

NEW Manufacturing Alliance
Board of Directors Meeting
August 5, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Microsoft Teams
Minutes

Attendees: Brandon Beard, Jeff Anderson, Scott Bean, Amy Bertram, Tad Campana, Brian Conrad, Josh Delforge, Jeff Frank, Aaron Janichek, Nicole Malson and Ann Franz

Topic 1: Presentation from Raise US

Presentation will be included in meeting minutes. After the presentation, the Board expressed interest in working with the organization.

Topic 2: Discuss the 20th anniversary celebration held on 6/17/2026

The Board members felt that the event was a successful celebration that gave a good overview of the history of the organization, along with having its members start planning the future of the organization. There was meaningful discussion that will be used in the strategic planning process. The event roundtable discussion notes and the survey questions asked of the members in the registration process will be included in the meeting notes.

Key themes from the 3 questions asked in the registration process:

1. What NEWMA program or activity do you value most?
 - a. Manufacturing First
 - b. K-12, STEM & youth initiatives
 - c. Networking
 - d. Quarterly meetings, summits
 - e. Taskforces
2. Why do you value being a NEWMA member?
 - a. Networking, relationships and community
 - b. Workforce development and connecting young people to manufacturing
 - c. Collaboration around shared challenges
 - d. Learning & staying current
 - e. Regional pride and economic impact
3. What do you wish NEWMA offered that it doesn't?
 - a. Leadership & professional development
 - b. More networking
 - c. Professional-specific roundtables or peer groups
 - d. Youth and emerging professional programming

Topic 3: Discuss September 17th Strategic Retreat

The Strategic Retreat is being held on September 17th at Foth in De Pere. It is an all-day event with a dinner held afterwards. Ann is meeting with Dean Stewart, who will be facilitating the planning session on 8/20 at 8:30 a.m. Board members are invited to attend the planning session, please let Ann know if you are interested.

Topic 4: NEWMA Financials

Jeff Anderson gave an update on the organization's financials. Overall, the organization is financially healthy. Due to the change of fiscal agent, there were extra costs that will be a one-time impact. The organization will now be paying Ann directly for mileage and other expenses.

Topic 4: Grant opportunities updates

In July, the organization submitted a DWD grant for \$85,000 for AI, change management and predictive maintenance training. Ann is still working with the Pentagon on funding SeaPerch & high school robotics.

Topic 5: Associate Member approval

The following companies have been approved for membership:

Arzana

Foley & Lardner

VJS Construction

CIBC Capital Markets

Inseer Inc.

The motion was made to approve by Brandon with second from Scott. Motion carried. There are now 32 new members.

Topic 7: Next steps and next meeting - September 17th. No meeting on September 2nd

Ann will contact MIT & NWTC about next steps for the technologist training program.