

President's Message

WMMA's CEO Fred Stringfellow interviewed incoming President, Paul Wilmes to discuss his vision for his two-year term. Click the button or image to watch the full interview!

[Click Here to Watch](#)



June 3, 2020 **FREE Members-Only** Webinar: ITR Economic Update

How will COVID-19 and Oil Prices affect WMMA Member Companies?

Presented by: Taylor St. Germain

ITR Economics

[Register Now](#)



WMMA has contracted ITR to host an economic forecast webinar, exclusively for our members, covering the economic impact of COVID-19 and the oil price drops as it applies to our membership.

WMMA 2020 Regional Networking & Business Meeting



October 13-15, 2020 • Omni Louisville Hotel • Louisville, KY

2020 Regional Meeting

This year's Regional Networking & Business Meeting will take place in Louisville, KY, October 13-15, at the Omni Louisville Hotel.

[Click here to view the full schedule of events](#) featuring Committee meetings, group tours, networking dinners and more!

WMMA Committee Sneak Peek

Due to the cancellation of WIC and our in-person Committee Meetings, our

Committees met virtually and below is a quick update on what each group is working on. Interested in signing up for a committee? [Click here and submit your form today!](#)

- **International Business Development:** The Committee confirmed the postponement of the Vietnam Trade Mission, from June to October 2020. Additionally, they discussed hosting a dinner during IWF for a Vietnamese contingency, returning to Mexico City in January 2021, and LIGNA 2021 with WMMA (USA) pavilions.
- **Membership Development:** The Committee discussed improvements that could be made to our website, newsletter, and ways to continue our Membership engagement efforts by encouraging current members to become involved on a Committee. Additionally, the MDC brainstormed some ideas to develop relationships between WMMA Members and CTE trade schools.
- **Public Policy:** Noting the cancellation of the Committee's DC Fly-in due to COVID-19, the committee discussed the importance of educating our elected officials on Career Technical Education and the fact that Sustainable Building initiatives benefits the wood machinery industry.
- **Technical Standards:** The Committee reviewed the DHA's plans to complete a dust hazard analysis in September of 2020, concerns with the ISO tele-service, and ISO vs. ANSI standard applications.
- **Technology:** The Committee reviewed the recent webinar, future webinars, and an IWF heat-map software project / direct CRM integration. Committee members also suggested a 'technology review' with the MDC during the website re-build.

[WMMA Committee Sign Up Form](#)

IWF 2020 Updates

- **IWF Final Payment Deadline Extended to June 5th** - To assist member companies in staying the course toward IWF 2020 scheduled for August 25-28; **IWF has extended the due date for your final exhibit space and promotional advertisement payments.** Both of these payments—originally scheduled for a May 5th due date—have been extended to June 5th. This means that all exhibitors have an additional 31 days to fulfill their IWF contract commitments as you work to take care of the many other priorities impacting your business at this time.



[IWF Homepage](#)

- **WMMA IWF Member Reception:**
Tuesday, August 25, 2020, GA World Congress Center, WMMA Booth
 - **WMMA IWF Membership Breakfast:**
Thursday, August 27, 2020, GA World Congress Center, Room TBD
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WMMA Artificial Intelligence (AI) Follow-up May 2020

Warren Weber, WMMA Standards Consultant

In February of 2019 the (US) Federal Government directed the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop a plan to "...reflect Federal priorities for innovation, public trust, and public confidence in systems that use AI technologies: and develop international standards to promote and protect those priorities."

Since the meeting and open forum conducted by NIST last May they have published a plan to accomplish the goals set forth by the Federal Government and with input from the forums. With this plan in place and moving forward to fulfill the intent of the plan, NIST has added a position (Associate Director for IT Standardization) which will help administer NIST's future AI standards activities and development. Presumably a good step to help administer US AI interests under a single, precise umbrella.

In an effort to solicit accurate and up to date information regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), NIST has established a Visiting Fellow program. The program intends to work with experts and leaders in AI and ML. NIST hopes to advance its goals by having the fellowship associates share their knowledge and experience in these fields. The visiting fellows would help provide technical support, participate in workshops and meetings and assist with research projects. A great opportunity to be involved with this truly cutting edge technology. More information regarding the visiting fellowship program can be found by emailing: farsait@nist.gov

WMMA Vietnam Trade Mission

The trade mission's effort is to familiarize WMMA member companies to Vietnam and help to establish dealer and customer contacts there.

**WMMA Trade Mission to Vietnam
October 4-8, 2020
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**

[Click here](#) or on the form image (right) to sign up today. 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 for more information.

WMMA Vietnam Trade Mission



Join WMMA for a Trade Mission to Vietnam
POSTPONED to October 4-8, 2020

Vietnam is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, and has a strong and growing furniture and wood products manufacturing market. The Vietnamese appetite for American wood machinery is currently unfulfilled.

WMMA's trade mission to Vietnam is intended to expose our members to this potential market, help you to make dealer contacts and create some exposure for your company among potential buyers. The mission will take place October 4-8, 2020. There is a \$500 upfront fee to participate (per company, up to 2 people per company can attend); the \$500 will be reimbursed after the event. Members must attend the event for the \$500 refund.

NOTE: After registering for this event, we will send you a questionnaire to help U.S. Commercial Services arrange the appropriate meetings and factory tours for you based on your interests. We will also provide you with access to our hotel block, near the American Center where our meetings will be set up.

Tentative Schedule

- Oct. 4 Attendees plan to arrive in Ho Chi Minh City on their own.
- Oct. 5 Afternoon - afternoon immersion briefing and market overview with US Commercial Services. Evening - No-host dinner at a local restaurant.
- Oct. 6 U.S. Commercial Services' pre-arranged meetings for WMMA company representatives with interested partners (dealers, customers). Followed by evening networking reception.
- Oct. 7 Factory tours and meetings with multipliers.
- Oct. 8 WMMA members can set up follow up appointments on their own or depart for the U.S.

Participation in this program is capped at 10 companies on a first-come, first-served basis.

My company is interested in participating in WMMA's Vietnam Trade Mission.

Company _____

First Participant _____ Email _____

Second Participant _____ Email _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVC # _____

Billing Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Cardholder Name _____ Signature _____

Email Address for Cardholder _____

Return this form with payment in U.S. funds to WMMA
 2331 Rock Spring Road • Forest Hill, MD 21050 • 443-640-1052 ext. 1108 • fax 443-640-1051 • diane@wmma.org



V.T. Housing Report: March 2020

In March, an overwhelming majority of month-over-month categories were negative. Total, single-, and multi-family starts all recorded double-digit declines. On a year-over-year basis, fifty percent of the categories indicated improvement. Housing completions was the only subsector reporting declines for all components: total, single- and multi-family. New single-family house and existing sales decreased, month-over-month and year-over-year. Single-family construction expenditures improved year-over-year and decreased month-over-month. The effects of covid19 may not be fully reflected in the March data. The magnitude of the virus might be revealed in the April and May housing construction data....

[Click Here for Full Report](#)



NAM Economic Report: May 18, 2020

With each week, the full extent of the economic damage from COVID-19 and the abrupt decline in activity can be seen in greater detail. The severe drops in data are unprecedented.

Manufacturing production fell sharply by a record-setting 13.7% in April to the lowest level since July 28, with durable and nondurable goods output plummeting 19.3% and 8.2%, respectively. All 19 major manufacturing sectors experienced declines in April. Capacity utilization in the sector fell to 61.1%, a new all-time low.

[Click Here for Full Article](#)



June 3, 2020

ITR Webinar on COVID-19 and Oil Prices - Economic Trend Update

[Click here to register for the Webinar](#)

August 25-28, 2020

International Woodworking Fair (IWF) 2020

Atlanta, GA

[Click here to apply for exhibit space](#)

October 4-8, 2020

WMMA Trade Mission to Vietnam *NEW DATE

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

[Click here to sign-up to participate](#)

October 13-15, 2020

WMMA Regional Networking & Business Meeting

Omni Louisville Hotel

Louisville, KY

[Click here to register](#)

[View Full Calendar of
Events](#)

