

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



ILLINOIS
MANUFACTURERS'
ASSOCIATION



“As the owner of Pioneer Service and M&M Quality Grinding, I’ve seen firsthand how important the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association is to our industry. Mark Denzler and the IMA team consistently show up for manufacturers on the issues that matter. They listen, they act, and they advocate at every level. I’m proud to be a member and grateful for the work they do for all of us in this state.”

ANEESA MUTHANA
CEO & Co-Owner, M&M Quality Grinding

“Being a member of the IMA has provided us with unparalleled advocacy, ensuring our voice is heard on critical issues that impact the manufacturing sector. Their network and resources have connected us with industry leaders and valuable insights that drive our business forward. From training initiatives to legislative updates, the IMA provides us with tools and knowledge to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving market.”

RENEE TOGHER
President & CEO, Azteca Foods



“Our company, StandFast Group, a corrugated packaging manufacturer in Carol Stream, has benefited because IMA has been instrumental in keeping taxes and poor legislation under control. In addition, the IMA webinars and seminars have provided helpful insights and information. The IMA is a much-needed pro-business advocate in the state of Illinois.”

KEITH CARMAN
VP of Marketing, The Standfast Group

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	2
Board of Directors.....	3
Manufacturer of the Year.....	4
Janice M. Christiansen Award.....	6
ADVOCACY	
2025 FY Budget	9
Legislative Wins	10
The Illinois Manufacturing Caucus.....	16
Trade Missions	17
Business Day	18
D.C. Fly-In	19
Made in Illinois	20
MPAC Golf Outing.....	21
COMMUNITY & GROWTH	
Membership	23
Makers Madness.....	24
Partnership with IMEC.....	26
ETIP.....	27
Education Foundation.....	28
Makers on the Move.....	30
Communications and Engagement.....	32
INNOVATION & RECOGNITION	
Manufacturing Success.....	35
Hall of Fame and Excellence Awards.....	38
Annual Lunch.....	40
Centennial Manufacturers.....	42
Manufacturing Cares.....	44
Environment and Energy.....	46
Programming.....	47
Women Makers.....	52
Affinity Partners.....	53
Partners.....	54
Staff Directory.....	56

The Illinois Manufacturers' Association is **BOLDLY MOVING MAKERS FORWARD** and proudly stands shoulder to shoulder with American manufacturers who are leading our state and nation forward.

This 2025 Annual Report highlights a year that showcased amazing innovation and resiliency by Illinois manufacturers. Time and treasure are precious commodities, and we value your investment in the Illinois Manufacturers' Association.

In 2025, the IMA helped implement the "Make it in Illinois" campaign to attract the next generation of workers, published the 5th annual "Made in Illinois" poster, and hosted the 6th annual "Makers Madness – The Coolest Thing Made in Illinois" competition presented by Comcast Business. We also celebrated Manufacturing Month with a record-breaking 4th annual Makers on the Move bus tour, in partnership with the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center, and launched the "Centennial Manufacturing" program to highlight longstanding manufacturing legacies.

Very proudly, the IMA initiated and passed a new "Advancing Illinois Manufacturing (AIM)" tax incentive to help current companies that are investing in their facilities. The IMA also traveled globally on trade missions to help attract new investment to the Land of Lincoln.

Ensuring that manufacturers have access to timely and accurate information is paramount. Whether it is seminars on new labor laws or HR rules, our Workers' Compensation, Environment, or Tax Conferences, or the popular Executive Forum and CFO Roundtables, the IMA provides information allowing manufacturers to operate safely and in full compliance with rules and regulations. The IMA Education Foundation continues to serve as the single unifying voice, bringing together manufacturers, educators, and economic development officials to address workforce challenges.

I'm very proud that the IMA is evolving and standing by your side every single day, and I can't wait for you to see what the future brings!

"Our team worked from the White House to the State House to City Hall to affect public policy decisions with a special focus on education and workforce development. Our work is bearing fruit. There is no doubt that the IMA is leading industry efforts to create a world-class workforce system."

MARK DENZLER

President & CEO of the IMA



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For 2024 and 2025, the IMA Board of Directors was chaired by Renee Togher, President of Azteca Foods, Inc. in Chicago, a family-owned business and leading manufacturer of tortilla products. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Togher has been recognized by Today's Chicago Woman magazine as one of "100 Women Making a Difference" and is an active volunteer in school, church, and youth activities in her community. Togher currently serves on the Advisory Board of First Women's Bank and is a past Director of MB Financial, Inc. She has also served on boards for numerous non-profit organizations, including Access Living, the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and Mercy Hospital. She is also a former Trustee of DePaul University. Togher is the first Hispanic to serve as IMA's Board Chair.

2025 IMA BOARD OFFICERS

CHAIR



RENEE TOGHER

*President & CEO
Azteca Foods, Inc.*

VICE CHAIR



KARA DEMIRJIAN HUSS

*Senior Vice President
TCCI Manufacturing LLC*

TREASURER



TOM WELGE

*President
Gilster-Mary Lee*

SECRETARY



SARAH HARTWICK

*Senior Vice President
IMA*

BARRY MACLEAN MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

FERRERO



Ferrero is the recipient of the 2025 Barry L. MacLean Manufacturer of the Year Award. Ferrero has a significant presence in Illinois, including its Innovation Center and North America R&D labs in Chicago and a production facility in Franklin Park that manufactures Butterfinger, Baby Ruth, and soon the new Nutella Peanut. A manufacturing campus in Bloomington produces some of Ferrero's iconic brands, including Kinder Bueno, CRUNCH, and 100 Grand, as well as chocolate for the Ferrero portfolio. In addition, regional favorite Fannie May sells chocolate at more than 40 locations across the state.

The Manufacturer of the Year Award is presented annually in recognition of a company's leadership in advocating for the manufacturing industry at the local and national level; excellence in creating a lasting impact on stakeholders, companies, and markets; commitment to innovation, research and development, or technological advancement; workforce development and diversity; community engagement and long-term commitment to charitable and philanthropic efforts and support for sustainable methods of production.

"We're thrilled to honor Ferrero as the 2025 Manufacturer of the Year in recognition of the company's imagination, ingenuity, and continued investment in Illinois," said Mark Denzler, President & CEO of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association. "From the iconic Nutella spread to premium chocolates, Ferrero treats and snacks are household staples and the foundation of memorable moments for families across the globe. Ferrero truly represents the best qualities of the manufacturing industry."



“We are honored to accept this recognition, which is made possible by our team members throughout Illinois who embody the Ferrero passion for quality, creativity, and innovation,” said **Michael Lindsey, President and Chief Business Officer of Ferrero North America**. “We are committed to investing in Illinois and making America's favorite treats here.”

JANICE M. CHRISTIANSEN LEADERSHIP AWARD

In honor of Janice M. Christiansen—who passed away in 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer—the Illinois Manufacturers' Association created the Janice M. Christiansen Leadership Award. The annual award recognizes a female leader whose passion and commitment reflect Janice's legacy of elevating women in manufacturing.



This year's recipient is **Linda McGill Boasmond**, Owner and President of Cedar Concepts Corporation.

Linda began her career as a chemist and quickly rose through the manufacturing ranks, earning leadership roles by developing innovative quality procedures and managing operations at a major \$100 million union facility. In 1998, she joined Cedar Concepts, becoming Operations Manager, then partner, and ultimately owner in 2004. Under her leadership, the company has grown into the only African American- and woman-owned chemical manufacturing company in the United States.

Today, Linda oversees nearly 50 employees and a \$50 million budget, supplying over 60 million pounds of product annually to clients like Procter & Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive, and Boeing. Her accomplishments earned her recognition as one of Crain's Chicago Business Notable Black Leaders in 2024.

Linda now joins past honorees, including Janice Christiansen and Marsha Serlin of United Scrap Metal, in advancing the legacy of women who are reshaping American manufacturing.







ADVOCACY

FY 2025 BUDGET

Despite a slowing economy and cautionary revenue projections from budget experts, Governor Pritzker and Democratic lawmakers approved the largest budget in Illinois history, totaling \$55.1 billion. The spending plan is supported in part by more than \$1 billion in tax increases, many of which fall directly on the business community. The IMA opposed the revenue enhancements, such as moving Illinois from being a “Joyce” to a “Finnigan” state, where the entire combined unitary group is treated as the taxpayer for purposes of sales apportionment and nexus determination. The budget also made changes to Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income (GILTI), which will increase a company's taxable income by reducing the dividend deduction provided to companies that own subsidiaries.

While the IMA opposed the additional revenue enhancements, there were positive aspects of the budget, such as \$300 million into the K12 school aid formula and increasing fundings for the Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) that helps low-income students attend college or trade school, \$10 million in funding for the Clean Energy & EV Career and Technical Education Pilot Program, and \$59.3 million in appropriation aimed at strengthening the incoming workforce through career and technical education, to name a few.



The IMA Government Affairs team is the state's leading business advocate, speaking with a unified voice to ensure state policymakers hear manufacturers' interests.

LEGISLATIVE WINS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

01

The IMA worked throughout the legislative session with the Governor's Office and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) on an economic development package that was ultimately approved by lawmakers and provides support for both new and existing companies. The package establishes a new CapX tax credit for manufacturers currently operating in Illinois, designed to assist businesses making capital investments in their facilities. Additionally, the package expands the Apprenticeship Tax Credit, creates a new category under Tier 2 of Illinois' Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program, and includes updates to the Reimagining Energy & Vehicles (REV) program and the Manufacturing Illinois Chips for Real Opportunity (MICRO) program, among other improvements.

EPR FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

02

The IMA led efforts to successfully stop legislation that would have created an extended producer responsibility program for household hazardous waste (HHW). The proposal would have required manufacturers to implement a collection, transportation, and disposal program for HHW beginning January 1, 2027. The bill's definition of an HHW product was so broad that it could have encompassed hundreds, if not thousands, of products and would have come at a great expense to manufacturers of covered products.





RIGHT TO REPAIR

03

For more than six years, the IMA has led the opposition to legislation imposing “right-to-repair” regulations. These proposals are based on the premise that manufacturers should be required to provide customers and independent repair shops with access to confidential source code and proprietary technology. Once again, this year, the IMA successfully stopped right-to-repair legislation from advancing. The IMA has consistently argued that such measures are unnecessary, as diagnostic tool kits, owner manuals, and repair options are already widely available across industries. In addition, right-to-repair proposals raise significant safety and liability concerns for manufacturers and consumers alike.

FOOD ADDITIVES

04

For the second year in a row, the IMA was on the front lines successfully pushing back against legislation that would have banned the sale of food products in Illinois containing certain additives (brominated vegetable oil, potassium bromate, propylparaben, and red dye 3). The IMA built broad coalitions, testified before legislative committees, and engaged extensively with lawmakers to stop the bill. The IMA’s message, that food safety regulations should be guided by scientists and experts at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), rather than creating a state-by-state patchwork of conflicting standards, resonated with legislators and played a key role in defeating the proposal.

340B

05

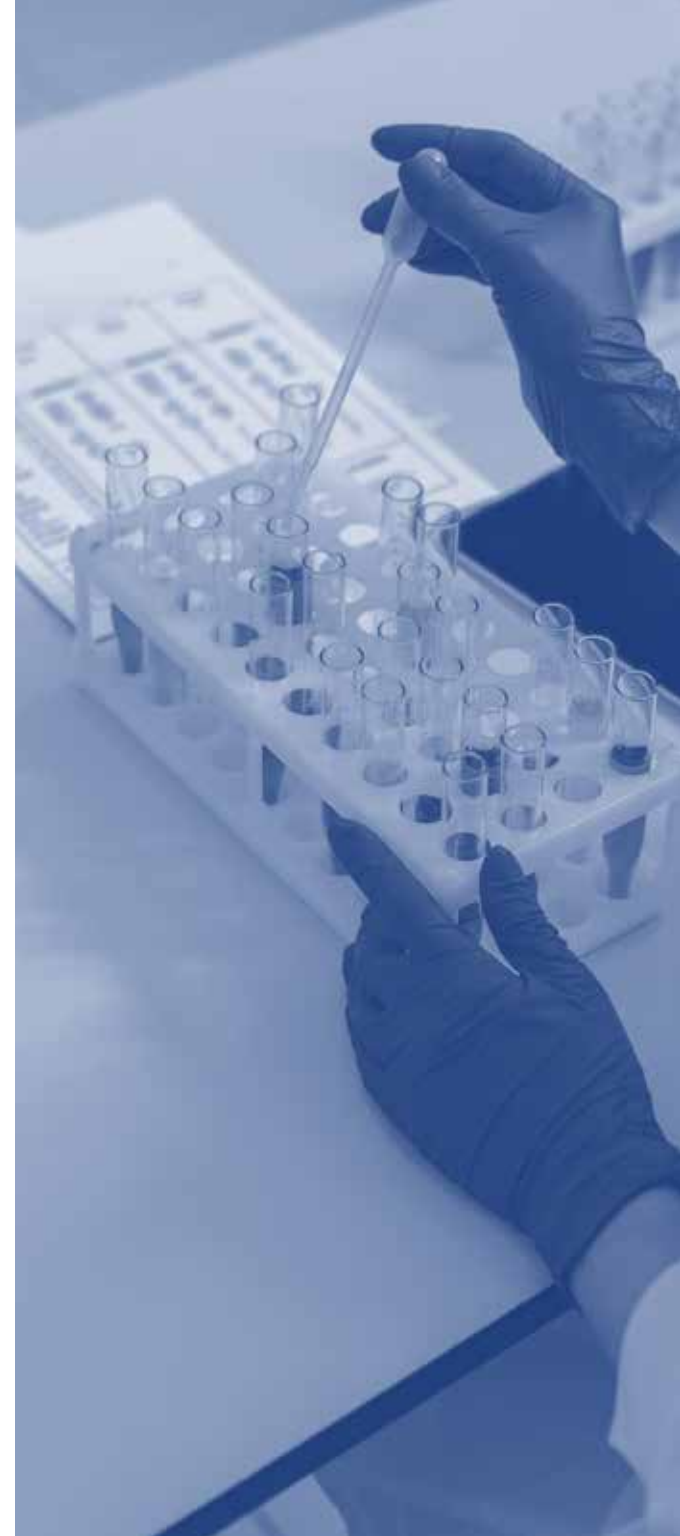
Working closely with the pharmaceutical industry, the IMA joined efforts to stop troubling legislation that would have expanded the 340B Drug Pricing Program without appropriate transparency or oversight. While the IMA supports the intent of the 340B program, the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry has been negatively affected by abuses in which large, well-resourced health systems leverage the program for financial gain, with little assurance that the savings actually reach the patients it is designed to help.

The IMA testified at committee hearings, communicated concerns directly with legislators, and ultimately played a key role in preventing the legislation from advancing.

PFAS PRODUCT BAN

06

The IMA has closely monitored PFAS-related legislation for several years and has previously opposed proposals that directly affected certain products. This year, lawmakers introduced legislation that would have imposed an outright ban on the sale of numerous products containing intentionally added PFAS beginning in 2026. Recognizing that the political environment made passage likely, the IMA partnered with the chemical industry to negotiate improvements to the bill. Through these efforts, the IMA secured key changes, including moving the effective date from 2026 to 2032, establishing an appropriate definition of “intentionally added,” and ensuring the ban applies only to products in which PFAS has already been largely phased out. Importantly, the IMA successfully prevented cookware and food packaging from being added to the list of prohibited products.



EXTREME WORKPLACE TEMPERATURES

07

The IMA was successful in its efforts to stop legislation that would have required the Illinois Department of Labor to adopt statewide excessive heat and excessive cold standards for all businesses. Under the proposal, employers would have been required to develop plans for employees working under certain temperature conditions, obtain state approval for those plans, and comply with a range of new mandates. The IMA led a coalition of more than 40 organizations in opposition to the bill. Among the concerns the IMA raised with the sponsors were the inclusion of a private right of action, problematic rebuttable presumption language, the state's limited capacity to establish and enforce such standards, and the unpredictable nature of Midwest weather, making it nearly impossible for employers to accurately anticipate changing conditions or apply different standards to different workers throughout the workday. These efforts were instrumental in preventing the bill from moving forward.

WAREHOUSING

08

Warehousing issues are becoming increasingly prevalent in the Illinois General Assembly, and the IMA remains deeply engaged in protecting the distribution of products across the state. This session, the IMA helped negotiate the Warehouse Tornado Preparedness Act, which requires all warehouse operators in Illinois to prepare a tornado safety plan for each facility they oversee. Through negotiations, the IMA ensured that several overly burdensome requirements were removed from the final bill, including a proposal that would have required each warehouse to construct or designate a safety structure meeting specific engineering standards.

The IMA also pushed back against efforts to impose extremely onerous restrictions on warehouse operators that utilize employee quota systems. The Association played a key role in ensuring that legislation making it exceedingly difficult to use quotas in warehouses was ultimately vetoed by Governor Pritzker.

PLASTICS

09

Illinois environmental groups dubbed this year the “war on plastic,” and the IMA was on the front lines. The IMA led the opposition to a barrage of proposals targeting products made from plastic, including bans on polystyrene, plastic bags, and single-use plastic utensils. These measures sought to eliminate plastics from consumer use, despite the fact that plastic products are often more affordable, more durable, and in some cases more environmentally sustainable than the proposed alternatives.

The IMA worked closely with members to communicate the importance of maintaining consumer choice, particularly amid rising costs and the impracticality of many substitute materials. Thanks to these coordinated efforts, none of the proposed plastic bans advanced during the session.

NON-COMPETES

10

Legislation introduced this session sought to eliminate covenants not to compete and not to solicit beginning January 1, 2026, while other proposals would have limited the use of such covenants to employees earning more than \$300,000 annually. The IMA opposed both measures, ensured they did not advance, and continues to support the responsible use of covenants as an important tool for employers to protect proprietary information, customer relationships, and competitive advantage.

After several years of negotiation, legislation supported by the IMA has finally advanced to establish a “clean slate” program in Illinois. This initiative will allow for the automatic sealing of certain criminal records that are already eligible under the state’s existing petition-based process, with the broader goal of expanding workforce participation.

Under the new law, non-conviction records—such as arrests that did not result in a conviction—will be automatically sealed at the conclusion of the case. Eligible conviction records, including misdemeanors and select felony classes, will be sealed only after an established waiting period of several years. The legislation explicitly excludes serious offenses, including murder, manslaughter, domestic violence, and DUIs.

Lawmakers hope that automatically sealing records for low-level offenders who have completed their sentence and remained offense-free for several years will help strengthen Illinois’ labor pool.



THE ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING CAUCUS

The Illinois Manufacturing Caucus (IMC) continued its mission this year by providing legislators with informative discussions focused on the economic impact of the manufacturing industry and critical issues impacting manufacturers across Illinois. In partnership with leaders of the Illinois General Assembly, the IMA founded this bipartisan, bicameral legislative caucus last year to give all state legislators the opportunity to hear from manufacturers in Illinois on issues directly impacting them.

This year, the IMC worked with Co-Chairs Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin), Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris), Representative Justin Slaughter (D-Chicago), and Representative Amy Elik (R-Alton) and met monthly on several major legislative issues in the Spring, such as energy policy, workforce development, pharmaceutical legislation, and several others. These intimate monthly meetings helped connect dozens of legislators with industry experts, IMA members, and other business groups, bringing these issues to the forefront for legislators.



TRADE MISSIONS

Illinois is the Midwest's largest exporting state and the 4th-largest in the nation, underscoring the importance of global trade to the state's manufacturing sector. Export activities support more than 800,000 jobs in Illinois, while in-state companies exported more than \$78 billion worth of goods and services, primarily manufactured products. The Illinois Manufacturers' Association actively participated in several trade missions over the last few years to help attract foreign direct investment to Illinois while expanding markets abroad for Illinois companies.

As the only statewide business organization on these trade missions, the IMA traveled with Governor JB Pritzker and other members of "Team Illinois," including the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Illinois EDC (formerly Intersect Illinois), to Mexico and Japan. Each of these trade missions focused on manufacturing and quantum.

The IMA also hosted events throughout the year focused on international trade, including specific events with Canada, Mexico, Germany, and the Netherlands, and actively participated in trade shows, including the FABTECH show in September, which attracted 50,000 attendees to Chicago.





BUSINESS DAY

The IMA's Annual Business Day at the Capitol, held in partnership with the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, is the largest gathering of job creators in Springfield each year, focused on advancing state advocacy. This year's event, held on Wednesday, May 7, brought together over 400 business leaders to deliver a unified message on job growth and economic prosperity, while helping legislators understand the real-world impact of their policy decisions on Illinois' economy.

Attendees heard from a range of state leaders, including Deputy Governor Andy Manar, Senate President Don Harmon, House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Senate Minority Leader John Curran, House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, and several others. Participants also engaged in discussions on Illinois' energy landscape and data privacy issues. In the evening, the IMA and IRMA co-hosted a gala reception, providing members, elected officials, and state leaders the opportunity to connect and network while enjoying local vendors.

D.C. FLY-IN

Once again, the IMA and its member companies descended upon Washington, D.C., for our annual D.C Fly-In. This year's expanded schedule provided participants with additional opportunities for networking and in-depth discussions on federal policies affecting manufacturers.

Between two rooftop receptions hosted by the American Beverage Association and Ferrero, the IMA delegation participated in issue briefings from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Energy at the National Association of Manufacturers headquarters. The delegation also spent the afternoon on Capitol Hill, meeting with Illinois elected officials, including U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth and Representatives Darin LaHood, Brad Schneider, Eric Sorensen, Jesús "Chuy" García, Mike Quigley, Mike Bost, Bill Foster, Nikki Budzinski, and Jonathan Jackson. Topics of discussion included trade and tariffs, permitting reform, energy, Make America Healthy Again initiatives, and immigration reform, among others.





MANUFACTURERS
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

MPAC GOLF OUTING



An important component of the IMA is our political arm, the Manufacturers Political Action Committee (MPAC). MPAC allows manufacturers to collectively pool resources to support legislators and candidates from both political parties who advocate for the interests of manufacturers. MPAC plays a critical role in ensuring that issues important to the industry are discussed, debated, and highlighted during campaigns, and it has helped elect business-friendly state legislators across the political spectrum.

MPAC's largest annual fundraiser is the Annual MPAC Golf Outing, which was held this year on August 12 at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center. For the first time since its inception in 2021, the event reached a sold-out field of 128 golfers and achieved a record number of sponsors. The success of this outing will strengthen MPAC's influence in the upcoming election cycle.



COMMUNITY & GROWTH

MEMBERSHIP

The IMA is proud to continue **BOLDLY MOVING MAKERS FORWARD**, driving innovation, growth, and opportunity for manufacturers across Illinois. Through timely insights, relentless advocacy, and unwavering dedication, we ensure that the voice of business is heard loud and clear and that Illinois remains a place where manufacturers can thrive.

The IMA's strength shines through both good times and challenging ones. Even as 2025 brought a tougher economy, rising inflation, and complex trade and tariff issues, the IMA's membership continued to grow, welcoming over 60 new members this year. The success of the IMA's growth is also linked to the value companies find when they join the IMA. Our retention rate continues to outpace the national industry average, demonstrating that our concierge-level service to our members is having a tangible impact on the manufacturing community.

Our goal is to deliver for our members on every front. From relentless advocacy that not only amplifies the voice of industry but also shapes the policies that impact business daily, to exceptional programming that equips members with the insights and connections they need to succeed, the value of IMA membership is unmatched. Additionally, the IMA has strengthened its benefits through our innovative workforce development initiatives, critical affinity partnerships, and rewarding state grant program.

Membership is a team effort, and we need your help to keep growing. If you have a relationship with an Illinois manufacturing company that is not yet an IMA member, please consider making an introduction. Together, we are stronger.



MAKERS MADNESS

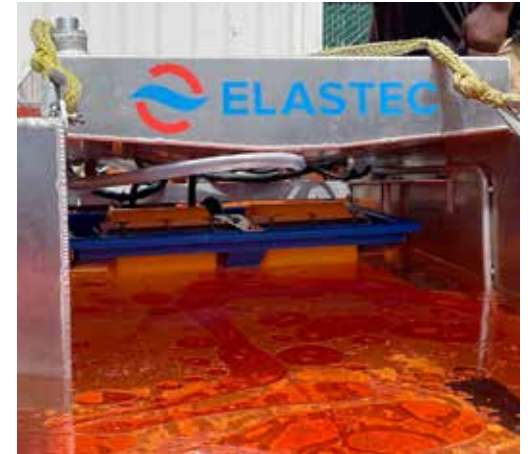
In 2025, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association (IMA) celebrated innovation with its sixth annual Makers Madness contest, presented and sponsored by Comcast Business. The competition invited Illinoisans to cast their votes online to determine "The Coolest Thing Made in Illinois." Over eight weeks, more than 250 unique products competed for the title, with nearly 411,000 votes cast.

This year, the crown went to MTH Pumps' Aerial Firefighting Helicopter Refill Pump, a breakthrough in wildfire response technology. Announced by Governor JB Pritzker at the Governor's Mansion, the pump is designed to cut helicopter water tank refill times from over a minute to as little as 30 seconds. Enabling firefighters to make more water drops in less time increases the odds of saving lives, protecting property, and preserving natural habitats. When California faced devastating wildfires, MTH Pumps' technology provided rapid, reliable water access for aerial firefighting teams, showcasing Illinois' ingenuity in action.



THE 2025 FINALISTS WERE EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE:

- **Joint Combined Aircrew Systems Tester (JCAST)** *A critical safety tool for military flight operations, produced by Chemring Energetic Devices in Downers Grove.*
- **Donor Milk** *Life-saving nutrition for premature and critically ill infants, pasteurized and distributed by Mother's Milk Bank of Western Great Lakes in Elk Grove Village.*
- **ROV Skimmer** *Remote Operated Oil Skimmer: A remotely controlled device that recovers oil in aquatic spills, manufactured by Elastec in Carmi.*



From life-saving innovations to cutting-edge technology, Makers Madness shines a spotlight on Illinois manufacturers turning bold ideas into real-world impact.

PARTNERSHIP WITH IMEC

In 2025, the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) waded through unprecedented financial uncertainty at the federal level. In partnership with the IMA and with support from the State of Illinois, IMEC continued to support Illinois manufacturers, as they too navigated an ever-changing landscape.

The strategic partnership between the IMA and IMEC provided programming support for IMA members through dozens of programs, such as the Makers on the Move Bus Tour, our annual Made in Illinois artwork, and the continued success of the supply-chain portal, led by IMEC.

At its core, the partnership expands access by connecting IMA members to IMEC's technical expertise and IMEC clients to IMA's full suite of services. Created in 1996, IMEC is dedicated to helping small and medium-sized manufacturers in Illinois to be more globally competitive by consulting with them and providing comprehensive and objective technical assistance, assessment tools, and resources for Leadership, Strategy, Customer Engagement, Operations, and Workforce. IMEC serves as the state's U.S. Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) center. The MEP National Network is a unique public-private partnership that delivers comprehensive, proven solutions to U.S. manufacturers, fueling growth and advancing U.S. manufacturing.

More information about IMEC can be found at www.imec.org



ETIP

Illinois manufacturers took advantage of the Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) grant. The IMA administers this program on behalf of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to help Illinois manufacturers provide their workers with the skills necessary to be safe and productive and to grow their own capabilities. In 2025, more than 125 companies participated, and over 21,000 employees were trained.



EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Illinois Manufacturers' Association Education Foundation (IMA EF) is a leading force in advancing education and workforce development to strengthen Illinois' manufacturing talent pipeline. By investing in educational institutions and collaborating with IMA member companies, IMA EF helps remove regional workforce barriers and accelerate the connection between education and industry. These efforts have driven measurable progress in developing a skilled, job-ready manufacturing workforce.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The IMA EF was entrusted by the families of three leading women in Illinois manufacturing to administer scholarships on their behalf.

The *Lynne Mohr* scholarship, now in its fourth year, was established in honor of former IMA Board Member Lynne Mohr, who passed away in August of 2020. This scholarship is made available to Illinois residents enrolled in skill trade courses at any Illinois institution of higher education. Tens of thousands of dollars have been raised by the Mohr family, led by Lynne's cousin George Mauer, who embarks on an international bike ride every summer to raise funds for the endowment.

Janice Christiansen was the first female Board Chair of the IMA Board of Directors and passed away in 2024. Her family is providing funds for two scholarship opportunities in her honor to help Illinois women enrolled in an Illinois institution of higher education work towards degrees in both STEM and business. This inaugural award was presented to two women who are studying to continue to increase female representation in manufacturing and business.





The *Mama Susie* Scholarship for Advancing Immigrant Women in Manufacturing was a powerful new initiative created to support immigrant women who are forging bold paths in the manufacturing industry. The scholarship is named in honor of Mama Susie, a woman whose resilience, work ethic, and unshakable spirit lit the way for generations to follow. Her legacy lives on in the women building America's future on shop floors, in labs, and on production lines today. She is also the mother of Aneesa Muthana, who sits on both the Board of Directors for both the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and the National Association of Manufacturers while running M & M Quality Grinding and Pioneer Service Inc.

STAMP GRANT

In 2025, the IMA Education Foundation (IMA EF) continued its leadership in advancing manufacturing workforce development by administering the Scaling Transformative Advanced Manufacturing Pathways (STAMP) grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). In partnership with the Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University, the STAMP program provided funding to nine designated regions across Illinois to scale regional manufacturing education programs. These funds were used to expand high school student enrollment in manufacturing career pathways and support students in earning a manufacturing endorsement upon graduation, positioning them to enter the workforce with job-ready skills. In 2024, IMA EF was awarded a two-year renewal by DCEO and will continue supporting regional manufacturing talent pipelines through 2026.

MAKERS ON THE MOVE



In partnership with IMEC, the IMA successfully completed the Fourth Annual Makers on the Move Bus Tour in early October as part of Manufacturing Month. The tour launched at The Will Group, a minority-owned, family-operated IMA member company on Chicago's West Side that produces advanced infrastructure solutions, including EV charging stations, smart LED lighting, capacitor banks, and electrical distribution equipment.

The bus then traveled across the state, making approximately 30 stops and engaging communities along the way. Industry advocates participating in the tour were joined by educators, economic development leaders, public officials, and other distinguished guests to highlight the impact of manufacturing on local economies and career pathways. Notable stops included Mother's Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes in Elk Grove Village, Ameren in Collinsville, a Rockford networking event held in conjunction with the University of Illinois System's Statewide Bus Tour, Ferrara in Itasca, G&W Electric in Bolingbrook, and ALM Positioners in Rock Island, among others.

IMA member company Ace Sign Co partnered with the winner of this year's Makers on the Move Bus Design Contest, Andrew Flickinger, a student at the Capital Area Career Center in Springfield. Working alongside the Ace Sign Co team, Andrew brought his design to life and had the opportunity to ride on the bus featuring his custom artwork.





The 2025 Makers on the Move tour was made possible by our partners at IMEC, Ferrara, the M3 Chicago, Jel Sert, DeKalb County EDC, Walmart, the Suter Company, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, Argonne National Laboratory, Levi, Ray & Shoup, Ace Sign Company, Berner Foods, Scot Forge, Snack King, G&W Electric, Ameren Illinois and Wintrust.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, we continued building consistent, active engagement by delivering valuable and timely content across our email communications and social media platforms. IMA Communications also executed an increasing number of special projects, creating additional opportunities to boost engagement and strengthen brand awareness by showcasing Illinois's incredible manufacturing sector, companies, and workforce.

IMA EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

- ▶ More than 1,000 unique email communications
- ▶ Over 3.1 million total individual emails delivered
- ▶ Open rates and click-through rates more than double the industry average and are up 12% from 2024

FACEBOOK

- ▶ Grew to +3,500 followers, more than 18,300 visits to the IMA Facebook Page
- ▶ More than 1,000 total unique posts

X

- ▶ 2400+ followers
- ▶ Nearly 2,000 organic posts executed
- ▶ Nearly 200k impressions; nearly 5,000 interactions/engagement

LINKEDIN

- ▶ Grew from 10,466 followers to 12,739 (19.6% increase)
- ▶ Over 1,000 organic posts executed (208.3% higher than competitors in the market)
- ▶ 600k impressions; roughly 14,800 interactions/engagement



WGN RADIO 720
Chicago Tribune

With firefighting helicopter refill pump, Plano company can
'coolest thing made in Illinois'

yahoo!news WQAD 8

Firefighting helicopter refill pump
awarded "Coolest Thing Made in
Illinois" in 2025

IMA ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Editorial | It's time for Illinois
lawmakers to get past nuclear
hangups

VOTE FOR OUR TOP 16 ENTRY
VOTING OPENS MARCH 10 - MARCH 25, 2025



VOTING IS NOW OPEN
MARCH 5 - MARCH 17, 2025

IMA ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION
MAKERS MADNESS

IMA ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Forbes Breaking News
4.8M subscribers

The Pantagraph
Aerial firefighting helicopter refill pump
named 2025 'Coolest Thing Made in
Illinois'

WIFR
CHICAGO'S VERY OWN
Chicago Tribune

Editorial: Gov. JB Pritzker goes to bat for Illinois' business
climate, naming union brickbats

enate bill to prohibit some additives
(not without opposition) First Listen



IMA ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

POLITICO

GRAINS CHICAGO BUSINESS
A CHICAGO BUSINESS BRAND



Donovan Griffith and Sarah
Hartwick



IMA ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION



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CONTACT: [Name] | [Phone] | [Email]

Illinois Manufacturers' Association
Editorial: Gov. JB Pritzker goes to bat for Illinois' business
climate, naming union brickbats

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Illinois Manufacturers' Association
criticizes Trump's tariffs: 'Will be felt
greatly throughout Illinois' (Updated 2)

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
Trump tariffs could impact hundreds of
billions of dollars of trade in Illinois

US-CANADA SUMMIT

NEWS CHANNEL abc 20
WMAZ 107.9

POLITICO
Illinois Playback

IMA's Twitter on how state can improve
business climate
Identify April 24, 2024 - Posted by Rich Miller
'I' asked Mark Stender with the Illinois Manufacturers'
Association to send me his thoughts on what he thinks it
needs to do on the economic development front...



IMA ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Illinois Manufacturers' Association
Editorial: Gov. JB Pritzker goes to bat for Illinois' business
climate, naming union brickbats

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
4th-generation Chicago family business

AXIOS

Illinois Farmers fear
fallow

WMAZ 107.9



Aerial Firefighting Helicopter Refill Pump
Named "The Coolest Thing Made in Illinois"
Manufactured in Plano, the pump provides rapid and
reliable water access for aerial firefighting teams

IMA ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION
Governor JB Pritzker @JPritzker - Apr 8
For generations, Illinois has been a place where things get made.

That spirit is alive today with the winner of IMA's Makers
Madness Competition, the Aerial Firefighting Helicopter Refill Pump from M
Pumps in Plano.



13 WREX @13WREX - Apr 8
MAKERS MADNESS: A firefighting helicopter refill pump, which was used
to fight the devastating wildfires in California earlier this year, was declared
the "Coolest Thing Made in Illinois" today.



IMA ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION
MAKERS MADNESS

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MAKERS MADNESS

IMA ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION
MAKERS MADNESS

A large group of people is seated at round tables in a banquet hall, overlaid with a blue tint. A green banner with white text is centered across the image. The scene shows a social gathering with people engaged in conversation and dining. In the background, there is a large window and an exit sign above a doorway.

INNOVATION & RECOGNITION

ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING SUCCESS

Illinois manufacturers employ 650,000 workers directly and contribute the single largest share of the state's economy. Building on this strong manufacturing foundation, the IMA worked with the Governor and General Assembly to enact and refine pro-business policies and regulations to supplement many of Illinois's current advantages, including a best-in-class workforce, a central location, access to water and low-cost energy, a global airport, and excellent infrastructure.

Site Selection Magazine ranked Illinois second in the nation with 664 business expansion or relocation projects, while Chicagoland was named the top metro area. Serving on the Board of Directors of Illinois EDC (formerly Intersect Illinois), the state's leading business attraction organization, the IMA plays a key role in focusing on economic growth and business attraction. The IMA joined Governor JB Pritzker and numerous officials for the October groundbreaking of the new Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park that will be located on the site of the old U.S. Steel plant on the south side of Chicago. Quantum is a game-changing technology, and this new Park featuring a cryogenics facility will be anchored by PsiQuantum and operated by the University of Illinois. In the last year, this new economic engine has attracted significant investment from IBM, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), IonQ, Pasqal, and Infleqtion.



The U.S. Economic Development Administration (U.S. EDA) also designated the Chicago metro area as a Bloch Quantum Tech Hub, which will be a central driver of American leadership in quantum technology. The U.S. EDA awarded \$52 million to the Illinois Fermentation and Agriculture Biomanufacturing (iFAB) Tech Hub located in east-central Illinois, leveraging Illinois' leading production of raw agricultural materials to develop sustainable alternatives. The IMA sits on the iFAB Advisory Board and is planning a major iFAB Biomanufacturing Summit on March 11 in Champaign to position central Illinois as a preeminent destination for biomanufacturing, an industry expected to grow to \$200 billion by 2040.

The IMA collaborated with dozens of companies across Illinois that located new projects or expanded their facilities, including Stellantis' new multi-billion-dollar plan to reopen the Belvidere Assembly Plant to make the Jeep Cherokee and Jeep Compass. Abbott is expanding their North Chicago manufacturing facility, and Rockford Brake Company is reopening a historic factory in Rockford. Downstate, Tillamook opened its first ice cream factory outside of Oregon in Decatur, Cache expanded in Champaign, and Rivian expanded again in Normal. Peoria attracted both Epic Medical and Veridis, which relocated a facility from Nebraska. Innovative Rail Technology celebrated the launch of its zero-emission, electric battery locomotives sold to steel companies and the U.S. Army. In the metro east, Wieland celebrated a \$500 million modernization.

The IMA successfully initiated and championed a brand-new Advancing Illinois Manufacturing (AIM) tax incentive for current Illinois manufacturers that are making financial investments in their facilities..





Rivian Automotive, Inc. supplier park in Normal, Illinois



SARA BROTHER COMPANY
 Founded in 1906, Sara Brother Company is a global leader in the production of high-quality, sustainable, and innovative packaging solutions. The company's commitment to excellence and innovation has earned it a reputation as a global leader in the industry. Sara Brother Company is proud to be a part of the Hall of Fame.

C. PAT DODD
 C. Pat Dodd is a distinguished leader in the industry, known for his innovative contributions and leadership. He has spent his career advancing the industry and is a true inspiration to all who work with him.

BERNARD BAUMER COMPANY
 Bernard Baumer Company is a leading manufacturer of high-quality, sustainable, and innovative packaging solutions. The company's commitment to excellence and innovation has earned it a reputation as a global leader in the industry.

DALE W. GORDON
 Dale W. Gordon is a distinguished leader in the industry, known for his innovative contributions and leadership. He has spent his career advancing the industry and is a true inspiration to all who work with him.

WEN HANDEL UPS
 Wen Handel UPS is a leading manufacturer of high-quality, sustainable, and innovative packaging solutions. The company's commitment to excellence and innovation has earned it a reputation as a global leader in the industry.

MELBA MURPHY
 Melba Murphy is a distinguished leader in the industry, known for her innovative contributions and leadership. She has spent her career advancing the industry and is a true inspiration to all who work with her.

BARRY E. MACLEAN
 Barry E. MacLean is a distinguished leader in the industry, known for his innovative contributions and leadership. He has spent his career advancing the industry and is a true inspiration to all who work with him.

J. GERALD DEHRMAN
 J. Gerald Dehrman is a distinguished leader in the industry, known for his innovative contributions and leadership. He has spent his career advancing the industry and is a true inspiration to all who work with him.

2ND ANNUAL IMA HALL OF FAME AND MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Illinois manufacturing community came together in an extraordinary way on Thursday, June 26, 2025, for the 2nd Annual IMA Hall of Fame and Manufacturing Excellence Awards. The energy in the room was palpable as more than 250 industry leaders, innovators, and partners gathered to celebrate the people, products, and companies that continue to elevate Illinois manufacturing to new heights.

Founded by the IMA in 2024, the Illinois Manufacturing Hall of Fame will forever memorialize and honor the people, products, and companies that have left an indelible mark on manufacturing, our state, and our nation.

THIS YEAR'S INDUCTEES INCLUDE: J. Gerald Demirjian with TCCI Manufacturing, Barry L. MacLean with MacLean-Fogg, and Suad Muthana with Pioneer Servies a Inc. and M&M Quality Grinding.

PRODUCTS: Tootsie Rolls, Red SOLO Cups, and Kraft Mac & Cheese

COMPANIES: Horween Leather Company, Ford Motor Company, and C. Cretors & Company

In addition to the Hall of Fame, the IMA, in partnership with the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC), once again presented the Manufacturing Excellence Awards. These awards celebrate outstanding contributions within the industry, recognizing companies, organizations, and individuals across eight distinguished categories.

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS INCLUDE:

Champion of Operational Excellence: Meyer Tool and Mfg., Inc.

Economic Development Partner of the Year: Intersect Illinois

Innovator of the Year: AmeriChem Systems, Inc.

Safety Champion: Titan International

Sustainable Champion of the Year: United Scrap Metal, Inc.

Workforce Excellence Award: TCCI Manufacturing

Community Impact Award: C.H.I. Overhead Doors

Educator of the Year: Chris Sink – Rend Lake College

This inspiring event highlighted the incredible achievements shaping our state's manufacturing legacy.

132ND ANNUAL LUNCH

The IMA hosted its 132nd Annual Luncheon on December 12 at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk, welcoming more than 900 business leaders from across Illinois. Leading up to the event, attendees participated in virtual breakout sessions focused on workforce development, the economic outlook, and the future of energy. During the luncheon, guests heard updates on the impactful work of Illinois manufacturers from President and CEO Mark Denzler, along with a reflective message from outgoing IMA Board Chairwoman Renee Togher of Azteca Foods.

The luncheon also featured a keynote panel moderated by Ben Grimes, Corporate Vice President of U.S. Manufacturing & Mobility at Microsoft. The panel brought together some of the nation's leading manufacturing executives, including Jane Barr, President of the Americas at Rockwell Automation; David M. Foulkes, CEO of Brunswick Corporation; and Marshall Lancaster, Chief Information Officer at Medline.

The 2025 Barry L. MacLean Manufacturer of the Year Award was presented to Ferrero, the fastest-growing confectionery company in North America. The Janice M. Christensen Award was awarded to Linda McGill Boasmond of Cedar Concepts Corporation. Legacy Awards were also presented to companies celebrating milestone anniversaries of service to the Association, and both company and individual champions were recognised through this year's Manufacturing Miles competition.





CENTENNIAL MANUFACTURER

Reaching a century in business is a rare and remarkable accomplishment, one that reflects not only endurance but a legacy of innovation, leadership, and unwavering commitment to Illinois manufacturing. This year, the IMA proudly launched a new initiative to honor companies that have achieved 100 years or more of operation in Illinois.

In its inaugural year, the IMA celebrated more than 100 Illinois manufacturers that reached the century mark, a powerful testament to the strength and resilience of our state's industrial community. These companies represent generations of ingenuity, craftsmanship, and dedication, each contributing to the economic growth and prosperity of Illinois.

From family-owned businesses built on tradition to industry leaders that have continually reinvented themselves to meet the demands of a changing world, this year's honorees exemplify what it means to create lasting impact. Their achievements inspire pride not only within their own workplaces but throughout the broader manufacturing community.



Congratulations to all the remarkable companies recognized in this first year of honoring manufacturing longevity.



MANUFACTURING CARES

We know that Illinois manufacturers do far more than power the economic engine of our state and nation — they strengthen the very communities in which we live and work. Through acts of service, leadership, and generosity, our member companies and their employees continually demonstrate what it means to uplift others. The Illinois Manufacturers' Association is proud to highlight and celebrate the extraordinary community impact driven by our members throughout the entire year.

Illinois manufacturers have always understood that building strong, resilient communities is essential to long-term success. Whether your teams are volunteering their time, supporting local nonprofits, investing in educational opportunities, or implementing meaningful environmental initiatives, Illinois manufacturers make a real and lasting difference.

The commitment to service helps tell an important story: Illinois manufacturers are not only leaders in innovation and productivity — they are champions of compassion, responsibility, and community pride. By sharing these efforts, we hope to inspire others to get involved and help create a ripple effect of positive change across the state.



ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONFERENCE

The IMA's Annual Environment & Energy Conference has quickly become a premier, must-attend event for members seeking to stay ahead of evolving state and federal environmental and energy policies that affect Illinois manufacturers. Held in partnership with the Illinois Energy Association, this year's conference brought together more than 200 participants at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, Illinois, to hear from leading experts and regulators on the most critical issues shaping the manufacturing landscape.

Keynote remarks were delivered by Illinois EPA Acting Director James Jennings and U.S. EPA Region 5 Deputy Regional Administrator Cheryl Newton, offering valuable insight into current regulatory priorities and state and federal initiatives. Attendees also heard informative presentations from officials with the Illinois EPA and the Illinois Attorney General's Office focused on air permitting and enforcement trends.

The afternoon featured engaging panel discussions exploring some of the most pressing energy challenges facing manufacturers today, including electricity costs, projected future demand, and the evolving role of natural gas in Illinois' energy portfolio.



PROGRAMMING AT THE IMA

IMA's programming continues to expand, offering members an energetic mix of virtual and in-person events. From timely educational sessions to valuable peer-to-peer networking opportunities, our events are designed to keep you informed and connected.

As new laws and industry developments emerge, the IMA is ready with up-to-date guidance and resources to help members navigate change. Our programming covers a wide range of topics relevant to various roles and departments within member companies, enhancing the value of your IMA membership on a deeper level.

Stay in the loop! Be sure you're subscribed to our event email list so you never miss an opportunity to learn, connect, and make the most of your IMA membership.

IMA PROGRAMMING BY NUMBERS

68 total programs offered in 2025

2,754 in-person attendees

4,470 virtual attendees

TOWNHALL WITH GOVERNOR PRITZKER

To celebrate the end of Manufacturing Month, IMA CEO and President Mark Denzler interviewed Governor JB Pritzker for a dynamic conversation. Questions were submitted by IMA members and covered a wide range of critical topics, including:

- Energy future and costs
- Workforce Development
- Quantum Technology
- Economic growth
- Efforts to build a more business-friendly climate

We also explored what the state is doing to support existing manufacturers and drive future innovation. We value this open forum and ongoing opportunities that allow members to share concerns and propose solutions on the issues shaping our industry.

HR TRAINING & FORUM

The IMA offers monthly HR training sessions covering a wide range of timely and essential topics, including:

- Compensation Trends & Benchmarking
- Updating Your Employee Handbooks
- Navigating New Employment Laws
- Conducting Internal Investigations
- Anti-Harassment Training

Each session is designed to provide practical guidance and up-to-date insights to help HR professionals stay ahead in a rapidly evolving workplace.

The IMA HR Forum *What Employers Need to Know Now*

The IMA provided a moderated, confidential space for HR professionals to learn best practices, stay compliant, ask specific questions, and share insights with peers.

To further support professional development, the IMA proudly offers SHRM and HRCI Continuing Education Credits—delivering even more value to our HR community.

SAFETY CONFERENCE & EXPO

Building on the momentum of last year's successful launch, the second annual IMA Safety Conference made a powerful return—welcoming attendees from across the state to Glen Ellyn for a sold-out event.

Participants engaged in a full day of OSHA safety training featuring interactive on-screen polling, direct insights from regulatory experts, and forward-thinking best practices designed to enhance workplace safety. The conference delivered actionable strategies and fostered meaningful dialogue, equipping attendees with the tools to better protect their teams and strengthen their company's safety culture.

ENERGY MANAGERS' GROUP

Now entering its third year, the IMA Energy Managers' Group, led by our exclusive energy partner, Constellation Energy, continues to provide members with expert insights into sustainability and energy commodity issues.

Meeting quarterly, the group dives into focused topics while fostering a strong peer network among Illinois manufacturers. These sessions offer a collaborative space to share strategies, exchange ideas, and prepare for an evolving energy landscape marked by uncertainty and transition.

Participants have explored a wide range of critical subjects, including:

- Gas market fundamentals
- Winter Market Forecast
- Sustainability solutions
- Pricing trends and contract transparency
- Energy procurement and buying strategies

Through real-world examples and peer-led discussions, members gain practical, actionable insights into what's working across the manufacturing sector, making this group an invaluable resource for staying informed and responsive to this vital topic for manufacturers.

EXECUTIVE FORUM

The IMA Executive Forum is an exclusive virtual gathering of CEOs and senior leaders focused on discussing today's most pressing business challenges. Centered around the theme of collaboration, ideas, and relationships, this forum offers a confidential space for executive-level dialogue, strategic insight, and peer-to-peer problem solving.

Participants engage in candid conversations on hot topics and emerging issues, sharing real-world solutions and building meaningful connections with fellow leaders across the manufacturing sector. It's a trusted environment designed to foster collaboration, spark innovation, and strengthen executive networks.

CFO PLANNING

In response to feedback from our engaged CFO Forum participants, the IMA has introduced morning CFO Coffee Chats, a refreshed format designed to foster meaningful conversation in a more accessible time slot.

These sessions offer a relaxed yet focused environment for financial leaders to exchange insights and explore shared challenges. Recent discussions have included:

- Lease accounting considerations for capital equipment
- Insurance review strategies
- Tax Impacts of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act
- Practical Advice Regarding Tariffs

CFO Coffee Chats provide a valuable space for peer learning, practical takeaways, and collaborative problem-solving among Illinois manufacturing finance leaders, and are member-driven topics tailored to current needs

ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING

As part of IMA membership benefits, we continue to offer comprehensive Anti-Sexual Harassment Training to support compliance and promote safe workplace environments.

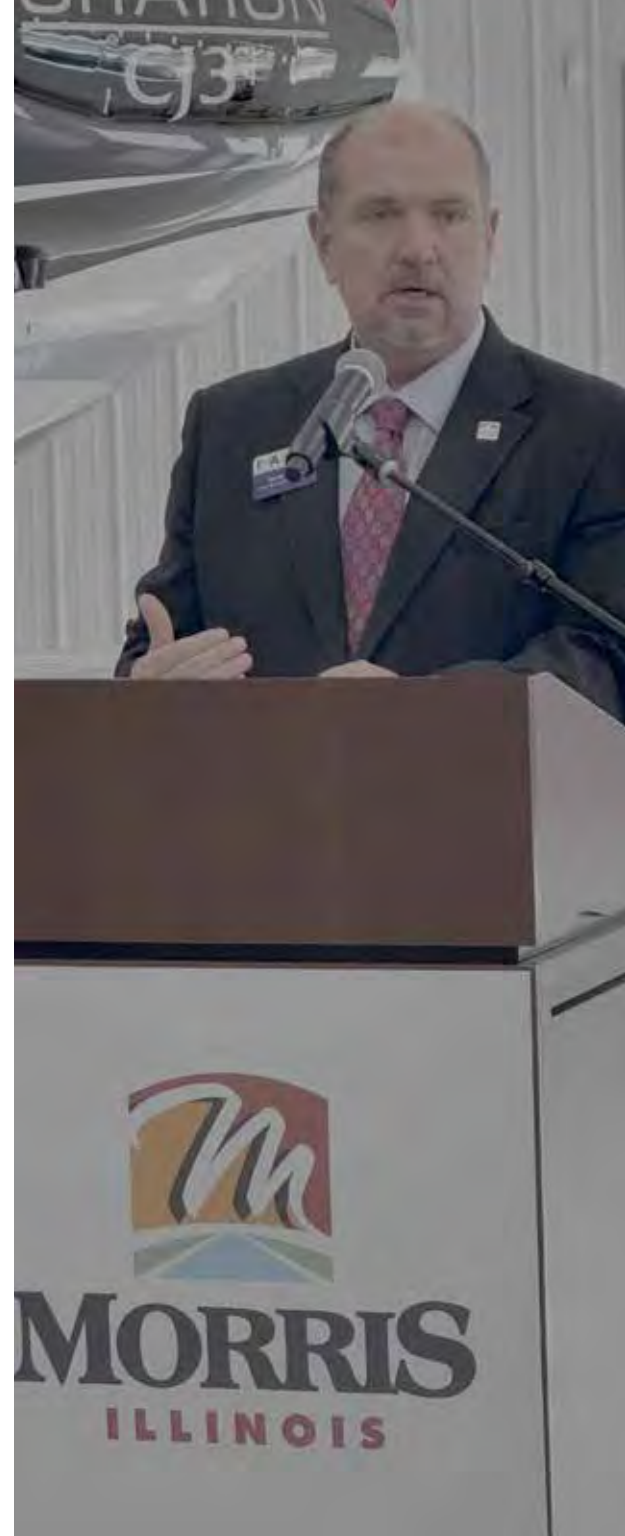
This program includes both a live training session hosted by the IMA and an updated on-demand recording available exclusively to members. In alignment with State of Illinois requirements, the training is suitable for on-site use and for new employee onboarding, delivering practical value and convenience for our member companies.

By providing accessible, compliant training resources, the IMA helps ensure manufacturers and their teams are informed, protected, and prepared.

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLES

Throughout 2025, the IMA's Regional Roundtables brought manufacturers and community leaders together across Illinois for focused discussions on local challenges and collaborative solutions. These dynamic sessions fostered meaningful dialogue and actionable insights tailored to each region's unique needs. We hosted Roundtables in Adams (Quincy), Eastern Illinois (Mattoon), Vermilion (Danville), Grundy (Morris), and Lake Counties (Gurnee).

Each event served as a platform for exchanging ideas, strengthening local partnerships, and identifying state and regional strategies to support Illinois manufacturers. Watch for more details about next year!



In addition to our ongoing programs, we provided meaningful content and training regarding Federal changes:

4-part series on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- Impacts on Domestic Production
- Impacts on Income Tax for Illinois Manufacturers
- Impacts on Employee Benefits and Compensation Strategy
- Impacts on Energy Tax Credits and Transferability

How to Prepare for When ICE Shows Up

In an effort to keep members informed on an ever-changing national landscape, the IMA offered programming related to employee citizen status, particularly when it comes to dealing with immigration. The IMA held a program informing members of action plans should their facilities be visited by the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Office arrive at the facility.

- An Action Plan for warrant vs. subpoena/notice of audit
- What records and work authorization documents are covered under ICE authority
- Form I-9 compliance and potential I-9 audit fines/audit process
- VISA programs in the recent Executive Orders

Practical Advice Regarding Tariffs

The IMA held several meetings for our members about the ever-changing tariff landscape, both an introductory session and then more details as clarity emerged. Note that these resources have been added to the IMA website and are updated regularly.

We covered:

- Overview of current and proposed tariffs and timelines
- Supply chain mapping and care
- Risk assessment, compliance & mitigation strategies
- Tariff-saving possibilities



WOMEN MAKERS

The Women Makers Series continued its expansion through 2025 under the leadership of Renne Togher, President of Azteca Foods. The series hosted five events across Illinois, growing the Women Makers network to more than 500 women leaders. Each event brought together influential female executives and featured panel discussions focused on leadership, workforce development, economic growth, and energy, highlighting the impact and influence of women in manufacturing and industry.

The series launched in March with a kickoff event featuring keynote speaker Regina Jones, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of Archer Daniels Midland. A new event added this year in Oak Brook, hosted by Wintrust, drew more than 125 attendees and showcased a panel of finance industry experts. The Women Makers Series will continue into 2026 with quarterly events held across the state.



AFFINITY PARTNERS

IMA works closely with key partners to deliver exceptional benefits to our members. Some key affinity partners in 2025 included:

CONSTELLATION ENERGY

The IMA's exclusive energy partner for more than 20 years, Constellation, provides IMA members with innovative and practical sustainability solutions and intelligent energy management solutions to stabilize their energy budgets, reduce energy costs, improve facility operations, and advance sustainability goals.

CRYSTAL CLEAN

Heritage-Crystal Clean is the IMA's preferred provider of parts cleaning and industrial waste services.

WEISEUSA

WieseUSA is a family of companies providing expert material handling solutions across the Midwest, from dock to door and everything in between. Trust WieseUSA to keep your operations running smoothly.

VESTIS

Vestis Uniform Services is proud to be the preferred supplier partner of IMA and its members.



THANK YOU PARTNERS

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G & W Electric
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Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association
Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC)
Illinois Renewable Fuels Association
Illinois Retail Merchants Association (IRMA)
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Illinois Trucking Association
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*Sr. V.P. and Corporate Board Secretary
Executive Director, IMA Foundation*



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Staff Accountant

**BOLDLY MOVING
MAKERS FORWARD.**



“Caterpillar has been a long-time member of the Illinois Manufacturers Association. Their insight and advocacy are invaluable. Their team always delivers the information we need and helps amplify our voice where it matters most.”

- **ROB CARNEY**

Manager of State Government Affairs, Midwest Region Caterpillar

“The ROI on our IMA membership has been significant and consistent. They are an excellent advocate and resource both during “calmer seas” and turbulent times like the years of Covid-19 and the recent trade and tariff wars. The team at the IMA is always accessible and ready to assist us with issues that might be particular to our business and those that impact all manufacturers in Illinois.”

- **TOM WELGE**

President, Gilster-Mary Lee Corp.



“The IMA does vital work in addressing the critical economic, policy, and environmental challenges facing Illinois manufacturers. John Deere is proud to be a founding member.”

- **JASON FRANCQUE**

Director, U.S. Government Affairs – John Deere



