WMMA has announced the approval by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) of a new standard developed by the Accredited Standards Committee 01(ASCO1). WMMA serves as the Secretariat for ASCO1. The ANSI standard O1.1-3, entitled \textit{O1.1-3 (2014) Safety Requirements for CNC Machining Centers for the Woodworking Industry}, is expected to positively impact the woodworking machinery manufacturing industry, according to those within the association.

“We are very pleased to see that ANSI has approved the new standard,” noted Jamie Scott, president of WMMA. “Having official safety requirements for CNC machining centers is a tremendous stride toward keeping our industry safe for everyone. We encourage everyone to procure a copy of the new standard, to keep it in a prominent location, and to familiarize themselves and their staffs with it.”

Copies of the new standard can be purchased through ANSI or by using this link. WMMA members are eligible to receive one complimentary copy of the new standard; to procure a copy, members may contact Associate Director Jennifer Miller at Jennifer@wmma.org.

The news of the new standard comes at the same time ANSI is celebrating World Standards Week, with activities in Washington, DC, October 20-24.

“American machinery manufacturers are among the most innovative in the world,” said Jim Laster, Technical Standards Committee Chair. “We find extremely creative ways to solve difficult design and manufacturing problems. Because of our independence and our creativity, we don’t like to be told how to do our jobs. But, like it or not, we live in a regulated world and we need to meet or exceed design and safety standard imposed upon us by many regulating bodies worldwide.

“The world of standards continues to be a very complicated road to navigate and we all need a good road map to help us stay on the straight and narrow when it comes to standards. The WMMA continues to stay in the lead on development of the safety standards that apply to U.S. manufacturers of industrial woodworking machinery through our leadership as secretariat of the ANSI 01.1 Standards. We are also very involved in tracking what is happening in the international area of standards that apply to WMMA members who sell internationally.”

In addition, Laster noted, WMMA has formed its own Technical Standards Committee, which is seeking input from interested members.

“The formation of the new Technical Standards Committee, offers WMMA members the opportunity to participate in educating our members in the international standards and how they impact U.S. woodworking machinery manufacturers,” said Laster. “I encourage all members to contact WMMA for more information on how they can participate.”
As part of WMMA's Public Policy Fly-in, held in September, WMMA representatives met with their elected officials to help further the cause of manufacturing, and of woodworking machinery manufacturers specifically.

One of WMMA's goals as a national trade association is to advocate for its members' interests. The annual Public Policy Fly-in, held in September, provides members with a chance to meet with their elected representatives and to discuss issues affecting their industry.

This year's Fly-in was an incredibly successful event, with WMMA members enjoying a full and successful day on Capitol Hill. One of the most important topics of discussion with legislators was the Manufacturers Reinvestment Act, or MRA, which if passed, would allow manufacturing businesses to open a Manufacturing Reinvestment Account (MRA), similar to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Ultimately, the use of such accounts would assist manufacturers in providing for new equipment and facilities and workforce training, thereby improving manufacturing overall.

WMMA's chairman, Jamie Scott, long a proponent of MRA, had previously worked with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut who signed on as a supporter of the act; as a result of the recent Fly-in, two new sponsors: Congresswoman Annie Kuster of New Hampshire (already a strong supporter of manufacturing) and Congressman Tim Ryan of Ohio, have agreed to be co-sponsors of the MRA as well. Productive time was also spent with Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Sen. Brian Schartz of Hawaii.

“I think in the more than 10 years that we have been doing this, it was the best trip to the Hill we have ever had,” said Scott. “It was the best trip for everyone. We walked away with some great visits, and of course, getting the endorsement for the MRA was great.”

Board of directors member Steve Carter, by contrast, was making his first trip to visit officials in DC. Being brand new, he said he was not sure what to expect.

“I was encouraged and somewhat surprised the way we were received,” he said afterward. “There was genuine courtesy, and everyone showed interest concerning our issues.”

Continues on the next page
WMMA enjoys success on the Hill

The staff of some officials, he noted, “had really done their homework. One of them had gone to our WMMA website the night before and appeared to be knowledgeable of our issues.”

Scott agreed. “In general, manufacturing is much, much, much better perceived than it was in the past; folks are now understanding that we are creating better opportunities.”

In addition to Scott and Carter, the delegation included board members Whitney Wiggin and Alex Robertson as well as executive director Fred Stringfellow. Nearly 20 WMMA members participated in the Fly-In overall, and all worked hard to move the agenda of WMMA forward, and to raise awareness.

The positive response the delegation received, say Scott and Carter, should go a long way toward making members think about volunteering to attend next year. (And the idea that elected officials do not listen, they say, is as irresponsible as the idea that an individual vote does not count).

“It was worth the trip,” said Carter. “You really can get something done when the channels are open. People need to see that they do have a say in what goes on in Washington and that it affects them.”

WMMA Public Policy Committee Chairman T.R. Herzog, in a statement sent out to all members, noted that the Fly-in had been a tremendous success, but that work needed to continue on the home front, with visits, calls and e-mails to elected officials on the local and state level.

“We made some great strides with elected officials in DC,” he noted, “and the congressmen with whom we met encouraged us to keep ‘telling our stories’ in our home districts.”
National Manufacturing Day: How did your company celebrate?

National Manufacturing Day was celebrated on Friday, October 3. The purpose of the day – celebrations for which are expected to continue throughout the month – is to highlight the vital role manufacturing has played (and continues to play) in America, and to call attention to the great career opportunities manufacturers offer.

Member companies were encouraged to take part in the day. Jamie Scott, WMMA president (and an always-enthusiastic promoter of the outreach process), noted that his company, Air Handling Systems, hosted their state senator for a company tour and a discussion on manufacturing.

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), whose website included a link to the website of the event, known for short as MFGDAY, was able to provide some statistics.

“There were over 1,650 events in all 50 states scheduled throughout the month of October and even into November and December,” notes Jeanine H. Arnett, director of Public Affairs & Grassroots Advocacy. “#MFGDay14 trended on Facebook. When you search for Manufacturing Day news, it returns 6 million hits. The US Chamber blogged about it, The White House and many Cabinet level Agencies, big companies, states, cities and associations were involved, and we even brought together both sides of the political aisle. Speaker Boehner and the President were both out at a manufacturing day event, for instance.”

With all these great activities and more to come, it’s time for WMMA members to share what they did to celebrate! Let us know by dropping an e-mail to maryhelen@wmma.org.
Industry News

The Housing Market: Volatile

August was almost representative of the housing market as a whole for 2014, according to the newest report of the Housing Commentary. Certain subsectors performed well and many sectors were disappointing. The data is volatile at best; however, once the economy improves, overall growth may be seen as well.

Read more here.

IWF: By the Numbers

The 2014 International Woodworking Fair may be in the books, but the results just keep on getting more impressive. A ‘first look’ report showed 14,055 attendees; this number has now been updated to 14,357. (By comparison, in 2012, there were 13,002 attendees).

Following a third verification process, a final attendance report will be released by IWF officials.

The next IWF is scheduled for August 24-27, 2016. Mark the calendar and get ready for your own impressive numbers.
Industry Calendar of Events

Note: For a complete listing of all meetings, including those held internationally, go to WMMA’s website, www.wmma.org, and click on “Events.”

Have an event to add to the Industry Calendar in this newsletter? Send it to maryhelen@wmma.org

April 21-24, 2015
Woodworking Industry Conference (WIC)
Grand Hyatt San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

May 11-15, 2015
LIGNA
Hannover, Germany
www.ligna.de/home

Interested in participating in WMMA’s pavilion at LIGNA? Contact Fred Stringfellow at fred@wmma.org.

July 22-25, 2015
AWFS Fair
Las Vegas, NV
http://awfsfair.org

November 5-7, 2015
Woodworking Machinery & Supply Expo (WMS 2015)
International Centre, Toronto
Exhibitor Info: rwidick@heiexpo.com
Website: www.WoodworkingExpo.ca

August 24-27, 2016
International Woodworking Fair (IWF)
Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta, GA
Website: http://www.iwfatlanta.com/