



DAVID C. OLSON TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT MCM AUTUMN MEETING



David Olson is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, a position he has held since August 27, 1991. The Minnesota Chamber represents over 2,400 Minnesota companies, 130 local chambers and 65 business trade associations at the Minnesota Legislature on a variety of issues that impact Minnesota's economy.

Olson served six years on Minnesota State Colleges & Universities Board of Trustees and during this time served as chair from 2007 – 2010. In 2010, he was selected to serve as chair of the Chancellor Search Committee for this institution. He is a member of the Metropolitan Economic Development Association Board of Directors. He is also co-chair of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council and serves on a number of business and community boards.

Five years prior to joining the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Olson was president of the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce, Minnesota's largest local chamber. Prior to that, he was executive director of the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce and held staff positions in economic development, transportation and energy at the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce.

Olson earned a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Mankato State University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban/Political Science from St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Fall Business Meeting on November 29th, 2010

Agenda

1. Call to order
 2. Treasurers Report
 3. Election of Board - Slate of Directors is on Page 6
 4. Election of Officers
 - Mike Suchy - President
 - Mark Krings - Vice President
 - Andy Fulton - Treasurer
 - Therese Benkowski - Secretary
 5. Adjourn
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MCM Autumn 2010 Meeting

November 29th, 2010

University Club
420 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102

Schedule of Events

9:00 a.m. MCM Board of Directors Meeting*
11:30 a.m. Registration
12:00 p.m. Luncheon
12:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker David C. Olson
1:15 p.m. Fall Business Meeting (see agenda on page 1)

David C. Olson is president of the Minnesota Chamber, the state's largest business advocacy organization with 2,400 members of all types and sizes across Minnesota.

Cost: \$50 members and non-members.*
Call Kristine at IRB Incorporated 651-256-4696
Email registrations to kristine@irbinc.biz

*Non-members are welcome at the spring and fall meetings. Members are always welcome at meetings of the board of directors.

Stormwater Permit Update By Therese Benkowski

All metal casting facilities should have submitted an Industrial Stormwater Application to the MPCA by early June 2010. If you were lucky and inventive enough to have been able to apply for a No-Exposure Exclusion, most of your worries as it relates to stormwater compliance are minimal. The biggest stormwater compliance concern for you at this point should be to keep the “no exposure” status of any materials intact. Congratulations to you!

However, if you are like many foundries, then you have established that no exposure does not apply to your facility for one reason or another. In that case, you should have applied for the Industrial Stormwater Permit and most likely have already received an Industrial Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit MNR050000 from the MPCA. Compliance with this new stormwater permit entails a more hands-on approach from the permit holder in comparison with previous stormwater permits. It is important to note that detailed specific requirements can be found on the MPCA's website at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-i.html>. This permit expires in 2015.

Some changes to this permit include monthly site inspections throughout the year (not just during non-frozen months) and stormwater monitoring. Stormwater monitoring must also include a winter thaw event. A very detailed and site specific



Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is another requirement of this permit. This may require many facilities to update their SWPPPs in order to comply. During the first year of the permit is the timeframe in which a facility should be trying to identify and minimize stormwater outfall points. This may entail adding more structural or non-structural best management practices (BMPs). This is an important first step so that once stormwater monitoring is required in the second year, your personnel has the most efficient and effective means of collecting the representative samples.

Some important compliance due dates are as follows: December 31, 2010—effluent monitoring must be completed for year one if your facility is required to conduct this monitoring (note: most of the foundries are in Sector F and not required to conduct this step); January through March 2011—Stormwater Annual Reporting is due; April 2011—Annual payment of the stormwater fee of \$400 is due; April 2011—Benchmark monitoring begins. The MPCA is working with the University of Minnesota to offer training workshops for “How to Take a Stormwater Sample”. These workshops are expected to be offered in November 2010 (details of the training can be found on the University of Minnesota's website at <http://www.erosion.umn.edu/>).

Contact Therese at therese@lvweather.us

MCM Safety Plan Rollout 2011

By Mike Suchy, GM, Prospect Foundry

“Every employee should leave the workplace as healthy as they were when they arrived”

In 2011, MCM will roll-out a new Safety Committee Steering Team designed to protect every worker and identify hazards found in the foundry. The safety committee is set up to perform OSHA style inspections that will help determine where your immediate and long term needs may arise. The foundries are on their own to make corrections. In the past the committee has consisted of safety professionals reporting to board members of the MCM. Now, we are asking for volunteers to participate from any of our member foundries. It can be a valuable experience for them to tour other foundries, and get practical safety ideas from other foundry personnel.

A typical tour results in a four hour walk around of the facility with anywhere from 4-8 members who observe all foundry areas, including training, records, and OSHA logs. Then an hour report out to top management as to what was noticed, good and bad, of the member foundry. An official, confidential report is given to the foundry for their use, the MCM does hold onto any information.

This service is available free of charge to all of our members on a first come first serve basis. Our goal is to audit five member foundries per year.

Safety Steering Committee Function:

- ◆ Shared knowledge between the member foundries
- ◆ Evaluating best practice techniques
- ◆ Evaluating Processes
- ◆ Safer methods
- ◆ Validate procedures
- ◆ Identify unsafe working environments

Safety Committee

Mike Medina, CCP Hitchcock has been assigned as the team leader. We are asking for volunteers from all of members to be nominated as contributors. A select group will be chosen to represent the MCM on these official visits. Volunteers will be asked to attend semi-monthly meetings or audits.

Who is responsible for safety? *You are!*
Safety is everyone's' job, we all play a role.

If you are interested in a safety inspection, or have an employee available for the team, please contact Michael Suchy, 612-331-9282 X233, or msuchy@prospectdry.com.



MCM Membership Matters

By Jed Falgren, P.E.

A look at MCM Mission - to promote the importance of metal casting in Minnesota and to be a strong advocate for our industry through effective lobbying on a local, state, and federal level – is certainly a great first step recognizing the benefits to belonging to MCM.

But what does this really mean and how does it translate to definable benefits to member organizations? In recent conversations on this topic many of the following points were noted as reasons why membership is important to our companies.

- MCM provides a forum to address legislative and regulatory concerns facing metalcasters in Minnesota
- MCM has served as a credible third party when addressing regulatory conflict between member companies and regulators
- It facilitates connections between members companies that are invaluable when a member is faced with a challenging issue.
- The safety committee continues to provide a place for industry professionals to share best practices and complete facility assessments that drive improvement at our members plants.
- The Spring and Fall Meetings provide an opportunity for our industry to gather, share information on the state of our industry and hear from a variety of people involved with shaping the business climate in Minnesota

Cooperative efforts with groups like the Chamber of Commerce and the Minnesota Manufacturing Coalition extend our efforts to others in the business community.

But what does your membership do for MCM?

In a single word: Clout. Whether he is talking to a local, statewide or national officials, John Derus notes that one of first questions asked is “Who is MCM?”. What is not normally asked but always implied is “Why should I care?”. While as individual companies we understand that the metalcasting industry provides numerous well paying jobs in the state and is significantly impacted by regulatory control, it is the collection of all of us into a single “MCM Voice” that gives resonance to our messages. Thank you for being a part of our collective voice.

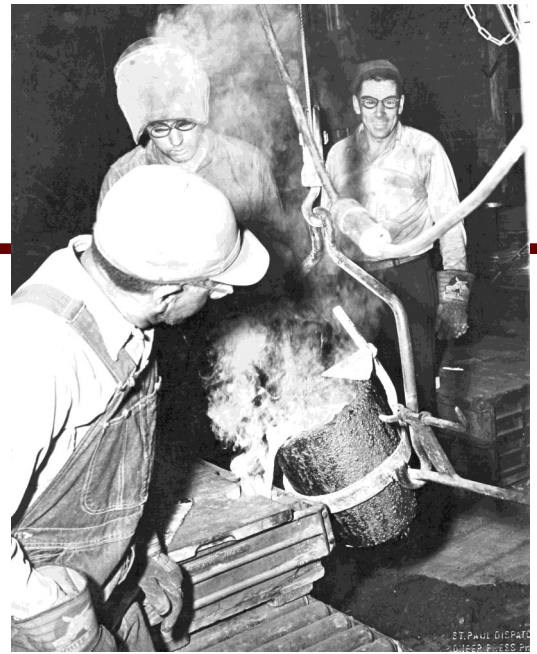
Beneficial Reuse of Foundry Sands

By Jed Falgren, P.E.

Last spring Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) approved its second Case Specific Beneficial Use Determination (CSBUD) for beneficial reuse of foundry sands. This allowed for the reuse of spent foundry sands in the production of Manufactured Topsoil. Unfortunately MCM’s efforts to complete a demonstration project this summer fell short. This was primarily due to some confusion on testing requirements and some changes at the MPCA. It appears that those issues are behind us and a recent change within the MPCA structure should help considerably in future efforts.

In late 2009 the EPA issued a draft risk assessment that indicates strong support for beneficial reuse. While its final approval has been delayed, the data contained has given many regulators confidence in a stronger approach to beneficial reuse in Minnesota. This winter MPCA and MCM will be meeting to develop implementation guidelines for beneficial reuse projects under the two approved CSBUDs as well a set the ground work for additional approved uses.

Contact Jed at jfalgren@thecastingedge.com



Thunder on the Right

By John Derus, Executive Director Metalcasters of Minnesota

The View from the Metal Casters Window

This November 2010 election was nothing short of a Republican Revolution both nationally and locally. The GOP gained control of the House and Senate at the state level and they took over the House of Representatives on the federal level. The Democrats held on to a slim one-vote majority in the U.S. Senate.

As of today, November 4, 2010, Mark Dayton has about an 8700 vote edge over Tom Emmer. If Dayton is able to hold on to his lead and he is made Governor of Minnesota, he will govern with the house and senate controlled by Republicans. President Obama, a Democrat will have a congress, which has a republican controlled House of Representatives and a Senate controlled by the Democrats with a razor thin majority of 51 Democrats and 2 Independents. This in effect is a Republican Revolution. The voters of Minnesota and the United States of America have sent a strong message to the Democratic Party that they are unhappy with their policies.

I think most people would like to see the executive and legislative branches work in concert to get us out of the recession and through our economic hard times. This may be difficult to say the least. This division of governmental branches could easily result in state and federal grid-lock on a grand scale.

One thing is for certain – there will be changes resulting from the Republican Revolution.



Look for the following:

- ◆ The increased taxing of wealthier Americans at both the state and federal levels is history.
- ◆ Cap and Trade will not happen nor will Card Check.
- ◆ The Obama Health Care provisions will be re-visited by Republican majorities in congress.
- ◆ The proposals for new nuclear power plants will be revitalized.

We are in for some interesting political times.

One might assume that the GOP philosophy at both the state and federal levels would mean that congress and state legislatures would be looking for more budget cutting and more market driven answers to our budget woes with an executive ready to wield its veto power.

We are in for interesting political times, which we will be watching through our metal casters window on the world.

Stay tuned.

Contact John at jederus@comcast.com





Our Mission

MCM's mission is to promote the importance of metal casting in Minnesota and to be a strong advocate for our industry through effective lobbying on a local, state, and federal level.

MCM Board of Directors

Neil Ahlstrom	Therese Benkowski
Ken Damewood	Jed Falgren
Andy Fulton	Matt Grilz
Tim Hartigan	Mark Krings
Tom Pulkrabek	Mike Suchy



Essentially Blessed

By Tim Hartigan MCM President 2009-2010

We are blessed. We, you and I, work in the most fascinating of businesses. Who among us cannot say that they love it completely? I hope that you are like me and cannot wait to get out of bed in the morning, go back to the foundry and start at it again.

We are essential. We make things. They are useful things. Our society and civilization itself would cease to function without castings. The way we make these things is primal and poetic. It is scientific, complex, artistic and simple. Out of the elements we found essential objects. (Found, a verb, derives from the Latin *fundere* meaning to pour, melt or cast.)

MCM is essential. Take a look at the mission statement of MCM at the top of this page. Our job, that of this organization and each of its members, is to make sure that our social institutions and particularly people in government understand the crucial role of this industry. This is about more than our own self interest. That's important, too. I like to eat. But, we serve ourselves best by making sure that all of the stakeholders in this industry realize that without us everything stops. You cannot name a person in America that is not dependent from before birth on castings in direct and indirect ways. The hermit on the mountain, you say? I bet he has a cast iron skillet. He walks the road to town to buy flour. The road was made by machines built in Peoria. The wheat for the flour was grown on farms and ground in mills that have a casting dependency legacy that is broad and deep. Castings cultivate the crops, move the trucks, lift the sewage, generate the electricity, transport the oil, defend freedom, and support the playgrounds. We make things that pump, transport, hold, and dump. We even make things that make things.

You are essential. I urge you to become involved. What is that something which impassions you? Are you moved by excessive regulation? I am. Today in my mail I had an invoice for \$800 for hazardous substances storage. The substance? The copper contained in bronze! No, really. I had another invoice for \$1400 to restate the plan document for a pension plan that has been closed for 28 years. A third envelope from the Census Bureau says I'm invited to participate in a survey and my participation is required by Federal Law. That was today's mail. Who knows what tomorrow will bring? That's why I am involved. I am one small voice. Nobody hears me. But, we the members of this essential industry can, if we stick together, make a significant sound. We can be heard. If we are smart, we can make ourselves heard by people that can change the things that nibble away at our days, keeping us from our essential function.

I am impassioned by those ridiculous obstacles erected by ignorant people who sit in cubicles all day thinking up ways to hang weights on the arms of us, the essential ones. But I'm more passionate about founding essential objects. I am a very blessed man to do this essential thing that I love.