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Letter From Les

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the hog roast in July. The weather started out a little cool and wet, but with all the great food and company, it turned out to be a fun gathering! For those of you who weren't able to attend, we hope to see at our holiday social in December. We're tentatively scheduling the holiday party for December 22nd (in place of our monthly membership meeting), more info will be provided in the coming months. For now, let's enjoy what remains of summer! Before we know it, fall will be here and kids and young adults will be heading off to school to continue their education.



Let's not forget how important education is to the world of manufacturing. Without a trained workforce, manufacturing can't continue to grow and thrive in Central Minnesota. Partnering with programs like Project Lead The Way (www.mnpltw.org) and local schools, including AMFA members St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Technical and Community College, and North Junior High District 742, is one way that Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association reaches out to young people to get them interested and excited about pursuing a career in manufacturing.

There are many ways that you, too, can help young learners. Become a mentor to a child or a whole classroom, sponsor or mentor a club like the Granite City Gearheads (www.granitecitygearheads.com), participate in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Summit in January (contact Kurt Helgeson for more information), or make a donation to help fund a scholarship. Contact me or any CMMA board member for more information on how you can help.

Have a great August and I hope to see you when CMMA resumes its general meeting schedule on September 22nd!

Featured Member: Acoustigreen



Acoustigreen offers a variety of acoustical and architectural ceiling and wall tiles that are manufactured in our state of the art facility in Delano, Minnesota. Our products are designed and developed from concept for their recycled and environmentally friendly acoustical properties. All of our unique product lines are manufactured



Acoustigreen *Continued*

from recycled materials, with no added formaldehyde and a waterborne finish. Our expanding product line currently includes: Fusion, Organtex, Synergy, Linear, Micro-Perforated, Audition, Grille and our new Earth Collection.

Some Product Specifications:

Fusion: Features a real wood veneer on our signature green friendly, ColorMatch core and is available in several stock finishes along with a variety of custom veneers.

Organtex: An acoustically absorptive material that is made from 100% recycled wood fiber. Features a natural-textured wood fiber finish and comes in a variety of custom color options.

Synergy: Features a real wood veneer on our acoustically absorptive Organtex core made from 100% recycled wood fiber. Available in many stock finishes along with a variety of custom veneers.

Acoustigreen holds the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain of Custody Certification. We are able to provide FSC-Certified products along with our current product lines. Our products qualify for LEED credits and we are dedicated to making the best possible products in the most responsible way.



Did You Know?

This spring, CMMA partnered with several organizations to produce a bookmark that promotes www.mnmanufacturingcareers.com. Tied to the iSEEK website, this site promotes career and education information specific to the manufacturing industry. The bookmarks will be distributed to high schools students at career fairs and other venues.



Did You Know? *Continued*

The CMMA website contains a link for online payments of meetings and events. Register and pay for your meeting 100% online. You will find the link located on the events page.

Plans are underway for the Central Minnesota region to host a "Tour of Manufacturing" event this fall. Modeled after "Tour of Homes," Tour of Manufacturing is an opportunity for the general public to get a first-hand look at what goes on inside modern, high-tech manufacturing facilities. Teachers, students, parents, grandparents – anyone from the interested public is welcome to join the tours on Saturday, October 29, 2011. Specific details regarding times and locations will be available soon.

In conjunction with Manufacturers Week, CMMA is a partner in coordinating a state-wide Tour of Manufacturing project. This project envisions the public being directed to a website that promotes manufacturing tours in any number of communities throughout the state. Manufacturers interested in learning more about this October 29th opportunity should contact the CMMA office at 800-654-5773 or midwest@runestone.net.

CMMA members are encouraged to attend the FabTech Expo, North America's largest metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing event. The annual conference and expo will be held at McCormick Place in Chicago on November 14-17, 2011. Contact the CMMA office if you are interested in learning more about potential bus transportation to the event.

The Marketing/Membership Committee, chaired by Becky Tenvoorde at Thelen Advertising, would like to provide a monthly "CMMA Update" via email. We need your help – share your CMMA-related company stories with us! Has CMMA helped you: Find a new supplier? Learn about a new technology? Identify potential customers? Improve business operations via a tip from the guest speaker? Develop a relationship(s) that impacts your business? Recognize the importance of supporting workforce development efforts in the region? Etc. Send your comments/stories to the CMMA office.

CMMA is now a member of LinkedIn. Join the CMMA group and get up to date information about what is happening in the manufacturing industry.

To join the CMMA group, log onto LinkedIn. In the top right corner of the screen scroll down (next to the search field) and find "Groups." Type in "Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association."

www.centralmnmanufacturing.com

Summer Social Recap



CMMA hosted a Summer Social on July 14 to provide members and guests the opportunity to network and develop relationships in a relaxed environment. Thank you to CMMA board members who volunteered time and effort to make the event a success. Les Engel hosted the event at Engel Metallurgical, including arrangements for a tour of his facility. Tim Zipoy, Central MN Jobs & Training, (pictured above) served as "hog roaster" for the day, and Tom Sellin, King Solutions, (pictured above) partnered with his granddaughter, Ellie, to provide entertainment throughout the evening. Behind the scenes, Lisa Koll (Doherty Staffing) coordinated the catering needs.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday September 20, 2011

MMA Autumn Golf Outing at Whitefish Golf Club near Pequot Lakes. Shotgun start at 1:00 PM. The event is \$55 per person, which includes green fees, shared cart, and dinner.

Thursday September 22, 2011

CMMA breakfast meeting will be held in Litchfield, MN featuring a presentation by Pace Industries. Immediately following the meeting join us for a tour of Custom Products of Litchfield.

September 22-23, 2011

10-Hour OSHA General Industry Course, featuring Scott Huberty, Loss Control Supervisor, Meadowbrook Insurance Group. The training will be held in St. Augusta, MN.

Thursday September 29, 2011

Tabletop Tradeshow in Duluth, MN. Exhibit space is available to members at no charge. Come early for the Energy Conservation for Industry Conference.

Thursday October 27, 2011

CMMA breakfast meeting will be held in St. Michael, MN with a presentation on MN SHARP featuring E.J. Ajax and Starrett Tru-Stone Technologies. Immediately following the meeting join us for a tour of Pellco Machine.

Saturday October 29, 2011

Tour of Manufacturing.

Thursday November 17, 2011

CMMA breakfast meeting will be held in St. Cloud, MN featuring Granite City Gear Heads. Immediately following the meeting join us for a tour of McDowall Co.

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.

Board Bio



Name: Kurt Helgeson

Where do you work, what do you do? St. Cloud State University – Associate Dean College of Science and Engineering

What was your first job? Little League baseball coach for 7 summers.

Hometown: Wood Lake, MN

Family: My wife Stacy is a 1st grade teacher in Kimball. My son, Neil just graduated from Kimball and will be attending Ridgewater Technical College in Willmar and my daughter, Danielle will be a 9th grader at Kimball.

Pets: Oreo, a very fat cat.

Favorite author? John Grisham

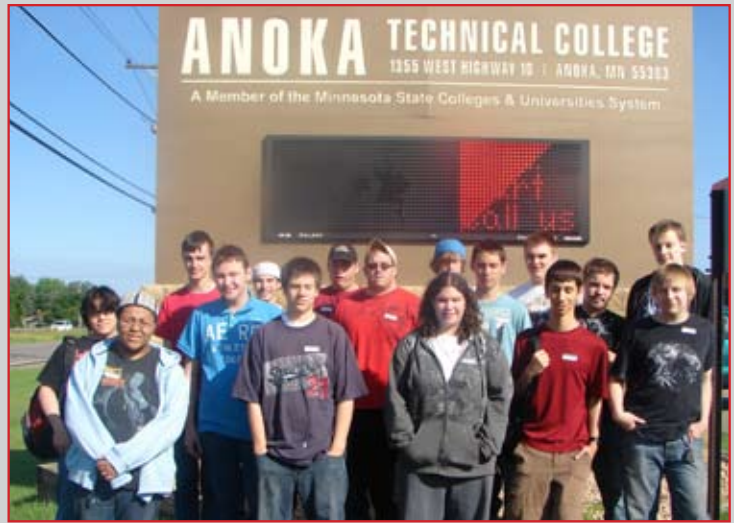
Favorite movie? Tin cup and Armageddon

Favorite food? Buffalo Wings – the hotter the better.

Hobbies, Sports or Favorite Games? I am an avid golfer, but have not gotten a chance to play much this year.

Comment on your involvement in CMMA: I have really enjoyed being a part of CMMA. It helps bridge that gap between education and manufacturing. The more the two groups work together, the stronger they will both be. Being on the board also gives me a chance to help with planning and learn more about the work of the organization.

What would CMMA members be surprised to learn about you? Many years ago I ran Grandma’s Marathon. It was a great experience – not sure what I was thinking.



CMMA Supports Manufacturing Technology Camp

CMMA is eager to expose young people to the challenging and rewarding careers available in manufacturing. To that end, the organization donated 21 robotic kits to Camps for Careers, a program designed to let high school students and recent graduates “try on” a career in manufacturing or health-care.

Central Minnesota Jobs & Training hosted camps at both Pine Ridge and Anoka Technical Colleges in June. The “manufacturing technology” camps exposed participants to robotics and automation, CNC programming and machining of metals and plastics, computer aided design and basic entrepreneurial skills. The camps featured hands-on learning, including assembly of Herbie the Mousebot, a battery-powered robot that loves to chase flashlight beams. The easy-to-build Herbie comes with functional whiskers and tail sensors so he doesn’t get stuck in corners or under obstacles. Camp participants also benefited from tours of local manufacturing facilities.

In addition to CMMA’s contribution of 21 robotic kits, three CMMA members supported the camps with donations of supplies or funding. Thank you Central McGowan, Industrial Molded Rubber and Pellco Machine for your interest in developing a future workforce for manufacturers in the region.

Board of Directors

CMMA Board Transition

On behalf of the membership, thank you, Todd Meyhoff (formerly with Bauer Design Build), for serving on the CMMA board of directors in 2011. In June, the CMMA board appointed Linda Besse to complete his term. A founding member of CMMA in 2008 and former Vice President of the association, Besse recently returned to the area by accepting a position with Thermo-Tech Windows in Sauk Rapids. Her term will run through 2012.

North America’s Largest Metal Forming, Fabricating, Welding and Finishing Event



FROM **START** TO **FINISH**

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November 14-17, 2011
McCormick Place | Chicago, IL

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