

NHMA Accomplishments for the Year 2014 - 2015

NHMA continues to be your voice collaborating and advocating for important manufacturing issues and causes with government officials, educators, and many like-minded collaborating organizations in Connecticut. Our nonprofit collaborators range from economic development organizations, to educational institutions, and continual improvement promoters. Our members run the gamut of manufacturers and service providers. We continue to make progress – never before has manufacturing had more share of voice in the news and with the general public.

The Board of Directors followed up the strategic planning from two years ago by taking advantage of more technical functionality to make the business of the association more seamless. Our administrative services from the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce continue to be a great source of support. Member Zone software helps manage member relations and we have now incorporated electronic annual invoicing and online payments of those fees. Additional strategic plan follow up has resulted in the Board approving an adjustment to the association's three to five year goals to cover among other items, the transition of our Executive Director by June 2017.

The Legislative Committee, co-chaired by Tom Auray of Bridgeport Fittings and Charles Reese of Accelerated Achievements LLC have spearheaded our participation in our legislative coalition organization, Connecticut Association of Smaller Manufacturers (CASM). Additional association members of CASM are: New England Spring and Metalstamping Association (NESMA), Metal Manufacturers Education and Training Alliance (METAL) and the Smaller Manufacturers Association (SMA).

NHMA through CASM and working together with CBIA, MAC and other statewide Chamber Manufacturing groups, has become a significant force for manufacturing in Hartford. The Legislative Manufacturing Caucus now includes more than 50 legislators. We have worked to modify Apprenticeship legislation to give pass-through organizations tax credits directly and to advocate for a sustainable budget. Efforts have also supported funding for the Manufacturing Innovation Fund Voucher Program. NHMA led an effort to improve cooperation across the CASM organization with an online survey. Results at <http://bit.ly/1Fe8dTq> . The survey results indicate continued support for lower cost of government and more incentives for pass-through organizations to invest in their future

The Marketing Committee, co-chaired by Marna Wilber of ASSA ABLOY, Beth Devine of the Connecticut Manufacturers Resource Group and Dan Wisneski of Idea Engine continue to work on the messaging and good news to share among the manufacturing community. Improved Facebook content and presence is contributing to informed "friends." Additionally, we have recently transferred our website to the Member Zone platform so that we may take advantage of feature integration and ongoing platform development that we may not be able to accomplish on our own. Look for increased opportunities to utilize our web platform for improved communication in the next NHMA year!

The Membership Committee, co-Chaired by Alan Booth and Tom Raducha organized our third new member reception where we celebrated the new companies and provided an orientation to what we do and how they might get involved. New this year was an "all committee" event to help better communicate what each committee is doing. We continue the effort to be a voice of our members, to encourage them to be more involved in the causes that impact their companies. We need more voices.

The Program Committee, Chaired by Ken Dugan of Prestige Tool Manufacturing, had another great year of manufacturing related programs with this year's theme being "Best Practices for Disruptive Technologies." We started the 2014 schedule with "High Performance Additive Manufacturing" by Severine Zygmunt of Oxford Performance Materials, followed by a joint meeting with BRBC at the PSEG Power Connecticut plant. A talk on "Energy" by Tom Burmeister, one of the program committee members, a plant tour of "Bead Industries" in Milford, of course the ever popular "Holiday Social" with attendees contributing to Toys for Tots, with this year's entertainment by "The Shelton Jazz Quartet". The 2015 schedule started with member Jamie Scott talking about "Digital Media". In March we made a day of traveling via bus to Nazareth, PA for a tour of the "CF Martin Guitar Company", also Don Klepper-Smith for his annual talk on "Manufacturing Economics", another plant tour in April of "Aptar" in Stratford, this is just a small number of the 20 programs the committee put together this new session, leading up the grand finale NHMA annual dinner, June 4th with Major General John Batiste as the keynote speaker. All in all, another banner year.

The Workforce Enhancement Committee is co-chaired by Kris Lorch of Alloy Engineering and Bob Klancko of Klancko and Klancko LLC. The year has been very busy, the 2nd annual Materials Manufacturing Summer Teacher's Institute was held in July. This is a partnership of NHMA, the Southern CT Chapter of the ASM, SCSU, CRISP and the State Technical High Schools. Planning is a year-long effort, and at this year's event Peter Dimoulas of Career High School in New Haven, will receive a special achievement award. Peter is a graduate of the first Institute three years ago and in partnership with NHMA has created and executed two STEM initiatives at his school. These are new and novel models and are a testimony to what can be accomplished through creative partnerships between industry and educators.

In addition, we are partnering with the IDEA Academy at Hillhouse High School, in New Haven, which a new effort on their part to create a state of the art STEM oriented program. We have representatives sitting on TTAC Committees at five Regional Technical High Schools with Dave Tuttle's students a Platt Tech winning National awards, and for the first time in years, one of the students at Eli Whitney placed second

in the state. We are also involved with Gateway and Housatonic Community College, as well as with SCSU where we continue to seek opportunities for new programs focused on both teacher preparation and student skills. Quinnipiac University's Engineering developing program is also a priority for us. We also assisted the Bridgeport School System with Science Fair poster boards which were made by a NHMA member company, Unicorr, in North Haven.

Our relationship with legislators has been strengthened, as well as our committee, which presently has 29 active members and 20 resource contacts. Our involvement is focused essentially on two Inner City School Systems, three Agri-Science and Technology Schools, five Technical High Schools, three Community Colleges, and three Universities. In addition we are connected to the Education Committee of the State Legislature, the CT Department of Education, two Workforce Development Boards, to name a few. And this summary is just the tip of the iceberg of what we are involved in.

We are always seeking new contacts, new active committee members, and new ideas, and of course, donations to the NHMA Workforce Education Foundation will always be greatly appreciated. We sincerely hope you will donate to it so that our programming and outreach can be successful with more people. We thank all of our members and supporters, without whose support we could not be as successful as we are.

The Technology Committee is chaired by Brad Mondschein of Pullman & Comley. This year we have begun formation of this new committee. If you are interested in this committee and topic please let us know.