

# Excellence in the Southeast

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“As the National Conference is approaching we are again reminded of the changing nature of Lean and the importance of our own “continuing education” needs. We have journeyed from Lean Manufacturing to Lean Enterprise, from Lean Tools to Lean

Management, and now a new term is receiving attention: Lean Community - the overall societal needs for continuous improvement and the impact(s) thereof. I may date myself when I say that I recall a time when Lean was about 5S, SMED, TPM, and Kanban; typical manufacturing tools. Whereas, today we speak of “5S Office”, “Lean & Green”, “Lean Accounting”, “Supply Chain”, and a host of others. This ever-changing, ever-increasing list of “tools” is mindful of the donkey-and-carrot example of reaching for that which cannot be reached. But, being the Lean professionals that we are, we know that having achieved one goal, having successfully implemented one tool creates another - that of higher expectations. So, as we look forward to sharing in the experience of the National Conference, let us take time to hear the motto of the conference and “Take excellence back home and put your learning to work in your or-

ganization”. I look forward to seeing all of you in Chicago.” Thanks and Best Regards, Dewey Smith



**AMECHICAGO2007**

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Oct.29.07 » Nov.02.07

To sign up for the annual conference, go to:  
[www.ameconference.org](http://www.ameconference.org)

### SE REGION PRESIDENT

Dewey Smith

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## AME SE REGION 2007 SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

PROGRAM TITLE	NO. OF DAYS	DATES		LOCATION			NO. OF SPOTS
		FROM	TO	COMPANY	CITY	STATE	
Bronze Lean Cert Review	2	9/18/07	9/20/07	Georgia Tech Facility	Atlanta	GA	25
SMED Event + Golf Outing	2.5	9/18/07	9/20/07	Plymouth Tube Co.	West Monroe	LA	20
Batesville Excellence	1.5	Sep		Batesville Casket	Vicksburg	TN	20
Kaizen Productivity Improvement Event		Oct		TBD	TBD	MS	
Kanban Workshop	2	Fall		TBD	TBD	AR	
WorkCulture	1.5	12/13/07	12/14/07	Medtronic	Juncos	PR	20

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### What is AME?



**The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME)**, founded in 1985, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to cultivating understanding, analysis and exchange of productivity methods and their successful application in the pursuit of excellence. We are practitioner-based, and our events and workshops focus on hands-on learning. AME publishes the award-winning Target magazine and puts on several regional and national events each year.

**THE MISSION of the ASSOCIATION FOR MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE IS:** To inspire a commitment to global enterprise excellence through shared learning.

## Batesville Casket—Manchester, Tennessee SE Region Nominee for Excellence Award

Batesville Casket is always looking to the future while remembering the learnings of their past. The Manchester, Tennessee Operation has used a variety of methods to increase productivity while lowering cost for many years.

Batesville introduced component parts and increased the number of models produced while reducing the number of production associates by over 3% with Takt Time remaining relatively flat. Tightening and redesigning goals for productivity and quality along with benchmarking while taking quality, safety and productivity to the next level then led to asking “what’s next?”

Training to prepare their associates for the next level allowed the Manchester team to be focused and motivated to take the steps necessary to prepare for the future. Adding additional robots to the plant assisted in producing a more reliable, repeatable product ensuring a level of consistency which is impossible to achieve by manual operations.

Batesville Casket not only thinks outside the box, they are redesigning the box.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Timothy Bianchi & Dave Patten—Neptune Technology Group—Tallassee, AL

Jimmie Hopkins—Preformed Line Products Company—Rogers, AR

Mark England—DaySpring Cards—Siloam Springs, AR

Brad Brannon—Power Partners, Inc.—Athens, GA

Patrice Lang—Independent Industries, Inc.—Louisville, KY

Mark Pekrul—Hoffman Enclosures Inc.—Mt. Sterling, KY

Brian Berdy—Lutron Electronics Co., Inc.—Humacao, PR

Harold Maxwell & David Beach—Marvin Windows and Doors—Ripley, TN

## Board Member Spotlight—Bill Kraus—Arkansas

Since 1996 Bill has worked for the Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network in Little Rock. He Assists manufacturers in the northeast quadrant of the state to become more globally competitive. Bill can be reached at (870) 972-3000 or wkraus@astate.edu.

### *Lean Bronze Certification Review & Exam*

**Date: September 18-20, 2007**

**Location: Georgia Tech**

**Atlanta, GA**

The Lean Certification program, sponsored by AME, SME, and Shingo Prize, is an opportunity to incorporate significant training and development. Lean Certification will standardize practices within organizations, regardless of size or industry. Unlike other programs in the market today, Lean Certification is awarded based on experience, education, and mentoring - and it must be renewed. The Bronze level is the first, followed by Silver and Gold, on the journey to complete expertise in knowledge and implementation of Lean.

The Lean Bronze Certification review course (September 18 & 19) will explore what the certification is about, what the exam will encompass, and additional necessary steps to complete the Bronze Certification. Any and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

**Lean Certification provides benefits to both you and your employer. Benefits to employees:**

- Provides a widely recognized and transportable lean certification credential
- Documents your knowledge and skill to show that you qualify for new roles and responsibilities
- Guides your lean journey, with each step mapped out
- Offers opportunities to obtain mentoring to help you build your lean skills
- Provides opportunities to learn through mentoring others

**Benefits to companies:**

- Provides a consensus-based tool for measuring proficiency of lean practitioners
- Identifies true lean experts, removing uncertainty when engaging a consultant or hiring an employee
- Helps align lean practices within the company, through supply chains and across industries
- Provides customers with confidence that the organization's continuous improvement efforts will be effective

**Study materials for the course consist of the body of knowledge listed on the SME website. ([www.sme.org/leancert](http://www.sme.org/leancert)) These materials must be purchased and read by attendees prior to attending the review course. Please bring your materials for use during the course and the open book exam.**



# Excellence in the Southeast

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area, contact a SE Region Di-  
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