President's Message

WMMA's CEO Fred Stringfellow interviewed incoming President, Paul Wilmes to discuss his vision for his two-year term. Click the button or image to watch the full interview!

Click Here to Watch

June 3, 2020
FREE Members-Only Webinar: ITR Economic Update

*How will COVID-19 and Oil Prices affect WMMA Member Companies?*

**Presented by: Taylor St. Germain**

ITR Economics

Register Now

WMMA has contracted ITR to host an economic forecast webinar, exclusively for our members, covering the economic impact of COVID-19 and the oil price drops as it applies to our membership.

2020 Regional Meeting

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!

WMMA Committee Sneak Peek

Due to the cancellation of WIC and our in-person Committee Meetings, our
Committees met virtually and below is a quick update on what each group is working on. Interested in signing up for a committee? Click here and submit your form today!

- **International Business Development:** The Committee confirmed the postponement of the Vietnam Trade Mission, from June to October 2020. Additionally, they discussed hosting a dinner during IWF for a Vietnamese contingency, returning to Mexico City in January 2021, and LIGNA 2021 with WMMA (USA) pavilions.

- **Membership Development:** The Committee discussed improvements that could be made to our website, newsletter, and ways to continue our Membership engagement efforts by encouraging current members to become involved on a Committee. Additionally, the MDC brainstormed some ideas to develop relationships between WMMA Members and CTE trade schools.

- **Public Policy:** Noting the cancellation of the Committee’s DC Fly-in due to COVID-19, the committee discussed the importance of educating our elected officials on Career Technical Education and the fact that Sustainable Building initiatives benefits the wood machinery industry.

- **Technical Standards:** The Committee reviewed the DHA’s plans to complete a dust hazard analysis in September of 2020, concerns with the ISO tele-service, and ISO vs. ANSI standard applications.

- **Technology:** The Committee reviewed the recent webinar, future webinars, and an IWF heat-map software project / direct CRM integration. Committee members also suggested a ‘technology review’ with the MDC during the website re-build.

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**IWF 2020 Updates**

- **IWF Final Payment Deadline Extended to June 5th** - To assist member companies in staying the course toward IWF 2020 scheduled for August 25-28; IWF has extended the due date for your final exhibit space and promotional advertisement payments. Both of these payments—originally scheduled for a May 5th due date—have been extended to June 5th. This means that all exhibitors have an additional 31 days to fulfill their IWF contract commitments as you work to take care of the many other priorities impacting your business at this time.
WMMA Artificial Intelligence (AI) Follow-up
May 2020

Warren Weber, WMMA Standards Consultant

In February of 2019 the (US) Federal Government directed the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop a plan to “…reflect Federal priorities for innovation, public trust, and public confidence in systems that use AI technologies: and develop international standards to promote and protect those priorities.”

Since the meeting and open forum conducted by NIST last May they have published a plan to accomplish the goals set forth by the Federal Government and with input from the forums. With this plan in place and moving forward to fulfill the intent of the plan, NIST has added a position (Associate Director for IT Standardization) which will help administer NIST’s future AI standards activities and development. Presumably a good step to help administer US AI interests under a single, precise umbrella.

In an effort to solicit accurate and up to date information regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), NIST has established a Visiting Fellow program. The program intends to work with experts and leaders in AI and ML. NIST hopes to advance its goals by having the fellowship associates share their knowledge and experience in these fields. The visiting fellows would help provide technical support, participate in workshops and meetings and assist with research projects. A great opportunity to be involved with this truly cutting edge technology. More information regarding the visiting fellowship program can be found by emailing: farsait@nist.gov

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 or on the form image (right) 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. Questions or to express interest...Contact Fred@wmma.org for more information.

Click Here for Full Report

V.T. Housing Report: March 2020

In March, an overwhelming majority of month-over-month categories were negative. Total, single-, and multi-family starts all recorded double-digit declines. On a year-over-year basis, fifty percent of the categories indicated improvement. Housing completions was the only subsector reporting declines for all components: total, single- and multi-family. New single-family house and existing sales decreased, month-over-month and year-over-year. Single-family construction expenditures improved year-over-year and decreased monthover-month. The effects of covid19 may not be fully reflected in the March data. The magnitude of the virus might be revealed in the April and May housing construction data....

Click Here for Full Report

NAM Economic Report: May 18, 2020

With each week, the full extent of the economic damage from COVID-19 and the abrupt decline in activity can be seen in greater detail. The severe drops in data are unprecedented.

Manufacturing production fell sharply by a record-setting 13.7% in April to the lowest level since July 28, with durable and nondurable goods output plummeting 19.3% and 8.2%, respectively. All 19 major manufacturing sectors experienced declines in April. Capacity utilization in the sector fell to 61.1%, a new all-time low.
June 3, 2020
ITR Webinar on COVID-19 and Oil Prices - Economic Trend Update
Click here to register for the Webinar

August 25-28, 2020
International Woodworking Fair (IWF) 2020
Atlanta, GA
Click here to apply for exhibit space

October 4-8, 2020
WMMA Trade Mission to Vietnam *NEW DATE
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Click here to sign-up to participate

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Omni Louisville Hotel
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View Full Calendar of Events