WMMA Fall Meetings

WMMA Members came together last week on September 14th-17th at the Westin Crystal City Hotel for the annual Fall Meetings. Committee Members collaborated to carry out the Association’s important mission with a look toward exciting initiatives to come next year.

Committee meetings are open to participation from all WMMA Members, not just current Committee Members. If you are interested in learning about committee activities, feel free to attend future teleconference or in-person meetings as a guest. Support WMMA and join a committee today!

The WMMA Board of Directors hosted an in-person board meeting along with a two-day strategic planning session. The Board focused on developing new initiatives to support members in meeting their business objectives by helping them address challenges in the global marketplace. Stay tuned for exciting updates!

While in DC, Members visited the local TechShop in Arlington, VA. TechShop is a community-based workshop and prototyping studio on a mission to democratize access to the tools of innovation. Packed with cutting-edge tools, equipment, and computers loaded with design software featuring the Autodesk Design Suite, TechShop offers the space to make, and the support and camaraderie of a community of makers.

There are eight TechShop locations around the country. Find a location nearest to you and take advantage of this unique offering.
The Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA) held its annual Legislative Fly-in to Washington, DC, Sept. 15, highlighted by member visits to the offices of their U.S. representatives and senators.

The WMMA’s lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill were bolstered by the participation of members of the Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers (AWFS) Public Policy Committee and the Woodworking Machinery Industry Association (WMIA). Collectively, WMMA and AWFS members met with more than three dozen Congressmen or their staff to discuss issues focused on promoting the growth and competitiveness of the U.S. wood products industry.

Topping the congressional appointments agenda was a pair of tax reform issues identified as priorities by the WMMA Public Policy Committee: Tax Extenders and the Manufacturing Reinvestment Account Act.

WMMA was among more than 2,000 organizations and businesses that signed a letter submitted September 10 to all members of the 114th Congress by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and the Broad Tax Extenders Coalition. The letter requested the House and Senate to act immediately to make permanent or at least extend for multiple years more than 50 tax provisions that expired last December.

During their Hill visits, WMMA and AWFS representatives singled out making the 2014 direct expensing limits permanent and indexed to inflation as the tax extender that would have the greatest positive impact to help U.S. wood product manufacturers invest in new equipment, software and training to improve and grow their businesses. The 2014 direct expensing allowance and cap, extended to $500,000 and $2 million for 2014, will drop to $25,000 and $200,000 without congressional intervention.

WMMA members also made a strong case for why members of the House and Senate should support enactment of HR 2608, Manufacturing Reinvestment Account Act (MRA) Act of 2015. The bill, introduced in June by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), would allow manufacturers to establish tax-exempt manufacturing reinvestment accounts similar to an IRA for individuals to invest in their businesses.

AWFS members won strong backing from the WMMA to encourage Congress to support the Carl D. Perkins Modernization Act, a vital source of funding for Career Technical Education, including hands-on skill classes such as woodworking, auto shop and metal working for high school and elementary students.

In addition to seeking votes for tax reform issues and technical education, Fly-In participants reminded their Congressmen to be mindful of making sure that wood product manufacturers do not face overly burdensome regulations related to formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products and combustible dust. At a meeting held on the eve of the Hill meetings, the WMMA Public Policy Committee voted to join the Federal Wood Industries Coalition, which has asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to adopt the CARB Rule as is instead of delaying implementation of a federal standard by amending it. Other trade associations belonging to FWIC include AWFS, the Composite Panel Association, the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association, the Business & Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association and the American Home Furnishings Alliance.
Prior to heading to their congressional appointments, Fly-in participants got revved up via an informative presentation by Ned Monroe, vice president of external relations for NAM. Monroe provided an up-to-date snapshot of some of the key issues NAM is addressing such as seeking more feasible ozone limits of EPA’s new controversial Clean Power Plan, support for tax extenders and reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

“The WMMA Fly-in continues to be more effective each year with more members meeting with members of Congress and sharing their stories about the challenges their companies face,” said Jamison Scott, president of the WMMA. “These meetings help develop personal connections that allow our members to have more regular communication with our elected leaders and their staff.”

WMMA is already readying plans for its next annual Legislative Fly-In to coincide with NAM’s Manufacturing Summit, June 7-8, 2016.

Advocacy briefs are available on the WMMA website at http://www.wmma.org/committees/public_policy.cfm. For more information on the Fly-in, contact WMMA Associate Director Jennifer Miller at jennifer@wmma.org.

AWFS Legislative Fly-In Recap

The AWFS fly-in team had a total of 17 meetings, with 11 House members (including a member meeting with Congressman Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and 6 Senators. The focus of the meetings was support for Career Technical Education (CTE) and in particular, support of the Perkins Modernization Act. Because of opposing views in Congress on budgetary issues, it is difficult to predict what bills will be supported. Revamping of the No Child Left Behind legislation, entitled, the Elementary Secondary Education Act will likely be the priority education bill. The Perkins Act, which is up for re-authorization may just be extended without any updating—or it could potentially be cut. It is very important for members of Congress to continue to hear from the manufacturing industries that support of CTE is critical.

Outcomes of note include the possibility of our industry participating in a CTE briefing specifically addressing the need for skilled workers in wood products manufacturing. The briefings are hosted by the chairperson of either the House or the Senate CTE caucus; invites are extended to other legislators and their staff.

The aide in Representative Joe Kennedy’s office (D-MA), will be authoring an article this fall on issues related to CTE and she extended an invitation for us to co-author the article. Congressman Kennedy is the proponent of the Perkins Modernization Act.

The AWFS contact at LobbyIt has introduced us to another of their clients who is with a career counseling professional development association. We will be speaking with them about potential ways to share the AWFS “Meet the New Face of Manufacturing” campaign, which targets counselors in particular, in an attempt to increase their awareness of advanced manufacturing and the careers that are open to students in skilled trades and or the larger world of design, engineering and manufacturing for wood products.

FREE ‘Meet the New Face of Manufacturing’ posters are available and can be obtained from WMMA Headquarters by emailing jennifer@wmma.org.
Manufacturing Day 2015 October 2, 2015

Manufacturing Day is a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers. MFG DAY addresses common misperceptions about manufacturing by giving manufacturers an opportunity to open their doors and show, in a coordinated effort, what manufacturing is - and what it isn’t. By working together during and after MFG DAY, manufacturers will begin to address the skilled labor shortage they face, connect with future generations, take charge of the public image of manufacturing, and ensure the ongoing prosperity of the whole industry.

Are you hosting a Manufacturing Day event this year?

Manufacturing Day is Friday, October 2 and is a day when manufacturing facilities host open house tours for students, elected officials and family members to see the exciting job opportunities available in manufacturing.

The incredible growth of Manufacturing Day since its inception almost 4 years ago speaks volumes. Manufacturing Day's inaugural year saw just over 200 events held across the country. Last year there were nearly 1,700 events held in every U.S. state, Puerto Rico, and even Canada! This year we are asking all Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA) member companies to participate.

Some manufacturing facilities use Manufacturing Day as a way to expose the workforce of tomorrow to a career path they may not be aware of. Others use it as an opportunity to show their elected officials, first-hand, how policies directly affect their business and their employees. Still others just enjoy giving back to the community by hosting a picnic. Some have an in-house celebration for team members. Whatever kind of event your members might hold, let’s highlight manufacturing. Don’t miss out an incredible opportunity to open your doors and share the amazing work of your company and your team members.

Will you join the thousands of other manufactures to participate in Manufacturing Day? Signing up is simple and can be done on the Manufacturing Day website. Also on the website are resources, toolkits, guides, materials, and ideas to help your company plan and execute a successful Manufacturing Day event.

You don’t even have to hold an event on Friday, October 2. Feel free to pick a day and time that is most convenient. But, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of these resources and this event to help promote manufacturing in America. Learn more
SAVE THE DATE!
April 12-15, 2016
CasaMagna Marriott
Cancun Resort
Cancun, Mexico

Dr. Chris Kuehl will bring a fresh perspective on what’s going on in the economy at WIC 2016.

Beachside luxury awaits you here in Mexico. Boasting modern amenities and just steps from sparkling seas, CasaMagna Marriott Cancun Resort elevates hotel living to a new level. Whether you’re here for a business meeting or a fun family vacation, our hotel offers the very best in elegance and convenience for your Cancun visit.
Industry News:

Virginia Tech Housing Report: July 2015

July housing data was nearly all positive - the exception being MF expenditures. SF starts, on an adjusted basis, increased nearly 13%. This is important from a wood products perspective, as SF starts is an essential indicator. For most data reported, we must remind ourselves housing remains well below historical averages in most categories.

Click here to read more.

NAM Monday Economic Report September 21, 2015

In deciding not to start raising short-term interest rates, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) said, “Recent global economic and financial developments may restrain economic activity somewhat and are likely to put further downward pressure on inflation in the near term.” See more here

ANSI Update

The ASCO1 has developed a new standard entitled O1.1-4 Safety Requirements for Shapers. On September 4th the public review period for the O1.1-4 standard was announced in ANSI Standards Action. If you are interested in reviewing a copy of the draft standard, contact Jennifer@wmma.org. Comments are due by November 3, 2015.

Call for ASCO1 Members!

Are you interested in contributing to the development and maintenance of valuable industry safety standards? The ASCO1 is currently looking for members in the following categories:

- General Interest
- Government
- Producer
- User

If you are interested in joining the ASCO1, email a completed Interest Category Form to WMMA Associate Director Jennifer Miller at jennifer@wmma.org.
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 jennifer@wmma.org

October 2, 2015
Manufacturing Day 2015
www.mfgday.com

October 7-8, 2015
Wood Pro Expo
Baltimore, MD
www.woodproexpo.com

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

April 12-15, 2016
Woodworking Industry Conference (WIC)
CasaMagna Marriott Cancun Resort
Cancun, Mexico

August 24-27, 2016
International Woodworking Fair (IWF)
Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta, GA

November 2-4, 2017
Woodworking Machinery & Supply Expo (WMS 2017)
International Centre, Toronto
Website: www.WoodworkingExpo.ca