

Summer Issue 2013

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Letter From Les

“What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness?” –John Steinbeck

We central Minnesotans sure know what winter is and CMMA wishes you a warm, happy and safe summer. We've all been enjoying our well-earned time in the sun and your trade association has been making hay while the sun shines too!



As always with CMMA, we've had well attended meetings that have delivered valuable knowledge and insight. We've graciously toured world class manufacturing firms that are proud of their work and eager to share their success. We've celebrated organizational longevity and continuity with many 5 year membership awards. CMMA sincerely appreciates our member investors as our association's important activities and outcomes would not happen and our mutual goals would not be achieved if not for your support and active participation.

We held our annual Legislative Forum in June. This forum was an opportunity for input and interaction with elected officials who are mindful of manufacturing in our area. We learned about new legislation that impacts our sector. We provided feedback, opinions, our hopes and expectations for the next session at the Capitol.

CMMA has tried some new ideas and continues to grow with the season. Our first annual CMMA Golf Tournament was a real success. The weather was right, the play was competitive and the company couldn't have been better. We saw both familiar and new faces. We ate, drank and laughed together. We talked shop and spoke of partnerships and potential. Most importantly, we raised nearly \$2500.00 to continue our investment in and support of academic scholarships for college students training for manufacturing careers and robotic programs for our high school students. Thanks also to our event committee for a great job our first time out.

CMMA proudly celebrates the success of our area high school students! We have many talented youth in our area who are deeply involved in and excelling at technology based activities. Did you know that today there are more high school robotics teams than boys' hockey squads in Minnesota? Robotics, the high school “varsity sport of the mind”, is surging nation-wide and Minnesota has the third highest number of teams in the country. Congratulations to the Becker High School Robotics Team, 2013 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics State Champions! CMMA also says “great job” to the St. Cloud Technical High School SkillsUSA team. This team of “Project Lead the Way” students was named 2013 National Engineering Champions in the Engineering Technology/Design competition in Kansas City this past June with their “Drill and Pop” invention. For Technical High School it's “twice as nice” as last year's team also took home the national title in the same competition. CMMA also says “well done” to the Cold Spring Boy Scouts “Boss Botz” VEX robotics team for their award winning success at both state and national competition.

We also recognize program mentors, teachers and supporters including CMMA members Xcel Energy and Darter Plastics. CMMA understands that these programs

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Featured Member: Darter Plastics



Darter Plastics is a custom injection molding company located in Becker MN. Founded in 1986, Darter now has 23 employees working three shifts, five days a week.

Our primary service is injection molded parts. We have 15 presses ranging from 60 ton up to 310 ton. We mold all thermoplastic materials in almost any color, and are able to grind everything we do not use to run back through the machines, leaving virtually no scrap. We work with many local companies, but also ship product to China, Singapore and Mexico.

One example of a long term local partnership is with X-cel Optical out of Sauk Rapids. We deliver the finished product for no charge because of their location (only 20 miles). More importantly, we can re-mold the product after they are done using it in their lens making process. We re-grind the product and mold it again and again. We run most of their products out of 75 percent regrind, providing a substantial cost savings to them as well as keeping the parts out of the landfill. It is a "win win" partnership for both companies.

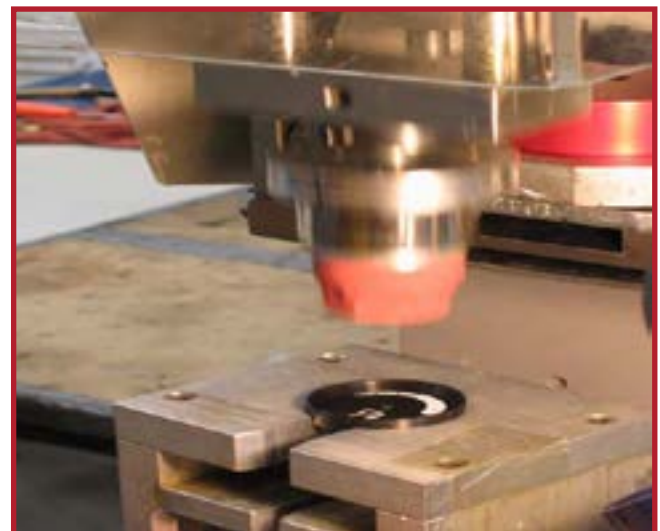
Some other companies we work with include Arctic Cat, Cummins, Manitowoc Ice, Tyco, and Frabill.

In addition to injection molding, Darter Plastics also offers pad printing, hot stamping and assembly services. Pad Printing uses a silicone pad to transfer ink onto any surface. It is unique because you can print on curved and dimpled surfaces like a golf ball. The finished print is very clear and durable. Hot Stamping uses a foil tape along with heat and pressure to transfer an image onto a flat surface.

Our Assembly area utilizes many different processes to put together various parts for a number of companies. These parts include drive assemblies for a packaging company as well as water probes for use in commercial ice machines. Some examples of assembly operations include spot welding, soldering, ultrasonic welding, gluing, drilling, taping, and packaging. Some products are ready to go directly from our shop floor to the shelves of the big retailers.

Darter also offers engineering and design services. We will take an idea from concept to completion. We also have in-house mold making capabilities.

We were recently featured on the television show, "World's Greatest." You can view the three minute segment at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdsUzBDar04>. Check out our website at www.darter.com.



Letter from Les ...Continued

Continued from page 1

have proven to be creative and effective methods to build STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and leadership skills in youth and great workforce development tools for business. Contact or start your school robotics club in your town, you can make a difference!

CMMA and Central McGowan have partnered again this year to host the 2013 W.E.L.D Day from August 27 - August 29 in St. Cloud. This welding, education, learning and discovery event offers students, parents and teachers a unique opportunity to explore the latest in technology, automation and innovation in the welding and metal joining industry. Share this opportunity with the youth that you care about, you'll open their eyes to a world of possibility in a career that is in demand.

Our Summer Social is coming soon! Plan now to attend this fun gathering on the afternoon of August 1 at Millner Heritage Winery. There will be wine samples, food, fun and more! Here's your chance to unwind with friends maybe make some new connections too.

Remember to post your open positions on the CMMA website, yet another way to capture some membership value!

You're encouraged to bring a friend to a meeting. Share the word about CMMA and together we will contribute to the growth and success of manufacturing in central Minnesota.

Happy Summer, Be Blessed

Les Engel
CMMA President



Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 1

CMMA Summer Social, Millner Heritage Winery, Kimball, MN

Wednesday, August 21

AMFA golf social at Virginia Golf Course, Virginia, MN. CMMA members are welcome!

Tuesday - Thursday, Aug 27 - Aug. 29

2013 W.E.L.D. Event at Central McGowan. Come explore the latest in Technology, Automation and Innovation. Volunteers needed to staff the CMMA exhibit booth. Call or email the CMMA office at 800-654-5773 or stephd@runestone.net.

Thursday, September 26

CMMA Breakfast meeting in Sauk Rapids. Tour: St. Cloud Window. Speaker: Doug Connell from GNP.

Thursday, October 24

CMMA Breakfast meeting in Rice. Tour: Ferche Millwork.

Thursday, November 21

CMMA Breakfast meeting in Sauk Rapids. Tour: WFSI. Speaker: John Hausladen, MN Trucking Association.

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

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



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Board Bio



Name: Lisa Koll

Where do you work, what do you do? I've been at Doherty Staffing Solutions for 21 years. My role is to oversee our Northern MN markets. I still love coming to work each day and will continue to do so until it's not fun anymore.

What was your first job? My brother is a dairy farmer and he paid me \$4 per hour to pick rock and bale hay during the summer when I was in high school.

Hometown: Sebeka, MN (Home of "King of the Road" and population of 772)!

Family: My wonderful husband of 21 years, Shahzad. I am so lucky to have the most patient, kind husband.

Pets: Tiki, our beautiful temperamental Siamese!

Favorite book or author? Favorite business book - Lunchmeat and Life Lessons by Mary B. Lucas.

Favorite movie? Most any drama.

Favorite food? Rib Eye steak medium rare! Recipe - grill on the highest temperature possible and 4-5 minutes on each side.

Hobbies, Sports or Favorite Games? My husband and I love to travel together. We've been very fortunate to see lots of places in this big world. My bucket list is to see any site that has ever been listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World! We have a small cabin in Richmond on the Chain of Lakes - we host lots of family and friends in the summer. My gardening fun at our cabin is hostas! I love to golf and wish I had more time to do so. I love the MN Vikings and each fall have the renewed hope that this year will be the year.

Comment on your involvement in CMMA: CMMA is my favorite networking group. In the past five years we have been honored to have so many companies open their doors for our membership to tour. We have also had many speakers volunteer their time to speak on their topic of expertise. It's been fun and rewarding to grow our membership and become a prominent organization in central Minnesota. A terrific group of talented individuals represent the membership on the CMMA Board of Directors.

What would CMMA members be surprised to learn about you? I worked on a Cruise Ship for 8 months! During my contract, we went on a 50 day cruise around South America that was amazing. My then boyfriend, now husband, proposed to me and I came home.

Did You Know?

2013 MMA Membership Directory

The 2013 MMA Membership Directory was distributed in May. Additional copies are available to CMMA members at no charge; call the office.

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.

Bring a FREE guest!

CMMA members are encouraged to bring a prospective member to a CMMA breakfast meeting; your guest can attend (one time) free of charge.

Educators are FREE!

Invite a representative(s) from your local high school to an upcoming CMMA meeting. Teachers, administrators, and students are encouraged to attend FREE of charge (includes a free breakfast). And - membership in CMMA is FREE to area high schools!

Stephanie Davis joins MMA Staff

Steph Davis is the new Executive Assistant for the association office, so you'll be seeing her name, along with that of Sandy Kashmark, on email communications, etc. from CMMA. Welcome, Steph!



www.centralmnmanufacturing.com

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CMMA Golf Social Supports Manufacturing Scholarships and Robotics Teams

High school robotics teams, such as VEX and FIRST, and post-secondary students focused on manufacturing careers will benefit from a successful event staged by CMMA on June 24, 2013. Over seventy people ventured out on a gorgeous summer day to attend the first-annual CMMA Golf Social, held at Territory Golf Club in St. Cloud. The 18-hole Texas Scramble raised some \$2,500.

Team photos and action shots from the CMMA Golf Social are available online. Visit Central Minnesota Manufacturing Association [on Facebook](#) and like us while you are there.

The tournament featured sponsored events, such as a “fishing contest” and a “marshmallow chip,” along with the CMMA-sponsored longest drive, longest putt, and closest to the pin contests. A cash prize was awarded to the first place team from Schlenner Wenner: Brian Mackinac, Aaron Smith, Ryan Finberg, and Brian Schellinger. Team scores ranged from a low of 58 to a high of 75 on a 72-Par course.

CMMA sold 50/50 raffle tickets throughout the day, with the winning ticket claimed by Dan Meyer, International Precision Machine. Dan graciously donated the \$200 cash prize back to the association in support of scholarships and robotics teams.

Since its inception in 2008, CMMA has provided financial support for high school robotics teams and other endeavors that are believed to change perceptions about careers in manufacturing. Many young people are excited to learn about the high wage, high tech job opportunities to be found at manufacturing facilities in small town USA, in large metropolitan areas, and everywhere in between. Proceeds from the Golf Social will allow CMMA to become even more active in providing financial support.

CMMA gratefully acknowledges those who volunteered their time to serve on the Golf Social Planning Committee: Clint Nelson, Chair (Mid American Financial), Bonnie Supan (Brenny Transportation), Stan Voas (New Flyer), Steve Leen (KDV), Joe Groebner (Prime Lending), and Nathan Brown (The Work Connection). The CMMA board has expressed interest in making the CMMA Golf Social an annual event; contact the office if you'd like to be involved next year!

Last but not least, thank you to the event sponsors – listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Manufacturing Matters is edited and published at the Midwest Manufacturers' Association office located at 117 Central Avenue North, PO Box 150, Elbow Lake, MN 56531. MMA/CMMA phone 218-685-5356. Toll-free 800-654-5773. Email: midwest@runestone.net. Office hours are 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. However, messages can be left on the answering machine at any time.



First Place Team in the CMMA Golf Social, from Schlenner Wenner. Pictured from left to right: Ryan Finberg, Aaron Smith, Brian Schellinger and Brian Mackinac.



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