

tmta talk

A publication of the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association



**FROM ROB'S
ROOST**
BY ROB DUMONT
PRESIDENT & CEO

Currently....

The best made plans of mice and men.... Delayed delivery, technical glitches, the wait for new parts and the result is that TMTA Talk is late for the month of May. You will recall that I

told you to watch for some changes in the look of TMTA Talk in May—hope you approve!

We were very pleased to see those members who attended our Annual Meeting in April. We seated the three new directors of the TMTA Board in the persons of Bruce Cain (**XCEL Mold & Machine Inc.** of North Canton Ohio); John Ebbing (**Detroit Edge Tool** of Detroit) and Dennis Haller (**Haller International** of Detroit). The officers who served during the 2007 term were re-elected to the same positions for 2008 and so Herb Trute (**T & W Tool and Die** of Oak Park Mi.) is Chairman; Irvine Swider (**Future**

Products Tool of Clawson Mi.) is Vice Chairman; Robert Peuterbaugh (**Joint Production Technology** of Macomb Mi.) is Secretary and George Buhaj (**Avon Broach Production** of Rochester Mi.) is Treasurer.

As is the case with all of our members, we at the TMTA have had to “right size” to stay in step with the economic realities of current times. Accordingly,

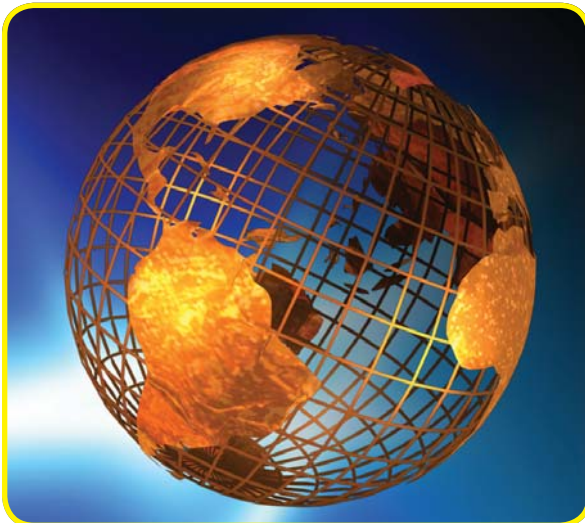
Brian Sullivan formerly the Director of Marketing and Communications here at TMTA has left the Association and we all wish him well with his future endeavors.

The Golf Outing is scheduled for June 26, 2008 and will once again be at Fox Hills. Preparations are progressing and registrations are coming in. Please register as soon as possible so that we can ensure all our beans

(Rob's Roost continues on Page 6)

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tmta Calendar of Events May 2008

15	MTMIC Board of Directors meets at TMTA offices
21	TMTA Board of Directors meets at TMTA offices
26	Memorial Day - Federal Holiday - TMTA/MTMIC Offices Closed

Visit www.thetmta.com for detailed, up-to-date information.



TMTA's 73rd Annual Golf Outing & Dinner

Attend the TMTA's 73rd Annual Golf Outing at the Fox Hills Golf Club on June 26, 2008 and you could have the chance to win a brand new vehicle (model to be announced) or \$1,000,000 in our hole-in-one shoot-out contest. We've seen some close calls in the past, but we're still waiting for someone to win—this year it could be you!

The outing features a shot-gun start; lunch on the turn; open bar in the clubhouse and beer & sodas on the course; dinner including hors d'oeuvres, a delicious buffet and premium open bar; and then prizes galore.

Tickets are \$180 per person for golfers and \$85 per person for dinner only. Visit our website at www.thetmta.com for reservation forms, a map, and further information. Fax your forms to TMTA ASAP since tee and table assignments are made on a first-come, first-served basis.

We look forward to seeing you there!



BCBSM Contracts With Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals

As of April 1, 2008, BCBSM began contracting with long-term acute care hospitals (LTACH) in Michigan. There are approximately 20 such facilities in Michigan that provide specialized services to members who may no longer meet the criteria for an acute care inpatient hospital stay, but still require a level of care that is more intensive than most skilled nursing facilities can provide. As a result of this contract, BCBSM will have a network of participating LTACHs that accept the established reimbursement levels, helping to control health care costs for members.

Newly Designed BCBSM & BCN Websites

If you haven't been on the BCBSM or BCN websites lately, you should see what's new. BCBSM and BCN have both updated their systems to make navigation easier putting the most often used applications and features to the front of the site instead of forcing members to dig for them.

BCBSM members can access deductible and copayment information as well as "Your Benefit Guide", Explanation of Benefits forms, Coordination of Benefits info, and even order duplicate ID cards. Go to www.bcbsm.com to check it out. First time visitors are required to register.

BCN members can now keep better track of health care services. You can view and print your claims summary to see which doctors you've seen, when you saw them and what the costs were. You can check off the claims for which you want more detailed information and then review and print an Explanation of Benefits Payment form for those claims. This feature goes back 12 months so you'll have the tools you need to manage and report health insurance cost information for tax and other purposes. Another feature is the Summary of Benefits that can help you find out what's covered and any copayments and deductibles you may have. Go to www.mibcn.com to check it out. First time visitors are required to register.

It's Time For Spring Cleaning—Don't Forget Your Nose!

Most people don't think about cleaning their nose and sinus cavities, but this is an important issue for the millions who suffer with spring allergies, nasal congestion, stuffy noses and post-nasal drip. Treatments including antibiotics, antihistamines and anti-



inflammatory drugs can be helpful to some, but for many patients, symptoms persist. Nasal irrigation—the flushing of nasal passages and sinuses with a salt water mixture—is one of the best methods for relieving symptoms.

A recent study by the University of Michigan proves that nasal irrigation treatments provide greater benefits for patients than saline sprays. The nasal irrigation group achieved a 50% lower frequency of nasal symptoms and those symptoms were significantly less severe. In the U.S., 36 million people are affected by chronic rhinosinusitis each year and millions more are affected by other types of allergic and non-allergic rhinitis.

The method is simple. Lower your head over the sink turning your head so that your left nostril is down and open your mouth slightly. Gently squirt or pour approximately 4-ounces of saline solution into your right nostril. The solution will exit through the left nostril into the sink. To prevent the solution from coming out of your mouth, make a “K” sound, which closes off the mouth and throat. Gently blow your nose. Repeat for the other side.

People who are new to nasal irrigation can purchase a sinus rinse kit available at most drug stores that includes an 8-ounce squeeze bottle and solution packets. Other methods include a device called a neti-pot which resembles a miniature teapot. With this device, water is poured into your nose. Some people even use turkey basters or syringes like those used to suction a baby’s nose. All of these methods work.

You can make your own solution by mixing ¼ teaspoon of kosher or pickling salt, ¼ teaspoon of baking soda and 8-ounces of warm water. Since tap water may have some bacterial impurities, you should use distilled water. Boil the water and store in the refrigerator until you add the salt and baking soda, then warm for a few seconds in the microwave. Be careful the solution is not too hot. Prepare a fresh solution each day.

According to the U of M study, nasal irrigation can be considered a first-line treatment for common nasal and sinus symptoms and it is often more effective than medications. Nasal irrigation is very cheap, very safe and very effective.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By JUDY AUGENSTEIN,
LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT, LANSING

Michigan Business Tax sticker shock continues as businesses from all over the state report sticker shock as they learn their tax liability under Michigan’s recently

passed Business Tax. Increases of 200 to are not un- The bottom many com- tax is no im- over the Sin- Tax it re- 22 percent on the tax replace the a repealed tax did not any. Many



Michigan Tax. Increases of 300 percent common. The bottom line is that for companies the improvement in Michigan Business Tax is not placed. The surcharge added to revenue from services help matters believe law-

makers and the governor fumbled the ball on an opportunity to make Michigan a better place to do business when the old SBT was repealed. The Legislature’s disappointing performance on budget and tax issues is one of the reasons many have indicated support for moving Michigan to a part-time legislature.

Signatures for a part-time legislature spearheaded by the “Turn Michigan Around” committee is gaining momentum. “Turn Michigan Around” is a ballot initiative committee initiated by a citizens group out of Clarkston. More information can be found at www.turnmichiganaround.com.

Senate Bill 680, sponsored by Senator Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, has passed the Senate and is awaiting debate by the House Commerce Committee. The bill increases from 25 to 40 the number of tool and die renaissance recovery zones. Senate Bill 680 allows a recovery zone to include qualified businesses with 75 or more full time employees if the business agrees to a payment in lieu of taxes for public safety and fire protection services. I am working with members of the House Commerce Committee and sponsor Senator Richardville to get the bill scheduled for House Commerce Committee debate.



Good News for MTMIC Policyholders

Dividends Coming

The Board of Directors of the MTMIC declared a policyholders' dividend equal to 10% of net paid premium payable to all those whose policies were effective in 2007 and went full term. The initial payments of the dividends will be issued upon completion of the audits for all 'calendar year' policies. We anticipate that this process will be completed by early May and the dividend checks issued by mid-May.

MTMIC Sponsors a "Wellness Program"

The MTMIC is co-sponsoring a wellness initiative with Dr. Denise Williams of WellTrek Consulting Services. The first program will be held in the offices of the TMTA, 28237 Orchard Lake Road, Farm-

ington Hills, MI 48334 on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. Contact Megan Brown, MTMIC Director of Sales & Marketing at megan.brown@mtmic.com or 248-488-1172 ext. 1006 for details on this event.

It is a statistical fact that employees involved in wellness programs return to work quicker after an injury which can reduce the cost of treating the injury by a substantial amount. The program is offered free of cost compliments of MTMIC and WellTrek.

Fork Lift Injuries

According to MIOSHA, one of the predominant causes of serious injuries is the operation of material handling machinery and fork lifts trucks. Since January 2006, MIOSHA has recorded nine fork lift fatalities statewide in Michigan (no policyholders of the MTMIC).

The MTMIC has, however, had

several serious incidents and it would be a great service to your employees, your company and the MTMIC to be familiar with PA 154 of 1974, Section 11(a) R4080.1011(a) which provides an overview of the movement of trailers and general loading dock regulations.

The operation of a fork lift is a licensable occupation according to MIOSHA standards and the MTMIC Loss Control staff can assist policyholders in complying with the requirements of the act.

MIOSHA NEWS

Are you interested in free information that could save you money?

MIOSHA publishes quarterly newsletters which are very informative and could update your files to avoid future issues should you be the subject of an inspection. Contact MIOSHA at 517-322-1814 to be added to their mailing list.

MRSA Infections

Recently there has been an outbreak of MRSA (which is a type of staph infection) at local schools. Generally these infections are the result of crowded conditions, skin-to-skin contact, cuts, scratches and abrasions, contaminated or unsanitary conditions.

While these infections are most frequently found in schools, dormitory type facilities and other communal living areas, the infection can be transmitted in the work environment where any of the above noted conditions exist.

This type of infection is often resilient to antibiotics and quite often can be a lot worse than a mild rash.



Statistically, more than 18,000 people died from this type of infection in the USA during 2005. In case you are keeping track of relative mortality tables, less people died from AIDS in the same period.

The best method of avoiding infection is simple: avoid skin-to-skin contact and wash your hands—often. Frequent hand washing is often cited as an excellent method of avoiding more common flus and colds, why not give it a try and see if your physical condition improves.

Would You Like Us To Contact You in E-mail Format?

The MTMIC is considering developing an e-mail network to contact current policyholders. Would you prefer e-mail contact? If we get sufficient response, we will e-mail future correspondence to those that register.

Here is what we need:

Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 E-mail address: _____

More than one contact? No problem, just copy and fax the above information listing all of your contacts to 248-488-1980 or gary.wood@mtmic.com.

We will keep you advised if there is sufficient demand for the project.

ACH:

Here is a topic that I hate to keep repeating but find it hard to resist.

We have developed the availability for policyholders to pay premium through an Automatic Cash Handling program. At no cost to the policyholders, we automatically withdraw monthly premium payments from their checking account. This program has been available for some time now and many policyholders have signed up for this cost and labor saving method of paying premium.

If you are a policyholder interested in signing up for this program, register with Chris Doebler at 248-488-1172 ext. 1012 (chris.doebler@mtmic.com).

Last Word For May:

The Federal Income Tax Rebate will be here soon; can prosperity be far behind?



~Working safe is not an accident~

Inflation Talk

CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
Mar 2008	209.147	622.985	724.53*
Feb	207.254	617.345	717.97*
Jan	206.744	615.828	716.20*
Dec 2007	205.777	612.948	712.85*
Nov	205.891	613.287	713.25*
Oct	204.338	608.662	707.87*
Sept	203.889	607.324	706.31*
Aug	203.199	605.267	703.92*

CPI-U All Urban Consumers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
Mar 2008	213.528	639.636	743.88*
Feb	211.693	634.139	737.49*
Jan	211.080	632.301	735.36*
Dec 2007	210.036	629.174	731.72*
Nov	210.177	629.598	732.21*
Oct	208.936	625.879	727.89*
Sept	208.490	624.543	726.33*
Aug	207.917	622.827	724.34*

Note: March 2008 CPI-W represents a 4.3% increase from one year ago; CPI-U a 4.0% 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



TMTA-Endorsed Service Providers

Manufacturing Technology Mutual Insurance Company (MTMIC)

(workers' compensation program)

Provider contact:

Gary Wood 248-488-1172 ext. 1316

Reliance Standard/Ameritas

(life/dental insurance programs)

TMTA contacts:

Dennis Campbell 248-488-0300 ext. 1313

Stella Krupansky 248-488-0300 ext. 1310

Blue Cross Blue Shield/BCN

(health insurance program)

TMTA contacts:

Dennis Campbell 248-488-0300 ext. 1313

Elaine Burger-Laskosky 248-488-0300 ext. 1309

Federated Insurance

(property & casualty insurance program)

Provider contact:

Joseph Busby 800-428-4143

Freedom One Financial Group

(401(k) retirement program)

Provider contact:

Lesley Goodwin 248-620-8100

John M. Packer & Associates

(unemployment cost control program)

Provider contact:

Nathan Wiest 800-482-2971

Custom Telecom

(phone/communications programs)

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.

(Rob's Roost continued from Page 1)

are in a row for another dynamite day on the links!

Legislatively efforts continue at the State and Federal levels on various initiatives to move legislation and policy. We have been very busy working on issues of Trade Policy in particular as the process of selecting Presidential nominees continues.

I want to recognize Judy Augenstein, our Lansing legislative assistant for her continued tireless efforts relative to the Tool and Die Recovery Zone legislation. In particular I want to thank Bill Carbary and **Mol-Son Inc.** Mattawan Michigan for leadership and dedication on the same matters. It is gratifying to have this type of interest and participation from a member company and the association congratulates them and is most grateful for their participation.

We have had good response relative to our 'MADE IN AMERICA' section on the TMTA website. Thus far we have links to 23 companies who make their products in some 16 states. Please visit the website and check out the links. Of course if there isn't a link to your particular website that can be readily rectified by sending your link to elaine@thetmta.com.

Finally, let me again remind you that the strength of your association is closely tied to membership and the number of employees working for our members. We are currently contacting many manufacturing concerns throughout the nation and inviting them to join the TMTA and I would ask that you speak



to any manufacturers or technology types you are in contact with and recommend membership to them. It is quite impressive when I can tell a legislator that we have X member companies in your district and they employ Y workers. These are people who are enfranchised and do vote. That matters to a politician, it is valuable ammunition for me and I would love to have more. Help me to help you!

WELCOME NEW TMTA MEMBERS

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new member to the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association:

TapeWrangler

Located in Traverse City, MI, they specialize in manufacturing heavy duty tape dispensers that can be utilized in a number of ways. They are owned by Stexley-Brake, LLC, a specialty product development and manufacturing company.



There Is Still Time To Be A TMTA Golf Sponsor

Would you like to have your company's name displayed on a placard at one of the golf holes at the TMTA 73rd Annual Golf Outing? But WAIT, there's more...Act now and you'll also receive a discount on ticket prices to the event. How much would you pay for this amazing offer? Don't answer yet because we'll also throw in recognition for your company as an event sponsor in a special upcoming issue of TMTA Talk with a circulation of over 1,000 issues. NOW are you interested?

Become an event sponsor for the TMTA Golf Outing & Dinner today. Contact Ron at 248-488-0300 ext. 1306 or e-mail to ron@thetmta.com. Or go to www.thetmta.com for an application form you can print and fax. We look forward to hearing from you!

F Y I FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The **2008 TMTA Board of Directors** was announced at TMTA's Annual Meeting and Open House last month. They are as follows:

Chairman – Herbert Trute
Vice Chairman – Irvin Swider
Treasurer – George Buhaj
Secretary – Robert Peuterbaugh
Directors –

Leonard Bantleon
Charles Barnes
Bruce Cain
John Ebbing
Dennis Haller
Michael Obloy
Joseph Padula
Peter Rosenkrands
Gary Theuerkorn

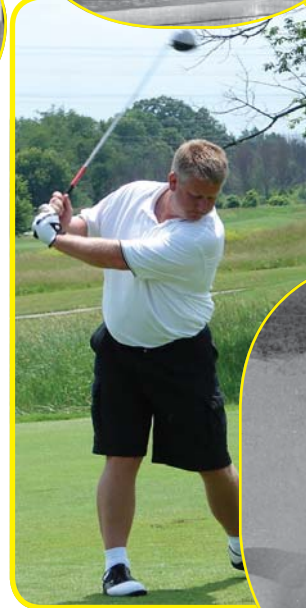
We wish to thank the departing Directors, Richard Heidrich of **Richard Tool & Die Corp.** and Leroy LaJeunesse of **L & L Machine Tool Inc.**, for their past service to the Board and the Association.

The semi-annual **Business Outlook Survey** and the annual **Fourth of July Survey** are included with this month's TMTA Talk. Please complete these surveys and fax them to TMTA at 248-488-0500 as soon as possible. Your input is important so that we may present a well-informed response to you in next month's edition of TMTA Talk.



The More Things Change The More They Stay The Same!

Compare TMTA Golf Outing pictures from Now & Then.



TMTA MARKETPLACE

Equipment for Sale:

This Offer For TMTA Members Only:

Konica black and white copier model #7155 with folding finisher, 3-hole punch unit, scanning capabilities, 55 pages-per-minute speed, large capacity tray, and 6,600 sheet total paper capacity. 5 years old.

Asking price: \$4,900.00

Contact: Jerry Morrow at TMTA at 248-488-0300 ext. 1308 or e-mail to jerry@thetmta.com.

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Deadline for submission of news, articles, letters, cartoons and Marketplace items is the 15th of each month.

Send/Fax to TMTA, Attention: TMTA Talk Editor.