President's Message

Adapt to Change - Listen to Others

I did not “grow up” in the Wood Industry. But what a great industry to be a part of! Refreshing!

The Wood Industry in many ways reminds me of a friendly neighborhood. A place where you get to know and work with other industry member on a first name basis. Truly the Wood Industry is good. Real people. Great American products. What a good wholesome industry to be a part of.

Prior to the Wood Industry I was in the Horticulture industry where I ran a company that sold greenhouses and greenhouse supplies. Before that the restaurant industry was where I hung my hat as a manager and owner. Through some hills and valleys along the way - one thing that has remained constant is the absolute need to constantly adapt and listen to others (especially customers and employees).

Covid-19 has forced a reset of our industry and many others. One way you can stay abreast of how our industry is resetting and how to adapt and reset is by listening and involving yourself on a WMMA committee or participating in other networking events such as the Fall Meeting.

Join a Committee:
- International Business Development
- Membership Development
- Public Policy
- Technical Standards
- Technology

To join click here to download our online form and submit today! We would welcome hearing from you.

Attend the Fall Meeting:
Stay abreast of how the industry is resetting by attending the Fall Meeting in Louisville on October 13th through October 15.

IWF Committee:
IWF Committee members Brian Donahue, John Schultz, and Chris Hacker really deserve to recognized for the long hours and hard work involved in sorting through the difficult and complicated issues revolving around the IWF
show this year. Sadly, IWF will not be able to happen this year due to circumstances surrounding Covid 19. These gentlemen worked very diligently, and really deserve the respect and admiration from all of us for their commitment, valuable advice, and great service as volunteers.

The more you know about what is happening in our resetting industry the more prepared you can be to chart the best possible course forward. So please consider getting involved in a committee and attending the Fall Meeting. As someone anonymous once said “You cannot change the direction of the wind but you can adjust your sails.”

Thank You and Enjoy the Journey!

Paul Wilmes
WMMA President

IWF 2020 has been cancelled. The conditions and circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic have made it impossible to stage IWF 2020 without endangering the health and safety of all exhibitors, attendees and the Atlanta community at large. Click here to view the FAQs offering additional detail regarding the IWF 2020 cancellation action.

2020 Regional Meeting
Registration Now Open!

This year's Regional Networking & Business Meeting will take place in Louisville, KY, October 13-15, at the Omni Louisville Hotel.

Click here to view the full schedule of events featuring Committee meetings, group tours, networking dinners and more!
Join thousands of manufacturers across North America as they showcase what modern manufacturing looks like and inspire the next generation of skilled workers.

This year, the official date for MFG Day is Oct. 2, but any day can be MFG Day. How you participate needs to work for you, so feel free to choose when you host your event!

MFG Day is an initiative of The Manufacturing Institute, with the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association as a founding partner. The Institute’s diverse initiatives support women, veterans, students and workers through skills training programs, community building and supporting the advancement of their career in manufacturing.

WMMA Vietnam Trade Mission

The trade mission’s effort is to familiarize WMMA member companies to Vietnam and help to establish dealer and customer contacts there.

WMMA Trade Mission to Vietnam
October 4-8, 2020
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Click here to sign up today. We will be coordinating a special reception, customized one-on-one meetings for each member company with local dealers and customers and local facility tours. Contact Fred@wmma.org for more information.
In Memoriam...
Spencer Dick, Founder of TigerStop

On June 11, 2020 Spencer Dick left the world a far more interesting place than he had found it on September 23, 1954. He made an indelible mark on the manufacturing and automation industries and the lives of makers across the globe with his brilliant inventions. Upon his death, Spencer has accumulated over 100+ patents for ideas in various realms of manufacturing, automation, and lineal positioning processes.

Click here to read the full Obituary

V.T. Housing Report: April 2020

In April, the vast majority of month-over-month and year-over-year categories were negative. On a month-over-month basis, just single-family under construction and new single-family sales were positive. Year-over-year, merely private residential and single-family construction spending indicated improvement. The impact of Covid19 was clearly indicated in this month’s data. The June 9th Atlanta Fed GDPNow™ model for June 2020 forecasts an aggregate 36.1% decrease for residential investment spending. New private permanent site expenditures were projected at a 39.9% decline; the improvement spending forecast was a 24.5% decrease; and the manufactured/mobile housing projection was a 196.7% decline (all: quarterly log change and at a seasonally adjusted annual rate).

NAM Economic Report: June 22, 2020

Several reports out last week reflect a bounce back in activity, which is encouraging and another sign that the worst of the downturn might be behind us. Yet, the data also suggest that there is still a long way to go to get back to pre-recessionary levels.

After declining 5.3% and 15.5% in March and April, respectively, manufacturing production rebounded somewhat, rising 3.8% in May. On a year-over-year basis, manufacturing production has declined 16.5%, with durable and nondurable goods output down 23.3% and 9.2%, respectively. Manufacturing capacity utilization was 60% in April, the lowest rate in the data’s history, which dates to January 1948, and in May, it edged up to 62.2%. It was 75.1% in February.
October 4-8, 2020
WMMA Trade Mission to Vietnam *NEW DATE
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Click here to sign-up to participate

October 13-15, 2020
WMMA Regional Networking & Business Meeting
Omni Louisville Hotel
Louisville, KY
Click here to register

December 1, 2020
ITR Webinar: Post 2020 Election Economic Forecast
Online - Registration opening in late October

April 19-23, 2021 - SAVE THE DATE!
WIC 2021
San Diego, CA
More details coming soon

View Full Calendar of Events