



## Excellence in the Southeast

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Building Bridges Conference	2
What is AME?	2
AME Champions Club	3
SE Region Board of Directors	4

### Special points of interest:



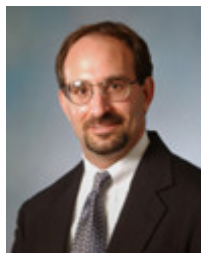
[www.ameconference.org](http://www.ameconference.org)

To sign up for AME events, contact AME at 224-232-5980. To host an AME event in your area, contact a SE Region Director in your state.

## Message from the President

Hank Czarnecki, [leanhank@auburn.edu](mailto:leanhank@auburn.edu)

### Get Connected



#### Greetings from your new President!

The transition went well and I want to thank Dewey Smith for his fine work the past two years as President of the Southeast Region. Dewey will be taking on the responsibility of AME National Board SE Development Director. New Southeast Region roles in-

clude Bill Kraus as President-Elect, Kirk Eaton, Program VP, and Art Hau, VP Communications. I also welcome Joe Rizzo, Steve Maguire and Larry Fast as new board members.

Our regional conference is set for Charleston in May; our team has been working hard preparing for the conference and I would ask you check out the information on the website, [www.ameregionalconferences.org](http://www.ameregionalconferences.org). The conference will be a good

learning and networking opportunity, a great way to stay connected during these difficult economic times.

Nationally, AME is working on our Web 2.0 presence, but I would like to point out for those of you on the professional networking site, LinkedIn, there is an AME group. Please check it out.

As always, if I can be of assistance, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact me.

Thanks—Hank

## Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Dates	Space Available
Building Bridges Conference	Charleston, SC	May 20-22, 2009	150 attendees max <b>\$700 to 1st 45!</b>
SMED Event	West Monroe, LA	June, 2009	15 attendees max
Training Within Industry	Arkansas	June, 2009	9 attendees max

# Building Bridges Conference

## Charleston, SC—May 20-22, 2009

**CHARLESTON**  
**BUILDING BRIDGES**  
**2009**  
 MAY 20, 21, 22

### Building Value from the Inside Out

A rigorous Continuous Improvement System is becoming a key factor in how Private Equity investors are valuing businesses. Frank Finelli will represent the Private Equity investors while Joy Romero will represent a Plant General Manager's position.



#### Keynote Speaker

**FRANCIS A. FINELLI**  
 The Carlyle Group

Washington, DC

Frank Finelli joined The Carlyle Group, a global private equity firm, in December 1998, where he is a Managing Director focusing on leveraged investments in the defense and aerospace sector, as well as dual-use venture technologies. He has led deal teams on several acquisitions and financial restructurings, including one of the first U.S.



#### Keynote Speaker

**JOY ROMERO**



Joy Romero is Vice President of the 787 Division for Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc. She joined the company in October 2007 and leads all aspects of the Boeing 787 program for Vought, including manufacturing, customer relations and operational performance.

**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.

**The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME)**, is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1985 dedicated to helping companies with continuous improvement and their pursuit of excellence. Whether looking to learn about Lean manufacturing or one of the continuous improvement tools like value stream mapping, kaizen, Lean Supply Chain, Lean New Product Development, Lean Accounting, or Leadership of Lean transformation you've come to the right place.

AME is practitioner based which means our events and workshops are hands-on and taught by others who have "been there" and want to share their experiences. Click on the Conferences and Events tabs above for information on all of our educational opportunities or join AME and start receiving the many benefits of membership including our award-winning *Target* magazine.

*Special thanks to Karl Buchanan who has been helping out the conference team while Joe Barto, the Programs Chair, has been a bit under the weather. We appreciate you, Karl!*

# Champions Club

The AME Champion's Club is exclusively for the "Champions of Excellence" within a plant or facility. Membership in the Champion's Club enables these agents of change to interact directly within a select group of individuals who shoulder similar responsibilities to improve their company's competitiveness and who approach that challenge with an equally high level of enthusiasm and insight. The principal benefit for a membership in the Champion's Club is the unique opportunity to meet and network with your peers who have similar problems and responsibilities. Only members in the Champion's Club and their guests are invited to the four meetings a year where specific topics are discussed and noted authorities are asked to present.

Members in the Champion's Club are senior executives from large and small companies and represent a large cross section of industries. We seek and encourage membership from a diverse array of companies to provide each member with exposure that would be unattainable in other types of organizations and industry groups.

The objective of the Champion's Club is to provide its members with "state-of-the-art" management techniques and skill development opportunities that will help them help their companies compete more effectively in a ever increasingly globally competitive marketplace.

The Champion's Club seeks to provide senior managers of North American based manufacturing firms with informative insights and events in the following areas:

- Skill development events for their people
- Accessibility to state-of-the-art manufacturing plants, processes, and people
- Learning what they need to be competitive:
- Future of manufacturing processes and technology
- Business growth with profitability
- Developing and sustaining a competitive edge in the marketplace
- Designing and implementing programs and processes that add to stakeholder value

The program format and content are designed with input from the members of the Champion's Club. Programs generally consist of:

- Roundtables which focus on topics that challenge and develop thinking at the member's level of responsibility
- Study missions and visits to companies exhibiting state-of-the-art processes which are generally not accessible to most people
- Case studies that focus our thought processes towards modern management techniques and practices

Meeting attendance is important in building a meaningful relationship among the Champions and to encourage openness and experience sharing. Champions are encouraged to attend a minimum of two roundtables per year to foster openness and experience sharing.

Annual dues for Champion's Club membership are \$3000 and provides the following:

- Complimentary/admission for the Champion to the AME Annual Conference
- Complimentary admission for the Champion to most AME workshops and seminars
- Complimentary admission for the Champion to Champion's Roundtables to exchange and discuss new philosophies and techniques
- Admission as associate members - no \$150 individual membership fees to AME events for up to 5 people from the Champion's company
- Five subscriptions to Target Magazine for colleagues from the Champion's plant site in addition to the Champion's subscription

For additional information about the AME's Champion's Club please contact:  
Patrick Carguello Director, AME's Champion's Club Office: (315) 387-5611

# Southeast Region Board of Directors

Here is who we are and where we are

Contact us anytime!

We're on the  
web!  
[www.ame.org](http://www.ame.org)

