

tmta talk

A publication of the
Tooling, Manufacturing &
Technologies Association

**FROM Rob's
Roost**
By Rob Dumont
PRESIDENT & CEO

It's Summer Again

Though diminished in number they were not reduced in spirit and all attendees had a great time on June 21st at the 77th Annual TMTA Golf Outing. Much more on the outing elsewhere in this edition of TMTA Talk.

You can look forward to a virtually unending barrage of information on what is wrong (and occasionally, though rarely, what is right) with every candidate for election to Congress and certainly all candidates for the Presidency. I

say "all" because I am confident that we will see more than two seeking that office. I caution you to heed the observation by Mark Twain, made many years ago, when he noted that those who ignore the news are uninformed and those who read the news are misinformed.

I invite you to visit the TMTA website (www.thetmta.com) and have a look at the entry on the 21st Century Trade Agreement Principles. These were promulgated by members of the Coalition for a Prosperous America (TMTA is a member and I sit on the Board of Directors of the CPA). An effort is underway to gather signatures in support of those principles, many TMTA member companies have already signed on and I urge those of you who have not to do so. Follow the link on our website. You can view the list of signatories and add the name of your company as

well. Particularly in an election year: numbers count!

The World Trade Organization is taking a subtle swipe at getting rid of a trade remedy in the form of Anti-Dumping rules. I suggest subtlety because

(Rob's Roost continues on Page 7)



Inside This Issue

- Page 2 2012 3rd/4th Qtr. Business Trends Survey Results
A Big Deal, or No Deal
- Page 3 4th of July Survey Results
- Page 4 Highlights from TMTA's Annual Golf & Dinner Event
- Page 6 Children and Hot Cars Inflation Talk: CPI-W/CPI-U
- Page 7 Rob's Roost (continued) TMTA Golf Outing a Grand Event
TMTA Endorsed Providers
- Page 8 Special Thanks to TMTA's Golf Outing Sponsors
Made in America

tmta Calendar of Events

July 2012

4	July 4 th - Independence Day Federal Holiday TMTA Offices Closed
18	TMTA Board of Directors meets at TMTA offices

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

2012 3rd/4th Quarter Business Trends Outlook Survey Results

Thanks to the member companies that took the time to respond to the latest Business Trends Outlook Survey. The figures in the brackets are the responses from the survey completed six months ago.

1. Describe your company's operation:

Dies, Molds	07%	(10%)
Jigs, Fixtures, Gages	04%	(05%)
Engineering, Technology	00%	(00%)
Stamping, Forging, Casting	04%	(06%)
Manufacturing	31%	(23%)
Machining	26%	(21%)
Tools	04%	(10%)
Special Machines	07%	(02%)
Assemblies	00%	(02%)
Fabrications	04%	(03%)
Prototypes	00%	(00%)
Other	13%	(18%)

2. How is your business now?

Excellent	09%	(11%)
Very good	35%	(27%)
Good	43%	(49%)
Fair	13%	(11%)
Bad	00%	(02%)
Very bad	00%	(00%)

3. Over the next 6 mos., your co.'s business will:

Increase substantially	02%	(10%)
Increase moderately	50%	(38%)
Remain the same	41%	(47%)
Decrease moderately	07%	(03%)
Decrease substantially	00%	(02%)

4. Current average work week:

Hours per week	49.4	(47.2)
----------------	------	--------

5. Current employment:

Hourly:	27.3	(25.3)
Salaried:	6.5	(6.0)

6. Compared to 1yr ago, current level of business is:

	Up	Same	Down
Quoting activity	49% (58%)	50% (39%)	01% (03%)
Shipments	71% (68%)	27% (30%)	02% (02%)
Order backlog	50% (50%)	47% (43%)	03% (07%)
Profits	35% (54%)	64% (39%)	01% (07%)
Employment	47% (41%)	52% (49%)	01% (10%)

Comments:

"...if we could hire qualified help"

Biggest backlog in 70 years [of] being in business.
(machining)

Business would increase if we could hire qualified help.
(jigs, fixtures, gages)

Finally!
(manufacturing)

I'll never stop worrying. (machining)

Every customer request is rush and pressure to keep costs/prices down. (special machines)

Keeping my fingers crossed! (machining)

Cannot find skilled labor. Most have drug issues or DUIs.
(cutting tools)

I guess the surge in the manufacturing sector hasn't filtered down to us yet. (machining)

Our work has slowed again...Hoping it picks back up very soon. (manufacturing)

A Big Deal, or No Deal

*by: Charles H. Blum, President
International Advisory Services Group Ltd.*

A fiscal calamity looms over Washington. It dwarfs lesser issues getting far more attention right now and promises to challenge a highly divided and dysfunctional political system. Variouslly termed "taxmageddon" or the "fiscal cliff," the problem centers on the expiration of a series of tax breaks and spending programs. If timely action is not forthcoming, some like Paul Krugman fear the country is headed for a "great stagnation."

December 31st is D-Day for four big budget items:

- Extended unemployment benefits are due to expire. That would take some \$40 billion from the

economy, or 0.3 percent of America's gross domestic product (GDP).

- Under the terms of the Budget Control Act, automatic spending cuts would kick in, reducing federal spending on military and domestic items by \$98 billion or 0.6 percent of GDP.
- The two percent reduction in payroll taxes is also due to expire. That would take a bite out of the economy worth \$125 billion or 0.8 percent of GDP.
- Even bigger, the "Bush tax cuts" are also set to expire, reducing the income of 150 million households by \$280 billion or 1.8 percent of GDP.

Taken together, these four changes in revenue and spending would take the wind out of the sails of the tepid recovery that continues to sputter forward. In all, they would de-stimulate the economy by more than a half trillion dollars and depress GDP by 4 percent. Given the outlook for extended GDP growth of about 2 percent, such a shock would be expected to push the American economy into negative growth.

One might expect that the 2012 election campaign would focus on these issues and that they would provide the opportunity to make major and lasting changes in our economic strategy. We might be debating ways to reduce the trade deficit, eliminate our tax disadvantages with the rest of the world, promote investment in new plants and equipment, and rebuild our infrastructure—all the big steps needed to put our future growth on a sound footing. Thus far at least, that has often not been the case. We have little consensus on big issues and intense partisanship even on small ones.

Some of the more hopeful analysts look to a lame duck session of Congress to address these issues, perhaps taking the bipartisan package worked out by the Simpson-Bowles commission as its starting point. It's not clear how another close election (remember 2000?) with large numbers of lame ducks (remember 2008 and 2010?) will affect the ability and willingness of the Congress and the President to work out ambitious responses to the nation's thorniest economic problems. If the odds of major progress are extremely long, perhaps the best that could be hoped for is that a weary Congress will find a way before the last minute to kick the can down the road for its successors to cope with.

Fundamentally, the looming fiscal fiasco reflects an

unresolved divide in the American electorate. We seem to want more government than we're willing to pay for. We seem to agree only that entitlements that benefit others should be reduced while defending those we receive ourselves as untouchable.

As David Brooks wrote in the New York Times on May 29th:

We're not going back to the 19th-century governing philosophy of Hamilton, Clay and Lincoln. But that tradition offers guidance. The question is not whether government is inherently good or evil, but what government does.

Does government encourage long-term innovation or leave behind long-term debt for short-term expenditure? Does government nurture an enterprising citizenry, or a secure but less energetic one?

If the U.S. doesn't modernize its governing institutions, the nation will stagnate. The ghost of Hamilton will be displeased.

Every American should be paying close attention as the consequences are likely to be of real and lasting importance to most Americans and not least of the business community, no matter which scenario unfolds.

2012 Fourth Of July Holiday Survey Results

Our thanks to the companies that took the time to complete our 4th of July Holiday Survey.

May we all remember the freedoms we enjoy as we celebrate this day.

	<u>Open</u>	<u>½ Open</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Closed</u>
		<u>½ Paid</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Unpaid</u>
Sat 6/30	22	0	0	19
Mon 7/2	42	1	1	1
Tues 7/3	43	1	0	1
Wed 7/4	1	0	45	1
Thurs 7/5	36	1	2	6
Fri 7/6	35	1	2	7
Week 7/2-7/6	3	0	2	1

TMTA 77TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING & DINNER HIGHLIGHTS

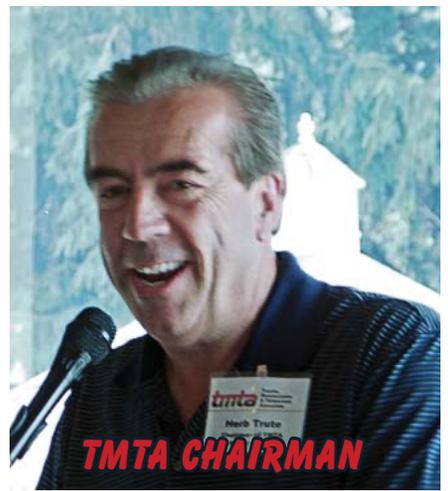


TAHOE ENVY



TIGERS TICKETS WINNER





WE HOPE TO SEE YOU GOLFING NEXT YEAR!

Children and Hot Cars

As warmer weather arrives, there is a seasonal spike in fatalities from hyperthermia or heat stroke among children left alone in vehicles.

Over half of the deaths occur when a child is mistakenly left in a vehicle by a caregiver. Children playing in unattended vehicles account for 30% of deaths and 17% are caused when a child is intentionally left in a vehicle.

In a study conducted by General Motors and the Golden Gate Weather Services, a vehicle with a light colored interior in 80 degree weather showed an increase of cabin temperatures to: 94.3 degrees after 2 minutes; 99 degrees after 10 minutes; 109 degrees after 20 minutes; and 123 degrees after 60 minutes. Rolling down the windows had an insignificant effect on vehicle cabin temperature.

Also, some objects in the car can heat up much faster than others raising the overall cabin temperature accordingly. For example, a dark dashboard can heat to up to 200 degrees thereby increasing the cabin temperature by conduction and convection.

A child's body heats up 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's does. This is due in part because they have not yet fully developed their systems for regulating heat and they don't sweat as efficiently as adults. It can take as little as 15 minutes in an overheated vehicle for a child to begin to suffer life-threatening brain and/or kidney damage. When body temperatures reach 104 degrees, internal organs begin to shut down and at 107 degrees children die.

Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle for even "just a minute." If you see a child unattended in a hot vehicle, call 911 immediately and get them out as quickly as possible. Always keep vehicle doors and trunks locked when your vehicle is parked and keep the keys where children cannot reach them. Teach your children that ve-

hicles are not play areas. If a child is missing, check close-by vehicles first, including the trunks. When transporting children, place your purse, briefcase or something else you need in the back seat so that you will have to open the back door when leaving the vehicle. You can also place an object such as a stuffed toy in the car seat. After buckling in the child, place the object in the front seat area where you will notice it when leaving the vehicle. Always get into the habit of checking the front and back seats of your vehicle before locking the doors and walking away.

INFLATION TALK

CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
May	226.600	674.973	784.99*
Apr	227.012	676.199	786.41*
Mar	226.304	674.090	783.96*
Feb	224.317	668.171	777.08*
Jan 2012	223.216	664.891	773.26*
Dec	222.166	661.766	769.63*
Nov	222.813	663.692	771.87*
Oct	223.043	664.376	772.66*

CPI-U All Urban Consumers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
May	229.815	688.423	800.62*
Apr	230.085	689.232	801.57*
Mar	229.392	687.157	799.15*
Feb	227.663	681.977	793.13*
Jan 2012	226.665	678.988	789.65*
Dec	225.672	676.014	786.19*
Nov	226.230	677.684	788.14*
Oct	226.421	678.258	788.80*

Note: May 2012 CPI-W represents a 1.6% increase from one year ago; CPI-U a 1.7% 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



**HAVE A SAFE
AND
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY
FROM
THE TMTA STAFF**

(Rob's Roost continued from Page 1)

the approach to eliminating the remedy is under the guise of removing all country of origin labeling. The rationale advanced is that if one looks at the components of products they will often be found to originate in several countries. Therefore, all products should simply be recognized as being "from the world". If that occurs, the critical component of an Anti-Dumping case disappears—only countries of origin can be guilty of dumping products at less than their actual cost. If all products are from "the world" then there can be no dumping. TMTA will be addressing this issue in D.C.

No news on the Currency legislation front; the bill remains stalled in the House of Representatives. We continue our efforts on that front as well.

Summer is upon us, enjoy it and be safe!

The TMTA Golf Outing— Another Grand Event!

The TMTA 77th Annual Golf Outing & Dinner was held at the Fox Hills Golf Club in Plymouth on June 21st. The weather was hot and sunny enabling TMTA to once again hold a terrific event enjoyed by both members and their guests.

Bill Hampton from **Knight Carbide**, Brian Miller from **T & W Tool & Die Corp.**, and Ray Bailey from **Thunder Bay Pattern Works Inc.** were the hole-in-one shoot-out participants trying for \$1,000,000, \$75,000, and a 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe (in that order). Jim Wrigley from **Vicount Industries** had the longest drive on hole #17. The team with the lowest score (60) was from **Advanced Auto Trends, Inc.** The team with the highest score (we'll never tell) was from **Vicount Industries**.

The prize theme was once again "Made in America." We wish to thank **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan** for their generous prize donation of a set of Tigers tickets complete with parking pass! We also want to thank **Jefferson Chevrolet** for their gracious donation of the Chevy Tahoe for the hole-in-one shoot-out.

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

We look forward to see **you** at next year's outing!

TMTA ENDORSED SERVICE PROVIDERS

Blue Cross Blue Shield/BCN

(Health insurance program)

TMTA contacts:

Bill Percha 586-904-9700 (cell)

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

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

Practical Power LLC

(Electrical savings program)

Provider contact:

Mark Bunting 248-726-7598

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:

Bill Percha 586-904-9700

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

Staffworks Group

(Staffing needs)

Provider contact:

Bill Brann 877-304-9690

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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO TMTA'S GOLF OUTING SPONSORS

TMTA wishes to give special recognition to those companies who sponsored our 77th Annual Golf Outing & Dinner. TMTA thanks our sponsors for supporting and standing behind the TMTA during these hard economic times. Your generous donations enable us to offer a premium event for all who attend.

Our sponsors are shown below and we hope that you will patronize them when you get the chance.



BUTTON EDDY KOLB & SORRENTINO, P.L.L.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS



Please patronize the companies on our **Made In America** page.

Access the list of companies by clicking on the icon (identical to the image above) located on our website home page at www.thetmta.com.

tmta talk

TMTA TALK is a publication of the
Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association

P.O. Box 2204 Phone (248) 488-0300
Farmington Hills, MI 48333 Fax (248) 488-0500
www.thetmta.com

President and CEO — Robert J. Dumont
Editor, Layout/Design — Elaine F. Burger-Laskosky

TMTA TALK is distributed free to all TMTA members.
Copyright © 2012 Tooling, Mfg. & Tech. Assoc. All Rights Reserved

Deadline for submission of news, articles, letters, cartoons
and Marketplace items is the 25th of each month.
Send/Fax to TMTA, Attention: TMTA Talk Editor.