



Special Edition — November 2006

TOOL TALK

A Publication of the Michigan Tooling Association

EXTRA! EXTRA!

SPECIAL EDITION OF TOOL TALK

***A CRITICAL
AND IMPORTANT
MESSAGE FROM YOUR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

A critical and important message
from your Board of Directors

We've been intimating, for some time now, that new and dynamic things were going to happen at your Michigan Tooling Association and now it's time to tell you about them.

We've decided to adapt to the difficult and challenging industrial situation in Michigan by expanding our reach to include other manufacturing and technology companies, not just in Michigan but throughout all the United States, as well.

We've decided to evolve from the Michigan Tooling Association to become the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association. Not of Michigan, or the Great Lakes, or the Midwest. We've decided not to limit ourselves by boundaries any longer. Now, any tooling, manufacturing or technology company, anywhere in the country, will be able to join us.

Right now, your Michigan Tooling Association is one of the most aggressive and relentless political advocates in Lansing and Washington, DC. One thing that we've observed is that when we approach a legislator or representative on behalf of toolers, the legislator or representative isn't all that interested in giving us much of his time, attention, or respect. On the other hand, when we say that we're there on behalf of manufacturers, the legislator or representative will usually make time to see us. That's because legislators and representatives in Lansing and Washington, DC have a perception that there are large amounts of numbers (votes) associated with manufacturing and fewer with tooling. And there is some truth to that.

By enlarging our Association to include members from the manufacturing and technology sectors we'll be accomplishing several very tactical and important things: we'll increase our numbers. By increasing our numbers, we will be more effectively heard in the halls of political power in Lansing and Washington, DC. And, we will not be geographically limited any longer. Your new Association, with national scope and muscle, will be stronger and more effective as political advocates for you.

Why is this so important? Recently, as many of you know, John Engler and his Executive Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) made a policy decision to turn their backs on, and not support HR1498 which is the House Resolution having to do with Chinese currency manipulation. Chinese currency manipulation is one of the main reasons that toolers in Michigan have gone out of business in droves. Engler and NAM turning their backs on HR1498 was a betrayal to toolers and manufacturers, not only in Michigan, but throughout the country.

But the larger issue is that their betrayal illustrates that they are not representing the interests of the small tooler or the small manufacturer in this country. And, if they're not, who is? Interestingly, if you go to the NAM website, and click on their Board of Directors, you'll see a who's who of CEOs and COOs from scores and scores of multi-national companies. Small toolers and small manufacturers are not being sufficiently represented politically and this situation is only getting worse.

In our new Association's charter, we have reserved the right to exclude multi-nationals and refuse them membership. We don't want internal conflicts in our new Association. One cannot serve two masters. We will be pure and loyal to our member toolers and manufacturers and there will be no backroom agendas.

Tooling will always be our main focus. It's our heritage as well as yours. Every person on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Tooling Association is a tooler who is going through the same hardships and adversities that you are. We recognize, however, that there are natural synergies that exist between toolers, manufacturers, and technology companies and we'll be able to leverage these synergies for your benefit.

Changing the name and direction of this Association is nothing radical or new. It's been done twice before. Necessity gave birth to our Association during the Great Depression in 1933 and events necessitated a name change in 1960 from the Automotive Tool & Die Association to the Detroit Tool & Die Association and then again in 1991 to the Michigan Tooling Association. We feel it's vitally necessary and important to change and adapt to the new realities of the marketplace.

Now more than ever you need a stronger, more powerful, and more influential Association to represent your interests and we intend to do that for you. Any legislation that we support and influence in Lansing and Washington, DC will directly help you.

Your Association is aggressive, active, and proactive. We have recognized that we are at a crossroads, too. We can choose to stay where we are, and continue to lose membership every time another tooler goes out of business, or we can change, adapt, and evolve into a stronger and more vital Association for you.

We've chosen the latter. We are asking you for your support in this new and challenging effort. We're asking you to read the ballot material which you will receive under separate cover within the next several days, give it serious consideration, and vote to allow your Michigan Tooling Association to become the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association. For you.

E-Mail Information Form

In the future, the Michigan Tooling Association would like to begin notifying our membership on matters of importance via e-mail. While we will still be sending communications out by regular mail, we would also like to take advantage of the opportunities that the electronic age has afforded to us. To do this, we need up-to-date e-mail information on each of our member companies.

Please provide MTA with a list of the names and e-mail addresses of those persons at your company who should be notified of valuable, pertinent information and upcoming events of interest. (Of course, MTA will not 'share' your information with others, nor will we 'spam' your company with frivolous e-mails.) Also, include your website address if you have one. Submit your company's information form to MTA by fax (248-488-0500), by e-mail to ron@mtaonline.com, or simply call our office with the information (248-488-0300, ext. 1306).



Do You Blog?



What originally started as a personal, on-line journal has evolved into a widespread communication tool used for everything from food to politics. Blog sites have been credited for being a driving force behind such events as a source of information during the December 2004 Tsunami; a different perspective of the Iraq War; the 'Rathergate' scandal; the political crisis that forced U.S. Senator Majority Leader Trent Lott to step down; and, of course, let's not forget that relatively unknown blogger named Matt Drudge who wrote the first report on a now infamous former White House intern who was having sexual relations with a certain President.

In keeping with the latest trends, the Michigan Tooling Association has started their own blog site dedicated to toolers. We strongly encourage you to visit our webpage at www.mtaonline.com and click on the "Tell Aunt Elaine" button. Whether you want to remain anonymous and read what others are writing or you want to vent your own opinion, we are there to listen and so are your peers.

Where can you take our MTA blog site?

Join us today!



MTA List of Endorsed Service Providers

- ❖ **Reliance Standard/Ameritas** (life/dental insurance)
MTA contacts: Mark Tyler 248-489-8505
Stella Krupansky 248-488-0300 ext. 1310
- ❖ **Blue Cross Blue Shield/BCN** (health insurance)
MTA contacts: Mark Tyler 248-489-8505
Elaine Burger-Laskosky 248-488-0300 ext. 1309
- ❖ **Federated Ins.** (property & casualty insurance)
Provider contact: Joseph Busby 800-428-4143
- ❖ **Freedom One Financial Group** (401(k) programs)
Provider contact: Lesley Goodwin 248-620-8100
- ❖ **John M. Packer & Associates** (unemployment)
Provider contact: Nathan Wiest 800-482-2971
- ❖ **Custom Telecom** (phone/communications)
Provider contact: Kathy Schaumburger 866-332-1200

MTA receives a benefit from its Endorsed Providers when you, as a member, patronize them. This is one way we are able to maintain the level of dues.



www.mtaonline.com

TOOL TALK®

A Publication of the Michigan Tooling Association
P.O. Box 9151 Phone (248) 488-0300
Farmington Hills, MI 48333 Fax (248) 488-0500

Managing Director — Robert Dumont
Copy Editor, Layout / Design — Elaine Burger-Laskosky

TOOL TALK is distributed free to all MTA members.

Copyright © 2006 Michigan Tooling Association All Rights Reserved

Deadline for submission of news, articles, letters, cartoons and Marketplace items is the 15th of each month.
Send/Fax to MTA—Attention: Tool Talk Editor.