMA-I website (upper right-hand corner www.rimainternational.org). Put your cursor over the icon (like the one shown on the above) and a drop down will appear providing you links to each group.

We encourage you to participate in these groups and let others know of them as well. RIMA-I has several industry-related groups we post announcements in; and we are always watching for new ones to join so send us your recommendations as well. The wider the reach the better!
Submit Your Nominee for Alexander Schwartz Award

Nominations are already coming in for our first ever Alexander Schwartz Award winner and there is still time to get your nominee in. The recipient of this award is someone (person or company) who has made a significant contribution to the reflective products industry either through technical achievement, leadership, product development, and/or new technology. Through example, the recipient will have motivated industry representatives and advanced the reflective products industry and/or RIMA International and, in turn, contributed to the overall acceptance of reflective products within the building codes and in the overall marketplace.

Nominees are anyone that meets the above criteria – either member or non-members. There is no set schedule for this award as it is presented only when a worthy candidate has been nominated. When a candidate has been selected, they will be presented with the award at the next international conference, which in this case will be Spring of 2018. Nominations forms are on the member portal or can be obtained by contacting the RIMA-I office. Help us recognize those that have given so much to this industry – send in your nominee today!

Be Our Guest –

If the committee updates have enticed you, perhaps you would like to come as a guest to learn more. RIMA-I holds membership meetings twice a year at various cities around the country, and guests are welcome to participate in the full membership meeting where they can hear full updates on all committee efforts and learn in more detail about the work RIMA-I is doing on behalf of the industry. We would welcome the opportunity to get to know you and treat you to brunch and our keynote speaker while you’re there. To be added to the RIMA-I meeting guest list, please contact the RIMA-I office at 800/279-4123 or at rima@rima.net. Seating must be confirmed two weeks in advance, so reserve your seat and we will look forward to seeing you there!

50/50 Raffle!

RIMA-I conducts a 50/50 raffle in conjunction with our bi-annual meetings to help contribute to meeting costs and to add a little fun to the process. Everyone (including spouses) that registers to attend the RIMA-I meeting and gets their meeting fees paid in full by the deadline prominently noted on the attendance form (approximately 2 weeks prior to the meeting), will automatically receive a complimentary raffle ticket.

Additional tickets are available for purchase for $5 each to increase your odds of winning, and you don't have to attend the meeting to play! You can purchase tickets for employees, family and friends without even being there; and you can buy tickets in any increment. We want this event to be fun for everyone; and give more people the opportunity to be our big winner. Good Luck!!

R&D Services, Inc. – Accredited as an Inspection Agency

R&D Services, Inc. has been providing testing and consulting services to insulation manufacturers since 1994. They are an accredited third part test laboratory (ISO 17025) and inspection agency (ISO 17020) by the International Accreditation Service (IAS). This accreditation qualifies R&D Services, Inc. to provide classification testing to satisfy ASTM specification, and provide qualified inspection and follow-on testing required by organizations such as ICC-ES, CCMC, and IAPMO. These qualifications and services can be viewed at www.rdservices.com.

R&D Services, Inc., is accredited for over 75 tests, including ASTM and CAN/ULC material specifications for reflective insulation, radiant barrier, IRCC, and many other insulation types. They also offer several non-accredited tests, and have capabilities to set up unique testing applications based on client requests.

- Reflective Insulations
- Radiant Barriers
- IRCC Products
- HVAC Application
- Product Approvals
- R-Value Calculations
- Energy Star Approvals
- UV Exposure Testing
- Water Vapor Transmission
- Emissivity
- Hot Surface Testing
- Air Barrier Testing
ICC Business Products – Discounts for Member’s Only

This program offers members up to **50% discount** on manufacturer's suggested list price on such products as computer supplies, printer sales and supplies, standard office supplies, printed forms, furniture and promotional products. There’s also a **2% rebate** at the end of the year, which can be taken as a check or credit onto your account. For more information on this special members-only program, contact Jess Ray at 800/547-2233.

RIMA International members can save at least 5-10% off the lowest rack rate with additional savings for seniors 50+ up to 30%. Additional benefits include:

- Upgraded rooms when available
- Free morning coffee and/or newspaper
- Complimentary continental breakfast at over 1,800 locations in the US
- Car rental discounts available
- Check cashing privileges with valid credit card companies
- Special corporate Toll Free reservation number (800) 258-2847 and online reservations at www.choicehotels.com

*(Individual corporate travelers can also enroll in Choice Privileges, which as been voted the industry’s best frequent stay program. Travelers can earn miles at participating airlines or points redeemable for free stays.)*

RIMA-I members were sent Choice Hotel ID cards which you should carry at all times. Additional cards are available for employees, friends and family. Be sure to take advantage of all this program has to offer, and happy trails to you!

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For more information on RIMA International or any of the topics contained in this newsletter, visit our website at [www.rimainternational.org](http://www.rimainternational.org), call 800/279-4123 or e-mail at rima@rima.net.