

Highlights from TSMA August 2018 Board Meeting

The Tri-State Manufacturers' Association Board of Directors met on August 28, 2018, at ITW Heartland in Alexandria, MN.

The consent agenda was approved, including July 17, 2018 meeting minutes and July 2018 financial reports.

Liz Diedrich led the group in a continuation of strategic planning to determine priorities for calendar year 2019. Four "top priorities" identified during prior planning sessions have now been condensed to three top priorities. Goals and initiatives were identified for all three priorities. The next planning session will include further refinement of each initiative, confirmation of volunteer assignments, and drafting a budget.

The board reflected on the success of the first-ever TSMA on Tap, held August 15 at Copper Trail Brewery in Alexandria. Some 30 people attended the free, 2-hour networking session. TSMA will likely host two such events next year, in the spring and summer.

The upcoming schedule of programs and events was reviewed. A calling chain was implemented to encourage attendance at the Candidate Forum on September 11. Tickets for the October 4 Stein & Wine Fest are available online, from a TSMA board member, or from the office. A tour site and potential guest speaker were approved for the November 13 early dinner meeting. The board approved a budget for games/prizes, once again spearheaded by Marilyne Morisette.

The board engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding a Year 4 work plan for the West Central Minnesota Dream It. Do It. Outreach Coordinator. A new project called MakerFest is being considered to replace the student video contest. Other projects under consideration are: Females in Manufacturing event, contest to promote the Badge System, and/or manufacturing ambassador program.

The TSMA board of director election is pending, with a nomination deadline of October 15. Nominees to date include Nicole Klimek (Lowry Manufacturing), Mark Petersen (ITW Heartland), and Liz Diedrich (Diedrich RPM).

Sandy Kashmark reported on TSMA's new digital newsletter; the second edition was published in August. It was agreed to extend promotional pricing for another three months and review analytics at the next board meeting.

The August Executive Director Report was available for review.

The TSMA Board is next scheduled to meet from 2:30 - 4:00 PM on September 25, 2018, in Alexandria.