

# Excellence in the Southeast

May 2008

Volume 22, Issue 5

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Hello to my fellow AME-SE members. It is with hope that each of us remain engaged and pro-active in our separate lean journeys. With the many global happenings we never know what challenges lie in-wait for us. But we can be certain of one thing, and that is that as Lean Champions, we are well-equipped to take-on these "opportunities".

### Inside this issue:

Message from the President	1
2008 Events	1
Upcoming Events	2
Your SE Region Board Members	4

We, the collective membership, are off to a banner year in our workshop offerings and the resultant participation. The Southeast Region has historically had very good participation in our workshops and have actually been a benchmark for the other regions. So, for those of you that have spread the word and have participated, a big THANK YOU."

### SE REGION PRESIDENT

Dewey Smith

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ARE YOU READY TO IMPROVE YOUR OPERATION?

IS IT TIME TO REMOVE WASTE?

READY TO INCREASE THROUGHPUT?

PLYMOUTH TUBE COMPANY IN WEST MONROE, La IS HOSTING A SEMINAR TO HELP YOU LEARN THE CONCEPTS OF QUICK CHANGEOVER (SMED)

Go to [www.ame.org](http://www.ame.org) to sign up NOW!

## AME SE REGION 2008 SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

PROGRAM TITLE	NO. OF DAYS	DATES		LOCATION			NO. OF SPOTS
		FROM	TO	COMPANY	CITY	STATE	
SMED Event	2.5	5/12/08	5/14//08	Plymouth Tube Co.	West Monroe	LA	20
Supplier Development	1.5	5/22/08	5/23/08	Acuity Brands	Conyers	GA	25
Training Within Industry	4.5	6/2/08	6/6/08	Am Tech Inc.	Alexander City	AL	20
Standard Work Kaizen	4.5	6/23/08	6/27/08	Schneider Electric	Seneca	SC	20
Accounting for the Lean Enterprise	2	8/13/08	8/14/08	Change	Athens	GA	24
Lean Bronze Cert Review	2	9/10/08	9/12/08	GA Tech	Atlanta	GA	20

## 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 na-

### 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.

## SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT

Conyers, GA—May 22-23, 2008

So you have worked diligently inside your own company to create flow and pull while removing the waste from the processes inside your “4 walls”. You know you have a lot of work to become world class internally (or maybe you are already there) nonetheless perhaps you are ready to focus on a new frontier .... that of your suppliers. The question you may be asking yourself is how do we get started?

Attending this workshop will provide you with the methodology Acuity Brands Lighting (ABL) is using to work with their suppliers in the areas of quality, delivery and cost opportunities. The program was developed by Mark Preston, Director, Supplier Development for ABL modeled after the Honda 13 week supplier development program. This program was deployed during the transformation of Mark Lighting, a recent acquisition, and the lessons learned will also be presented during this workshop. [Go to www.ame.org](http://www.ame.org) to sign up NOW!

## SMED—Quick Changeover Event

West Monroe, LA—May 12 -14, 2008

Come prepared to learn the concepts of quick changeover (SMED) and then participate on a team that will apply the principles. This will be a 2-1/2 day event. Anyone interested in improving their operation by removing waste and increasing throughput should attend.

The seminar will be hosted by Plymouth Tube Company and led and facilitated by Rick Feller. Rick joined Plymouth Tube in 1999 and has been instrumental in guiding the company in its implementation of Lean, 80/20 and Topgrading concepts. Rick is the Manager of Manufacturing Excellence based out of the Warrenville, IL office. He has been in manufacturing operations management for over 36 years and actively involved in *Lean* implementation since 1984.

Plymouth Tube West Monroe has had tremendous success with quick changeover activities. One of the best examples is setup reduction on our bender. The bender encounters 20-30 bend diameter changes per shift. Setups historically had taken 25 minutes or more. There was not standard process. Today, the setup time is tracked at an average of 5 minutes each. Imagine the impact on throughput.

This event will focus on our draw benches. This equipment cold draws approximately 300 pieces per shift. Setup reduction has occurred on this equipment, but it is time to revisit. Currently setups are at 21 minutes. There is opportunity to run up to 4 quick change teams on different parts of the process during this event.

[Go to www.ame.org](http://www.ame.org) to sign up NOW!



## Board Member Spotlight—Tony Smith—South Carolina

Tony retired from the South Carolina Technical College System in 1997 after serving 30 years. He founded the Silver Crescent Foundation (formerly Technical Expositions and Conferences) in 1996 and currently serves as President. Tony also serves on the National Conference Support Team of AME. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the S.C. Shingo Prize and the Advisory Committee for the S.C. World Trade Center.

He is a Licensed U.S. Coast Guard Boat Captain and enjoys shallow water fishing, running, woodworking, and residential construction. You can contact Tony at [tsmith@scfusa.org](mailto:tsmith@scfusa.org).



## AME Mid-Year Conference June 9-12 in San Diego: Be There!

<http://ameregionalconferences.org/>

### *While in Richmond, we learned how to build a Dream Team*

The Association for Manufacturing Excellence Southeast Region, Capital One, and the Training Modernization Group teamed up on April 9 – 10, 2008 on the Capital One Campus in Richmond, Virginia and present a compelling two-day workshop to help senior executive practitioners 'Build a Dream Team' and accelerate their journey to best-in-class performance.

This workshop provided 20 attendees insights on how to recruit, retain, reward and develop employees as part of a Lean business process transformation. While many industries have embraced the principles of Lean Manufacturing to eliminate waste and drive business performance, Capital One has recognized that to fully realize the benefit of Lean as a company it had to synchronize and integrate into the process its most precious asset – its People. Recruiting great people and giving them the opportunity to be great is at the heart of Capital One's core business philosophies, and the company is frequently recognized as one of the country's best places to work by publications including *Fortune* and *Working Mother*.

At the workshop, business leaders from Capital One facilitated by Joe Barto President & CEO of Training Modernization Group will examine the entire People Value Stream and explore a systematic process by which leaders at all levels are able to gain the same visibility into their workforce as they do into their materials, process, and production metrics. This process focuses on recruiting the right people into the company; ensuring those people have the right skills to support production; maintaining a sufficient base of trained personnel to support all critical roles at all times; and ensuring that leaders have the right support and skills to drive best-in-class performance.

The workshop was highlighted by three cases studies from Capital One including Lean from the Top of the House by Jose Porrata, Vice President, Integrated Execution Services, U.S. Card Operations, Generating Behavioral Change, Goal Alignment, and Rewards by Kelly Dierker, Human Resources Director and Expanding Lean Across the Enterprise by Jeff Vales, Senior Manger of Process Engineering.

### TRAINING WITHIN INDUSTRY

Alexander City, AL—June 2-6, 2008

The objective of this course is to train employees how to teach someone a job or method. The method emphasizes preparing the operator to learn, giving a proper demonstration while identifying the important Steps and the Key Points of the job, having the operator perform a trial run, and tapering off coaching while continuing to follow up. **Go to [www.ame.org](http://www.ame.org) to sign up NOW!**



# Excellence in the Southeast

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