

Winter Issue 2014

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 27

CMMA Breakfast meeting - South Haven
Tour - Malco Industries Speaker - Mary
Connor, Enterprise Minnesota, on Lean
Leadership: The MENTAL in FundaMENTALS
[Click here](#) for flyer

Thursday, March 27

CMMA Breakfast meeting at St. Cloud
Technical and Community College

Thursday, April 24

Dr. Fred Zimmerman, Professor Emeritus of
engineering and management at St. Thomas
to be guest speaker at CMMA meeting

Welcome New Members!

U.S. Bank

360° Center of Excellence

HLB Tautges Redpath, LTD

WFSI, Inc.

Letter From Les

Winter is not a season, it's an occupation.
Sinclair Lewis



Warm greetings from CMMA, I hope this newsletter finds you blazing from within during this season of cold and snow. We Minnesotans have been crisply reminded of our four seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter, and road construction! At CMMA, we've not been hibernating and the important work of our dynamic organization has no seasonal limitations.

Our recent meetings and activities have offered educational, business and social opportunities. The holiday party in December created time for friendship and new possibilities. Through a 50/50 raffle we raised \$125 to add to our support of manufacturing education in the region. Thanks for attending, supporting our shared cause and congrats to the 50/50 winner!

Recent CMMA membership meetings offered expert knowledge on legislation and regulations impacting Minnesota's trucking and manufacturing industries and best practices in constraint management and process quality. We also had the opportunity to tour world class manufacturers including WFSI, Ferche Millwork, St. Cloud Window and the new Integrated Science and Engineering Laboratory Facility (ISELF) at St. Cloud State University.

CMMA wishes to recognize our members St. Cloud Technical and Community College, Central McGowan, GNP Company and Park Industries for their support and participation in the recent Dream It! Do it! Central Minnesota Vex Robotics Tournament. Special thanks to SCTCC for leadership, innovation and growing a fantastic program that positively impacts youth and those that influence youth. CMI's soda serving robot was a big hit and a true eye opener! During the tournament, CMMA received a Partner of the Year award for our collaboration and support, a sure sign that we are making strategic and effective investments in workforce preparation. Hats off to all who gave their time, invested their resources, shared their passion and inspired our youth, well done! There is likely a school robotics program in your area, reach out and make a difference. You can mentor, guide and develop hungry young minds, it's fun and rewarding.

The CMMA Board of Directors recently met for a strategic planning session to ensure that we are on track and looking ahead. The group was vigilant to our three core strategies of delivering value and impact:

- Educating Members
- Partnering with K-12 and Post-Secondary Educational Institutions
- Government/Legislative Relations

We refined our efforts and plan to continue to remain at the epicenter of manufacturing activity in central Minnesota using these proven methods.

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Featured Member: Coldspring

Coldspring, headquartered in Cold Spring, Minnesota, is one of the largest producers of natural stone and bronze for the commercial, memorial, landscaping, industrial and residential markets. Founded in 1898, the company has a rich heritage of innovation and remains a leader in the industry it helped create. Proudly employing over 900 people in 30 quarries and 5 manufacturing facilities throughout the United States and Canada, Coldspring ensures its longevity by fostering a culture of continuous improvement and sustainable practices.

Coldspring has been well known as a granite company for a long time, even though they have been much more than a granite company for many years. Significant parts of their business are devoted to the manufacturing and distribution of bronze memorials and signage, cemetery building consulting and construction services, diamond tools and equipment and other materials including marble, limestone, sandstone and composites that are specific to very specialized applications. Their new, unified brand demonstrates their collective commitment to finding better and bolder ways to serve the market.

Whether gazing at a sleek stone-clad skyscraper, preparing a meal on a burnished granite countertop, leisurely walking through a landscaped city park or visiting an inspired mausoleum, you've likely experienced the beauty and craftsmanship of Coldspring. With its team of skilled artisans, state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities and extensive distribution network, Coldspring has brought natural stone to life through countless impressions across the U.S. and around the world.

Manufacturing natural stone is a blend of automation and hand-craftsmanship. In addition to its workforce that showcases expert stone cutters and artisans, hundreds of employees fill a variety of skilled positions -from sales (representatives, marketing, drafting, designing) and support (HR, IT, environmental services, engineering, finance) to operations (machine and heavy equipment operators, saw and drill operators, line workers) and trade (carpenters, electricians, welders, mechanics) - Coldspring thrives because its employees focus on customer success.

Despite its sheer scale and scope, Coldspring maintains its defining core values: creativity, integrity and determination. This is evidenced most clearly through its employees, who are known to embrace technologies and develop smarter tools, uncover greater efficiencies and create new products to satisfy the most demanding market challenges.

Coldspring's culture of corporate sustainability complements its commitment to its people, matching its role as a strong contributor to the business community.



Letter from Les ...Continued

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CMMA awarded \$4,000 in college scholarships and \$7,681 in related workforce development funding last year. We made a difference by bussing technical college students to the WELD event, funding area high schools robotics teams, bringing teachers to the Grandview conference, and bussing students to the STEM event at St. Cloud State. All told, we can be proud of our work!

Remember to post your jobs on the CMMA website, consider inviting your Legislator to your shop this year and think about answering the call to join a CMMA committee.

CMMA wishes to thank Harry Larson for his dedicated board and committee level service. He has been instrumental in the development and success of our organization, best of luck with your future endeavors!

Remember, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

Les Engel
CMMA President

CMMA Board of Directors

***Les Engel** was recently named 2014 President of Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association for the seventh consecutive year. Engel owns and operates Engel Metallurgical, a St. Cloud-based independent materials, engineering, consulting and testing company. He has served on the Board since 2008.

***Nick Weis**, an engineer at Thermo-Tech Windows, Sauk Rapids, was elected to a fifth term as Vice President of the organization.

***Tim Zipoy**, Workforce Development Advisor at Central Minnesota Jobs & Training Services in Monticello, was named to his fourth term as Secretary of CMMA.

***Lisa Koll**, Area Director for Doherty Staffing Solutions, with an office in St. Cloud, will serve a seventh term as Treasurer.

Serving as directors in 2014 are:

- Brian Bastian**, Schlenner Wenner, St. Cloud
- Steve Leen**, KDV, Ltd., St. Cloud
- Dr. Kurt Helgeson**, St. Cloud State University
- Jason Iverson**, Falcon National Bank, St. Cloud
- Randy Pelletier**, Pellco Machine, St. Michael
- Jared Powell**, Woodcraft Industries, St. Cloud
- Bonnie Supan**, Brenny Transportation, St. Cloud
- Stan Voas**, New Flyer, St. Cloud.

*Indicates Founding Member of CMMA.

CMMA Receives VEX Partner of the Year Award

The Dream It Do It Central Minnesota VEX Robotics Tournament, the third and final VEX competition in Minnesota for the 2013-2014 season, was held on January 24-25, 2014, at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. The tournament was hosted by St. Cloud Technical and Community College and led by 360° Manufacturing and Applied Engineering ATE Regional Center of Excellence. Fifty-one middle school and high school teams competed. Seven elementary school teams competed in the first Dream It Do VEX IQ Tournament, and four college teams competed in the first Dream It Do IT VEX U Tournament.

The Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association was recognized for their continued support of the VEX Robotics Tournaments in St. Cloud. They have supported the tournaments hosted by St. Cloud Technical and Community College since they began three years ago. Les Engel, president of the association, accepted the award.

"We appreciate Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association's support of the Dream It Do It Central Minnesota VEX Robotics Tournament in St. Cloud as we continue to build the pipeline for advanced manufacturing," says Karen White, executive director of 360° Manufacturing and Applied Engineering ATE Regional Center of Excellence.

Aaron Barker, event coordinator and energy and electronics instructor at St. Cloud Technical and Community College, agrees, "These tournaments are a fun and educational opportunity for these students. They have the opportunity to build their STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills while also learning about career opportunities where they can use these skills in advanced manufacturing."



Andy Zieglmeier, SCTCC, presents Les Engel with "Partner of the Year Award" for CMMA's continued support of VEX Robotics

CMMA Supports Granite City GearHeads

The St. Cloud FIRST Robotics Team, affectionately called Granite City Gearheads, is making progress on their robot and programming according to their Facebook page. CMMA recently awarded them a grant of \$1000 to aid them in their quest to repeat their 2013 winning performance at the 2014 MN 10,000 Lakes Competition .

Individual CMMA members have also been showing their support. Here's what Randy Pelletier at Pellco Machine has to say: "The robotics program is an excellent way to get kids interested in manufacturing and engineering. They learn a multitude of skills including problem solving and team work. Everything they learn through this program will make them better prepared to enter the workforce and be successful. That's why Pellco Machine has sent financial support to the Granite City Gearheads and other robotics programs for past 2 years. This is an invest with a lot of value and we will continue to support it for years to come."



Member News

American Time Surpasses 1.7 Million Clocks Sold

In a recent press release American Time announced that it had sold more than 1.7 million clocks and had its most successful year since the company was founded in 1980.

American Time also launches Wi-Fi network clock technology which maintain accurate, synchronized time requiring no maintenance for five years.

[Click here](#) to read all about it.

Board Bio



Name: Jason Iverson

Where do you work, what do you do? Falcon National Bank. I'm the Chief Credit Officer for the bank and my primary responsibilities include monitoring the asset/loan quality of the bank, reviewing large commercial loans, overseeing the compliance and internal audit functions of the bank and

most importantly promoting the bank in the central Minnesota business community.

What was your first job? General laborer for a nursery in northern Minnesota was my first "paying" job. Farm labor on the family farm started much earlier.....

Hometown: Born in Grand Rapids, MN and grew up in Bagley, MN

Family: Married to my wife Hope for 20 years in April 2014, 3 children ages 18, 15 and 10 with the oldest graduating from Albany high school this spring.

Pets: (2) dogs and (2) cats all in the house. Yes we have lots of pet hair floating around.....

Do you have a favorite book or author? One of my favorite authors is George RR Martin, A Song of Ice and Fire series more commonly known as the "Game of Thrones". I started reading these books long before HBA created the mini-series.

Favorite movie? The Lord of the Rings trilogy

Favorite food? Shrimp....any way

Do you have any hobbies, play any sports or favorite games? I love fantasy football and am an avid Vikings fan (admittedly difficult this year). My true passion is fresh water fishing although a close second is hunting. It is tough for me to turn down a cribbage game.

Comment on your involvement in CMMA: I've been going to meetings representing Falcon National Bank now for over 2 years. I truly appreciate the importance of manufacturers to the local economy as well as the national and global economy. It was important for the bank to get involved with the local manufacturers to not only promote manufacturing, but also support the local manufacturing industry.

What would CMMA members be surprised to learn about you? That I served 7 years in the Minnesota Army National Guard assigned to a mechanized infantry battalion. I was the gunner on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle and got to shoot 25mm chain gun as well as the TOW antitank missiles.

Legislator Connection

The CMMA board of directors recently approved “Legislator Connection,” a new program that is intended to increase interaction between manufacturers and local legislators by making it easier to schedule/host plant tours. The program encourages CMMA manufacturing members to notify the CMMA office if they have interest in hosting a tour for one or more Minnesota Senators or Representatives. CMMA staff will then serve as the liaison between the manufacturer and the legislative aide(s) to schedule the tour at a time that works for both parties. This service is provided at no cost to CMMA member companies.

Plant tours are regarded as one of the most effective means of providing legislators with a personal understanding of how the laws and regulations they support impact the manufacturing industry. During the tour, the legislator(s) will be exposed to the advanced technology at work in so many manufacturing facilities today. At the same time, the tour guide can share insights, examples, and information about the challenges of specific legislation.

To learn more about the Legislator Connection program, or to ask for assistance in scheduling a tour, contact the CMMA office at 800-654-5773 or stephd@runestone.net.



In November 2013 Senator Mary Kiffmeyer visited with Randy Pelletier at Pellco Machine, Inc. in St. Michael.



Did You Know?

Cost-share Program for Headsets

CMMA would like to launch a “cost –share program” to fund the purchase of headsets that could be used to improve the auditory experience for members that attend plant tours in conjunction with the general meetings. Companies participating in the cost could use the headsets “on loan” for non-CMMA related tours and events. If your company would like to learn more this program, contact Sandy Kashmark at the CMMA office.

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 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!

Post Manufacturing jobs on the CMMA website

Post your manufacturing-related job openings on the CMMA website for FREE! Contact the CMMA office for details.



A cost effective way to reach a broad manufacturing audience.

To learn more, contact
Sandy Kashmark at 800-654-5773 or
midwest@runestone.net

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