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## Welcome New Members!

Carlson Advisors, LLC

ECI Networks

Welsh Construction

## Featured Member: Park Industries



Since 1953, Park Industries has been designing, building, and manufacturing machinery for the stone industry, including stone splitters, diamond saws, CNC routers, and edging polishing machines. Park also offers its manufacturing services to companies outsourcing manufacturing work.

“For nearly 60 years, we have been machining, welding, painting, and assembling machinery for the stone industry and today offer the same services to our custom manufacturing customers,” comments Gerry Waletzko, VP of Operations. With two state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities located in St. Cloud, MN, Park Industries offers a full range of services including: complete machining capabilities, manual and robotic welding, bar and plate steel cutting, stress relieving, shot blasting, painting and electrical assembly.

Park Industries specializes in large part fabrication and machining. Park’s large mill capacity extends up to 45 feet in length which differentiates them from other custom manufacturing providers in the Midwest. Park has invested in high tech quality systems, including the Faro Laser Tracker Measurement System which accurately inspects parts to ensure specifications have been met. “With our custom manufacturing focus on large fabrication and machining, the Faro laser has become a very important tool for us and our custom manufacturing customers,” adds Waletzko.

Another advantage that Park takes pride in is the one-stop-shop value. “We provide complete start to finish manufacturing services,” adds Waletzko. “A one-stop shop for custom manufacturing services is a value that we offer to the custom manufacturing customers. Our capabilities result in shorter turnaround times, cost controls, and easier logistic management for our custom manufacturing customers.”

As a third generation family-owned business, Park Industries has focused on building a culture of quality and pride within their team of associates. Associate involvement and feedback in the business are critical components that have supported the company’s growth and success. “Maintaining and strengthening our company’s culture is very important to us as we continue to grow our business and hire new people,” concludes Waletzko.

Call Park Industries at (800)328-2309 to learn more about their custom manufacturing capabilities.



**Park Industries** *Pictures*



**Upcoming Events**

**Thursday February 23, 2012**

CMMA breakfast meeting will be held at Eagle’s Nest Golf Course in Clearwater, MN. Terry Didion will present “A Lower Workers Compensation Cost Option.” Following the meeting there will be a tour of T.O. Plastics.

**Thursday February 23, 2012**

2nd Annual Nanotechnology & Industry Workshop. This workshop will introduce attendees to the importance of nanoscale science and how properties can be impacted – and manipulated – at that level so atoms and molecules can be arranged the way researchers or engineers dictate, directly affecting the properties of materials to make them harder or lighter or more durable.

**Monday February 27, 2012**

2012 State of Manufacturing Poll Release Event will be held at SCSU-Welcome Center at 1:00pm. Enterprise Minnesota will roll out findings from its fourth annual State of Manufacturing poll, a statewide research project that includes hundreds of phone surveys and several focus groups with manufacturing executives across the state.

**Thursday March 22, 2012**

CMMA breakfast meeting.

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

Do you have suggestions for speakers or topics you’d like presented? Please contact Sandy Kashmark at [midwest@runestone.net](mailto:midwest@runestone.net).

The screenshot shows the CMMA website header with the logo and tagline "Everything that Matters to Manufacturing". The navigation menu includes links for home, about CMMA, search members, join CMMA, links, events, and contact. The events section lists two upcoming events: the 2nd Annual Nanotechnology & Industry Workshop on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012, and the CMMA General Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012. Each event has a "View Info" button. On the right side, there are "MEMBER LOGIN" and "More Info" buttons for the events.

## Board Bio



**Name:** Linda Besse

**Where do you work, what do you do?** Human Resources Manager for Thermo-Tech Windows, Inc.

**What was your first job?** Worked in the library at my high school then in the cafeteria at

college.

**Hometown:** Sauk Centre, MN

**Family:** Married to a retired Methodist Minister (John) – 1 daughter (Laura) and 3 grand children (6-yr Lily, 3-yr Kyley (girl) and 6-mo Kaidyn (boy)) & 1 step-son (John)

**Pets:** too many, 3 dogs and 1 cat, all follow me around the house. I love them all. No need for an alarm (burglar or wake up), I have 3 and sometimes 4.

Cat = Minnow (aka black panther)

Brittany = Chip (court jester)

Spaniel = Jack (born an old man)

Pug = Max (family alarm)

**Favorite author?** Genres = fantasy, science fiction and business. I like Sci-Fi or Fantasy authors – Weis & Hickman, Robert Heinlein, Terry Brook, Mercedes Lackey, Robert Jordan, JK Rowling. I like business Authors – Marcus Buckingham, Steve Farber, Pat Lencioni, Chester Elton, Thomas Friedman. I also like David Baldacci, James Rollins, Dan Brown, John Sanford and others for fiction.

Lately I have been reading Richard Scarry, Dr Seuss and Junie B Jones to Lily.

**Favorite movie?** Musicals, sci-fi and romantic comedies. Jump'n Jack Flash, South Pacific, Mama Mia, Harry Potter, ....

**Favorite food?** This is hard. I like to cook and eat.

Last night I made Turkey Mole (Mole is a "bar-b-que" type sauce). It is very easy and I love it. The mole can be purchased in the Mexican food section in an 8 oz glass container. Put the mole in a 2 qt sauce pan. Add 4 parts of water or bouillon to the mole. I used bouillon. Heat and stir. The mole will be a very thick paste so it needs to be mashed and incorporated into the liquid as you heat it. Pour sauce over chopped or slice warm cooked turkey (a great way to get rid of turkey leftovers). The best way I like to eat turkey mole is with some warmed flour tortillas. I have had it serve with the sauce used as more like gravy.

**Hobbies, Sports or Favorite Games?** I love to play cards and board games. Now I am teaching Lily to love the games. She got dominos for Christmas and is learning the strategy. But it is more fun when we both win.

Hobbies – sticks and string of course! I love to knit (socks, hats, scarves, baby sweaters, etc.) and I love archery (bowfishing and deer hunting).

Sports – I love to bike and have been biking with Lily. We took the training wheels off her bike last summer. Now I have to buy her a bigger bike. She keeps growing.

**Comment on your involvement in CMMA:** I have been around since the beginning of CMMA when it began as a seed. It has been great to see how it has grown and developed by serving the manufacturing community of Central MN.

**What would CMMA members be surprised to learn about you?** I rode in the MN WI IL Aids ride from Minneapolis to Chicago in 1999. Yes, it is 480 miles. 1,776 of us started at 6 a.m. on Monday and rode into Chicago Saturday afternoon. I was featured in the opening and closing ceremonies. It was a most remarkable journey. When I started, I was terrified. My mantra was "one rest stop at a time". You can make 15 miles. It is too hard to imagine riding 480 miles.

## Did You Know?

Publication of the 2012 Membership Directory is underway, with a deadline of March 1st for submitting updated information. As a benefit of membership, all CMMA members will be listed in the directory at no cost and receive a complimentary copy(s) of the book when it's available in May. Display advertising rates are a great value; some 600 copies of the directory will be distributed to folks involved in manufacturing. Contact LeeAnn at the CMMA office with updates or questions about advertising.

The manufacturing industry has an extraordinary opportunity in 2012 to expose thousands of youth and their teachers and families to modern technology and career opportunities. In partnership with the Minnesota Precision Manufacturers Association, the Minnesota Children's Museum will feature an exhibit called "How People Make Things" from February 18-June 3, 2012. Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association recently signed on as a sponsoring organization, providing transportation funds to help cover the cost for elementary students from central Minnesota schools to take field trips to the museum.

*Continued on next page*

## Letter to the Board



I was part of the small group that met a few times back in 2007 and finally decided to try starting a new manufacturing organization in Central Minnesota. We had a name and some assistance from Sandy Kashmark and MMA. Other than that, we weren't sure what to expect. Many of us soon found ourselves as part of the first CMMA

Board of Directors and assigned to various committees. I had no idea how being involved in CMMA would impact my job at the WorkForce Center and my life in general. The Workforce Development Committee, chaired by Tim Zipoy, is where a lot of time was spent doing things like the manufacturing tours, creating a manufacturing website within ISEEK, the CMMA website etc. I was challenged to try new things and have new experiences. I also found myself working much closer with manufacturers in my daily job with DEED. Being part of the CMMA Board gave me more credibility with the manufacturers I visited and helped me to do a better job for them. All in all, it has been a great experience.

I happen to be on several boards right now, but there are none that have worked together as well as the CMMA Board. It has been a pleasure to get to know all of you. All of you can be proud of the work you have done to make the CMMA what it is today. I wish to thank Les for taking on the leadership role of the CMMA and for generously hosting the meetings and feeding us each month. I hope Les will continue with the organization for a long time. A special thanks also goes out to Tim for his leadership of the Workforce Development Committee. That group had done a lot of work and Tim has been involved in all of it. I should thank Lisa for making so many meeting arrangements, taking care of the food and registration, handling money and paying some bills. Becky was instrumental in getting our website going and preparing ads and flyers. Most of you have no idea how often I have communicated with Sandy Kashmark and how helpful she has been with various projects. I could go on and on, but what I want you to know is that all of you have played an important part in the success of CMMA.

Finally, I wish you continued success...

- Wayne Anderson  
Retired, Former CMMA Board Member

## Did You Know? *Continued*

With the New Year now underway, CMMA is eager to attract new volunteers to serve on its standing committees: Programs, Membership, Marketing, Legislative, and Workforce Development. These five committees play an integral role in the effectiveness, appeal, impact and sustainability of the organization. You, the members, play an integral role in determining the success of each committee. To keep time commitment to a minimum, many committee meetings and discussion are held via email or conference call. Please contact Sandy Kashmark at the CMMA office to ask questions or express interest in a joining a committee.

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At the end of the year, the membership roster included the names of 106 companies who have invested in CMMA. We added 14 new members throughout the year and retained 86% of our previous members. Thank you for your continued investment in Central Minnesota Manufacturers' Association!

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In keeping with a new strategy implemented in 2011, the annual Tabletop Trade Show will rotate to a new location in 2012. CMMA has agreed to host the event in the St. Cloud region in the fall of 2012. A one-day conference will be offered in conjunction with the Tabletop Show. Details are pending regarding the specific date and venue; watch your email for more information.

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CMMA would like to thank manufacturers who took the time to participate in the State of Manufacturing Focus Group discussion held in St. Cloud on Monday, January 9. Your insight regarding current economic conditions, the political climate, challenges and opportunities facing manufacturers today, and more will help inform legislators and the broader community. Some 400 Minnesota-based manufacturers were interviewed for their opinions on the manufacturing climate.

[www.centralmnmanufacturing.com](http://www.centralmnmanufacturing.com)

# Hundreds Attend Tour of Manufacturing

Hat off to CMMA for hosting a "Tour of Manufacturing" event in central Minnesota. Modeled after the "tour of homes" concept, the October 29th event attracted literally hundreds of parents, students, educators, fellow manufacturers, and curious community members wanting to learn first-hand what goes on behind the doors of manufacturing companies in the region.



The goal of the Tour of Manufacturing was to increase interest in manufacturing careers, educate the general public about what manufacturing is really like today, and dispel thoughts that manufacturing jobs are going overseas and are dirty, dark, boring, and dangerous. Tour participants saw modern, clean, well-lit manufacturing environments and learned

that manufacturers need skilled workers who are competent with leading edge technology.

Thirteen manufacturing companies from Albany to St. Michael and beyond opened their doors for tours on a Saturday, including: Cold Spring Granite, Custom Caseworks, Dezurik, International Precision Machine, Metal Craft, Midsota Manufacturing, Nahan Printing, Park Industries, Pellco Machine, RiteWay Manufacturing, Sietz Stainless, Ultra Machining Co (UMC), and Wells Concrete. These thirteen companies recorded nearly 3,000 visits throughout the one-day event.

A huge thank you goes out to Wayne Anderson, retired from the MN Workforce Center/DEED and a past CMMA Board Member, for many hours spent organizing the Tour of Manufacturing. Thank as well to 360° Center of Excellence for providing sponsorship support.

## CMMA Elects Officers

**Les Engel** was recently named 2012 President of Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association for the 5th consecutive year. Engel owns and operates Engel Metallurgical, a materials engineering consulting and testing company based in Sauk Rapids.

**Nick Weis** was named Vice President of the organization. Weis is an engineer with Custom Caseworks, another Sauk Rapids company specializing in the manufacture of engineered forest products. **Tim Zi-poy**, Central MN Jobs & Training, was named Secretary and **Lisa Koll**, Doherty Staffing, continues in the role of Treasurer.

Serving as Directors in 2012 are: **Linda Besse**, ThermoTech Windows; **Henry Fischer**, consultant; **Kurt Helgeson**, SCSU; **Harry Larson**, Enterprise Minnesota; **Randy Pelletier**, Pellco Machine; and **Tom Sellin**, King Solutions.

### Board position available

CMMA is seeking members interested in being appointed to fill an open position on the Board. The position is a two year term ending in December 2013. To learn more, call or email Sandy Kashmark at the CMMA office.

