

Excellence in the Southeast

December 2008

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Well, here we are, again, at the end of another year - be it half-full or half-empty. While 2008 has been a roller-coaster ride for most of the economy, there have been some islands of greatness. As the Southeast Region of AME, we have a lot of accomplish-

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ments to be proud of in 2008, namely:

- 1) We were able to conduct regional events that significantly added to the financial security of AME (this will be a challenge in 2009 with the economic climate and the inherent cost-cutting),
- 2) We supported the National Conference to record attendance (the SE board had a record turnout in attendance),
- 3) we added 4 new board members (representing Florida - Joe Rizzo, Mississippi - Steve McGuire /Jon Oakley, and Georgia - Kirk Eaton),
- 4) We are far into the process of conducting a one-of-its-kind regional Mini-Conference in 2009 (a real must see-do for the SE membership),
- 5) Numerous board directors have taken-on new board responsibilities (in keeping with the National Board format),
- 6) The SE Board of Directors has

delivered on its commitment to publish the monthly newspaper (this continues to be a benchmark within all of AME), and

7) We have maintained regional membership in the top 2 rankings throughout the year.

I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you the best during this holiday period."

Sincerely, Dewey Smith

SE REGION PRESIDENT

Dewey Smith
Dewey.Smith@colfaxcorp.com

CHARLESTON
BUILDING BRIDGES
2009
MAY 20, 21, 22

AME SE REGION 2009 SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

PROGRAM TITLE	NO. OF DAYS	DATES		LOCATION			NO. OF SPOTS
		FROM	TO	COMPANY	CITY	STATE	
Training Within Industry Go to www.ame.org to sign up now!	4	2/16/09	2/19/09	Automatic Screw	Decatur	AL	8
AME Southeast Region Building Bridges Conference Go to www.ameregionalconferences.org to sign up	3	5/20/09	5/22/09	Frances Marion Hotel	Charleston	SC	150
Training Within Industry		June 09	June 09	TBD		AR	9
AME National Conference Journey to Greatness	5	October 09	October 09	AME	Covington	KY	2500
Value Stream Mapping		November 09	Nov 09	FedEx	Nashville	TN	30
Lean Accounting	2	December 09	Dec 09		Caguas	PR	12

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 commitment to enterprise excellence through shared learning and access to best practices, so members can personally succeed and help drive their company's success.

BUILDING BRIDGES CHARLESTON, SC - May 20-22, 2009

AME's regional conference being held from May 20 -22, 2009 in beautiful Charleston, SC is lining up to be one of the most value adding events of its type. Those who attended the AME national conference in Toronto may have noticed over the years that there is a dramatic transition taking place. The conference topics are moving away from specific lean tools like 5S, TPM and value stream mapping to the people side of the equation.

Over the last 10 – 15 years as lean has gained momentum we have learned that the tools of the trade work well. Just as a hammer can drive a nail and a wrench can tighten a nut, the tools of lean all work the way they are intended. With this being the case, then why are many lean transformations languishing or outright failing? It's the people side and more specifically culture and leadership.

The Charleston conference is designed for addressing the softer side of lean. From topics such as Building a Dream Team to Performance Measures and Lean Accounting the conference will provide participants insights on how to bring lean into the culture of a business. Not developing or changing the culture or behaviors is the number one failure mechanism of lean transformations.

The conference also features keynote speakers that are industry leaders and understand the critical role leadership plays in the success of driving a successful culture.

Go to www.ameregionalconferences.org to sign up NOW!

CHARLESTON
BUILDING BRIDGES
2009
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SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC—SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA REGIONAL NOMINEE FOR THE AME EXCELLENCE AWARD

Schneider Electric is a world leader in the manufacture and sale of electrical distribution equipment. Schneider Electric's Seneca, South Carolina plant manufactures motor control centers (MCCs), enclosed drives, and fabricates sheet metal and copper parts for internal use as well as for eight other Schneider Electric plants in North America. The MCC product line is engineered to order (ETO) while the enclosed drive products are either engineered to order or assembled to order (ATO). For ETO products the customer can specify almost anything they want in their product from the components to the type of wire and the color of the enclosure. Seneca's Order Engineering group takes the customer specifications and, with the help of some engineering and configuration software, generates the bill of material, wiring diagrams, and other documents required to manufacture the order. Seneca leads Schneider in the use of material systems to support an ETO environment. Component parts that have frequent usage are stocked using a kanban system where parts are stored in racks close to the assembly area. However, with over 100k unique component part numbers that can be used in these product lines, many parts are only ordered once the BOM has been defined. These parts are ordered and managed by an order-for-order (OFO) process. This is a critical business process since roughly 40% of these component parts must be ordered and delivered in less than the vendor stated lead time. OFO parts are stored in kit boxes by the order number they belong to. Material operators start a kit for an order as soon as the first OFO part is received. OFO parts are added to the kit as they arrive. When assembly is ready to start an order, the kit is triggered for delivery to the designated assembly area. The assembly processes are mostly manual due to the high variation of the product. The manual work in the process includes mechanical tasks to assemble the product and electrical tasks to wire between components. Thorough testing is also a part of the process to meet Underwriters Laboratory (UL) requirements.

Despite the challenges associated with this business environment, the Seneca facility has leveraged continuous improvement to deliver significant productivity results, dramatically reduce warranty costs, maintain high levels of service to the customer and take their safety culture to the next level. Seneca uses improvement concepts from both lean manufacturing and Six Sigma, along with principles from their Schneider Production System (SPS), to drive continuous improvement. This approach has engaged the entire workforce to participate in these improvements.

Congratulations!
Schneider Electric
The 2008 Southeast Region Nominee
For the
AME Excellence Award

Excellence in the Southeast

AME SE Region

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To host an AME event in your
area, contact a SE Region
Director in your state.

Excellence in the Southeast welcomes articles
and success stories from your enterprise to be
presented in this publication. Please submit in
word document format to Sharon Halsey at
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