

WOTM Membership Opportunities

By: Becca Peterson

As a valued member of WOTM, I wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued support and involvement in our community. Your membership is instrumental in fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for women specifically in the manufacturing industry as well as other industries.

Through your membership you have access to networking opportunities with industry experts and mentors to further your career. You gain access to exclusive workshops and seminars designed to enhance your skills and knowledge.

Last, but, not least, you can take advantage of leadership roles within our organization, where you can contribute your expertise and make a difference in shaping the future.

For membership questions, please contact our membership team:
Stephanie Grennan and Becca Peterson

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK KIKA YOUNG WITH FOREST CITY GEAR FOR BEING THIS YEAR'S PRESENTING SPONSOR



WOTM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

If you have any “catchy” name ideas for the WOTM newsletter, please email tina@ssi-co.com by Friday, March 22, 2024, 5pm.

The WOTM board will vote and narrow down submissions to the top three names and send out a survey for our members to vote on their favorite name.

The author of the winning name will be featured in April's newsletter and receive a gift certificate!

Put your thinking caps on and send your ideas!



Kika Young, President
Forest City Gear

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Series

Date: April 30th

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Topic: Cybersecurity

More info about the series coming soon

Golf Shack Event

Date: TBD

Time: TBD

Location: The Golf Shack

Annual Golf Outing

Date: August 6th

Time: TBD

Location: Swanhills Golf

Please keep an eye out for more information

2024 Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner Event

By: Jessica Greenberg

WOTM celebrated the leap year with our Annual Scholarship Fundraising Dinner on February 29, 2024 at the Embassy Suites. The event featured a panel discussion where our attendees had the opportunity to hear from four professionals within the community about topics such as workforce, supply chain, and AI.

Our panelists included:

- ◆ Lauren Spencer – Ringland-Johnson Construction
- ◆ Peter Held – Rock Valley College
- ◆ Bob Demo – Precise Automation, Inc. & Secondary Solutions, Inc.
- ◆ Michael Arnold – ITNS Consulting, LLC.

We cannot thank our panelists enough for joining our event and providing their insight. The Embassy Suites – Rockford was the perfect venue for a great evening of fundraising!



Treasurer Report

By: Jennifer Sisson

Thanks to our generous sponsors and attendees, the annual Scholarship Dinner resulted in a net profit of \$8,300. These funds directly support the funding of our annual WOTM scholarships.

In addition, funds support local community clubs/organizations and events related to the manufacturing, engineering, and technology industries throughout the year.

WOTM recently committed to be a “Gold” sponsor for the Hononegah High School Stateline Robotics Team.

WOTM wishes you good luck in your competition season!

Thank You Sponsors!

By: Jessica Greenberg

Our dinner wouldn't have been possible without the support of our sponsors!

A huge thank you to:

- Technology & Manufacturing Association
- Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.
- Holo-Krome Fastenal
- FNBO
- Woodward
- M3 Insurance
- Fabricators & Manufacturing Association International



And a special thank you to our presenting sponsor, **Forest City Gear**

As an introduction to our evening, we were fortunate to hear from the President of Forest City Gear, Kika Young, who is a huge advocate of women in manufacturing. Forest City Gear has been owned and operated by women for over 60 years and is on its third generation of family ownership!

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."

- Mother Teresa



WOTM would like to thank Miss Miranda Klentz, a senior at Harlem High School, for making the beautiful centerpieces for this event. Her design was a huge hit and we appreciated her very much!

This event was an ideal way to showcase the relationship between WOTM members and sponsors with local students entering into the workforce.

President's Corner



Hello, I am the new WOTM President, Patti Lawrence. Here's just a little information about me.

I'm married to my husband of 28 years, Chris, who works at Collins Aerospace, and I have four wonderful children: Stephanie (Health Sciences), Vanessa (Software Engineer), Cassandra (Human & Public Services), and Mackenzie (Manufacturing). Each one works in a different pathway endorsement area.

I graduated with my Master's in Social Work Administration. I had the opportunity to work as a Child Welfare Specialist for 18 years. In addition to working with WOTM,

I also serve on the following advisory boards: Rock Valley College CTE, Pulmonary, and Respiratory; and the Winnebago County Farm Bureau.

Since then, my career has brought me into the realm of education, where I have my teachers certification in Human and Public Services. I am the Career and Technical Education Coordinator for Harlem School District. This venture has allowed me to be immersed in working with students to realize their potential and passion that can lead to a career in endorsement areas, including Manufacturing.

WOTM Scholarships

WOTM is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) networking organization for professionals who are employed in, or serve, manufacturing in the Greater Rockford Area. We welcome men, women and young professionals, and offer a unique approach to networking and professional development with a strong focus on empowering women in manufacturing and strengthening our community through scholarships.

The scholarships provide educational resources to promote the study and development in various areas of manufacturing and trades technology.

Scholarships are awarded through the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. Through interactive dinner meetings, manufacturing plant tours, educational events and fundraising, we are able to educate our members and serve our community.

WOTM has given over \$50,000 in scholarships. We are excited to offer multiple scholarships again this year through CFNIL.

- ◆ (4) \$1,000 WOTM Scholarship
- ◆ (1) \$2,000 WOTM Ruthann Gaston Scholarship

We are also proud to be a “Gold” sponsor for the Hononegah High School Stateline Robotics Team this year

CONTACT WOMEN OF TODAY'S MANUFACTURING

Women of Today's Manufacturing

PO Box 7688
Rockford IL 61125

Phone: 815-687-2111

Email: wotmrkfd@gmail.com

Website: www.wotmrockford.com

 @WOTMRockford

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Women of Today's Manufacturing Mission Statement

Women of Today's Manufacturing is an organization that supports the creation and advancement of career pathways for women in local manufacturing and business professionals.