

NEW Manufacturing Alliance
Board of Directors Meeting
September 3, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
CMD Corp.
Minutes

Attendees: Jeff Anderson, Scott Bean, Brandon Beard, Jeff Berg, Tad Campana, Brian Conrad, Josh Delforge, John Dennis, Aaron Janichek, Nicole Malson, Michael Schulze, Barb LaMue and Ann Franz.

Topic 1: 2026 Board recruitment, membership dues and staff updates

There are currently 17 manufacturers serving on the Board with a maximum number being 20. Recruitment for new Board members for 2026 was discussed. Potential candidates include Nick Murray, Amy Bertram and Kevin Ignacio. They will be contacted for interest in serving in the NEWMA Board. Mark Kaiser will be retiring and would like the new president of Lindquist Machine to serve. Bryan Peters was on the Board when he worked for Fox Valley Metal-Tech. The Board approved having Bryan step in for Mark.

Board members should let Ann know if they do not plan to serve in 2026.

NWTC will be meeting with a few Board members on September 12 to share their proposal. There was a discussion on the need to replace Pam Blazei once the NWTC situation is resolved.

It has been 5 years, since there was an increase in the Associate Membership dues. A motion was made by John Dennis and second by Brandon Beard to increase it from \$2,500 to \$2,750. Motion was unanimously carried.

Topic 2: State Manufacturing Alliances' joint meeting 11/11/25 at FVTC

The 4 other manufacturing alliances in the state have been meeting and would like to host a joint meeting with a few Board members from each Alliance. A date of 11/11 at FVTC from 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. The agenda:

10:30 a.m.: Welcome and introduction of attendees

10:45 a.m. – noon: Each Alliance's coordinator gives an overview of organization and top 3 activities/programs

Noon: lunch

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Discussion on the following topics led by manufacturers (those that were marked in bold where the suggestions from today's meeting)

- Bylaws and make up of membership and key partners
- **Membership benefits**
- Attractions, retention and engagement of members
- Board and taskforce makeup along with what your committees are working on as an organization
- **Opportunities to work on joint projects, studies and grants**
- Sponsorships currently offering as a funding source
- **Best practices in recruiting talent especially in rural areas.**
- **K-12 & YA initiatives**

2:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.: Next steps, when we meet again etc.

Jeff requested 4-6 Board members to attend the meeting. John Dennis and Brandon Beard both shared that they plan on attending. Board members should let Ann know by 10/11, if they plan on attending.

Topic 3: Taskforces updates

Talent taskforce: DWD approved another \$32,000 grant for industrial maintenance training. There is 1 spot remaining for the full training including: fluids, AC/DC, Automation 1 & 2. Plus, there is one spot for the AC/DC training. Cruisers, Precision Paper Converters and Gardan had an employee in the first cohort and expressed their satisfaction in the training.

K-12/STEM – The taskforce voted on the winners for the 14th annual Excellence in Mfg./K-12 Partnerships Awards. The Awards dinner will be held on October 28th at the Resch Expo. Encourage Board members to donate to the Alliance's Scholarship Fund at \$300 logo level or \$1,000 gold level which includes 2 free tickets to the dinner and full page ad in the Excellence Awards magazine. Thanks to Great Northern and BW Converting for both being major sponsors in the event at \$3,000 level. Before the Award's dinner will be the ACP Roundtable meeting. Jeff shared the value of this event in having industry and K-12 educators come together. This year's event will include YA students.

Topic 4: Discuss 20th anniversary 6/6/26

The Board brainstormed ideas for the 20th anniversary. Tentatively the event will be held the 3rd week in June. The first week in June is the President's Cup and the second week in June is the New North Summit. Potential venues include Northland Hotel and Timber Rattlers Stadium. The goal of the event is to hear from the manufacturers in shaping the next 20 years of the organization. There will be live polling and then tabletop discussion questions. It was suggested that companies should be seated based on size, due to smaller companies having different issues than larger companies. The information learned at the meeting will be used for the Board's Strategic planning session later that year.

In addition to having members discuss topics on the direction of the organization, other ideas for the event would be to have each taskforce chair share a 5 minute recap of the taskforce. Past scholarship, interns and All Stars could be featured in a 'where are they now'. There will be an effort to have this be a fun event with potential games or activities to encourage members to attend. There was discussion of getting a prominent musician/comedian for a portion of the program. Brandon will be reaching out to EPIC to see what talent is coming in June 2026. The Communications taskforce will be working on this event as well.

Topic 5: Hot topic

Tabled.

Topic 6: Associate membership

There were no new Associate membership applications.

Topic 7: Upcoming NEWMA events and programs

September 9 - NCMMA Associate Member Breakfast at Burger Boat

September 11 – Taps + Tours Business after Hours at Sure Controls

October 2 – Live podcast recording at Schreiber Foods

October 28 – Excellence Awards and ACP Roundtable

October 29 – Manufacturing First

November 5 – Internship Draft Day

December 17 – Quarterly Membership meeting at FVTC

Topic 8: Next steps and meeting on October 1 from 8:30 a.m. virtual