

# **Announcements**

Are you ready for some warmer weather and the opportunity to get out on the golf course, bike path, or camping. However you spend your time, we hope that you make the most of it

The GLBMA is gearing up for our upcoming golf outing. Have you registered your team or sponsored a hole? Opportunities are still available.

Please note: all **blue colored text** as well as some photos are a hyperlink.



What's in the newsletter this month!

- Welcome
- GLBMA Events/Programs
- Partner News/Events
- Automation Alley
- Michigan Manufacturers
   Association News/Events

#### **Welcome New Members**



# FRG Corp.

Established in 1985, FRG Corp. has established a history of providing quality training and performance support services for a variety of clients, including nuclear & fossil generation electric and gas utilities, petrochemical, general manufacturing, retail companies and school systems. FRG Corp is able to provide on-site training in variety of training but they tend to focus on safety training on-site. They also offer a variety of online classes.

MICHIGAN

MANUFACTURING

TECHNOLOGY

CENTER

# Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (The Center)

The <u>Center</u> offers personalized consulting services that enable Michigan manufacturers to work smarter, compete and prosper. We develop more effective business leaders, drive product,

and process innovation, promote company -wide operational excellence and foster creative strategies for business growth and greater profitability.

Lynette Rombach is our region's Business Solutions Manager, she can be reached at 734-476-9736 or email Irombach@the-center.org.

### **GLBMA News**



# Upcoming Events at a Glance

May 29 - Tour Rite-Hite & Alro Steel - Clare June 5 - Tour of Glastender June 17 - Joint Safety Meeting June 18 - Quality/Safety SIG



# BEST PRACTICES TOUR: RITE-HITE & ALRO STEEL

Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at two leading industrial innovators in Clare! Learn firsthand about manufacturing excellence, safety strategies and continuous improvement practices!



# Thursday, May 29th



4:00 PM-6:30 PM

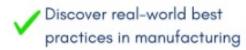


Pioneers in industrial safety and loading dock technology

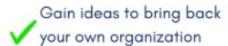


Leaders in metal, plastic and cutting-edge service

# Why Attend??







# Who Should Attend?

Manufacturing professionals, plant managers, operations staff, continuous improvement teams and anyone passionate about learning from industry leaders.



To register, click or scan QR code or contact Holle Angellotti at hangellotti@midmich.edu

#### **Best Practice Tour at Glastender**

The tour scheduled for June 5, 2025, at Glastender has very limited space left, please be considerate of other companies. This tour is limited to one person from non manufacturing (associate) companies. Associate members that registered more than one person, the second person will be moved to the waitlist. Thank you for understanding. Register to attend here. The tour is from 12:30 pm until 2:30 pm and includes lunch.

#### 2025 GLBMA Golf Outing

We look forward to hosting you and your team on Thursday, July 31, 2025, at Apple Mountain Golf Course Driving Range and Registration at 8:00 am and Shotgun start at 9:00 am Golf includes:

18 holes with cart in scramble format (teams of 4)

- Coffee
- Box Lunch
- Dinner and awards
- Two drink tickets
- Golfer gift for each golfer
- Opportunity for a door prize
- Opportunity to play additional games on course (Some free and some have additional fees.)

Cost for a team is \$700 and an individual is \$200 Networking only - Dinner with a drink ticket \$50

We ask for a designated team captain for each team. The team captain will be responsible for picking up the registration materials. We hope this will alleviate congestion at registration.

All golfers who have provided their email addresses will receive an event confirmation on the Monday before the event.

Please note that all golfers must be paid in full one week before the outing. Teams without payment and a designated captain will be dropped from the outing to make room for others.

Thank you to Apple Mountain Golf Course for hosting this event and to all our sponsors.

We are still accepting sponsors and items for our golfer's goodie bags.

Thank you for supporting our annual GLBMA golf outing.

Please call the GLBMA office for details.

Register here



## Open Enrollment Trainings Offered through JAMA

The Jackson Area Manufacturer Association has just opened a new educational center in Jackson. They have offered their classes to our members. If you are looking for a manufacturing based training, you may want to consider checking out their current offerings here.

## Quality/Safety Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting

#### June 18, 2025 | 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm | Virtual

Our next meeting will be covering scorecards that incorporate your safety within your quality system. Examples will be provided. This session will be presented by Cara Longoria with AVU Registrations.

Register to participate here.

Become the 2025 sponsor of this group today and get your logo here!

# Women in Manufacturing Special Interest Group (WIM) Events

#### **Next Meeting is in August**

Thank you to everyone who was able to join the May meeting. We had a great group to play singo.

We are still trying to confirm an event for August and will advise of the date shortly. Please take the survey below to help narrow down our activity.

The Women in Manufacturing (WIM) group is open to anyone who wishes to join us. This is a non sales group. Our focus is networking and socializing with like minded women fostering relationships to encourage women to choose careers in manufacturing or trades that would not normally be considered. If you would like to receive updates please let us know.

What activity would you prefer?

Singo (song bingo) Hemlock or Freeland

**Axe Throwing Bay City or Sagina** 

Tri-Game (bowl, mini golf, & pinball) Midland

#### **Human Resource Special Interest Group**

#### July 15, 2025 | 8:00 am - 10:00 am | Vantage Plastics - Bay City Location

Join us for this informative meeting. As the need for talent in the manufacturing industry grows, it's important to assess the potential of current talent. Growth and development foster a stronger organizational culture, with a workforce that is challenged and fulfilled. Join to learn about the creation of learning culture, individual skill development, and effective team building.

We will also be discussing Insurance options and what is best for our company. Of course, we will always have time for networking.

#### Speakers:

#### Bill R Schmaltz, Huntington Insurance

Bill specializes in helping clients create a multi-year benefits strategy to proactively manage benefit plans, reduce cost, and transform plans into a competitive advantage to retain and recruit quality employees.

Bill entered the Employee Benefits Insurance industry in 2003. Prior to joining Huntington Insurance in 2022, Bill worked for a large Insurance Agency in Metro Detroit as an account Manager where he was responsible for new sales, retention as well as maintaining and building lasting relationships. Prior to joining this Agency in 2019 Bill spent 17+ years with Action Benefits, Managing Agent for Blue Cross Blue Shield and Blue Care Network of Michigan. Entering Action Benefits in an entry level position in 2003 he found his passion in working closely with the agents and staff. Before departing Action Benefits, he advanced to the position of Manager, leading the Benefit Change and Proposals team, a team of 17 team members.

In his spare time Bill has been involved in his local community coaching his son's soccer & football teams through the years. Bill is a member and actively participates in the local NABIP (National Association Benefits Insurance Professionals) and SHRM (Society for Human Resources Management). Bill also carries a Project Management certification from Macomb Community College.

#### Julie Soderberg, Gerdau and Soderberg Leadership Solutions, LLC

With nearly 30 years of HR experience, Julie Soderberg's career path has remained with all things manufacturing in Michigan. Starting with cereal products in Battle Creek, then automotive parts and the ever-present steel industry, her passion throughout her years has been to coach and develop others through multiple methodologies. As a proud alum of Central Michigan University with a BSBA in Human Resources Management, she is

also a certified practitioner of MBTI, Korn Ferry Leadership Solution, and Prosci ® Change Management. Julie is the founder and owner of Soderberg Leadership Solutions LLC, a consulting service that provides leadership assessments, coaching, and development planning, as well as training, team dynamic building, and employee engagement services.

This session offers both HCRI and SHRM professional continuing ed credits. The Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association is recognized by SHRM to offer Professional Development Credits (PDCs) for SHRM-CP® or SHRM-SCP® recertification activities. This program is valid for 1.75 PDCs for SHRM-CP® or SHRM-SCP®. This Program has been approved for 1 HR (General) recertification credit hour toward aPHR®, aPHRi™, PHR®, SPHR®, GPHR®, PHRi™, and SPHRi™

Thank you to Vantage Plastics for hosting this meeting and Rehmann for sponsoring and coordinating this group.

#### Register to participate









# Rehmann

This year three councils have come together to collaborate on a wage and compensation survey. Your voice matters! By taking this survey, you'll help shape strategies that keep members in our associations competitive and thriving. Your insight is an asset to manufacturing. No company names or emails will be shared. Let's build a strong future together! Results will be shared at the August HR meeting. Please allow 20 to 30 minutes to complete. Wages are reported in a range for positions that you current utilized. Thank you for your time in providing this information for a better statewide gauge of manufacturing wages and benefits.



Take the Survey here.







#### **Partner News**

# Tariff Considerations: What Businesses Need to Know

In an uncertain economic environment, challenges abound for businesses of all sizes and sectors. The uncertainty is nothing new, as for the last several months businesses have waited for action from the Federal Reserve on interest rates and contended with operating in an inflationary environment. But with a new administration in Washington, there's now an additional disruptor on the horizon: global tariffs.



While it remains uncertain exactly how policy changes may impact businesses, the prevailing expectations are that tariffs could usher in higher costs and a wide range of business challenges for companies that sell imported goods or rely on international manufacturers – which means it may be important for businesses to take steps to be proactively prepared.

#### **Working Capital Impacts**

A tariff is considered a "customs duty" applied to targeted commodities or goods from specific countries. Tariffs are imposed at the port of entry, with payments due shortly after U.S. customs releases the goods. Additionally, some imported goods that were previously categorized as "duty free" may now be subject to tariffs.

These new payments can cause an immediate cash flow drain, which may require businesses to allocate more working capital upfront to cover unplanned import expenses. Keeping on top of any changes to tariffs is important and will help drive strategies for supply chain processes. Businesses may be unable to recoup the incremental tariff payouts until several weeks or months later, depending on their production schedule or payment terms with the end user or client. If a business has not built these advance costs into its forecast, there may be inventory disruptions, as well as higher overall costs that

could lead to decreased demand for products.

Additionally, involving a customs broker serve a key purpose in helping companies clear goods coming into the U.S. through Customs. When tariffs are imposed, the broker will collect the incremental fees, which may increase the cost of the imported good substantially.

"There are some things businesses can do to manage their working capital and reduce risks in these circumstances, including leveraging trade finance, letters of credit, and other supply chain strategies," said George Hoffman, an international product advisor manager in PNC Treasury Management. "It will really depend on a company's specific situation, and that's where it becomes important for businesses to work closely with their bank to figure out the best course of action."

Read complete article here



## How Can You Support the SVSU Football Team

The SVSU football team is hosting their upcoming golf outing in support of the football programs at SVSU. This outing supports the program but also provides summer camp for the local youth. If you would like to support these men in their efforts by golfing, sponsoring a hole, or donating a prize to the outing that would be greatly appreciated. Contact Coach McClanathan at 989-964-4639 or email mjmcclan@svsu.edu.

In addition, the team stays int he area all summer to work on their training for the upcoming season. While this keeps them busy from 6 am until 9 am, Monday through Friday, these young men are looking for work opportunities in the area. If you have a position or know of a position that is offering summer employment and has some flexibility please contact Coach McClanathan at 989-964-4639 or email mimcclan@svsu.edu.

The following manufacturing spaces are available for lease/sale through Kip Northrup at Blue Thumb. Kim also has some retail and office space available. Please contact Kip at kip@bluethumbponds.com or 88-619-3474.





#### Bay Future Announces New Hire Mark Hitchcock

Bay Future, Inc., the countywide economic development organization responsible for business retention, attraction, and expansion efforts throughout Bay County, is pleased to announce its recent hire of Mark Hitchcock, who will join the team as Economic Development Manager.

In his new role, Hitchcock will work closely with President & CEO Jim Reaume to market the services of Bay Future, Inc. (BFI), increase awareness of the organization's initiatives, assist companies with expansion opportunities and development activities, and collaborate with municipal officials to best serve both potential and existing businesses in Bay County.

"I look forward to contributing to the continued economic growth of Bay County by supporting businesses in their efforts to expand and thrive," said Hitchcock. "My goal is to help create an environment where both new and existing companies can succeed, driving sustainable job creation and long-term community development."

Jim Reaume, President & CEO of Bay Future, Inc., said Hitchcock brings a valuable combination of technical expertise, operational leadership, and deep regional understanding to the role. "Mark's specialized skills in operations and business process improvement, combined with his familiarity with Bay County, make him uniquely equipped to support the evolving needs of our business community," said Reaume. "His homegrown perspective and demonstrated commitment to this region are exactly what we need to help drive strategic growth and retain talent here."

Hitchcock brings a wealth of professional acumen to his new position, with extensive experience in executive leadership, client-facing customer service roles, and as an economic developer.

A native of Bay City, Michigan, Hitchcock is a decorated U.S. Army combat veteran and earned both his master's and bachelor's degrees in Business Administration from Northwood University.

#### **Jackson County Manufacturing Trade Show**

September 25, 2025 | 10:00 am to 7:00 pm | American 1 Credit Union Event Center 128 West Ganson Street | Jackson, MI

Tradeshow Highlights

Breakout Sessions for Vendors (Location: Tremaine Room)

Workforce Development in Manufacturing

Time: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Automation & Robotics Time: 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Digital Transformation in Manufacturing

Time: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Cybersecurity in Manufacturing

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Best Practices in Supply Chain Management

Time: 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Sustainability/Green Energy in Manufacturing

Time: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

#### Goals of the Tradeshow

Facilitate Networking Among Local Manufacturers: Encourage local manufacturers to connect with potential customers or suppliers.

Educate the Public About Local Manufacturing: Showcase Jackson's manufacturers to the public and highlight potential career opportunities in manufacturing.

Expose Students to Manufacturing Careers: Provide students with opportunities to learn about potential careers in manufacturing.

Registration Now Open!

**REGISTER** NOW for the 2nd annual Jackson County Manufacturing Trade Show! The revamped three-day showcase will feature the area's most innovative manufacturers, product demonstrations, industry-related panels, and student career exploration! Sign up today to reserve your spot or be a sponsor! Don't miss out on an opportunity to celebrate what puts Jackson County on the map for manufacturing!

#### Reduce IT Costs, Not Performance

Yeo and Yeo Technology shares their white paper on 9 ways to Build an IT Budget that Maximizes Value and Minimizes Waste. You can access the white paper here.

# Small Business Administration Announces the SBA Small Business Persons of the Year - Michigan Manufacturer

Congratulations to fellow manufacturers Greg and Shelley McArthur, owners of NTL Manufacturing in Sterling Heights, having been named the SBA Small Business Persons of the Year. We great recognition for a Michigan based manufacturer.

For more information from the U.S. SBA feel free to contact Anthony Lewis, Outreach & Marketing Specialist of the Michigan District Office. He can be reached at 313-324-3629 (office), 202-725-7369 (cell), or email anthony.lewis@sba.gov.

# Rehmann Launched a New Six-Part Video Series & Navigating the Challenges of New Tariffs...

Rehmann launched a new six-part video series, crafted exclusively for manufacturers. Each one-minute video uncovers a little-known tool or tactic manufacturers can use to:

- Stem the turnover tide
- Get more bang from their bank
- Prevent a data-hostage situation
- Invest in upgrades with federal money

- Find the missing costs messing up their margins
- Pinpoint what their accounting team needs

Videos can be viewed here.

#### Navigating the Challenges of New Tariffs for Small- and Medium- Sized Businesses

The recent wave of tariffs has left many small- and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) in a challenging position. In collaboration with HLB, our global advisory and accounting network, Rehmann's international tax advisory team has developed a three-phased approach to help you assess the impact of — and adjust to — a new customs and tariff footprint. Watch the webinar recording with HLB.

#### Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance announces STEM Activities

STEM Camps
General Camps
STEM Calendar of Events
Great Lakes Bay Parents Calendar of Events
Alternative to Screentime Resources
Goosechase Sign-up, Experience details



Michigan's Hot 50 Job Outlook

#### Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

LEO's Mental Health in the Workplace monthly webinar series features discussions around the importance of investing in mental health to build stronger, more resilient workplaces.

Each month LEO offers a Webinar in their series of the Mental Health in the Workplace. These can be viewed **here**.

Visit the LEO Mental Health in the Workplace site here.



## **Automation Alley Updates**

## Roundtable Playbooks

**Boosting Productivity in the AI Frontier** 



Staying Ahead: Securing Industry From Cyber Threats

Additive Manufacturing at the Tipping Point

#### Integr8 Roundtables

Automation Alley has announced their schedule for the Integr8 roundtables.

May 8 - Integr8 Mixer August 13 - Global Trends September 10 - ICE to EV October 9 - Integr8 Mixer

Please check the Automation Alley **website** for more details on the above events and the international trade missions. This year they will be traveling to SE Asia in May.

## Michigan Manufacturers Association Updates

#### MMA 2025 Magazine

MMA | mimfg.org | 517.372.5900 | view current edition of the Mi Mfg Magazine here!



#### Clearing the Air

June 3, 2025 | 8:30 am - 2:00 pm IMMA Headquarters | 620 S. Capitol Ave. | Lansing

After weeks of uncertainty swirling around tariffs, President Donald J. Trump released an Executive Order yesterday addressing both reciprocal and broad-based tariffs to be imposed by the United States.

While we digest the details of the Executive Order as this message is released, in summary the reciprocal tariffs generally represent half of the tariffs imposed by each country on U.S. goods. Note that foreign tariffs were based upon a derivative of each country's actual tariffs together with the imputed cost of other non-monetary trade barriers. A summary of the reciprocal tariffs can be found <a href="https://executive.com/here/barriers/

President Trump also announced a 25 percent tariff on foreign-produced vehicles, a tariff that will certainly have a tremendous impact on Michigan's automotive industry that represents roughly half of our manufacturing output. The fact is, our automotive supply chain serves both domestic and foreign producers. I am not aware of a commercially available vehicle that doesn't include parts from all over the world. For instance, our OEMs and suppliers ship parts back and forth with Michigan's largest and most reliable trading partners, Canada and Mexico, on a daily basis.

Our concern for Michigan's broad manufacturing base, which employs over 600,000 Michiganians, is the reality of a worldwide economy served by a supply chain that is fully integrated and operating like a fine-tuned, yet fragile, instrument. We welcome the growth of investment in U.S. manufacturing the President hopes for, and some of which he announced, but caution that the time it takes to increase capacity and build new plants will take years. That period of time between tariffs today and investment to come will have a dramatic impact on manufacturers, their employees, our communities and the state of Michigan.

For 123 years, MMA has supported Michigan's manufacturing industry through untold challenges. And as we have done in the past, we will work to leverage the full force of Michigan's manufacturing might to address the issues at hand and improve prospects for the industry elsewhere. We will continue to work with our federal partner, the National Association of Manufacturers, to directly address the impact of tariffs, both positive and negative as the case may be, with the Trump Administration, Congress and the U.S. Senate.

Our efforts will also include a continued focus on renewal of U.S. tax reform from 2017 that may end this year if the federal government fails to act. We'll also fight current efforts to raise corporate income taxes in Michigan, and forge ahead with federal and state regulatory reform to upend the not-so-hidden burden on manufacturing right here in Michigan and the United States. If, indeed, federal policy drives manufacturers to invest in the United States, we must be sure that Michigan has the most welcoming, promanufacturing policies in place, including continued access to reliable and affordable energy resources.

The MMA team will continue its century-plus mission to support Michigan's industry through this uncertainty. We will be arming you with information and strategies for remaining agile and competitive and advocating for laws and regulations to support manufacturing growth. If there is anything that we can specifically do to support your operations, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mike Johnston, MMA Executive Vice

President of Government Affairs & Workforce Development, at 517-487-8554 or johnston@mimfg.org.

#### **MMA Employment & Workforce Updates**

David Q. Worthams • 517-487-8511 • worthams@mimfg.org

#### Senate Labor Committee to Consider Anti-Employer Legislation

MMA Government Affairs is opposing legislation being considered by the Senate Labor Committee that would enact a host of anti-employer requirements and alter the critical balance between employer and employee. Senate Bill 6 would modify the determination of whether a worker is considered an employee or an independent contractor, mandate wage transparency and enhance the enforcement of wage and fringe benefit laws.

#### Manufacturers Oppose Senate Bill That Threatens Legal Stability for Michigan's Makers

MMA is vocally opposing Senate Bill 134, which is currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Finance, Insurance and Consumer Protection. The proposed legislation would undermine decades of legal precedent and expose Michigan manufacturers to unpredictable and costly legal challenges. Letter Here: <a href="https://mimfg.org/Portals/0/Documents/GA/memo-mcpa050625opposition.pdf">https://mimfg.org/Portals/0/Documents/GA/memo-mcpa050625opposition.pdf</a>

#### New R & D Credit Notice

The recent passage of Michigan's robust Research & Development (R&D) Tax Credit is a strong step toward securing Michigan's position as a leader in innovation, fostering economic growth and maintaining competitiveness on the national and global stage.

The credit is available starting with research and development expenses incurred during the 2025 calendar year. Access the latest guidance from Michigan's Department of Treasury and on-demand resources at MMA's new R&D Tax Credit Resource Hub. Be prepared for the first statutory filing deadline of 4/1/26.

We welcome your company updates and events but ask that they be ready to cut and paste to ensure that data transfer is correct and no errors occur. The GLBMA policy is to share items that align with manufacturing in our newsletter. The GLBMA reserves the right to correct any grammatical errors prior to publishing. The GLBMA reserves additional emails for events, partners, state initiatives, and MFG Champions\*. The GLBMA does not share or publish our contact list, event list, or email list. If you would like to submit something for consideration, please send it to tlblehm@svsu.edu. The GLBMA reserves the right to use submissions and edit for grammar or punctuation for clarification. If you have read through the newsletter, email tlblehm@svsu.edu for swag. The GLBMA newsletter is published around the 15th of each month, items must be received no later than the 12th of the month. Thank you.

\*MFG Champions are allowed one email per year; please call 989-964-2881 for more details.

# Manufacturing Champion Members and Supporters

























Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association | 7400 Bay Rd | University Center, MI 48710 US

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