



# Chapter 264 - Newsletter (Fall 21')

8.24.2021

## Redefining SME - Chapter 264

### Professionals in Manufacturing -

With the influence of the 2020/2021 Pandemic, our ability to engage with site tours, sharing of best practices, and networking has been drastically hampered. As we published in early Spring, our board has put some energy and time into developing a new course. Being mindful to build on our legacy, please share this newsletter with all the interested parties.

Seeking to bring value to our members, we have collaborated with several businesses and have developed a “**Fall Tour Series**,” (see page 2). This is an on-site visit format of 8 business/manufacturers that align with our vision/mission. Companies appreciate the face-to-face engagement and want to share their journey/experiences to professional groups like ours. We hope you can engage and learn with us.

Along with the “Fall Tour Series” you will find information in this newsletter on SME professional memberships, the current board members, and learn about our next tour to Dental Crafters in Marshfield.

The value to our professionals in manufacturing is rather developed by SME. SME connect (<https://connect.sme.org/home>) has a vast body of knowledge available: News (HOT-TOPICS), Applied Technology, Webinars and Certifications. Of which, all can be tailored to you and your specific interests. With the typical cost of a membership \$140 annually, it is worth the investment. Often, the fee is reimbursable by your organization.

Thank you to those who attended our virtual tour earlier this year on the Certificates offered by the SME organization. A PowerPoint is attached with this newsletter for more information and any questions can be directed to the SME website.

**Please promote the corporate and/or individual membership.** For becoming a Member, please follow the **SME Connect** <https://connect.sme.org/> If you would like to sponsor an ad in future bulletins/newsletters, please contact: **Melissa Weller** email: [mweller@mmm.com](mailto:mweller@mmm.com) Phone (715) 845-0233



### **OUR DIRECTION –**

**Vision:** An inspired educated and prosperous manufacturing community.

**Mission:** Promote manufacturing technology and develop a skilled workforce.

**Purpose:** Advance manufacturing and attract future generations.

**2021 Strategy:** Building an opportunity from the Pandemic. Engaging and Inspiring Innovation for our SME Members, and fostering a collaborative group supporting the manufacturing sector

General Questions Email:  
[smechapter264@gmail.com](mailto:smechapter264@gmail.com)

# Meet the SME Chapter 264 Board

## Melissa Weller, Chair – Manufacturing Engineer, 3M Wausau

Growing up I never dreamed of being an engineer. In fact, my first tour of UW-Platteville was actually of the animal sciences program. However, my interest in math, physics, and creating/building things prevailed, and I Graduated from UW-Platteville in 2014 with a degree in Engineering Physics. After graduation I was hired as a Process Engineer for Kimberly-Clark. I worked on projects related to making Kleenex, both from a new product innovation standpoint, as well as improvements on existing products. It was in my work trips that I found one of my favorite parts of the job was getting out on the floor and interacting with the production team. In 2017 I started as a Manufacturing Engineer for 3M in Wausau. I enjoy the action of working at the plant, and working on a variety of projects on a daily basis. I really enjoyed being a part of the SME board and I think the current board has some great tours lined up and has a good vision to keep the chapter moving forward.

## Kevin Thiel, Vice Chair – Sr. Project Manager MS/ME (UW-Stout's MOC)

As a Stout graduate, my professional career started with a small manufacturer and grew with the company. I started in quality, then assumed the R & D responsibility, and eventually worked in operations as a Plant Manager for a total of 16 years. Thereafter, I was fortunate to work for a variety of manufacturers in the central Wisconsin area transforming/change. Throughout my 24 years of experience in Industry, my roles included: Organization Leadership, Quality, Safety, Lean Transformation, and Engineering/Maintenance Activities, and Project Management. This was in 3 different Industries: Hydraulics, Cylinders, Air Moving/Handling Equipment and Pressure Sensitive Adhesive Stock manufacturing.

Since 2015, I have been working for UW-Stout's Manufacturing Outreach Center. Here, I have taken my experience from industry and assisted other companies in their quest to improve and become stronger. My value is: Implementing Business and Quality Systems, Identifying Automation Strategies, Lean Transformations, Leadership, and networking solution paths for manufacturers in Central and North WI. I also teach a variety of courses for the Operations and Management department (mostly online) with UW-Stout.

## Brian Dlugopolski, Treasurer – Product Development Engineer (Greenheck)

I went to school at the University of Wisconsin Platteville for Mechanical Engineering. After graduating in December 2014, I started a full-time position at Greenheck as a Product Development Engineer and have held the same position since. I wish I could start my SME story by saying I've known of SME for quite some time, but my involvement in SME came about a little more by happenstance. I got a call from Scott Gorrichs at work one day (we both work at Greenheck) and I answered,

"Hello this is Brian." A pause followed by, "Who is this?" "Brian" and finally somewhat of a disappointed, "Oh, I thought this was Evan?"

It turned out that Scott thought he was calling my brother Evan, who had been involved in SME and who had previously worked at Greenheck as a Co-op. I quickly learned of our annual golf outing and that Scott was eager to invite either Dlugopolski to play. So in 2019 I played in the golf outing, started going to tours, joined the board in 2020 as the secretary, and now in 2021 I am the treasurer. I'm excited for what we can do in the next few years, we have a great group of board members and I look forward to continuing to meet all those involved in our chapter.

## Dennis Rosenbrook, Secretary - Senior Business Process Improvement Specialist (Accurex)

SME and manufacturing have been a major part of my career for many, many years. I have been a member of SME and a Certified Manufacturing Technologist through SME since 1995 and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering with a minor in Mathematics. The start of my career focused on various manufacturing and industrial engineering roles in various companies including hard disk drive component manufacturing and electronics assembly. For the past 13+ years at Greenheck with a shift of focus into manufacturing & business systems process improvement, project management, and continuous improvement. I enjoy the comradery of SME and the ability to share interests with others at our meetings and company tours. My goal and ambition as an officer with our local SME chapter is to help give back to an organization that has meant a lot to me over the years.

We will be looking to fill a board position at the end of the year, if you, or someone you know is interested feel free to reach out to the current board members to learn more.

## Tour of Dental Crafters, Marshfield Signup [HERE\\*](#)

**NOTE:** MASK AND SAFETY GLASSES REQ'D

Tuesday, September 14th @ 4 – 5:30 PM

Dinner to follow @ Nutz Deep II

Welcome to  
**Dental Crafters**  
Creating the bridge  
between art & science.

### About Dental Crafters:

#### One Relationship, Infinite Possibilities

When our father founded Dental Crafters in 1989 he had a vision for a dental laboratory that focused on improving the lives of its customers and employees. In 30 years of growth the Dental Crafters name has become known as a trusted resource for doctors and their patients. Our family values of hard work and respect extend to all aspects of our business, from the manufacturing floor to our friendly service we work closely with every customer to fully understand and meet your dental needs.

As a full-service laboratory, we are committed to upholding the highest standards in product manufacturing. Dental Crafters® was awarded [ISO 13485 certification](#), a world recognized standard for quality management in the manufacturing of medical devices. The ISO 13485 requires stringent regulations throughout every step of the product lifecycle, organizations maintaining this certification demonstrate best practices in quality management.

The Dental Crafters Network includes Dental Crafters® restorations, Implant Solutions® CT surgical guides and Argon Dental USA™ implants. With over 60 years of combined experience, the Dental Crafters Network has delivered superior solutions through innovative versatility. We strive to lead the industry with groundbreaking techniques, products, and processes to help you make informed decisions regarding your patients' needs. Please feel free to [get in touch with us.](#)

# Event Logistics:

## Tour:

Dental Crafters, Inc.  
1000 Corporate Drive  
Marshfield, WI 54449

## Dinner after:

Nutz Deep II  
809 S Central Ave  
Marshfield, WI 54449

## Pricing:

SME Members: \$25  
Non Members: \$40  
Students/Retirees: \$15

This tour is limited to 20 people

In order to incentivize paid SME members we will be prioritizing SME members during tour sign up. For this tour any paid SME members who sign up by 8/31 will receive priority. After that time anyone else who signed up will be added to the attendee list in the order that their registration was received.

## NOTE:

- If you register for the event and are unable to attend, please notify Melissa Weller immediately. SME will bill you for unpaid registration costs unless a cancellation notice is received in time for us to avoid an expense.
- SME is committed to persons with disabilities. Contact Melissa Weller if such accommodations are required.

Melissa Weller | 715-845-0233 | [mweller@mmm.com](mailto:mweller@mmm.com)

\*If you have trouble accessing the sign in sheet please contact Melissa, or use this URL <https://forms.gle/FCrczgvXWJDhebXV6>

