

# tmta talk

A publication of the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association



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

## I COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT ANY BETTER!

The Free-Trade Debacle: Domestic Manufacturers Vs. Multinationals  
Politicians Don't Understand:  
Textile Maker Copland Industries  
Says Multinationals Are Killing  
The U.S. Economy

By: Richard McCormack

The federal government no longer represents the interest of U.S. manufacturing companies and their workers, instead siding with the Communist Chinese government that is putting hundreds of thousands of Americans out of good paying jobs, according to James Copland, chairman of Copland Industries/Copland Fabrics of Burlington, N.C. "The U.S. government's policy is creating millions of jobs all right, but it is creating them in the People's Republic of China and Vietnam at the expense of hardworking Americans here at home," Copland told a congressional hearing. "Our country should be ashamed—totally ashamed—of what our government has done to working people in America."



The U.S. government recognized problems with the communist Soviet Union, "but for some reason it fails to see it with China," Copland told a hearing of the House Science Committee's subcommittee on oversight and investigations on May 22. U.S. government free trade and manufacturing policies are the reason for the current economic slump and the gloomy attitude Americans have about their economic prospects. U.S. manufacturing "is in the midst of a crisis unprecedented since the Great Depression," Copland said.

"Deeply flawed U.S. trade policy toward domestic manufacturing is the single most important root cause of the illness. Every American deserves the right to provide for his family, to own a home and to educate his kids, but our flawed

*(Rob's Roost continues on Page 8)*

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## tmta Calendar of Events July 2008

<b>04</b>	TMTA / MTMIC offices Closed for Federal Holiday
<b>16</b>	TMTA Board of Directors meets at TMTA offices
<b>17</b>	MTMIC Board of Directors meets at TMTA offices

Visit [www.thetmta.com](http://www.thetmta.com) for detailed,  
up-to-date information.

## TMTA MARKETPLACE

### Personnel Available:

**Program Administrator** seeks position utilizing experience and strengths. A proven leader with skills in problem solving, supplier management, detail and result oriented, a team player, excellent communication skills along with a track record of projects completed on time and within budget.

Ask for Resume #08-08.

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**Manager** seeks position with a machining or special machine tool company utilizing extensive skills and knowledge. Background includes: customer relations and sales; estimating; purchasing; production planning and scheduling; employee supervision; and company management.

Ask for Resume #08-07.

\*\*\*

**Tool and Die Worker** with background as shop foreman, leader, journeyman mold maker, general machinist and tool welder seeks a challenging and rewarding position within the tooling industry that will benefit from his past work experience and strong work ethic.

Ask for Resume #08-06.

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**Certified CAD Operator** seeks position within his field of computer aided drafting and design. Also proficient in the use of multiple utility software programs.

Ask for Resume #08-05.



The Blues can help you reach your wellness goals

A mechanic might be able to repair a car without a wrench or a screwdriver, but he would be a lot more efficient with the right tools. And you might be able to make the changes you need to make to help you live a healthier lifestyle without any special help, but wouldn't it be easier to have some tools to help you along the way?

BCBSM offers a suite of health and wellness resources that provide the tools needed to help you meet your health goals.

BlueHealthConnection®

BlueHealthConnection is a comprehensive wellness and care management program for members. It offers an array of web-based resources, including tools you can use to manage and understand your health. These include:

- A health risk appraisal that gives you a comprehensive picture of your current health status and risks. It shows you what health areas need attention and provides recommendations for minimizing health risks.
- An online health coach that can provide online programs that could benefit you the most. These programs include fitness, nutrition, stress management, weight loss, smoking cessation and more.
- Online tracking tools that can help you to keep track of your exercise, weight, walking and stress.
- A personal health record that helps you to organize your health information.
- Interactive calculators that help you to learn your key numbers for body mass index, calories burned, target heart rate and the cost of smoking.

BlueHealthConnection's website also includes a section on healthy lifestyles. With a few mouse clicks, you can get information about fitness, nutrition and safety. You can also use the website to find out more about certain diseases and read about dozens of other health topics.

In addition, BlueHealthConnection features a 24/7 nurse phone line and an audio health library.

To see all of the BlueHealthConnection web tools, go to [www.bcbsm.com](http://www.bcbsm.com),—"I am a Member"—log in to Member Secured Services. To access the 24-hour nurse phone line or the audio health library, call 800-775-BLUE (2583) or 800-240-3050 (TTY).

Quit the Nic

For members who have BlueHealthConnection as a benefit, Quit the Nic is BCBSM's telephone-based program to support your efforts to quit smoking. You'll work with a nurse health coach who will help you enroll in the program;

then you'll get started by setting a quit date and discussing how to prepare for that day. The nurse will also work with you as you're quitting to help you prevent a relapse. To enroll in Quit the Nic, call 800-775-BLUE (2583).

### Naturally Blue<sup>SM</sup>

Naturally Blue offers members discounts on a wide range of complementary health services, natural health products and magazines. You can show your card and save as much as 30% on complementary and alternative health services when you visit a practitioner in the national Naturally Blue network. You can receive discounts on:

- Acupuncture;
- Diet and supplement advisors;
- Exercise and movement services;
- Massage and bodywork services;
- Mind and relaxation techniques; and
- Wellness facilities.

You can also receive discounts of up to 25% on vitamins and natural health supplements through Integrative Therapeutics Inc., and receive substantial savings on select health and fitness magazine subscriptions.

Through the Naturally Blue website, you can access [WholeHealthMD.com](http://WholeHealthMD.com), where you can find information about complementary and alternative medicine, find healthy recipes, visit an online reference library, get the latest news about complementary and alternative medicine and more.

To find out more about Naturally Blue, visit [www.bcbsm.com/naturallyblue](http://www.bcbsm.com/naturallyblue). You can also call 800-775-BLUE (2583) or 800-240-3050 (TTY).

### Healthcare Advisor<sup>TM</sup>

Healthcare Advisor is an online decision-making support resource that provides information to help manage your health and make better health care decisions. With Healthcare Advisor you can:

- Research a hospital;
- Research a doctor;
- Learn about a medication; and
- Research treatment costs.

To access Healthcare Advisor, go to [www.bcbsm.com-I am a Member](http://www.bcbsm.com-I am a Member)—log in to Member Secured Services.

For more information on any of BCBSM's plans, contact Dennis Campbell at the TMTA Insurance Agency at 248-488-0300, ext. 1313.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

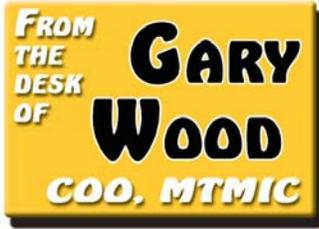
By JUDY AUGENSTEIN,  
LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT, LANSING

A recent survey has found that 80 percent of participants said that their tax burden under the new Michigan Business Tax (MBT) is higher than under the old Single Business Tax (SBT). When asked how they would deal with the tax hike, 31 percent said they would delay or cancel salary increases, 24 percent said they would delay or cancel capital investment, 15 percent said they would move or cancel Michigan location/expansion plans and 14 percent said they would layoff employees.



Business groups continue lobby efforts to eliminate the Michigan Business Tax surcharge and expand the ability of businesses to use the Alternative Profits Tax filing method instead of the MBT. One proposal being floated would raise the current state sales tax by 1% (to 7%) to fund the elimination of the 22% surcharge. Recently Governor Jennifer Granholm indicated that if business groups would help her pass prison reforms she would use some of the savings to lower the MBT surcharge.

The competition to get a position known and moved forward has gotten more difficult in Lansing since term limits. The term limit law has required lobbyists to have more face time with legislators in an effort to build instant credibility, which costs time and money. The term limit law has brought fundraising to a new "high". As soon as legislators are elected they are posturing for higher office, campaigning and fundraising before policy issues are even considered. Because of the term limit law, 54 House members will be termed out this year. The House plans to recess in early July to campaign for the summer elections. The Senate plans to be in session throughout the summer.



I look at the calendar in utter disbelief—July 1 marked the 183<sup>rd</sup> day of 2008. Were did it go? My wife says that summer is half over by the July 4 holiday and I never really thought about it that much since summer just started on June 21 but, she is right. A lot of the schools have been out since early June and many kids are back at practices and school events in August. You have to enjoy it while it is here.

Every summer I remind people about the dangers of enjoying themselves too much.

This is a great time of the year to kickback and relax with your friends, have a drink or two and, occasionally, maybe a few too many. If you are not driving or performing work related functions, you wake up with a headache and get back to life. If you are working or driving you could find yourself in trouble with the law or risking your life and the lives of others.

Alcohol is not a prohibited substance but merely a regulated substance for which a “tolerance level” has been generally assumed by society. Alcohol affects different people in different ways but the Michigan Secretary of State has included on their website the standards for “*Alcohol and Driving in Michigan*”.

Several years ago the MTMIC accepted the CDL standard for drinking and driving as the standard for determining the capability of an employee to function after consuming alcohol. The CDL rules states that (in part): “You will lose your CDL for at least

one year for a first offense for Driving a CMV if your blood alcohol concentration is .04% or higher.”

When there is a claim we are permitted to test claimants for an elevated blood alcohol content. Claims are contested, where appropriate, based on the results of those test.

#### Business Continuation Plan:

Since we have become regulated by the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation, we have taken a broad look at the operation of the organization and our responsibility to our policyholders and others with a stake in the operation of the MTMIC. One of the absolute necessities of operations has been the development of a business continuation plan and a disaster recovery program.

There is a difference in these programs but they are related. We are about 90% complete with the development of an official plan which will meet the scrutiny of the toughest regulator.

It is not enough that you just take the backup tapes out of the computer drive home once a week. If you trade

with or supply national or international organizations they will be inquiring as to your ability to continue doing what you are paid to do if some morning your plant is nothing but a rubble filled vacant lot.

Have you thought about it in your business?

#### Planning Session:

The whole concept of planning seems to elude a lot of small businesses. Most business failures are likely traceable to not having a viable business plan which recognizes as many opportunities or pitfalls that you can imagine. The unexpected fire, the power outage, the flood or wind damage are all possible and alternatives need to be structured for as many eventualities as can possibly be dealt with.

Planning in today’s business environment includes dealing with four basic tasks:

- 1) Have a vision for your company.
- 2) Staff your organization with the right people that share the vision.



- 3) Revisit the vision on a regular basis to assure you are on target.
- 4) Deal with obstacles as they occur.

These are part of the issues the Board of Directors addresses at the annual planning session and at the monthly meetings throughout the year. Every few months I like to remind the policyholders that there is a Board directing the operation for the MTMIC and they are both involved and accessible. This year's Board consists of the following nine individuals:

<b>Jack Accardo (term exp. 10)</b>	<b>GHB, Inc.</b>
<b>Bobby Cox (term exp. 08)</b>	<b>Acorn Stamping</b>
<b>Gerald Decker (term exp. 08)</b>	<b>Precision Boring</b>
<b>Robert Easterbrook (term exp. 09)</b>	<b>East-Lind Heat Treat</b>
<b>Kurt Heuser (term exp. 10)</b>	<b>Bokum Tool Co.</b>
<b>Joe Keppler (term exp. 10)</b>	<b>Hi-Tech Tool Ind.</b>
<b>Bradley Lawton (term exp. 09)</b>	<b>Star Cutter Co.</b>
<b>Doug Mack (term exp. 09)</b>	<b>Grosse Tool</b>
<b>Richard Smith (term exp. 08)</b>	<b>Wolverine Bronze</b>

There is an annual election of Board members; if you are interested in seeking a position on the Board, please contact me at [gary.wood@mtmic.com](mailto:gary.wood@mtmic.com).

#### MTMIC Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting of the MTMIC will be on October 16, 2008 at the Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak. Policyholders, please mark your calendars for the luncheon. Beverages will be served at 11:30 am and lunch at noon.

#### E-mail Update:

As we previously announced the MTMIC is considering developing an e-mail network to contact current policyholders. We did not get much response to our earlier announcement so we will try a different format; if you would like to join our e-mail network, just send an e-mail to us with your name and company affiliation.

If we get sufficient response to this inquiry we will begin the process in the near future.

#### ACH:

At the risk of sounding redundant, here is the benefit:  
**YOU DON'T PAY UNTIL THE DAY THE MONEY IS DUE.**

If you are a policyholder interested in signing up for this program, contact Chris Doeblner at extension 1012 ([chris.doeblner@mtmic.com](mailto:chris.doeblner@mtmic.com)) for the details on how to make timely payments even if you are out of the office.



**~Get your Crane and Fork Lift licenses up-to-date  
 Contact your loss control representative ~**

## Inflation Talk

### CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
<b>May 2008</b>	<b>212.788</b>	<b>633.830</b>	<b>737.14*</b>
Apr	210.698	627.606	729.90*
Mar	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*

### CPI-U All Urban Consumers

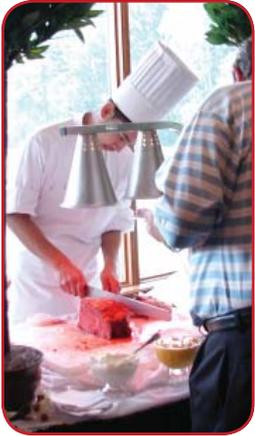
Month	82-84	1967	57-59
<b>May 2008</b>	<b>216.632</b>	<b>648.933</b>	<b>754.70*</b>
Apr	214.823	643.515	748.40*
Mar	213.528	639.636	743.88*
Feb	211.693	634.139	737.49*
Jan	211.080	632.301	735.36*
Dec 2007	210.036	629.174	731.72*
Nov	210.177	629.598	732.21*
Oct	208.936	625.879	727.89*

**Note: May 2008 CPI-W represents a 4.5% increase from one year ago; CPI-U a 4.2% 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

# Highlights from the TMTA 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Outing & Dinner



**Food**



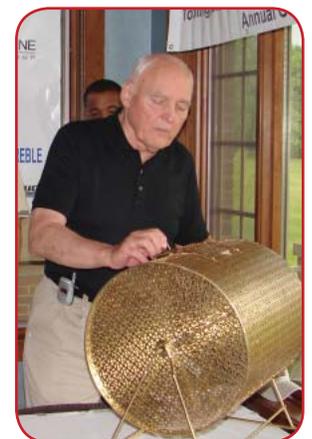
**Pipe Dreams**



**Golfing**



**Friends**



**P  
R  
I  
Z  
E  
S**



**We're looking forward to seeing YOU next year!!**

**(Rob's Roost continued from Page 1)**

manufacturing and trade policies are taking this away," Copland told members of Congress. "Our Constitutional preamble says 'a government of the people, by the people and for the people.' We have forgotten about the words 'for the people.' "

Copland's company is competing against Chinese companies that don't have to pay workman's comp or provide workers with unemployment insurance; that don't have to deal with EPA or OSHA regulations; that pay no overtime, provide few benefits and abide by no child labor laws; and that receive untold government subsidies and benefit from a currency that is at least 30 percent undervalued. "This is an impossible task," said Copland. "No manufacturer can compete when your competition is a foreign government determined to spend whatever it takes to force you out of the market, and the U.S. government does nothing about it."

While Congress and the Bush administration rattle on about the importance of free trade agreements and refuse to adopt anything resembling a pro-American manufacturing policy, millions of Americans' lives are in economic turmoil. "Their jobs are being moved overseas and they can't get other jobs," said Copland. "Don't think there are high-tech jobs available for those folks, because there aren't. They are being shipped to China and India too. If those who were laid off are lucky, they have landed jobs flipping hamburgers or as a greeter at some retail store. People are angry now, and when they connect the dots—and they are going to connect them—they are going to know where to focus their anger."

Copland Industries/Copland Fabrics makes man-made fiber curtains, draperies and blinds. Since 2001, U.S. imports of these products from China have increased by 6,912 percent, from 845,000 kilograms to 59

million kilograms in 2007. This surge of Chinese imports "has been like a nightmare [that] we have had to face," said Copland.

China accounted for almost 107 percent of the total U.S. growth in imports for curtains and draperies between 2001 and 2007, "meaning the rest of the world actually lost U.S. import market share," Copland noted. China now holds 90 percent of the U.S. market for man-made curtains compared to 7.8 percent market share in 2001. "The total market today is 98 percent offshore goods," Copland said. "A flood of imports from China in products like the ones for which we used to make fabric is one of the main reasons why my home

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***"What  
[politicians]  
haven't  
realized  
yet is that  
people  
don't  
have any  
money..."***

James Copland,  
Copland Ind.

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town of Burlington has lost nearly 40 percent of its manufacturing jobs since 2001." Chinese finished curtain prices sold in the United States are less than Copland Industries' cost of materials.

Copland Industries has stayed in business by "picking up the pieces when our competition goes out of business," said Copland. "We pick up a piece and, believe you me, just as soon as you get into it, here come the

Chinese again. We look constantly for something that the Chinese are not doing, that they haven't focused on yet. We are looking constantly for something that may have some natural barrier to them coming over here, but remember, everybody in our industry is doing the same thing, everybody. There have been 550,000 jobs lost in my industry since 2001 alone." Copland Industries has reduced employment from 1,000 to less than 300.

Hundreds of mills have been closed in the Carolinas due to the surge of imports from China. "There are small towns where stores are closed with weeds growing up around them," said Copland. "But you know it is really bad when you see the churches closing. Someone needs to think about the hard working people and what is happening to them. The big multinational companies, the importers and big retailers have exactly what they want. They couldn't have written a book and had it more perfect for their world: buy at the China price, sell at the U.S. price and don't worry about whether the average American has a job or he or she can make ends meet. Their world is not what is good for America.

"I will tell you that if this thing doesn't stop there will be no survivors. We will not have any manufacturing in the United States. When these plants are closed down, they are closed. If you don't run the equipment and keep it up, it deteriorates to nothing, but the equipment is being sold. Pakistan is buying the equipment. People are selling it for five cents on the dollar. Nobody wants it. And let me tell you what is happening to the buildings themselves. I was just down in Joanna, South Carolina, a huge mill down there has been closed for five years. They are tearing down the mills. Why? Because they are going to sell the bricks, guys. They are going to sell the beams. So don't think that you are going to be able to say,

'Oh, boy, as soon as this thing is over, here we come back, it is going to be regeneration.' "

Copland told the politicians that they don't understand how profoundly the economy is being impacted by Chinese imports. Politicians talk about the sagging U.S. economy and home foreclosures, "but what they haven't realized yet is that people don't have any money," said Copland. "The reason they don't have any money is because they have lost their jobs or they now have jobs making a fraction of what their pay was before their jobs were exported. If people had their manufacturing jobs, they wouldn't have the economic problems and financial problems we now have."

Fifty million Americans are without health insurance because so many good jobs that provide health care have been exported due to "our flawed trade agreements," Copland told the subcommittee. As long as the federal government refuses to adopt a manufacturing policy, "the United States will have much more difficulty ameliorating the pain an economic recession will inflict on its citizenry in a timely manner."

U.S. government officials talk glowingly about the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), but CAFTA is causing the loss of thousands of U.S. jobs, Copland told the Congress. "It sounded like a good idea, everybody is going to be okay, but they left a loophole—and it's the loopholes that get us so many times. The negotiators don't even know that the loopholes are there because they are some political appointee that hasn't done it but for about three or six months or they have been out of college for about a year, and they don't even know the loopholes are there. If they do know, woe be to them. Let me tell you something" Copland said: "They had a deal in [CAFTA] to where they could take the pocketing for trousers—that doesn't sound like much. But pocketing is a 180-million-yard business in the United States. They had it in the agreement and then said, 'Well, you know, we are going to make an exception on pocketing and we are going to let these Central American countries make this stuff out of Chinese cloth.' The Dominican Republic wanted that. They gave it to them. We pointed it out and said, 'Look, you are going to destroy the industry.' 'Oh, no, don't worry, we are going to fix it, we are going to fix it.' That was three-plus years ago, folks. It hasn't been fixed. There has been nothing done. Let me tell you the end result of that thing. Eighty percent of the market is gone, and it is gone folks. Haines Finishing Company in Winston-Salem closed down 75 percent of its business. Allis Manufacturing Company closed down four plants in South Carolina. Mount Vernon lost 70 million yards worth of business and closed plants in Rome, Georgia, and in Texas.

"We have got to start paying attention to what we are doing with these trade agreements. We have to get some people who know what they are doing with these trade agreements. We are being out negotiated. We better start paying attention to what we are doing because let me tell you something, we are exporting the wealth of this country as fast as we can export it. It is going offshore. We are going to pay one tremendous price in this country."

**NOTE: Copland Ind. Inc., Burlington NC, [www.coplandfabrics.com](http://www.coplandfabrics.com).**

*Article reprinted from Manufacturing & Technology News, June 30, 2008.*

*You may subscribe to Manufacturing & Technology News at*

**[www.manufacturingnews.com](http://www.manufacturingnews.com).**

## TMTA MARKETPLACE

### For Sale:

**Full service supplier:** 251,000 square foot facility with great access to Metro Airport and all expressways.

**Contact:** John Lasko at Republic Die & Tool Co. at 734-699-3400.

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### 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](mailto:jerry@thetmta.com).

### For Rent:

The TMTA's Training Center and Boardroom are available for rent.

The Training Center has seating and table room for 60-70 people along with a speaker system, 2 dry eraser boards and an overhead projector. The Boardroom can accommodate 15-20 people. TMTA will provide coffee and tea and can arrange for lunch at your request. Members receive discounted rates.

For more information, contact Jerry Morrow at 248-488-0300 ext. 1308 or e-mail to [jerry@thetmta.com](mailto:jerry@thetmta.com).

# TMTA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**Production Engineering Inc.** will grow their company located in Jackson, MI with assistance from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. (MEDC is a partnership between the state and local communities to promote smart economic growth to create and retain jobs in Michigan.)

Production Engineering, a manufacturer of precision machined components for wheel end, steering and drive train applications for specialty truck and construction equipment axles, will invest over \$11 million to relocate to the 440,000 sq. ft. former Goodyear warehouse in Jackson. The company will revamp the building, including new electrical service enhancements, compressed air systems, lighting, water system, overhead cranes, offices and manufacturing support facilities. The project will create and retain 436 jobs. In addition to 122 new jobs at the company and 112 retained jobs, the MEDC estimates the project will also generate an additional 202 indirect jobs. Based on the MEDC's recommendation, the Michigan Economic Growth Authority approved a state tax credit valued at \$3.4 million over 10 years. To support the project, the city of Jackson has proposed a 20-year abatement and Renaissance Zone designation for a combined value of over \$3.4 million.

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**Vitullo & Associates, Inc.**, provider of quality-machined parts, custom tools and fixtures has moved into a new 20,000 sq. ft. facility; triple the size of their previous location. The company is now conveniently located at 46969 West Road, Wixom, MI with easy access to I-275 and I-96.

Vitullo & Associates is a diverse company and major supplier of parts, tools and fixtures to the automotive, agricultural, aerospace, alternative energy, computer and consumer goods industries. The additional space enables the company to increase their production capacity and capabilities to produce a variety of parts in quantities from 1 to 1 million per year.

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*Our congratulations and best wishes to the above members. Let us know what is happening at your company. We would like to share it with all of our readers.*

## Another Successful Golf Outing

The TMTA 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Outing & Dinner was another winning event enjoyed by both members and their guests at the Fox Hills Golf Club in Plymouth. It was a hot and humid day with the rain holding off until evening allowing everyone to take pleasure in a day filled with golf, dinner and prizes.

Dave Smith from **Lancer Tool**, Tom Prokuda guest of **Ronart Industries** and Bill Boberg from **Vicount Industries** were the hole-in-one shoot-out participants trying for \$1 million, a 2008 Chevy Corvette and a 2008 Bayliner Bowrider (in that order). The team with the lowest score (62) was from **Richard Tool & Die**.

The prizes included two airline tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S.; an electric smoker; lots of 'garage toys'; a charcoal grill; scores of golf equipment; numerous gift certificates for food, sporting goods and home improvement stores; and a flat screen color television donated by Bob Easterbrook of **East-Lind Heat Treat**.

In case you missed the event or were there and want to peruse our pictures, go to our website at [www.thetmta.com](http://www.thetmta.com).

TMTA wishes to thank all of the sponsors, volunteer workers, and most of all our attending members and their guests for making this a wonderful day for everyone.

We hope to see *you* at next year's outing.

MAY THY BALL  
LIE IN GREEN  
PASTURES...  
AND NOT IN STILL  
WATERS.

## **F Y I** FOR YOUR INFORMATION

In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS announced an **increase in the optional standard mileage rates** for the final six months of 2008.

The rate increases from 50.5 cents per mile to 58.5 cents per mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. The medical or moving mileage rate increases from 19 cents per mile to 27 cents per mile. The charitable mileage rate is set by statute rather than the IRS, and so it remains the same at 14 cents per mile.

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Effective July 1, 2008, **Michigan's minimum wage rate increased** from \$7.15 per hour to \$7.40 per hour. Employees under the age of 18 increased from \$6.08 per hour to \$6.29 per hour. The sub-minimum wage rate for tipped employees remains at \$2.65 per hour so long as the employee's reported tips amount to at least \$4.75 per hour, making the combined hourly rate equal to or greater than the state minimum of \$7.40 per hour.

The Federal minimum wage increases on July 24, 2008 from \$5.85 per hour to \$6.55 per hour.

You can print the Michigan Minimum Wage Poster from our website at [www.thetmta.com](http://www.thetmta.com)—under the 'Information/Networking' tab click on 'Company Forms & Information'.

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President Bush signed an executive order requiring **all federal government contractors to use E-Verify** to confirm the employment authorization of new hires and persons assigned to perform work on future federal contracts. E-Verify is the internet-based system operated by the Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Social Security Administration to electronically verify employment eligibility of newly hired employees.

The detailed proposal applies to all persons hired during the contract term by the contractor to perform employment duties within the U.S. on a federal contract. At this time it is a proposed rule, not a final rule; it is a proposal that is open for public comment for 60 days and is expected to be law later this year.

Stay tuned for details.



## **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.**

## MI Storage Tank Rule Compliance

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality expanded Michigan's Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids Rules regulating aboveground and underground storage tanks storing liquids with a flashpoint less than 200 degrees Fahrenheit. The rules impose new standards for spill, overfill and corrosion protection for all new and existing tanks. The rules were published in 2003 with a 5-year grace period—the grace period expires on August 12, 2008.

The rules apply to all tanks containing flammable or combustible liquids—tanks of any size and irrespective of the date of original installation or construction. Tanks must be (1) upgraded with mandatory spill, overfill and corrosion protection; (2) removed and replaced with compliant systems; or (3) permanently closed. Spill protection requirements prevent releases at the point of transfer; overfill protections vary based on whether the tank is filled by pipeline or marine vessel and is single or double walled; and corrosion protection applies to tanks installed on grade.

Owners and operators are advised to promptly review the rules and determine their tank regulatory compliance status. Failure to meet the August 12, 2008 deadline may lead to citations, fines, or "red tag" status requiring the business to cease operations pending compliance.

For more information, contact Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality storage tank division at 517-335-4035. The rules can be found online at [www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-std-rules-fl-cl.pdf](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-std-rules-fl-cl.pdf).

**For more information  
about the TMTA, our  
advocacy, events and  
benefits, visit us at  
[www.thetmta.com](http://www.thetmta.com)**

## Joe Parker Receives Award



**C&B Machinery** is proud to announce Joe Parker, CEO and founder, was presented with the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the Central Great Lakes region in the Manufacturing/Distribution category. The June 12<sup>th</sup> ceremony took place at a black-tie event held at the Ritz-Carlton-Dearborn and was hosted by Paul W. Smith of WJR 760 radio.

As recipient of this honor, Joe is also a finalist for the Entrepreneur of the Year National Award to be held in November. C&B Machinery wishes to thank Mark Kaminski of UHY Advisors for the nomination and the panel of judges for their votes. Joe was one of over 160 distinguished nominees.

C&B Machinery, located in Livonia, MI, is a machine tool builder focusing on new and remanufacturing production/precision grinding equipment. They extend a BIG thanks to their dedicated employees and loyal customers.

**Way to go Joe!!**

### **tmta talk**

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