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Letter From Les

Welcome Spring and all that’s new! Our mild central Minnesota Winter was a welcome respite for cold hearty souls. In all seasons, CMMA works hard to bring you value and return on your membership investment.

As we all know, American manufacturing is in immediate and future need of highly skilled workers to produce our products, deliver our services, capture our markets and to advance our nation’s competitive advantage.

CMMA, your visionary and proactive organization, has from inception taken a “hands on and sleeves up” approach to creating solutions and opportunities in workforce development. We’re shining bright light upon manufacturing companies, career opportunities and training resources. CMMA actively engages communities, citizens, parents, students, educators, influencers and elected officials. Our message is clear and persistent; we support and celebrate manufacturing as a vital component of our economy, simply said: Manufacturing Matters!

CMMA’s workforce development initiatives include successful “Tour of Manufacturing” events, which effectively serve to dispel incorrect perceptions of manufacturing as “dark, dirty, and dangerous” and replaces them with “clean, technology-based and well paying.” These tours, originated by CMMA and now replicated state wide, also increase company pride and employee morale. CMMA encourages and will help you to open your doors to community members, students and educators to facilitate engagement, renewed appreciation and understanding of manufacturing.

CMMA is shoulder to shoulder with manufacturing trade associations throughout Minnesota supporting elementary school students to experience a national traveling exhibit called “How People Make Things” currently on display at the Minnesota Children’s Museum. This once in a lifetime interactive opportunity engages and inspires young minds and hands in molding, assembly, de-forming and cutting principles. CMMA members receive a significant ticket price reduction so plan now to attend with the young people in your life and light their fire!

CMMA partnered with the Central Minnesota Workforce Investment Board and Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services. This collaboration has been awarded a United States Department of Labor grant for \$1.6 million dollars to help businesses provide on-the-job training to unemployed job seekers in advanced manufacturing jobs in central Minnesota. Training will be provided by the employer and includes wage subsidy monies designed to bridge new hire training investments. The grant also includes a nationally recognized credential appropriate for the employee, the occupation and the industry.

This is a short list of CMMA’s ever growing plan of work. It’s clear that there is much to be done, yet who better for the job than us and when a better time than now? There’s room at the Board and Committee table for you. Your talents and passion are needed to fuel continued progress and success toward our bright future in manufacturing in central Minnesota. Answer the call, make a difference!

CMMA, Everything that Matters to Manufacturing, we’re working hard to make you proud and to deliver solid return on your membership investment.



Featured Member: Engel Metallurgical

**Every material tells a story.
Engel Metallurgical helps study that story.**

**Independent technical expertise, analysis and
laboratory testing to support your interests.**

“What happened?” or “What will likely happen?” are key questions for Engel’s clients. The company provides unbiased, timely, cost-effective answers and practical solutions by looking at the materials involved in the incident in question or components related to the product in development.

Quality and detail are everything. That’s the premise upon which Les Engel founded Engel Metallurgical in 1983, and the company has since added only individuals who share his passion for quality and detail. It’s paid off; customers in manufacturing, legal and insurance industries continue to turn to Engel Metallurgical for expert consulting and testing.

The company’s growing team of engineers, technicians and administrative staff members provides quality, detailed service—cost-effectively for each project. Engel Metallurgical is continually broadening its scope of service and adding new technology for higher quality testing and analysis.

Besides a top-notch internal team, the company has access to a myriad of engineers throughout the world, utilizing their expertise as needed for specific projects.

Engel Metallurgical provides service from their laboratory, from the customer’s facility, or from a selected vendor’s site.

Industries served include: aerospace, automotive, medical devices, petroleum, agriculture, chemical processing, pharmaceutical, food and dairy processing, power generation, transportation, electronics, mining and communications.

Lester Engel leads the company’s detailed, quality-focused testing and services. He oversees the company’s lab, continually adding new equipment and techniques. He continues to personally perform failure analysis on metals, cermets, plastics and other materials. He renders expert opinions, giving depositions and testimony for litigation support. Les helps manufacturers select materials and processes, develop product designs and other specifications.

To learn more about CMMA’s featured member, go to www.engelmet.com.



Upcoming Events

Thursday May 24, 2012

CMMA Breakfast Meeting and tour at DeZURIK in Sartell featuring Don Engle, Productivity, Inc., speaking on "Practical Considerations of Robotic Automation."

February 18 - June 3

Take a tour of the "How People Make Things" exhibit at the MN Children's Museum. Encourage your employees to visit the museum as a family outing. Reports indicate the exhibit is VERY interactive and appealing to kids AND adults.

Tuesday June 19, 2012

CMMA legislative forum at the Holiday Inn, St. Cloud MN. Breakfast and forum start at 7:00 AM. Provide a voice for manufacturers! Join us for an interactive session with local legislators.

For full event listings and details, please visit the [Events page here](#). For questions or reservations contact LeeAnn Rostberg at leeannr@runestone.net.

Do you have suggestions for speakers or topics you'd like presented? Please contact Sandy Kashmark at midwest@runestone.net.

Did You Know?

The 2012 MMA Membership Directory is hot off the press! All current members should have received a copy via regular mail in late April. To request additional complimentary copies of the book, contact the office. (members only) Thank you to the companies who supported the 2012 edition with paid advertising.

The CMMA website will get a new look this summer! Please call or email the office to share your thoughts on how the website could be more functional or add value to your membership.

CMMA members talked with education leaders about current and future workforce demands in the region at a MnSCU-sponsored meeting at DeZURIK on April 11. The employers described ongoing shortages of engineers and engineering technicians, skilled welders, mechatronics technicians and CNC operators, among others. A summary of this session (and others throughout the state) is available online.

Eligible small businesses may apply for grant funding from the MN Trade Office for reimbursement of up to \$5000 for certain export development activities, such as:

- Mission fees for participation in foreign trade missions
 - Space rental for trade show exhibitions
 - Design of international marketing products or campaigns
- Funds are limited, and activities must be completed by September 1, 2012. For questions, please contact Jennifer Kocs at 651-259-7488, or Jennifer.Kocs@state.mn.us.

New Board Member

CMMA welcomes Steve Leen, KDV, Inc., to the Board of Directors. In March, Leen was appointed to fill a vacant term on the board that runs through December 2013. He is also active on the CMMA Marketing Committee.

CMMA is looking to fill another vacant position on the board. If you are a manufacturing member of CMMA, give the office a call to express interest. Studies prove those who get involved get more out of their membership!

"How People Make Things" at Children's Museum Exhibit receives rave reviews!

"How People Make Things," a traveling exhibit inspired by the Mister Roger's television show, is enjoying great reviews during its time at the Minnesota Children's Museum!

"More people are interacting with their kids via this exhibit than any other exhibit in the Museum's history!"

"This exhibit is receiving three times the traffic compared to the Museum's other exhibits."

Local readers – take action now to encourage employees, family and friends with young children/ grandchildren to visit the exhibit before it closes on June 3, 2012.

"How People Make Things" incorporates hands-on activities for children up to age 10 in four focus areas: cutting, molding, deforming and assembly. The exhibit tells the story of the people, the manufacturing processes and the technology used to make everyday objects. Visitors will view machines like an injection molder, die cutter, vacuum former and 3-axis mill. The video wall features select tours from Mister Rogers' show, such as "How People Make Tennis Shoes" and "How People Make Crayons." The role playing area encourages children to dress up like factory workers – safety glasses and all.

CMMA collaborated with a number of organizations throughout the state to support and promote the exhibit's stay in Minnesota, including financial support for local elementary schools to participate in field trips to the exhibit in May.



Board Bio



Name: Randy Pelletier

Where do you work, what do you do? Pellco Machine Inc. and I am the owner. I handle sales, estimating, accounting, payroll, HR and general managing duties.

What was your first job? My dad owned a construction company and when I was 13 years old he had me cleaning the company vehicles that his foreman drove.

Hometown: Bloomington, MN.

Family: I have been married to my wife Nancy for 30+ years. We have six children ages 13 to 22. Our oldest child has graduated from college and is working full time. Our oldest son is in college and his sister will start next fall. Our three youngest children were adopted from Russia about 7 ½ years ago.

Pets: One dog – D.O.G. and two cats – Moody and Dusty

Favorite author? I couldn't tell you the last time I read a book.

Favorite movie? Animal House.

Favorite food? BBQ ribs from Outback Steakhouse or Champs.

Hobbies, Sports or Favorite Games? I love to bass fish. We spend most of our summer weekends at our cabin on Leech Lake where I enjoy just being on the lake.

Comment on your involvement in CMMA: I joined CMMA about a year after it started and attend most of the meetings. I've always felt that the board does a wonderful job bringing in speakers and setting up tours. Now that I too am a board member, I hope to keep that tradition going and would like to try bringing in more manufacturers to the association.

What would CMMA members be surprised to learn about you? As mentioned above, I have a cabin on Leech Lake that I built from the ground up. I did have someone put in the foundation and my brother-in-law help with the HVAC.

OJT Grant Funding for Advanced Manufacturing

The Central Minnesota Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. (CMJTS), Monticello, have been awarded a United States Department of Labor (DOL) grant for \$1.6 million to help businesses provide on-the-job training in advanced manufacturing jobs in central Minnesota.

Grant funds will help 50 unemployed job seekers learn advanced manufacturing job skills. Training will be provided by the employer combined with training that enables the new employee to earn a nationally recognized credential appropriate for the employee, the occupation, and the industry.

John Forbes, WIB Chair, stated, "As a business owner, I'm excited for the opportunities this grant provides. It will greatly help us address the job skills gap we, as manufacturers, are facing."

Barbara Chaffee, CMJTS CEO, stated, "We are extremely pleased to receive this funding from DOL which will help manufacturing businesses create jobs in central Minnesota. It is a win-win for job seekers and businesses. New employees will learn while earning a wage and businesses will be compensated for taking the additional time to train in high-skilled, high-demand advanced manufacturing jobs. The manufacturing career ladder has many opportunities for people to earn a good wage!"

Grant partners include the East Central Regional Development Commission, Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission, the Central Minnesota Manufacturing Association, Advance Design and Systems, Pine City, Cambridge Metals and Plastics, Cambridge, Metal Craft Machine and Engineering, Elk River, Minnesota Rubber and Plastics, Litchfield, Motek-TEAM Industries, Cambridge, and Von Ruden Manufacturing, Buffalo. Additional manufacturers may participate.

The grant is designated as an H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant. Employers use H-1B visas to hire qualified foreign workers when they are unable to find qualified workers at home. A portion of the H-1B visa fee is set aside to provide job training at home to reduce the need for employers to use H-1B visas.

The Central Minnesota WIB and CMJTS serve job seekers and businesses in McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Kandiyohi, Kanabec, Wright, Sherburne, Mille Lacs, Isanti, Chisago, and Pine Counties.