



# TOOL BITS

**Bulletin of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Minnesota Chapter 11**

Chapter website link: [SME Minnesota 11 Website](#)

## Chair's Message

Greetings to all SME members and friends!

Hello Everyone, we are continuing the Minnesota **chapter event planning committee** this fall; the next committee meeting will be Wednesday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at Davanni's in Arden Hills (5:30pm). We will discuss strategies and themes for future tours and meetings. Reach out to me (at the email below) if you would like to be a part of this exciting group that will define events sponsored by the Minnesota chapter of SME. Let me know if you are interested or have ideas to discuss at this meeting, if you are not able to attend in person.

We have **multiple events planned** for the upcoming fall and spring and are **working on finalizing the details** for these, more info will be available elsewhere in this issue. The Minnesota SME board is also looking at other types of events to benefit the local membership. We had a successful networking event earlier this year and will continue these in the future.

SME chapter meetings are a great way to improve your leadership skills and are excellent networking opportunities. There are many **volunteer opportunities** that can benefit both yourself and the SME chapter. Specifically, we are in need of a chapter secretary, let me know if you are interested in this role. And the chapter event planning committee is in need of people who are willing to make 2-3 phone calls to set up specific tours.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the board and if you have any questions or ideas please contact me or any of the other board members.

**Gregg**  
**gregg1998@gmail.com**  
**Minnesota Chapter 11 Chair**

## September 2019 Contents

Advertising Information.....	6
Chair's Message .....	1
Future Meetings .....	3
Last Meeting Recap .....	3
Mission & Vision .....	8
Our Advertisers .....	2,4,5,6,7

## Chapter Leadership

### Chapter Officers

Chairperson:	<b>Gregg Robinson*</b>
Chair-elect:	<b>Naomi Brill *</b>
Secretary:	<b>open</b>
Treasurer:	<b>James Stertz *</b>

### Activity Leaders

Program Chair:	<b>Lee Rensberger</b>
Assistants:	<b>Anish Shaw</b> <b>Tim Lange</b> <b>Richard Cole</b>
Webmaster:	<b>Lee Taylor *</b>
Auditor:	<b>John Pietruszewski</b>

### The Tool Bits Team

Editor:	<b>Naomi Brill *</b>
Reporter:	<b>Lee Rensberger</b>
Advertising:	<b>Rob Manthey *</b>
Distribution:	<b>Naomi Brill *</b>

\* available through email as  
FirstintialLastname@smechapter11.org

**Productivity's 20th biennial Oktoberfest Tool Show is happening September 24-26th!**

Hours are 8:30am to 6:00pm each day. The show features machine tools, robots, tooling and accessories, measurement solutions, contract dimensional inspection services, live machine demos, valuable seminars, metalworking experts, prizes, food and music! Follow this link to their website to register and FFI:

<https://www.productivity.com/oktoberfest-tool-show/>

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## **May Tour Summary** *Submitted by Tim Lange* **Amazon Fulfillment Center, Shakopee Minnesota**

The Twin Cities ISA Section invited us to tour Amazon's Fulfillment Center with them. "MSP1" is 855,000 square feet on 4 floors; there are 75 such centers in the US and 150 worldwide. Twenty-two of the US centers provide tours where guests go on a "product journey". It's an amazing operation with 14 miles of conveyors in the building! There are 3 operation groups, Inbound, Outbound and Support.

The warehouse storage area is completely robotic but the warehouse shelf units are stocked and emptied by humans along the edges. Our tour guide explained that throughput is faster with a human-robot mix than with full automation. On Black Friday last year, Amazon processed over 930 items per second!

No personnel are in the warehouse area. Tall shelf units are stored as if on a checkerboard. The robots, which loosely resemble Roomba® vacuums, go beneath a shelf stack then lift and transport it as needed. The entire operation is enabled by scanners and software that track 20 million packages throughout the building. An orderly procession of racks moves to and from the fill and pick stations in the most efficient way determined by the software. The system is described as "inventory comes to you". Incorporation of the robots increased safety and the number of human workers. Conveyors transport bins of fulfilled orders from pick stations to carton stations and then to the shipping docks.

Amazon embraces sustainability initiatives. They work with manufacturers to create "Frustration Free Packaging" so that product passing through Amazon is packaged differently than what goes to retail outlets. Frustration Free Packaging facilitates shipment without repacking thus minimizing materials for economic and ecological savings.

Amazon also invests in their workforce, promoting from within and facilitating education. Outside of their shift, workers can attend college and technical courses on-site. We witnessed a group attending class, working toward a career in welding. We saw signs of employee recognition and support in numerous areas. If you were unable to attend this tour with us, go online at <https://www.aboutamazon.com/amazon-fulfillment-center-tours> to schedule your own tour today!

## **2019-2020 Meeting Schedule**

September	- Check out Productivity's Oktoberfest (see page 2)
October	- Many ideas, none confirmed yet
November	- Many ideas, none confirmed yet
December	- Officer Installation & Speaker at Joseph's in St. Paul
January	- Mother Nature's Winter Break
February	- Teamvantage, Forest Lake
March	- Air Automation Engineering, Fridley
April	-
May	-

*Leadership committee planning meetings are the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at 5:30 p.m. Contact Chair Gregg Robinson for location and agenda.*

*Proposals for future programming are always welcome. If you have a program suggestion, contact any member of the leadership team (contact information on page 1).*



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## Leadership

Our chapter has a number of volunteer leadership and team member positions currently available. We're always looking for hard working folks who like to have fun.

These opportunities offer members an opportunity to contribute as part of the chapter management team, learn new skills, meet a broader swath of our membership, and perhaps enhance their resume.

For any position you undertake:

- **Training will be provided**
- **A mentor will be offered**

Interested?

Want to explore ideas?

Contact an officer!

## Membership

Do you need to *change* your membership information?

It is your responsibility to change your personal information yourself on the society's website.

To do this, follow these steps:

1. [www.sme.org](http://www.sme.org)
2. **Members** tab
3. **Member Quick Links**
4. **Update Your Membership Information**
5. **Sign In**
6. **Make changes (if needed)**
7. **Sign Out**

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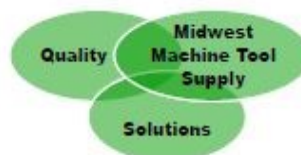
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## **Minnesota Chapter 11** *Passionate about Local Manufacturing*

*We're SME Minnesota Chapter 11, and we're passionate about local manufacturing!  
For 80+ years, we've shared our knowledge and resources to develop and strengthen the  
Minnesota manufacturing community.*

Vision: Share our manufacturing knowledge and resources

Mission/Purpose: To develop and strengthen the Minnesota manufacturing community

Strategies:

- ***Network to make manufacturing connections***
- ***Benchmark to compare leading edge processes and technologies***
- ***Advance professional development to sustain our manufacturing workforce***
- ***Promote education to ensure a future workforce***
- ***Advocate for the benefits of manufacturing and manufacturing careers***