

Excellence in the Southeast

June 2007

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Ralph Tileston joins AME SE Region Board of Directors. **Ralph** is now representing the state of South Carolina and bringing his experience as the Account Principal for Life Cycle Engineering, Inc. to help bring seminars and workshops to the Southeast Region. Want to contact Art? He can be reached at 843-412-5396 or rtileston@LCE.com.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to invite SE AME members to consider becoming more of a part of AME and one major way of accomplishing this is to become part of the SE Board of Directors. If this is something that is of interest to you, please contact me.

SE REGION PRESIDENT

Dewey Smith
Dewey.Smith@colfaxcorp.com

AME NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Attend the AME National Conference in Chicago. Go to www.ame.org for conference details. We look forward to seeing you there!



See page 2 for details about the AME Katrina Relief Fund



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	7/30/07	7/31/07	Pulaski Technical College	Little Rock	AR	25
SMED Event + Golf Outing	2.5	9/18/07	9/20/07	Plymouth Tube Co.	West Monroe	LA	20
Bronze Lean Review	2	9/18/07	9/19/07	Georgia Tech	Atlanta	GA	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.

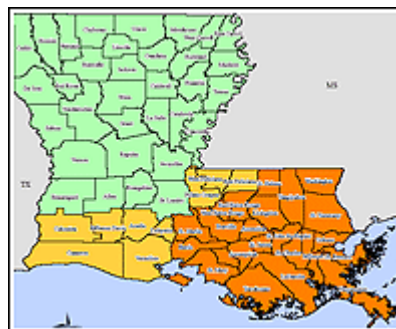
AME KATRINA FUND Lean Center of Excellence

Two years ago, on August 29th, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana wreaking havoc and destruction to much of the state. Within days, a second hurricane, Rita, rained devastation on communities all along Louisiana's shoreline. Moved by the devastation to the people and manufacturers of Louisiana, members of AME pitched in to create a recovery fund. On August 29th of 2007, members of AME will make a presentation of \$50,000 to the State of Louisiana to help fund the creation of a Lean Center of Excellence. The initial purpose of this Center will be to offer Lean training and facilitation assistance to interested manufacturing companies in the stricken areas of that state.

The destruction of the State of Louisiana bears many similarities with the destruction of Japan following the Second World War. Then, it was another association, the Japanese Union of Science and Engineering (JUSE), that helped reestablish the manufacturing strength of that country. Small initial steps led to larger and larger ones until Japan's manufacturing strength rivaled that of the Western world. It is AME's hope that its contribution to the State of Louisiana will have a similar effect; that others will contribute their best to help this wonderful State not only recover, but to become a standard of World Class manufacturing.



Your SE Region contact for the Katrina Fund is Robert Camp at Robert.Camp@ch2m.com or (864) 599-4698.



Board Member Spotlight—Art McElroy

Art is the Continuous Improvement Manager at La-Z-Boy Incorporated in Newton, Mississippi. He is responsible for leading cost savings initiatives through lean tools such as value stream mapping, root cause analysis, inventory reduction, 5S, and Kaizen.

Art feels with so much manufacturing in Mississippi, there should be more members. Interested in working with Art to promote the AME message in Mississippi? Contact him at art.mcelroy@la-z-boy.com or (601) 683-4170.

Lean Bronze Certification Review & Exam

Date: July 30-31, 2007

Location: Pulaski Technical College

Little Rock, AR

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 (July 30 & 31) 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.

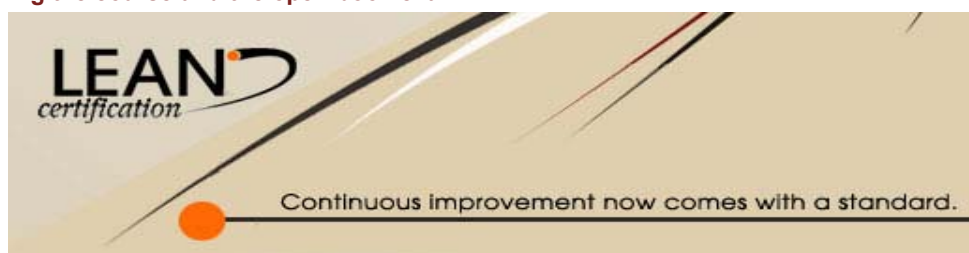
Benefits to employees:

- 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) 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

People Powered Lean at Creative Memories

During the two day workshop attendees learned how to build a workforce prepared to compete from the Training Modernization Group led by Joe Barto. The workshop provided a proven process of how to integrate your most precious asset – People into a Lean strategy. People Powered Lean creates a systematic process by which leaders at all levels are able to have the same visibility over their workforce as they do over materials, process, and production metrics. The process focuses on getting the right people into the company; ensuring those people have the right skills to support production; keeping a broad enough base of trained personnel so that back up employees are available for all critical positions; ensuring production leaders have employees when they need them to support production, and creating a Team environment. Operations and HR leaders learned together how they can design and executive a strategic plan for their “Human Capital” that CEO, CFO, and the work force will support and endorse.



Bruce Boulton, operations manager, third from the left receives AME Award from Glenn Marshall, SE Regional Board, in the center, and Joe Barto President, second from the right of the Training Modernization Group and his team.

Creative Memories Plant Tour – Colonial Heights, Virginia

Bruce Boulton, the operations manager provided an overview of their operation and the lean initiatives that the plant has implemented over the past seven years. The site has over 100 employees who have been trained to handle multiple tasks working in self-directed teams. The plant uses a variable compensation system in order to drive skill development and continuous learning by employees. The plant tour provided excellent examples of how Visual Management, 6S, and pull systems drive the shipment of custom orders to the customer within two days. The plant has significantly reduced work in process inventory in their manufacturing lines to less than 1 hour. They have integrated information systems using electronic visual Kanban displays that are used to inform the workforce and support the demand flow system that is linked to their warehouse management software. The plant has used Kaizen Blitzes in order to drive their continuous improvement initiatives. The plant tour led by the employees provided real insight into the progress and teamwork that this Lean operation has achieved.

Bruce and his team welcome other AME members to come see and benchmark their People Powered Lean facility. At the conclusion of this workshop Bruce stated, “We welcomed the opportunity that this AME workshop provided for us to share our Lean progress that has been made since we started up our plant about seven years ago. We will never be “finished” with our improvement efforts, and the input that we received from our industry peers in this workshop will be very useful in helping us continue along our Lean journey. The networking opportunity that this workshop provided was very valuable, and the contacts that were initiated will help enable us to establish relationships with our Manufacturing peers and colleagues in our area.”

SHINGO CONFERENCE



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AME SE Region

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To sign up for AME events,
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To host an AME event in your
area, contact a SE Region Di-
rector 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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