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GNP Company

National Recycling, Inc. (NRI)

Prime Lending

Letter From Les

I recently learned a new word, "Sprinter." It's a term that's been used to describe our unpredictable and prolonged transition between winter and spring in central Minnesota. At this writing, the weather reporter is claiming 90 degree days are just ahead. I have my doubts but also my hopes to finally put my shovels away. Sprinter, what's next "Flinter?" Let's hope not!



Unlike the changing weather, CMMA has been reliably and predictably hard at work to deliver value for your investment and support. Our dynamic and growing association continues to cultivate manufacturing, pursue and share knowledge, remedy concerns, and create new connections and opportunities for its members.

The CMMA program committee continues to plan relevant and timely meeting topics and expert speakers. We persist to locate and highlight world class manufacturing firms in our area, those willing to host a tour and those proud to share best practices without the compromise of intellectual process and product; maybe you would consider hosting a tour? We'll be in Elk River for the May meeting, plan to attend and learn more on LEAN from Enterprise Minnesota and tour Sportech. This is another genuine opportunity to experience modern world class manufacturing right here in our state's manufacturing wheelhouse, central Minnesota.

The annual Legislative Forum is planned for June 27 in St. Cloud, a great way to connect with policy makers to guide them on matters important to manufacturing. We're planning another fun summer get together in August, a chance to connect and celebrate the season.

CMMA's first ever golf outing is planned for June 24 in St. Cloud. CMMA thanks our sponsors and event planners, mark your calendar for a good time on the greens. Make a putt, meet a new friend and strike a deal!

The recent Grandview Conference was a success with plenty of pathways and partnerships explored between manufacturers and educators. The "Metal and Flesh" movie premier was informative and inspirational, as was the event's closing speaker.

CMMA member Central McGowan, Inc. in St. Cloud has announced the W.E.L.D. event (Welding, Education, Learning and Discovery) scheduled on August 29. CMI's leadership has opened their doors and extended their expo to area schools and teachers. This will be a fun day offering a unique opportunity to experience the latest in welding technology, automation and innovation first hand and up close. CMMA salutes CMI for their innovative and engaging outreach!

Think spring! It's a great honor to serve you, a valued member of CMMA.

Les Engel, CMMA President

**Featured Member:
Arctic Cat**



Although Arctic Cat's history in Minnesota dates back more than 50 years, the company is rather new to the St. Cloud region. A small division of Arctic Cat moved into a brand new 60,000 square foot facility on the eastern end of St. Cloud just six years ago, in 2007.

The St. Cloud plant handles assembly of the engines used in Arctic Cat all-terrain vehicles and side-by-sides. Previously, the company purchased these engines from Japan-based Suzuki Corporation. After a three year period of developing and producing ATC engines at corporate headquarters in Thief River Falls, engine assembly was established in the new St. Cloud facility. St. Cloud was chosen as the location for the new facility due to location, the excellent manufacturing support network, and the region's quality workforce.

The 53-employee division is recognized as a quality production center with high usage of Poke Yolk (the Japanese word for "mistake proofing") concepts. Current production runs one shift, five days a week.

The production schedule will increase in the near future, however, as the company is slated to discontinue purchasing snowmobile engines from Suzuki and begin producing them in St. Cloud in 2014. Arctic Cat continues to be one of very few manufacturers that are bringing work back to the U.S. from Japan. Arctic Cat's reasons for doing so? ... cost and quality.

The addition of snowmobile engines to the St. Cloud facility, will, of course, require an expanded workforce, although the ramp-up is expected to occur at a cautious pace over a two or three year period. Arctic Cat's current product line is basically evenly split between snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. To learn more, go to www.arcticcat.com.



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CMMA Golf Social

Monday, June 24
St. Cloud, MN
 Territory Golf Club



First Time Event!

9 AM Continental Breakfast
 11 AM Shotgun Start

\$50/person

Includes golf, shared cart, and breakfast

Proceeds support scholarships and youth robotics programs in central Minnesota.

Call the office for registration information.

Hole Sponsorship Available - \$150

Includes one FREE golf registration. Call the office today!

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 The Work Connection

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Golf Committee Volunteers:

- Nathan Brown, Work Connection
- Joe Groebner, PrimeLending
- Steve Leen, KDV
- Clint Nelson, MidAmerican Financial
- Bonnie Supan, Brenny Transportation
- Stan Voas, New Flyer

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 23

CMMA Breakfast Meeting in Elk River, MN. Join us for a presentation on “Lean” and tour of Sportech.

Monday, June 24

CMMA Golf Social. Join us at Territory Golf Club in St. Cloud for the first ever CMMA golf event. Breakfast at 9 AM. Shotgun start at 11 AM.

Thursday, June 27

Legislative Forum at the Holiday Inn, St. Cloud. Come and interact over breakfast with your local legislators.

Wednesday, July 17

TSMA golf social at Tipsinah Mounds Golf Course, Elbow Lake.

Wednesday, August 21

AMFA golf social at Virginia Golf Course, Virginia, MN.

Thursday, August 29

2013 W.E.L.D. Day. Come explore the latest in Technology , Automation and Innovation at Central McGowan.

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

Do you have suggestions for speakers or topics you'd like featured at a meeting? Please contact the office.



Board Bio



Name: Bonnie Supan

Where do you work, what do you do? Brenny Transportation Inc / Brenny Specialized Inc
My position is General Manager – what I do is help & serve others

What was your first job? Baby-sitting for neighbors

Hometown: St Stephen, MN

Family: Dan – husband. Annie – step daughter. Mom, Dad, 1 sister & 4 brothers.

Pets: 2 – Boomer & Anger (lab mixed)

Favorite book or author? Leadership & inspirational

Favorite movie? Die Hard movies

Favorite food? Seafood Alfredo. I don't have a recipe because my cooking skills are very limited!

Hobbies, Sports or Favorite Games?

Hobby - camping. Favorite games – Nascar racing.

Comment on your involvement in CMMA: I serve on the Gov. Relations & Golf Social committees.

What would CMMA members be surprised to learn about you? I know how to play 500. Not rummy 500 either – just good old 500!



Did You Know? *continued*

CMMA Conducts Strategic Planning Session

CMMA's eleven-member volunteer board of directors invested time this winter to participate in a half-day strategic planning session facilitated by Renae Shields. Thank you, Initiative Foundation, for providing funding assistance. Three work groups were established as a results of the planning session, with a focus on: Educating Members, Education System, and Government/Legislative.

2013 MMA Membership Directory

The 2013 MMA Membership Directory is hot off the press! All current members should have received a copy via regular mail in May. To request additional complimentary copies of the book, contact the office. (members only) Thank you to the companies who supported the 2013 edition with paid advertising.

Dream !t Do !t Grand View Conference

CMMA was one of several organizations that partnered to bring the Dream !t Do !t Grand View Conference to Brainerd on April 10-11. Some 150 people from industry, education, and services were on hand to learn about cutting edge training, employee retention strategies, funding sources, challenges the schools are facing, and more. Students from Tech High School received transportation funding from CMMA, enabling them to attend the "Metal & Flesh" movie premier in conjunction with the conference.

FIRST Robotics Team Attends Nationals!

St. Cloud's FIRST Robotics team #3244, affectionately known as the Granite City Gearheads, enjoyed a very successful season, thanks in part to financial support from CMMA. Additional support was provided by CMMA when the team advanced to the national competition in St. Louis, MO in April. Congratulations, Gearheads!

SkillsUSA Teams attend White House Science Fair; scheduled to compete at Nationals in June

Advisor Bill Garceau spearheaded fundraising efforts this spring to support the success of Tech High School Skill-USA teams. CMMA provided funding for the "Drill & Pop" team to attend the national competition in Kansas City in June. Congratulations, and good luck!

Meanwhile, last year's national champion team, inventors of the patent-pending Dolly-2-Trolley device, attended the prestigious White House Science Fair in Washington D.C. All three students on this team plan to attend UMD this fall in the Mechanical Engineering program.

Post Manufacturing jobs on the CMMA website

CMMA offers manufacturers the opportunity to post skilled trade, supervisory, and technical positions on the CMMA website – qualified jobs will be posted at no charge for 30 days.

www.centralmnmanufacturing.com

Arctic Cat: CMMA 2012 Manufacturer of the Year!

Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association is proud to proclaim Arctic Cat Inc. as the 2012 CMMA Manufacturer of the Year. CMMA President Les Engel presented Arctic Cat representatives Steve Schwartz and Scott Doyle with this well-earned award to celebrate the company's commitment to and support of CMMA.

Arctic Cat is a five-year member of CMMA, having joined the organization upon its inception in 2008. This outstanding company has added value in many ways to CMMA and the manufacturing community, including:

- Active and contributing membership
- Hosting facility tours
- Providing expertise in program presentations
- Significant investments in innovation and technology
- Job creation and adding to the economic vitality of our region

On behalf of the CMMA membership, thank you, Arctic, for your partnership and your investment in manufacturing in Central Minnesota!



Arctic Cat accepting their award from Les. Pictured from left to right: Scott Doyel, Les Engel and Steve Schwartz.



Les Engel represented CMMA on the "Working Together, Making Difference" panel at the Grand View Conference in Brainerd in April.



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