



TMTA TALK

A Publication of the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association

From Rob's Roost

by: Rob Dumont,
President and CEO



Out Of The Box

THANK YOU! Thank you for sending in your proxy on the very important issue of the changes proposed and recommended by your Board of Directors and, thank you for giving your overwhelming support to those changes.

The changes are in the process of finalization and, as you will see elsewhere in this 'new edition' of TMTA Talk, your new Association has begun the New Year with the attention of the media. That is well and good but I understand that what really counts is the work being done to address the ills, vagaries and results of our International Trade Policy and the lack of response from Washington to the blatant and, in fact, patent disregard for World Trade Organization rules exhibited by our Asian "trading partners". I will be in Washington twice in the month of January doing that work.

I have said it before but it bears repetition, "NUMBERS COUNT IN WASHINGTON" so if you have friends, acquaintances, neighbors or school chums in tooling, manufacturing or the technologies please urge them to consider joining your association to support our efforts. In that vein, we have had contact from various companies in five other states (in one case, a group of 65 companies in Colorado) wanting information on the new Association.

Interestingly we have, as well, had calls (in response to the media exposure we have had) from people who simply wanted to congratulate us on our efforts on behalf of manufacturing and to wish us well. In one case the caller related that a family member had lost his manufacturing facility to outsourcing and suggested "Thank God someone is trying to do something about it, it is high time!" Clearly the man on the street is fast becoming aware of the problem and we hope to motivate him to become part of the solution the next time there is an election.

I related to those at the Special Meeting of Members on December 21st that I have been working with a group who, early in 2006, created a grid of all members of Congress relative to their "friendliness to manufacturing". They then reviewed election results for each member the last time they ran for office. Without regard to party affiliation, they then selected 15 members considered to be vulnerable and 'unfriendly to manufacturing'.

The next step was to conduct Town Hall meetings and Boot Camps in those 15 districts to educate the people on the voting records and the issues. In the end, all 15 members were replaced on election night in November. That is the kind of action and result that captures attention in DC and that is what we intend to participate in going forward. If you don't care about manufacturing in America, do so at your own risk!

Big money speaks loudly, there can be no doubt, but the ballot box will trump it every time.

Some very good and relevant reading is available from Amazon on the web: Steeling America's Future by Dan DiMicco (CEO Nucor) and Truck Stop Politics by Tom Mullikin. I have been and will continue to work with Tom on these and other trade and manufacturing issues.

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TMTA Calendar of Events—January 2007

Remember to visit the TMTA website at www.thetmta.com for detailed, up-to-date information on all events.

- 17 TMTA Board of Directors meet
- 18 MTMIC Board of Directors meet

Tooling group, in dispute with Engler-led group, goes national

By Sheena Harrison

January 8, 2007

Frustration over Chinese outsourcing and currency valuation is causing a rift between former Gov. John Engler and Michigan tooling companies who say they need protection from global market pressures sooner rather than later.

The Farmington Hills-based **Michigan Tooling Association** has changed its name to the **Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association**, and has begun accepting membership from outside the state.

Association President Rob Dumont said the association is opening itself up in order to gain numbers and increase its clout with legislators regarding outsourcing and trade issues.

"We felt we had to become aggressive in our efforts to have an impact in Washington," Dumont said.

The association is particularly concerned about its representation within the Washington-based **National Association of Manufacturers**, of which Engler is president and CEO.

In a statement last week, the TMTA railed against Engler and NAM, saying the trade group's executive committee "betrayed" domestic manufacturers by voting last year not to support the Hunter-Ryan Chinese Currency Act. The bill would list currency manipulation as an unfair practice under U.S. trade law.

The bill defines manipulation as "protracted large-scale intervention" by a government to undervalue the exchange rate of its currency in order to gain an unfair competitive advantage over any other country.

Instead of basing its currency value on free market trade, the Chinese government pegs the value of its currency, the yuan, against the value of the U.S. dollar. That practice has suppressed the value of the yuan, which gives Chinese companies a price advantage over U.S. companies, said Richard Walawender, head of the international business and automotive practice at **Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone plc** in Detroit. The issue has carried a particularly urgency among TMTA members. The number of tool-and-die makers in Michigan dropped 11 percent to 1,520 in 2002, down from 1,708 in 1997, according to the most recent U.S. Census figures.

Similarly, the Michigan Tooling Association's membership stood at 670 at the end of 2006, down from 740 in 2002.

American manufacturers, including those in the tooling association, long have blamed foreign outsourcing and currency-exchange disadvantages for taking away domestic business and causing many manufacturers to close their doors.

By changing to the TMTA, the association believes it can increase its numbers by 10 percent annually by 2012. As of last week, the TMTA already had received membership inquiries from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Colorado, Illinois and Kentucky.

TMTA Board Chairman Herb Trute, president of Oak Park-based **T&W Tool and Die Corp.**, says the currency disadvantage has taken a heavy toll on his company. T&W, which makes automotive sheet metal form tooling, has cut its staff by half to 35 in the last five years in order to make up for declining sales.

In fact, the company itself began outsourcing to a Chinese manufacturer four months ago in order to further reduce its overhead.

"In order to survive, we have been forced to become part of the problem," said Trute, whose company had 2006 sales of \$15 million.

Trute believes the NAM has promoted the interests of large, multinational manufacturers while downplaying the concerns of smaller firms.

"Our own former governor has been completely blinded by the larger business interests that are running the NAM," Trute said. "And it's patently obvious to me that they have done very little to help the plight of the small manufacturer."

That's just not true, said Franklin Vargo, NAM's vice president of international and economic affairs. He said while the association is pushing for changes in Chinese currency valuation, NAM believes the Hunter-Ryan bill would be ineffective at that goal and could cause China to retaliate against the United States if passed.

Additionally, Vargo said NAM's decision not to back the bill was supported by many of its small-business members who do international business.

"It is a mistake to say the NAM has pulled back, that the NAM is soft on China," Vargo said. "That is absolutely ludicrous."

Vargo said NAM is encouraged by recent conversations between China officials and U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Jr., and is hopeful those talks will result in a fairer valuation of Chinese currency. Meantime, he said NAM will continue lobbying for policies that can level the playing field between the United States and China.

"We're not sitting on our hands doing nothing," Vargo said.

“We’re trying to get the job done.”

The Lansing-based **Michigan Manufacturers Association** did not take a stance on the Hunter-Ryan bill. But Chuck Hadden, the association’s vice president of government affairs, said the manufacturing industry needs to be unified if it hopes to achieve results that will help domestic companies.

“I think it hurts the manufacturing cause when there is a split in the community, and that worries me,” Hadden said.

Dumont said that the TMTA will remain a member of the NAM, and that it’s not encouraging companies to leave the NAM. But the organization is hopeful it can gain enough strength to push for speedier currency-valuation reform.

“I am not asking any member of any organization to leave their organization if they’re satisfied that they’re getting the level of representation at the advocacy level that they require,” Dumont said. “We’re the alternative to any organization that doesn’t offer that representation.”

to become law.

The Chinese fix the value of their currency, the yuan, a system that lets them offer lower prices for their goods here and makes U.S. goods in China more expensive.

“Many members of NAM feel they have been betrayed by John Engler,” said Brian Sullivan, spokesman for the new association, based in Farmington Hills. The group expects at least a 10 percent gain in membership, which stands at 670 members. That’s down 100 members since 2000.

“It’s time to get noisy. Domestic manufacturers have been sold down the river,” Sullivan said.

The issue is so heated that small manufacturers such as tool and die businesses have threatened to quit the NAM.

NAM officials downplayed the rift, pointing out the association, with 12,000 members, is battling Chinese currency manipulation through lobbying efforts.

“There is not a difference over objectives,” said Franklin 3s. “We have a difference over tactics.”

NAM didn’t endorse the Hunter-Ryan bill because it was costly and ultimately would have been declared illegal by the World Trade Organization, Vargo said. “Chinese currency is not something U.S. Congress can legislate.”

Instead, Engler and NAM are giving the Bush administration time to put diplomatic pressure on the Chinese to change their currency laws. NAM also is lobbying European countries to pressure the Chinese.

The organization hopes to see results by June, Vargo said.

By keeping the yuan at a fixed rate, it does not appreciate against the U.S. dollar, which makes Chinese goods cheaper than they might be otherwise. Many analysts say it creates a 40 percent price break on Chinese exports.

“We are not losing to fair competition. We are losing in an unfair fight that’s being allowed by Washington,” said Robert Dumont, president of the new tool and die trade group. He was managing director of the former state tooling association.

The tool and die industry is fighting for survival. Tool and die workers essentially make the precise instruments that mass produce everything from toasters to autos. American tool and die workers were once so valuable that they were exempt from military drafts. They are now steadily losing their livelihood to foreign rivals who do the work for a fraction of the cost.

The new tool and die association will team up with tooling businesses and other manufacturers nationally to try to force Congress to act. They also want to keep pressure on Engler and the NAM. Dumont and other domestic manufacturers are meeting with Engler Jan. 9 at NAM’s Washington office.

The Detroit News

Mich. Toolmakers fight trade group over China

Manufacturers criticize national association’s refusal to fight China’s currency practices.

By Louis Aguilar

January 3, 2007

Michigan tool and die businesses are attempting to stage a rebellion against former Gov. John Engler and the country’s largest industrial trade group, the National Association of Manufacturers.

The 74-year-old Michigan Tooling Association has changed its name to the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association, and intends to become a national group that urges U.S. Congress to halt China’s currency manipulation.

That manipulation is among the factors ravaging tool and die businesses -- one in three automotive tooling shops in Michigan has gone under in the past decade. The toolmakers charge the Chinese are allowed to vastly undercut their prices, forcing many American shops to go out of business.

Tool and die makers are angry at Engler and the national manufacturer’s group because it failed to support a recent federal bill, the Hunter-Ryan bill, that would have allowed the U.S. to retaliate against China and other countries who manipulate their currency to gain an export edge. The bill failed

Mark's Remarks

by: Mark Tyler, General Manager
MTA Insurance Agency



BCBSM is adding a number of new benefit options to prescription drug offerings for small groups and removing some existing ones as well.

A series of new prescription drug riders, available for effective dates beginning April 1, 2007, are designed to respond to a changing marketplace in which customers are seeking affordable prescription drug coverage for members. In addition, several riders are being removed from the menu due to declining interest.

BCBSM Cost-Management Riders

The integrated riders with cost-management features bundled together represent a Blues innovation. For the first time, BCBSM is combining reduced premiums and cost-management features into a single package for customers that choose one of the new BCBSM prescription drug plan designs.

These new plan designs, which eliminate the need for groups to purchase separate riders to address their cost-management concerns, were first offered to Community Blue, Flexible Blue and Healthy Blue PPO customers with 100 or more subscribers for Jan. 1 effective dates. Now four of the riders are being offered with the same plans for smaller groups.

The Blues believe the new Rx designs respond to marketplace demand while providing a more competitive pharmacy alternative to take to customers, particularly those that are struggling with maintaining benefit levels for their members.

Here are some of the cost-management features packaged together:

- Copay designs that blend flat dollar and percentage copays for two-tiered closed formulary and triple-tiered plans; and
- Built-in features such as:
 - Prior authorization/step therapy, which may include the use of select covered over-the-counter products;
 - MOPD-2x (mail order with 2x standard retail copay);
 - RX90-2x (optional 90-day retail program with 2x standard retail copay);
 - Exclusion of physician-administered or non-self-administered injectable drugs; and
 - Mandatory MAC.

BCBSM 90-Day Retail Riders

The 90-day retail riders were introduced in March 2006 for BCBSM groups of 100+. Now they are being rolled out to small groups as well. The RX-90 rider provides for a 90-day prescription refill (an 84- to 90-day supply), subject to one member copayment while RX-90-2X provides for a 90-day prescription refill (an 84- to 90-day supply), subject to one member copayment that is double the amount that would apply for a 34-day refill if criteria are met.

A member must have been on the medication for at least 60 days out of the previous 120 days before being eligible for the 90-day supply. The Maintenance Drug provision contained in the BCBSM Preferred Rx certificate and the Flexible Blue Rx program certificate is removed for groups with this rider.

These riders are non-rated and give groups an opportunity to offer their members a simple, convenient method for obtaining extended-time prescription refills at a reduced out-of-pocket cost. In addition, pharmacy providers will be able to service their customers locally instead of seeing them migrate to mail-order plans.

BCBSM will benefit by strengthening their relationship with both groups—responding to customer requests for service enhancements by matching those needs with pharmacy providers eager to maintain their local market share. A listing of 90-day retail network pharmacies participating in the new program is available on bcbsm.com.

BCBSM Community Blue Integrated Rider

BCBSM is also adding a new rider that can potentially reduce the cost of Community Blue to employees by combining drug and medical/surgical expenses into one deductible. Rider CB IDC provides that, when a network deductible is required under Community Blue, prescription drug benefits are subject to the same deductible amounts and are integrated with covered medical/surgical services.

The rider offers members with plans that currently have separate medical and drug benefits greater simplicity along with the potential to reduce the costs associated with some drug plans.

Rider CB IDC can be used with Community Blue plans 12, 14 and 15 and coupled with drug copay options PD-\$10/40, PD-GB \$10/40 RXCF (closed formulary) and PD-TTC \$15/\$50/50% RXCM.

PLEASE NOTE: These plans can be used with Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRA), but not with Health Savings Accounts (HSA).

MC Comp Coverage for Flexible Blue Products

BCBSM is eliminating the need to set up a special suffix for contracts that contain both Flexible Blue and Medicare members. Medicare complementary members will soon be able to receive medical/surgical coverage consistent with Medicare complementary options along with a distinct drug benefit from the non-Medicare member with Flexible Blue. This mixed contract rider is available to 100+ groups with effective dates of Jan. 1, 2007 and after. It will be available for small groups beginning April 1, 2007. More details will follow at a later date.

Flexible Blue Preventive Drug Rider

BCBSM is responding to customer requests for expanded coverage by offering Flexible Blue rider FB-PREV RX500 (form #8914), which pays preventive drugs at 100 percent with a \$500 benefit maximum and no deductible. The rider, which amends the Flexible Blue RX program certificate, was made available for 100+ groups effective Jan. 1, 2007. The rider will be available for small groups effective April 1, 2007.

Groups have requested this benefit to promote the use of medications that can prevent serious medical conditions. The list of preventive drug categories includes:

- Prenatal vitamins;
- Smoking cessation;
- Weight loss;
- Fluoride preparation;
- Alcohol dependence;
- Antihypertensives; and
- Lowering cholesterol.

For more information on these programs or any other insurance needs you may have, contact Mark Tyler at the TMTA Insurance Agency at (248) 489-8505.

TMTA Board of Directors Vote

The results of the election to the TMTA Board of Directors held in December 2006 are:

- ❖ Leonard Bantleon of **Leonard Machine Tool Systems**;
- ❖ Charles Barnes of **Paramount Precision Products**;
- ❖ Robert Peuterbaugh of **JPT-Joint Production Technology, Inc.**; and
- ❖ Peter Rosenkrands of **A.B. Heller, Inc.**

TMTA congratulates these election winners. We would also like to thank those who participated in the electoral process and thank outgoing director Gerald Flannery for his continued service and dedication over the years.

Legislative Update

by: *Judy Augenstein*
Legislative Consultant, Lansing



During the final session days of 2006, the Legislature and Governor Jennifer Granholm reached agreement on a welfare reform package that establishes a four year lifetime limit for a healthy welfare recipient, with exceptions to allow for flexibility. The welfare reform package will require a family self-sufficiency plan to guide families on a path to a better life and impose sanctions for those who do not adhere to their plan. The plan provides exemptions for those who are mentally, emotionally or physically disabled. It allows recipients to increase their work hours and seek higher paying jobs by allowing them to keep more of the money they earn. The lifetime limit includes a 12-month extension if a person faces barriers to employment such as problems with child care or transportation.

Controversial legislation to create a statewide law for new video franchises in Michigan was passed into law. The hotly contested bill allows increased competition in the television market. The Legislature finalized action on the new Michigan Promise Grant which will replace the Michigan Merit Award. The MPG will provide students with up to \$4,000 for their higher education and requires them to complete two years of post secondary education.

The Legislature did not act on the Governor's proposed Michigan Business Tax (MBT). The proposal is designed to replace the Michigan Single Business Tax. Republican leaders felt that the MBT was too complex to deal with during the short "lame duck" session.

The 2008 Legislature will be led by Republicans in the Senate and Democrats in the House. Senate Republicans have selected Senator Mike Bishop, R-Rochester to lead their caucus while Senate Democrats have selected Senator Mark Schauer, D-Battle Creek. The Speaker of the House will be Andy Dillion, D-Redford Township and House Republicans have retained Rep. Craig DeRoche, R- Novi as their leader.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester has requested a series of meetings with members of the lobby core to discuss client issues for the upcoming session. On behalf of TMTA, I will request changes to the Tool and Die Renaissance/ Recovery Zone Act and the possibility of creating a state credit insurance program so tool and die companies can get business loans. The new Speaker of the House, Andy Dillion, D-Redford Township has requested a similar meeting with TMTA.

From the Desk of Gary Wood

MTMIC Administrator



With the risk of sounding too optimistic, the new year has come again and the world seems to be spinning along with great enthusiasm. Every year it seems I look back and say what a relief it was to get that over while hoping and praying that we get another turn around the sun with out everything coming undone.

There have been a few changes here at the MTA Workers' Compensation Fund; first of all, the Fund does not exist anymore. I hope that none of you might have missed that we worked all year long to develop what we hope to be an insurance company for and about the policyholders (just like the Fund was for and about the members).

At times I wondered if the goal was worth the effort, because really, it was not an easy task putting this together in eight months. There was a group fund that could continue to provide coverage to the members of the TMTA and what difference did it make if there was less premium volume in the group due to the projected shrinkage of the industry. We could have ridden it out a few more years and retired.

Some things are more important than getting away with as little work as possible. Mr. Moore (my predecessor) and the Trustees spent thirty-one years getting the Fund to where it was and we thought it was worth the effort to move it forward.

The last eight months have been extremely focused and most of our efforts were aimed in the direction of getting the job of the conversion done; I apologize to any of you that may have expected more attention than we could muster at any time but believe me it was not because we were out to lunch.

What have we got on January 1, 2007?

The insurance company received authority to operate on December 22 at 2:00 p.m.

The next week was spent canceling 425 insurance policies through the Fund and re-writing them through the Manufacturing Technology Mutual Insurance Company (MTMIC)

What happened to the Premium?

Due to the conversion to a mutual insurance company, the MTMIC was permitted to provide a premium discount that was not allowed under the accounting processes for the Fund. The majority of the policies, those between \$5,000 and \$100,000, received a 9.5% discount on their premium over \$5,000. Those members with higher premium actually received further discounts.

Why did we get a check?

If you were in the Fund between 2000 and 2005 you were eligible to receive a dividend from the MTA WCF. The Trustees believed there was sufficient money available to provide the last dividend and the state agreed.

Will we ever be subject to an assessment for the years the Fund was in operation?

NO! One of the often overlooked but not forgotten aspects of a Fund in Michigan is that as a member of the Fund you could be *assessed* if the Fund did not collect enough money and the claims exceeded the excess insurance purchased by the group. This rule does not apply on a member-by-member basis but to all of the members in the fund.

Under a Fund, if you are having a good year and every one else is "in the tank" you could still be ordered by the courts to throw in more money to handle the losses. The members are **JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE** for all claims in the Fund year(s) they were members.

As a part of the plan to form the mutual insurance company, the Trustees sought out and purchased coverage to "buy out" all known claims and all of the incurred-but-not-reported claims of the Fund members—going back to 1976! That coverage not only removes the liability for the open claims (the value of which was developed actuarially) but also any chance that you would be assessed for the losses of the other members.

The cost of this coverage was paid for from the majority of the remaining assets of the Fund. The result was no contingent liabilities to the members.

Why does my coverage through MTMIC say it started on January 1, 2006?

In order to avoid the establishment of a trust and the expense of doing so, the Trustees, through their attorneys, negotiated an arrangement whereby MTMIC could assume the liabilities of the Fund's 2006 year for an amount equal to the premium paid by the members in 2006. The cost of the Trust would have been very high and this again removes the accessibility of the members while reducing the cost of terminating the Fund.

Why would anybody do this when we had a functioning group?

Over the last several years the regulatory agency for the Fund became more conservative in their understanding of the constraints placed on the Fund by our own bylaws. Our bylaws defined members quite strictly as tool and die shops and that industry has shrunk considerably in size. Technology, and manufacturing in general, continues to play a fairly active role in the state and the only way to continue to maintain a level of premium volume, the fund needed to expand to admit members into the group which were being denied under the old constraints.

The easy way out would have been to modify the bylaws but after numerous discussion it became apparent to the Trustees that the state was not about to budge on their interpretation.

Where are we going from here?

The MTMIC welcomes your input and will be working hard to enroll new members. The staff remains unchanged and the pro-

cesses continue to operate just like they always did. The primary difference is that we can now seek out the previously unavailable prospects and start growing again.

Thank you for continuing with us; in case you did not notice the MTA has also taken on a new name, direction and look. Our congratulations to our sister organization on the changes they have undertaken as they too look to assist in the future of the members.

Let's work together to make 2007 a better year for business in Michigan.

MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY NEWS

A Stirring National Debate Over Trade: Michigan Tooling Association Changes It Name And Broadens Its Reach To Take On NAM

January 5, 2007

The 670-member Michigan Tooling Association is taking a great leap forward and is planting itself on the national landscape. Driven by growing resentment among manufacturing business owners over the escalating trade deficit and the perceived unwillingness of the federal government and national trade associations to represent the interests of domestic manufacturers, the 74-year-old tooling group has changed its name to the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association (TMTA). It is seeking members from outside Michigan and will conduct an aggressive campaign to wrestle control of the trade agenda in Washington away from multinational corporations.

"The multinationals have way, way, way too much influence in Washington and that has got to change," says Rob Dumont, president and CEO of the re-named group. "Right now, trade policy is not dictated by Congress. It's dictated by the multinationals based on making a quick buck in the short term. You cannot have the trade deficits we have with total and absolute disregard for people. It is destined to fail."

The Michigan Tooling Association changed its name to eliminate geographic boundaries and it expanded the name to include any domestic manufacturer or technology company being challenged from unfair offshore competition. Says Brian Sullivan, TMTA's director of sales and marketing: "We've decided to draw a line in the sand and demonstrate resolve not to fade into economic and political irrelevance."

Dumont says the association is passionate about the proposition that manufacturing is fundamental to the future of the United States. "We're going to come out of the gate fairly quickly," he

told Manufacturing & Technology News. "We're going to aggressively invite people to join us. We're going to ruffle feathers. We're going to meet with resistance. But we've got a determination that isn't paralleled by any association I'm aware of. And we're not going to get ourselves into a trap where we have multinationals as members. We respect their right to do what they want to do, but we're going to protect our right to do it differently."

Ninety-six percent of the Michigan Tooling Association's membership approved the name change during a special membership meeting on December 21; ninety-five percent approved expanding the scope of the organization.

"One of the debates we had with our board of directors who considered this very, very carefully and at length had to do with our roots being in Michigan," Dumont explains. "The reality is we can work all day in Lansing, Michigan, but Lansing doesn't have the jurisdiction to make the changes."

It's the federal government that enters into and enforces trade agreements. These agreements are not benefiting American industry nor its workers, the group argues. "You can't disregard your own people and you can't just turn your back on the American worker," Dumont says. "You're talking about losing 3.2 million manufacturing jobs. Lord, stone the crows. How bright do you have to be to figure that one out?"

The National Association of Manufacturers has also opened the door to a new national organization, says Dumont. The NAM Executive Committee's decision to overturn a previously approved NAM policy committee resolution to support legislation aimed at confronting China over the manipulation of its currency (HR-1498) is in direct opposition to the interests of domestic manufacturers, says Dumont. "As an association president, I would never presume to over-rule my membership, I just wouldn't do it," he says. "It's not an appropriate way for an association leader to function."

"Many members of NAM are beyond frustrated," adds Sullivan. "They feel that they have been betrayed by [NAM president] John Engler and his Executive Committee's decision not to support HR-1498. Go to the NAM Web site and click on their Board of Directors. You'll see a Who's Who of principals of multinational companies who comprise the great majority of NAM's Board members. Clearly, NAM is not representing the interests of domestic manufacturers who happen to be NAM's core constituency." These domestic manufacturers "have become angry about the situation and have become aware that since NAM is not representing their best interests they need to look elsewhere for representation. The TMTA is now inviting dissatisfied and disenfranchised members of other manufacturing and technologies associations to join us....It's time to get noisy."

TMTA hopes to boost its membership so that it can pack a political punch. "The foremost requirement is numbers," says Dumont. "If you don't have the numbers, you don't get the audience - you get polite permission to say what you have to say and then it's almost as if the thought process goes out the door right behind

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you. If you have numbers, that is more meaningful.”

It will be difficult to force control of the agenda away from powerful and wealthy multinationals that will vigorously defend free trade. These companies are profitably producing in countries that undervalue their currency, allow them to pollute and provide them with untold numbers of subsidies, says Dumont. “There are people in corporate America who are taking advantage of virtual slavery and they are doing it with impunity, and if anybody has anything to say that is contrary to that, they respond by saying, ‘Well, you know, we can’t make changes over there. That’s the way it is. You cannot dictate policy to China.’ Well, you don’t want to make any changes over there because you are profiting from it. There isn’t any reason why people don’t react to what’s going on. If somebody stops his car immediately in front of you your reaction is to try to stop. You don’t just plow into them. It’s time for people to take a serious look at this, but the multinationals immediately take refuge in the suggestion that everyone else is protectionist when they are in fact the ones being protectionist.”

Many of the multinationals and those who benefit from their dues and political donations may not understand the depth of the grass-roots movement that is building against them, says Dumont. “We’ll sure do our best to make it bite them soon. The reality is, the guy who is in charge of the largest multinational corporation in the world gets exactly the same number of votes as the guy who works for him sweeping the floor. And those are the people who are going to make a difference. That is the backbone of America, and it’s high time that democracy went back to work.”

For more information, the group can be reached on the Internet at www.thetmta.com.



List of Endorsed Service Providers

- ❖ **Reliance Standard/Ameritas** (life/dental insurance)
TMTA contacts: Mark Tyler 248-489-8505
Stella Krupansky 248-488-0300 ext. 1310
- ❖ **Blue Cross Blue Shield/BCN** (health insurance)
TMTA 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

TMTA 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.

Inflation Talk

CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
Nov 2006	196.8	586.1	668.8*
Oct	197.0	586.7	682.5*
Sept	198.4	591.0	687.3*
August	199.6	594.6	691.5*
July	199.2	593.2	690.1*
June	198.6	591.7	688.0*
May	198.2	590.5	686.8*
April	197.2	587.3	683.1*

CPI-U All Urban Consumers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
Nov 2006	201.5	603.6	702.0*
Oct	201.8	604.6	703.0*
Sept	202.9	607.9	706.9*
August	203.9	610.9	710.3*
July	203.5	609.6	709.0*
June	202.9	607.8	706.9*
May	202.5	606.5	705.5*
April	201.5	603.5	702.0*

Note: November 2006 CPI-W represents a 1.8% increase from one year ago; CPI-U a 2.0% increase.

* Base Year 1957-59 is no longer released. BLS has issued the following conversion factors from the 82-84 year:

CPI-W—.2886674 CPI-U—.2870447

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