

## President's Message

What do WMMA, Matlow State Community College, TN and Tennessee College of Applied Technology have in common? They have experienced Todd Herzog's leadership and passion. Todd is a past WMMA President, Baldwin award winner, long-time WMMA member and volunteer. For the past twenty-five years he has been the chair of McMinnville-Warren Chamber of Commerce's BRAC Committee. This committee strives to resolve problems and create solutions when it comes to career technical education. They have been responsible for securing millions of dollars for CTE programs in Warren County, TN.

Todd has been a key contributor at each stage of the CTE success stories. His leadership and commitment to technical education and successful career development of youth in his county is very impressive. I am informed that no other county in Tennessee has the resume of success like Warren County.



This resume brands him as one of WMMA's champions in CTE advocacy. Todd maybe retired from the company he founded, Accu-Router, Inc., but he is not retired from actively advocating programs that he believes in and has a passion for like CTE. Todd and BRAC's successes will have a positive impact on the serious problem our industry faces today - a shortage of skilled workers.

If you want to join Todd in finding a solution to this problem, join our Public Policy Committee and help WMMA advocate for CTE. You can participate in our Capitol Hill visits and make a difference.

We are at the end of 2019. I speak for WMMA Board of Directors in wishing our members a Happy and Prosperous New Year. The Board of Directors will strive to make WMMA stronger in 2020 with a clear vision for the future, in the best interest of its members.

Your President,

Steve Carter

## Introducing an Exciting New Member Benefit...Just for You!

[Get a Quote Today!](#)

One challenge many employers face is offering affordable and convenient health care options for their employees. And now WMMA is proud to announce a new member benefit that meets that need. Introducing [National Association of Manufacturers \(NAM\) Health Care](#)— a benefits offering designed specifically for smaller manufacturing companies.

Because WMMA is a member of NAM, you can join other manufacturing companies to purchase and manage coverages together, which allows you to take advantage of enrollment efficiencies, administrative cost savings and more flexible product options previously only available to larger manufacturing companies. With NAM Health Care, your employees can get better health care and quicker enrollment, while making your job easier with ongoing benefits management and administration (which reduces your administrative costs.)

## Get Ready for WIC 2020! Have You Registered Yet?

One of this year's featured WIC Speakers, **Seth Mattison** will be presenting a workforce development/skills gap session on "The Future of Talent in the Trades" and below is a preview of his Industry Approach:

Seth's approach to the talent transformation shaping the future of the trades is to help leaders look beyond the surface level data and identify the subtle nuances that are easily overlooked but dramatically influence their ability to future-proof themselves against disruptive change and ultimately create compelling differentiation in order to compete and win in their marketplace.



Register Now

In meeting that challenge, Seth brings 15 years of experience helping category leading brands and leaders navigate their collective futures by reimagining how their organizations are structured, rethinking the skills and competencies of the future, and reshaping talent experiences that will ultimately drive high-performance cultures.

Through Seth's pre-event "Client Activation Process", he will work with your planning team to identify the data, insights, case studies, and best practices most relevant to your audience and conference outcome objectives to bring your event vision to life.

## New Complimentary Registration Offer to 1st Time WIC Attendees



The WMMA Board is offering **complimentary registrations for up to four first time WIC attendees**. If you are a New Member Company or have never attended WIC before, email [samantha@wmma.org](mailto:samantha@wmma.org) to claim your complimentary WIC registration today!



## Don't Miss Out on WINS 2020!

Registration + Sponsorship Opportunities Available Now!

WMIA + WMMA are going to Salt Lake City, UT, February 6-9, 2020, for the Wood Industry Networking Snow Sport event. This event has grown over the years and this year we are expecting our biggest crowd yet!

Group breakfasts and dinners Included Thursday (2/6) - Sunday (2/9). Sponsored group lunches will take place on Saturday (2/8) and Sunday (2/9). A more detailed schedule will be distributed to attendees closer to the event.

**Wednesday (2/5)** Possible CAT Skiing Day, Early Bird Dinner

**Thursday (2/6)** Ski Resorts: Solitude or Brighton

**Friday (2/7)** Ski Resorts: Alta or Snowbird for Snowmobiling

**Saturday (2/8)** Ski Resorts: Snowbasin

**Sunday (2/9)** Ski Resorts: Powder Mountain

**Monday (2/10)** \*optional back-country skiing day

Registration and sponsorship reservations are now open -[click here for more information](#)

**Current 2020 Sponsors:**



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## **New WMMA Trade Mission: Vietnam June 7-11, 2020**

The WMMA Board of Directors has approved funding to conduct a customized U.S. Commercial Services trade mission to Vietnam from June 7-11, 2020 in an effort to expose WMMA member companies to Vietnam and help to establish dealer and customer contacts there.

**WMMA Trade Mission to Vietnam**

**June 7-11, 2020**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**

More information to come in January regarding how our members can participate and attend to support this mission. We will be coordinating a special reception, customized one-on-one meetings for each member company with local dealers and customers and local facility tours.

Questions or to express interest...Contact [Fred@wmma.org](mailto:Fred@wmma.org) for more information.

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## **Member News: Mereen-Johnson Acquires Equipment Maker Diehl Machines**

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.** -- Mereen-Johnson, LLC has announced the acquisition of Diehl Machines, a Wabash, Indiana, manufacturer of industrial woodworking equipment.

"We believe the acquisition of Diehl Machines gives us the opportunity to add a complimentary line of products to our portfolio," said Paul Wilmes, CEO of Mereen-Johnson. "We also see great potential for growth with new products and innovation from the Diehl line."

Mereen-Johnson also manufactures a line of heavy-duty industrial production machinery, primarily geared to the wood industry, but increasing used in the cutting of composites, plastics, aluminum and many other materials.

"Like Mereen-Johnson, Diehl has a history going back over 100 years and is well-known in the industry for manufacturing high quality, long lasting machinery," said Wilmes. "As a result, we intend to keep the Diehl name on the line of products we are acquiring as well as develop plans for growing it in the future."

## WMMA 2019 Upcoming Events

### January 22-24, 2020

MEM Industrial 2020  
Mexico City, Mexico  
Find out how to participate in [WMMA's U.S. Pavilion here](#)

### February 5-9, 2020

WINS 2020  
Salt Lake City, UT  
[Registration Open Now!](#)

### May 5-8, 2020

Woodworking Industry Conference (WIC20)  
Wild Dunes Resort  
Isle of Palms (Charleston), SC  
[Click here to register now!](#)

### June 7-11, 2020

WMMA Trade Mission to Vietnam  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

### August 25-28, 2020

IWF 2020 - [Click here to apply for exhibit space](#)  
Atlanta, GA

[View Full Calendar of Events](#)

## 2020 Membership Renewal Season is Here



### Renewal Deadline: January 2020

You will be receiving your 2020 WMMA Membership renewals within the next couple of weeks. Please utilize this time to confirm your roster of representatives and add any new employees to receive our event notices, industry updates, involvement opportunities and more!

Interested in becoming more involved or having one of your employees more engaged within WMMA? [Check out one of our committees here](#). Email [Kristin@wmma.org](mailto:Kristin@wmma.org) with any questions.



### Virginia Tech Housing Report - October

In October, the vast majority of the United States housing construction and sales markets were positive – month-over-month and year-over-year. The exceptions were the yearly single-family under construction and spending data categories. New single-family house



### Monday Economic Report: December 9, 2019

Manufacturing employment jumped by 54,000 workers in November, bouncing back from the loss of 43,000 employees in October. Much of that volatility stemmed from the effects of the auto strike, with motor vehicles and parts employment

sales and private residential construction spending recorded monthly declines. The December 6th Atlanta Fed GDPNow™ model estimate for December 2019 projects an aggregate 6.7% increase for residential investment spending. New private permanent site expenditures were projected at an 8.0% increase; the improvement spending forecast was an 1.6% increase; and the manufactured/mobile housing projection was a 0.7% increase (all: quarterly log change and seasonally adjusted annual rate).

[Click here to view the full October VT Housing Report](#)

up 41,300 in November, rebounding from a similar loss in the prior report. There were 12,865,000 manufacturing workers in November, the best reading in 11 years, with 1,412,000 employees added since the end of the Great Recession. Nonetheless, manufacturing job growth has slowed to an average of just more than 5,000 additional workers per month year to date. That contrasts with the average of 22,800 manufacturing employees created each month through the first 11 months of 2018.

[Click here for the full report from December 9, 2019.](#)



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