President's Message

I just returned from our June DC Fly-In where WMMA members were joined by WMIA members for over thirty meetings on Capitol Hill. I continue to be amazed at the networking and strategizing that goes on by these members working as a team - strength in numbers - to advocate issues for the wood industry. The group was highly motivated and positive in dealing with the House, Senate and Dept. of Education in their meetings. I am always inspired by the Fly-Ins and can't wait until the next one.

Was our visit successful? I believe so. We received commitments from representatives to visit CTE centers in their respective states to promote and publicize CTE. We advocated our issues and received favorable responses to take positive action. We reinforced our existing relationship on the Hill and made new ones. We reinforced the creditability of WMMA and WMIA as leaders in the wood industry. We also presented "Champions of Woodworking" plaques to members of Congress who have an excellent record favorable to the wood industry.

It takes time to win support and make change on the Hill. We are winning support and making change but we need more member support. Join us and express your company issues to our elected representatives in DC. They want to hear from you. They told us so. It is not too early to start thinking and planning for the next Fly-In.

For those of you attending AWFS in July make sure you plan on attending WMMA's "Cocktail Hour in Las Vegas" on Wednesday, July 17, 5PM - Booth #8875. Come and Network with WMMA's Leadership and other members. Put this on your schedule - an absolute must. Finally, don't forget our Boston Regional Networking Meeting, September 30 - October 2, 2019 in Boston, MA. Check the WMMA website for details.

Your President,

Steve Carter

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**WMMA Cocktail Hour in Las Vegas**

*Wednesday, July 17*

*AWFS Fair Las Vegas*

*WMMA Booth #8875*

*5:00 - 6:00 p.m.*

As WMMA's immediate Past President and current Membership Development Committee Chair, I welcome all Members to visit the WMMA booth at AWFS this July. On behalf of the whole Committee, we are excited to host this networking opportunity for members to reconnect with friends, learn about new member benefits, and meet new members.
The WMMA Membership cocktail hour will also serve as an opportunity to meet-and-greet with current WMMA President - Steve Carter, Vice President - Paul Wilmes, Treasurer - Allen Eden, and CEO - Fred Stringfellow.

In addition, our Committee Chairs will be on hand to introduce their programs and discuss volunteer opportunities including:

- **Membership Development Committee**: Learn about the ITR economic industry forecasting, webinars and upcoming Networking Events.
  - Chair - Chris Hacker
  - Vice Chair - Todd Phalen
  - Membership Director - Sam Devine

- **Public Policy Committee**: Learn about the Washington report and the DC Fly-In to meet with legislators on industry issues.
  - Chair - Tony Sutton
  - Vice Chair - Jamison Scott
  - Public Policy Director - Pat Rita

- **International Business Development Committee**: Learn about exporting for your business and the WMMA Ligna Pavilion.
  - Chair - Dennis Smith
  - Vice Chair - Mike Harris

- **Technology Committee**: A real draw for new members to participate in what’s new in the industry on cutting edge technology.
  - Chair - Jeff Onsrud

- **Technical Standards**: This important committee is our watchdog to monitor and educate our members on world standards on various industry machines
  - Chair - Brad Graves
  - Vice Chair - Gary Besonen

We look forward to see you in Las Vegas. Please visit the [WMMA website for additional information](http://www.wmmaweek.com).

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**WMMA Advocating on Capitol Hill**

A group of WMMA leaders descended on Washington, D.C. earlier this month for a day of meetings on Capitol Hill with Members of Congress and their staff. The group conducted over 20 meetings in the House and Senate, focusing on the issues of increased investment in career and technical education and the need to ratify the U.S. Mexico Canada (USMCA) trade agreement.

In addition, we were able to present WMMA’s Champions of Wood Working awards to a select group of House and Senate lawmakers. The day was successful in that we were able to educate key decision makers in Congress about the public policy needs of the wood machinery manufacturing sector.
Moving forward, we hope to increase participation in these Capitol Hill advocacy days as they have proven valuable in not only raising awareness of our industry and public policy needs, but the value we deliver in the communities in which we work and live.

Stay tuned for future advocacy days!

### 3rd Annual WMMA Fall Regional Meeting

**September 30 – October 2, 2019**  
**Hotel Commonwealth - Boston, MA**

Building from a successful event in Minneapolis, WMMA is pleased to announce that its [3rd Annual Regional Networking & Education Meeting](#) will be held in Boston, Massachusetts! Boston is another key location for industry-related companies. This is a great opportunity to bring together both members and prospective members for in-person committee meetings, educational sessions, plant tours and, of course networking!

We will be welcoming presenter, Robert Dietz from the National Association of Home Builders presenting "Trends: Demographics, Construction Metrics, Inventory and Forecasts."

Our confirmed facility tours include the North Bennet Street School and the Autodesk Technology Center Boston.

**Interested in Becoming a Sponsor?**

The support of sponsors allows us to ensure that the Regional Networking Meeting is the most valuable and enjoyable experience possible for attendees. Please contact Diane Schafer at 443-640-1052 x108 or diane@wmma.org with any questions or if you are interested in sponsoring.

### Exhibit with WMMA in Mexico City

**January 22-24, 2020**

WMMA is sponsoring a pavilion at the Mexico City Woodworking Show, January 22-24, 2020 and we are inviting our members to join us!

Interested in exporting to Mexico? WMMA will sponsor a pavilion for member companies interested in participating in this 2020 Fair, organized by Hannover Fairs (organizers of LIGNA and other international expositions).

[Click here to learn more and register for the pavilion.](#)

Questions? Contact fred@wmma.org
WMMA 2019 Upcoming Events

July 17-20, 2019
AWFS Vegas
WMMA Booth #8875
Las Vegas Convention Center - Las Vegas, NV USA

July 17, 2019
AWFS Vegas - WMMA Member Happy Hour
Booth #8875
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Las Vegas Convention Center - Las Vegas, NV USA

September 30 – October 2, 2019
WMMA Regional Networking Meeting
Hotel Commonwealth - Boston, MA

October 28-29, 2019
m Design Live
DeVos Center - Grand Rapids, Michigan

Artificial Intelligence Standards Workshop
Summary 5-30-19
Written by: Warren Weber, WMMA Technical Standards Consultant

The “Federal Engagement in Artificial Intelligence Standards Workshop” was a day-long event hosted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and initiated with an Executive Order on Feb 11, 2019. The Executive Order set goals of increasing domestic AI development, developing guidelines for regulation and train the potential AI workforce. The Executive Order is thus directing and encouraging existing government entities to advance AI using current federal funding.

The NIST conference intention was to solicit input from both private and public organizations and individuals to help develop a plan for Federal involvement with AI standards. The workshop was organized into two “panel sessions” (AI panel discussion). With each panel session followed by a “working session” (reviewing plans) and then a “plenary session” (discussing insights).

The first panel session and related sessions discussed... Click here to continue reading the full summary of the workshop.

Materials and Design Like Never Before

mDesign Live will be Oct. 28-29, 2019, at the DeVos Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A material and design event in the heart of the office furniture industry, it is the perfect environment for education and collaboration among those attending.

Both IWF and Surface & Panel have coordinated successful industry events for years and can leverage their organizational strengths to produce a visionary event.

In addition to showcasing a vast range of innovative materials from around the world, mDesign Live will feature powerful keynote presentations, a who’s who in networking opportunities and a unique...
mDesign Live will be free to qualified fabricators, architects and designers. In coming weeks, mDesign Live will release keynote speakers, topic information, exhibitors and more. Visit mdesignlive.com for details on registration and how you can be a part of this trailblazing North American event.

**WMMA Free Member Benefit**
**Utilize While Its Still Available In 2019**

Alliance Powered by DataCast™ provides you the ability to upload your company's monthly sales figures to compare them against any of the datasets found in the report that ITR Economics has been providing to you through the WMMA. This benefit is FREE to WMMA Members through 2019.

Not sure where to begin? Email samantha@wmma.org to request the link for the recorded tutorial walking our members through the process.

**Values Provided:**
- Understanding events impacting business for each member company
- Increasing your members internal forecasting accuracy
- Benchmarking individual member company's internal success against the market
- Identify leading indicators for your business
- Track your internal trends
- See where the economy is headed

**Request the Recorded Tutorial Link**

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**Monday Economic Report:**
**June 3, 2019**

Slowing global growth and ongoing trade policy uncertainties pushed interest rates lower last week, with yields on 10-year Treasury bonds falling to 2.13 percent on Friday, the lowest rate since August 2017. Moreover, it is a full percentage point lower than seven months ago. Similarly, the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate fell to 3.99 percent last week, the first sub-4 percent reading since January 2018.

Much has also been made of the inversion of several yield curves, including the spread between the 10-year Treasury bond and the three-month Treasury bill. Yet, the spread between 10-year and two-year Treasury bonds remains (slightly) positive, and it has only been a predictor of a downturn when negative. It is important to keep in mind that yield curves might not have the same predictive power as in the past, and while they can be an important signal of financial market perceptions, I continue to feel that the economy is slowing, not receding, at least not yet.

[Click here for the full report from June 3, 2019.](#)