

tmta talk

A publication of the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association



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

*With an election around the corner;
here is some plain talk about where
we are!*

The Economy: Does Either Party Deserve to Win in November?

by: Peter Morici

Americans may be dissatisfied with the economy but don't look for Republicans to sweep control of the House and Senate.

Voters have good reason to be disenamored with both parties.

Democrats have pushed through President Obama's agenda. More than \$800 billion in stimulus spending, health care reform and new financial regulations, yet the economy remains sluggish and Treasury Secretary Geithner tells us unemployment will linger near 10 percent for many months.

The Republican chant of less regulation and lower taxes is

just not credible after the Wall Street meltdown of 2008 and with a \$1.5 trillion budget deficit.

Voters want a clear plan to balance the budget and create decent jobs, and to win their confidence, one or the other party must come clean about what that takes.

Spending is more the problem than taxes—Congress has no self discipline.

(Rob's Roost continues on Page 4)

Inside This Issue

- Page 2 Health News
Required Special Enrollment
Reminder—October Meeting
Drug Take-Back Program
- Page 3 Employee Eye Care
SVS Vision
- Page 4 Rob's Roost (continued)
- Page 5 Members In the News
TMTA Membership Benefits
- Page 6 Fair Currency Coalition
China's Undervalued Currency
Inflation Talk—CPI-W/U
- Page 7 TMTA Endorsed Providers
- Page 8 Register and Vote
9/11 Remembrance
Made In America



tmta Calendar of Events

August/Sept. 2010

9/22 TMTA Board of Directors
Meets at TMTA Offices

9/23 Autumn Equinox
First Day of Fall

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



Reminder

The Blues has announced that they are implementing new plans for both BCBSM and BCN effective for January 1, 2011 that will be available through BCBSM Association/Chamber Sponsored Groups ONLY.

Required Special Enrollment Period Coming in November

Health plans that offer dependent coverage are required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to hold a special enrollment period to add or re-enroll dependents up to age 26 that are now eligible for coverage under PPACA. The PPACA also removes lifetime dollar limits for all health plans. This special enrollment period is also required for individuals whose coverage previously ended because they reached a lifetime dollar limit under their plan and are otherwise eligible for coverage.

Dependent eligibility is no longer limited by financial dependency, marital status or enrollment in school and includes dependents by birth, marriage, legal adoption or guardianship up to age 26.

The special enrollment period for both BCBSM and BCN is November 1 through November 30, 2010. This special enrollment period is ONLY for newly eligible individuals impacted by these two provisions.

The coverage effective date for enrollment is January 1, 2011, with the exception of groups that have a plan year that begins between September 23 and December 31, 2010. In this case, the coverage effective date is the plan year start date.

If a group routinely conducts its open enrollment during the period from October 1 thru December 31, 2010, then the group may use its normal open enrollment period to enroll those impacted by the two provisions, as long as the enrollment period is at least 30 days in duration. Groups with a documented plan year between January 2 and September 22, 2011 can use their normal open enrollment period as long as it is 30 days in duration.

The extension of dependent coverage to age 26 and the removal of lifetime limits apply to both grandfathered and non-grandfathered health plans under PPACA; therefore, all groups must hold a special enrollment period in order to comply with the regulations. However, until 2014, grandfathered plans have the option of excluding employees' adult children if they are eligible for coverage under their employer's health plan.

This means that you will have more opportunities to save money on your health care program when you are a member of the TMTA Association Sponsored Group through BCBSM.

TMTA will be sponsoring a meeting in October to present all TMTA members detailed information on the new plans in time for January 1 rate renewals.

If you have any questions on the TMTA Association Sponsored Group through BCBSM, call Elaine at 248-488-0300, ext. 1309.

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) along with government, community, public health and law enforcement announced a nationwide prescription drug Take-Back Day that seeks to prevent increased pill abuse and theft.

The DEA will be collecting potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs for destruction at sites nationwide on Saturday, September 25th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Prescription drug abuse is increasing at an alarming rate, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies have shown that a majority of these abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

Many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their prescription drugs. This program encourages individuals to rid their households of unused prescription drugs that pose a safety hazard and can contribute to prescription drug abuse.

To locate a collection site in your community, visit www.dea.gov and enter your zip code. Again, the program is anonymous. Prescription and over-the-counter solid dosage medications (i.e. tablets and capsules) will be accepted. Intra-venous solutions, injectables, needles, and illicit substances such as marijuana, methamphetamine or heroin will not be accepted.

Are Your Employees Taking Care of Their Eyes Both On and Off the Job?

An eye exam. It sounds simple and somewhere between “one of these days” and “when I can’t see as clearly” you’ll get one, right? If you’re like many people, you put it off until you have a physical symptom—can’t see as well as you used to, squinting, headaches, etc. But make no mistake, a complete eye exam each and every year is about more than just getting new glasses or contact lenses.

Did you know that the working blood vessels of your own body can be directly viewed by your eye doctor during an eye exam? This allows early detection of diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure. Early detection and treatment can prevent blindness and other serious health issues as well as save you and your employees on the ever rising cost of medical claims.

Most safety professionals agree that workplace eye injuries are preventable, yet OSHA estimates that more than 1,000 eye injuries occur every day in U.S. workplaces at an annual cost of \$300 million in lost production time, medical expenses and workers’ compensation.

A Bureau of Labor Statistics survey of workers who suffered eye injuries revealed that nearly 3 out of 5 were not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident; usually because they did not believe protection was required for the job they were performing. Of the injured workers wearing protective eyewear, 94% reported their injuries were caused from objects or chemicals going around or under the protector (inadequate eyewear protection).

To be effective, safety eyewear must be the appropriate type for the hazard encountered and it must fit properly so the worker will wear it. Onsite hazard assessments are necessary to determine which type of safety eyewear is necessary for each job. Types of protection include safety glasses, goggles, hybrid safety glasses or goggles, prescription safety glasses, face shields and special protection (full-facepiece respirators, welding helmets, welding respirators...).

Safety eyewear should be fitted by an eye care professional or someone trained in this area. OSHA standards require that eye and face protection be ANSI Z87.1 certified. Look for the ANSI Z87.1 mark on the lens or frame. Workers should be educated in properly flushing eyes after encountering a hazard and basic first aid procedures in case of emergency.

Prevent Blindness America says half of all blindness is preventable through early detection and treatment by an eye care professional. SVS Vision focuses on how to protect your employees’ eyesight—both on the job and at home.

TMTA member company employees and their families receive 30% off eye exams and eyeglasses and 10% off contact lenses at SVS Vision.

Simply mention you are a member of a TMTA “Premier” company and bring your company’s TMTA membership number when you visit.

Find a location at www.svsvision.com or call 800-SVS-4600.

For over 35 years, SVS Vision has been a premier provider of vision care programs for hundreds of companies. Their experience in the organized delivery of vision care provides TMTA members an opportunity to reduce health care costs without reducing quality or employee satisfaction.

Offering fully insured managed care plans and custom tailored safety eyewear programs, SVS Vision is a great choice for your eye needs. Whether your company employs five or thousands, SVS has a program to meet your needs.

For information on how SVS Vision can help your company protect your employees’ eyes, contact Monica Dyja at 1-800-611-3683 or visit www.svsvision.com.



(Rob's Roost continued from Page 1)

In 2012, after most stimulus money is spent and the economy is three years into the recovery, the Office of Management and Budget estimates the deficit will stand at about \$829 billion. Spending will be 23.2 percent of GDP, as compared to 19.6 percent in 2007, the last year before the Great Recession. The difference comes to \$535 billion—more than half the budget gap—caused by new, permanent extravagance.

We don't have to look far for solutions as unpalatable as those may be.

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are more than 40 percent of federal spending. Nothing gets fixed without fixing old-age pensions and skyrocketing health care costs.

Simply, Americans live longer, and without increasing the retirement age to 70, seniors will sooner or later get disappointed when the Federal government can't pay what has been promised.

Americans pay 50 percent more for medical care than do the Germans—the United States spends 19 percent of GDP, while Germany, Holland and others, with healthier populations, spend about 12 percent.

Americans do get the privilege of paying more for drugs, doctors and health insurance executives, an army of claims bureaucrats that mindlessly harass, and waiting three weeks to see an urologist, orthopedist or other specialist, just like the Europeans and Canadians.

President Obama's health care reforms were supposed to fix all that but now premiums and drug prices are jumping and small businesses are shopping for cut rate insurance policies that will further limit choice of doctors and jack up co-pays.

It is high time to get serious about aligning prices in the United States to what Europeans pay, reforming the claims process and stop treating the health insurance industry like Europe's displaced landed aristocracy. That would require politicians to stand up to big contributors to their election campaigns.

I won't mention tort lawyers—that is more than "progressives" can consider.

To grow, prosper and create jobs, Americans must stop

viewing international commerce through a child's eye—it is not about the virtues of free trade vs. protectionism but combating economic aggression that threatens to destroy western prosperity and institutions.

China is abusing the World Trade Organization system, subsidizing exports into the United States and EU with an undervalued currency. It keeps out foreign products with high tariffs, requires foreign companies to transfer technology and compels Chinese companies to use Chinese products.

Eighty percent of Chinese wind farms are state owned and the turbines they purchase must have 70 percent Chinese content. It's tough for U.S. and European companies like GE and Siemens to sell in China without moving production there.

The global economy always seems to grow between 3 or 4 percent a year over the business cycle. With its trade policies, China grows near 10 percent, the United States and EU grow less than 3, western governments can't pay their bills, and China buys their debt with the proceeds of its trade surplus and gloats westerners fools.

Behaving like innocents in the scoundrel's grasp, western leaders deserve Beijing's contempt.

Getting tough with China is not protectionist—it's self defense. Don't stand up, and Beijing will end up owning the National Mall along with the Parthenon.

Sooner or later, a candidate for President or Speaker will grasp these things and explain them to Americans.

For now, Democrats obsess endlessly about race, gender, and soaking the rich; Republicans fixate on regulations, torts and taxes, and Americans are treated to 10 percent unemployment.

Neither party really deserves to lead.

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TMTA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Ideal Fabricators & Statewide Boring Partner Together

The partnering of **Ideal Fabricators, Inc.** of Livonia, MI and **Statewide Boring & Machine, Inc.** of Belleville, MI was featured in an article by IndustryWeek last month.

Ideal Fabricators, established in 1984 and a TMTA member since 1993, began by welding, bending and trimming metal for the automotive industry. Realizing the need to expand into other industries in order to survive, the company looked to the aerospace and pharmaceutical industries. They found that companies weren't just looking for a fabricator; they wanted someone that could handle steel processing, machining and fabricating all under one purchase order.

Ideal Fabricators had done some work with Statewide Boring & Machine. Statewide Boring, established in 1989 and a TMTA member since 1996, had large equipment and could machine large parts.

In 2003, the two companies partnered to provide customers with complete fabricated and machined products. According to Mark Logan, vice president of Ideal Fabricators, they bought steel from the mill and fabricated it; then it was sent to Statewide for machining. The appeal of the combined work through one contact drew customers from a lot of different areas of the country and from a lot of different industries including aerospace, die & mold, energy, mining, oil & gas, and pharmaceutical.

While working with the wind industry, they found that few companies in the area had inspection equipment large enough to accommodate wind components. So Ideal Fabricators added an addition to their building and made it climate-controlled to allow this process to stay in-house while adding inspection to their list of capabilities.

To find out more, visit their website at www.idealfab.com.

Loc Performance Receives Grant

The state of Michigan has awarded 9 small manufacturers \$15 million in grants and \$5 million in loans through

the Clean Energy Advanced Manufacturing program. The program is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It is designed to help Michigan businesses to diversify into advanced manufacturing of renewable energy systems and components that will boost the state's economy, create jobs, and reduce our reliance on imported energy.

Loc Performance Products Inc., of Plymouth, MI, was awarded \$1.5 million to manufacture planetary gears and gearboxes for wind turbines. Loc is currently working with customers to design and develop wind turbine gears for production.

Loc Performance, established in 1971 and a TMTA member since 1981, began primarily manufacturing components for the automotive industry. They grew focusing on the military market producing componentry for various land-type in-theater vehicles. They added an in-house painting and packaging facility to assist in military paint specifications and shipping requirements. They opened a state-of-the-art engineering and manufacturing center providing customers the opportunity to investigate future growth trends. Loc specializes in the design and production of intricate components for a variety of industries.

For more information, visit their website at www.locper.com.

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

Are You Utilizing All the Benefits of Membership That TMTA Has to Offer?

Visit the TMTA website at www.thetmta.com and mouse over the "Membership" navigation button at the top and click on "Benefits of Membership" from the fly-down menu.

TMTA offers members a variety of cost savings programs in the areas of health, dental, vision, life insurance, disability insurance, property & casualty insurance, workers' compensation, unemployment savings, freight savings, and more not to mention member services including legislative representation, surveys, information, and networking opportunities.

Could TMTA be saving your company more money?

From the Fair Currency Coalition

Press Statement



FCC Disappointed in
Commerce Dept. Refusal
to Investigate China's
Undervalued Currency

Onus on Congress to Reverse Decision

WASHINGTON, DC – The Fair Currency Coalition (FCC) expressed deep disappointment at the U.S. Commerce Department decision not to investigate whether China's undervalued currency constitutes a countervailable export subsidy. For years, China has massively intervened to keep its currency, the renminbi (RMB), undervalued relative to the U.S. dollar by an estimated 35 to 40 percent. This illegal activity makes Chinese-produced goods and services artificially cheaper compared to their U.S.-produced counterparts.

"Once again Commerce has dropped the ball. Their refusal to act places the onus squarely on Congress to reverse this job-destroying decision. We look forward to working with our friends in the House and Senate to do just that," said FCC Executive Director Charles Blum.

"Although current law empowers the U.S. government to act, both the Obama administration and its Bush predecessor have lacked the political will to stop currency cheats like China from stealing American jobs," Blum continued.

"The Commerce Department's refusal to enforce U.S. CVD law [countervailing duty law] with respect to China's undervalued currency is a significant factor why one American worker in six either is unemployed or underemployed," Blum stressed.

"Congressional action that effectively combats China's undervalued currency will create jobs, reduce foreign debt, boost investment, strengthen industrial capacity, and attract research and development funds for the U.S. economy. That is an economic recipe to avoid the lost decade predicted by many," Blum added.

"One irony of Commerce's refusal to act on China's undervalued currency is that the decision undermines the National Export Initiative's goal to double U.S. exports in the next five years. Every day China is allowed to illegally subsidize exports and penalize imports is a day that Chinese production will displace their U.S. competitors," Blum noted.

In contrast to the inaction of Commerce, Blum concluded, "The Chinese have not missed any opportunity to steal U.S. jobs through illegal export subsidies like undervalued currency. The combination of the lack of U.S. trade law enforcement and China's rampant cheating only perpetuates China's two-way trade advantage, stuffs

INFLATION TALK

CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
July 2010	213.898	637.138	740.98*
June	213.839	636.962	740.78*
May	214.124	637.809	741.77*
Apr	213.958	637.316	741.19*
Mar	213.525	636.025	739.69*
Feb	212.544	633.105	736.29*
Jan	212.568	633.176	736.38*
Dec 2009	211.703	630.600	733.38*

CPI-U All Urban Consumers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
July 2010	218.011	653.066	759.50*
June	217.965	652.926	759.34*
May	218.178	653.564	760.08*
Apr	218.009	653.059	759.49*
Mar	217.631	651.925	758.18*
Feb	216.741	649.259	755.08*
Jan	216.687	649.098	754.89*
Dec 2009	215.949	646.887	752.32*

Note: July 2010 CPI-W represents a 1.6% increase from one year ago; CPI-U a 1.2% 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

foreign exchange into the Chinese government's State Administration for Foreign Exchange (SAFE), and pads the investment slush funds of Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) at the expense of U.S. jobs."

The FCC has endorsed currency legislation in the House and Senate.

Including its lead sponsors, U.S. Representatives Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Tim Murphy (R-PA), the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act of 2009, H.R. 2378, currently has a combined total of 130 sitting House sponsors and cosponsors (89 Democrats and 41 Republicans).

A similar bill, S. 3134, the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2010, was introduced by U.S. Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and currently has a combined total of 19 Senate sponsors and cosponsors (14 Democrats and 5 Republicans).

The FCC is an alliance of industry, agriculture, and worker organizations whose mission is to support production in and export from the United States by seeking an end to the practice of currency misalignment by any trading partner. You can visit the FCC's website at www.faircurrency.org.

Precipitating the decision by Commerce were two petitions.

The first was filed by four domestic paper companies and the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW) alleging that China's undervalued currency constituted a countervailable export subsidy under U.S. CVD law with respect to Chinese exports of certain coated paper suitable for high-quality print graphics using sheet-fed presses. U.S. imports from China in 2009 for the paper in question were valued at \$213.3 million.

The second petition making similar currency allegations was filed by the USW and the Aluminum Extrusions Fair Trade Committee (representing member companies from Minnesota, Florida, Georgia, California, Utah, Maryland, Illinois, and Texas) on aluminum extrusions. In 2009, imports of aluminum extrusions were valued at an estimated \$514 million.

TMTA ENDORSED SERVICE PROVIDERS

Blue Cross Blue Shield/BCN

(Health insurance program)

TMTA contacts:

Dennis Campbell 248-488-0300

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

Encompass Energy Group

(Energy conservation program)

Provider contact:

Shel Rader 248-515-3217

Rick Wald 248-755-6523

Freedom One Financial Group

(401(k) Retirement program)

Provider contact:

John Young 248-620-8100

GlobalTranz — CarrierRate.com

(Freight discount program)

Provider contact:

Chad Hill 866-275-1407, ext. 130

John M. Packer & Associates

(Unemployment cost control program)

Provider contact:

Nathan Wiest 800-482-2971

Ralph C. Wilson Agency, Inc.

(Insurance management)

Provider contact for Benefits coverages:

Robert Farris 248-355-1414, ext. 109

Provider contact for P&C and WC coverages:

Jay Poplawski, 248-355-1414, ext. 158

Reliance Standard/Ameritas

(Life/Dental insurance programs)

TMTA contacts:

Dennis Campbell 248-488-0300

Stella Krupansky 248-488-0300, ext. 1310

SVS Vision

(Safety & Vision programs)

Provider contact:

Monica Dyja 800-611-3683 or www.svsvision.com

Schena Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., Inc.

(Commercial/industrial roofing contractor)

Provider contact:

586-949-4777

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

Register and Vote!

As it nears election time, TMTA would like to remind our members how important it is to vote. One of the greatest strengths of America is that all citizens have a right to be heard through the voting booth.

This November, among other issues, the state of Michigan will be voting for a new governor. This is an important election. The election will be held on 11/2/10 and there is still time to register to vote if you haven't already. You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by election day and a Michigan resident. You can register to vote by mail; at your city, county or township clerk's office; or at any Secretary of State branch office. **You must register at least 30 days before the election (by 10/4/10).**

Remember, you must re-register to vote whenever you move to a new city or township. When you go to the polls to cast your ballot, you will be asked to produce voter identification in accordance with Michigan law. Photo ID is preferred and it does not need your address on it. If you cannot produce acceptable ID, you can still vote by signing an affidavit attesting that you are not in possession of photo ID at the time of voting.

To find the answer to almost any question on voting in Michigan, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center on-line at www.michigan.gov/sos (click on "Voter Information" located on the left side navigation bar). By inputting your name and zip code or driver's license number, you can check to make sure you are registered to vote and obtain a map to your voting precinct. You can even find out what voting equipment your city uses and view a video on how to properly cast your ballot so you will be prepared in advance as to your precinct's voting method.

Voting is an important civic duty forming the very heart of our democratic system. Voting gives you the power to change your community and country for the better. TMTA encourages you to vote this year and remind all of your employees to vote also!



TMTA is staunch on *Buying American* and we have created an area on our website where we feature companies who manufacture in America.

The **Made In America** web page has grown to become the second most viewed page on our website. Companies are listed alphabetically and there is a 'search' feature if you are looking for a particular service or item. TMTA strongly encourages you to patronize the companies listed on our Made in America page.

Company listings are free-of-charge. By adding your company to our list, you receive advertising that can attract new business at no cost to you. This is another way your Association is working for you.

If you would like to add your company to our list, contact Elaine at 248-488-0300, ext. 1309 or e-mail your company's information to elaine@thetmta.com and we will make sure your company is included.

Access the **Made In America** page by clicking on the icon (identical to the image above) located on our website home page at www.thetmta.com.



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