



RUBBER ROLLER GROUP

ROLL CALL NEWSLETTER

Volume 36

OCTOBER 2024

Our Chairman Says....

GET READY FOR SPRING!

As I sit at my desk reveling in another Green Bay Packers' victory and watching the fall colors creep into the trees of Wisconsin, it seems like May is a lifetime away. We all know, however, that Spring is just around the corner and we will be in Fort Lauderdale for our annual meeting before we know it.

The meeting dates are set for May 4 through May 6, 2025 and we have reserved a large block of rooms for our membership at the B Ocean Resort in Fort Lauderdale. There is a direct link from our Rubber Roller Group website to reserve the rooms at our negotiated discounted rate while supplies last.

Our Vice President, Jeff Hemingway, and President, Tyler Sinclair have been hard at work assembling a relevant and exciting group of speakers for the event. We are happy to see the meeting firm up and your Board will again deliver a slate of speakers that will help you guide your business into the future. Speakers range from how to hire the right people to the latest technological advances to give your company an advantage over the competition.

The most important meeting plan, however, is up to you. We need suppliers and manufacturers alike to make their reservations now. The meetings are most successful when we have the bodies there to foster the relationships that make our association so strong. Please consider bringing two or more people from your company, especially the young blood that will propel our organization in the years to come. I am sure they will welcome the opportunity to learn the latest trends in our industry as well as revel in the warm Florida sun.

I am making my reservation today and you should too. Make sure you have your rooms secured before the next Packer victory and before Octoberfest is a distant memory.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Fort Lauderdale!

Matt Umentum

Chairman

International Roller Manufacturers Association

Note from our President—Tyler Sinclair

IRMA 2025 Annual Meeting: Get Ready for Fort Lauderdale!

Dear Members of the International Roll Manufacturers Association (IRMA),

As we wrap up 2024, it's time to start planning for the 2025 IRMA Annual Technical Meeting, which will take place from May 4th–6th at the B Ocean Resort in Fort Lauderdale Beach, Florida. With Miami hosting the 75th anniversary of the FIA Formula One World Championship nearby, we anticipate that hotel rooms will fill up fast, so please **book your accommodations early** to secure your spot.

Shaping the 2025 Agenda with Your Feedback

At last year's meeting, we collected valuable input through member surveys, and we are doing our best to align this year's speaker lineup with your requests. Key topics identified by members include:

1. **Workforce Challenges** – We've heard your concerns about losing experienced employees and attracting younger talent. We are actively seeking a speaker on employee retention and hiring trends.
2. **State of the Economy** – In response to your feedback on supply costs and market competition, we're striving to secure an economist to provide insights into the state of the economy and its impact on domestic manufacturing.
3. **Technology and Innovation** – We're looking into a speaker on AI and how it relates to our industry, exploring new technologies and their practical application in roll manufacturing.

Raw Material Supply Side Discussion – This year, we're introducing a group discussion featuring raw material vendors, where they will share industry insights and trends from the supply side, giving us all a clearer picture of what's ahead.

Your feedback continues to be a driving force behind the event's agenda. Our goal is to make this year's meeting relevant, impactful, and responsive to the issues that matter most to you.

Plan Ahead

Given the high demand for accommodations due to events in the area, we encourage you to **reserve your room as soon as possible**. The B Ocean Resort offers a great setting for our discussions and networking opportunities, but space is limited.

We look forward to seeing you in Fort Lauderdale, where we will continue to advance our shared mission of fostering technical growth and collaboration in the roll manufacturing industry.

Best regards,

Tyler Sinclair

President, IRMA

Our Vice President — Jeff Hemingway

Hello to all *International Roller Manufacturer Association Members*-

As summer comes to end, it is hard to believe it has been five months since our group last met in San Antonio. Our 2024 meeting did not disappoint! With the vibrant nightlife of the downtown River Walk and the historic Alamo, San Antonio was truly a great city to host our venue. I would like to thank Robbi Miller for all her hard work behind the scenes to ensure our members enjoyed excellent accommodations during our meeting. Also, many thanks to Tyler Sinclair for all his efforts in putting together a great meeting with a dynamic lineup of speakers. I can still remember sitting in our 2022 meeting in New Orleans when much to my surprise our previous President (Vail Harding) announced I would be joining the Board. Fast forward two years later, he announced I would be taking on the role of Vice President. At the time I was very unsure of what this position required of me but I have received great support from other members of our Board. I can only hope to live up to the high expectations of my predecessors as I begin this journey!

These are exciting times for our group as we finalize the rebranding process and transition from the Rubber Roller Group to the International Roller Manufacturing Association (IRMA). As the dust settles in the aftermath of COVID, this new brand serves as a testament of the resilience and vision of our Board and membership. By adopting “International” into our new name it is our hope to attract suppliers and roller manufacturers from around the world.

During our 2024 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, the Board decided that Fort Lauderdale would host the 2025 meeting. With its vast ocean views, superyachts, and fine dining, it is no wonder Fort Lauderdale was given the designation of the “Venice of America”. Our accommodations for this meeting will be held at the stunning *B Ocean Resort* located just minutes from the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and the downtown area. I’ve learned that this resort was frequented by American icons such as Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio. I wonder if JFK ever made a visit...

As I’m writing this article, I am just finishing up our Fall IRMA Board Meeting. Our Directors have come together to choose a lineup of speakers that will provide value and insight to all our members. Through our membership surveys we have identified key topics involving the future state of the economy, workforce challenges, supply chain outlook, and new technology in the roller industry. We will have more detail regarding our speakers and agenda in our Spring Newsletter.

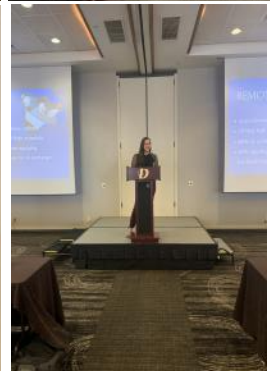
I look forward to seeing all of you in Fort Lauderdale in May of 2025!

Please don’t forget to register for this meeting and renew your memberships while doing so. If you need assistance with registration or membership, please contact Robbi Miller at contact@rubberrollergroup.com

Best Wishes,

Jeff Hemingway

VP-IRMA



The Times, They're a Changing?

In the past two decades, we have witnessed a contraction within the industry, particularly with the decline of the graphic roller sector. With more medias being consumed online or through a screen, the medium of printed text is rapidly decreasing. Without something to replace it, could we see a contraction within the current Rubber Roller Market?

Possibly, one sector that is emerging, is the renewable energy sector. You might be curious about how a rubber roller could integrate into this market. So, let's take a closer look...

Although these components may look round and rubbery, they are not rubber rollers, but in fact high voltage electrical connectors, used to connect wind and solar farms to the electrical grid system.

These are very complex components, made up of several layers of different compounds, some conductive, some insulators. Each layer has a special profile which needs to be ground, before another layer is added and the process repeated. You can imagine the work that goes into producing one connector. Typically, one connector will have 5 different layers of rubber compound. Each layer as to be built up, cured in the autoclave, then profiled.

So, who are the main players in this market, and how do we gain access to them? The latter is a difficult question, at present lot of this is clouded in secrecy, but the main players in the market to my knowledge are Prysmain, LS Cable Systems, NKT, Hellenic cables, Hitachi Energy and many more. As we've seen, the potential of this new market is vast and rapidly increasing so it's all to play for. Maybe some of your sales teams can start knocking on doors?



The Rubber Roller Group's "Technical Handbook for Elastomeric Roll Covering" was assembled by the efforts of over 35 key individuals with years of knowledge and hands on experience.

With over 250 pages, this handbook will provide great benefits to roll manufacturers and users for training and reference for years to come. It is full of charts, graphs, illustrations and photos. There are 29 chapters written by roll manufacturers and suppliers to this specialized industry.

Go to the website to get your invoice to order yours now.

With Great Sadness We Share These Obituaries

John A. Costello—Life Member

September 4, 1939—March 27, 2024
Boynton Beach, Florida



John Alan Costello, forever known as Jack, died peacefully in his Florida home on March 27, 2024 following a lengthy illness.

Receiving his degree one year before his oldest child began college was a proud moment of Jack's. He would share the story of dedication with anyone who thought they were too old to go to college or too old to return. He was a proud alumni of Boston University with a degree in Business Administration.

Chicago based Ideal Roller (now Rotodyne Industries) saw promise in Jack and convinced him to move his family to Illinois and work for them. This new Position had Jack advising on constructing the proper printing rollers for large and small presses all over North, South and Central America, Asia and Europe. Jack turned many professional colleagues into lifelong friends. He eagerly sampled the local cuisine, experienced the culture and chatted with the locals. He said he heard the same mantra all over the world. "everyone has the same goal, 'keep their family safe and pay the light bill.'" His passports boast stamps from more than 50 countries. Occasionally, he spoke about the pleasure of sipping a martini at 36,000 feet high in Business Class.

Jack retired at 60 after his first cancer diagnosis.

Donations may be made in his name to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Thaddeus (Ted) Muzyczko

January 14, 1936 — July 3, 2024
Chicago, Illinois



Ted attended the University of Illinois Chicago where he began his competitive gymnastics career. He lettered in both track and gymnastics. He transferred to Michigan State majoring in Chemistry and continued his gymnastics career. In 1958 Ted led MSU to the NCAA Team Gold and placed first on Parallel Bars. He continued to compete in many International Competitions while serving in the United States Air Force Reserves.

Ted continued his education at Roosevelt University where he received a Masters Degree and went on to become a lecturer and Assistant Professor in polymer physics and chemistry teaching at Roosevelt and the College of DuPage.

He spent 55 years working in the chemical engineering field as an innovator developing over 60 US and international patents and authoring numerous publications. The last trade show he spoke at he was introduced as the Godfather of the rubber industry. He retired from Finzer Roller.

Donations can be made to the Ted Muzyczko Athletic and Science Scholarship Fund at Michigan State University

John Scott Baldwin – Life Member

September 16, 1945 - June 22, 2024
Las Vegas, Nevada



John was the founder of Atlantic Roller Co., in Baltimore, Maryland. John spent over 40 years in the roller business, starting out in sales, then starting Atlantic Roller. Under John's leadership, Atlantic Roller became a successful and respected roller company in the Mid-Atlantic region. John retired in 2000, after selling Atlantic Roller Co. to Finzer Roller.

For retirement, John relocated to Las Vegas, enjoying golf, and the entertainment venues in Vegas. Anytime the roller group was in Vegas, John made it a point to stop by and visit with old friends.

John was a Lifetime member of the RRG, and one of the original members. In the late 90's, he was our official photographer for the meeting, mainly because he always had the latest and greatest electronic gadgets coming available in our world of "new technology".

He loved coming to the meetings, and having conversations with his peers, sometimes into the early morning hours. The RRG provided camaraderie and friendships that continued through the remainder of John's life.

John enjoyed meeting new people and always offered his help. He liked sharing with the new kids on the block so they might avoid making the mistakes he did when starting out.

John was a good friend to many, RIP our friend.

If anyone wants to add a memory: Neptune Society Obituary John Scott Baldwin



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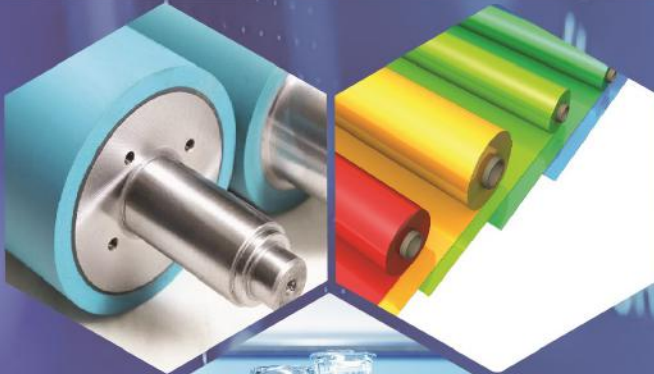
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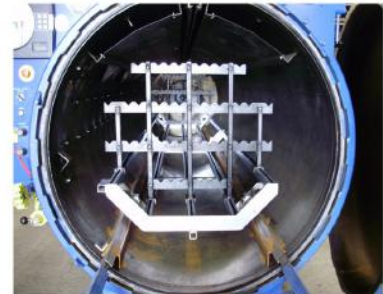
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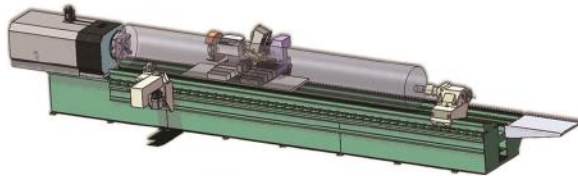


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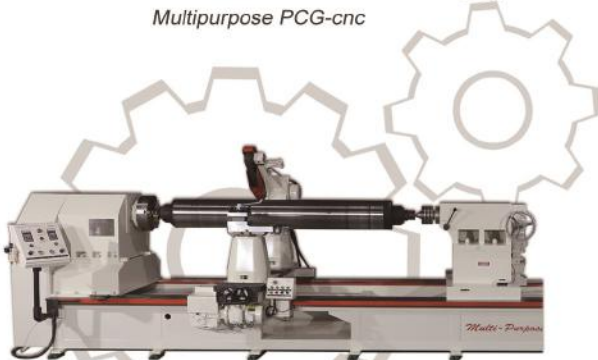
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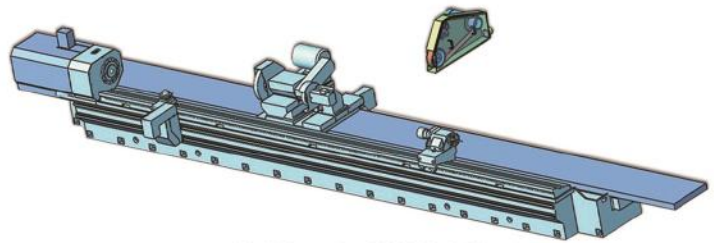
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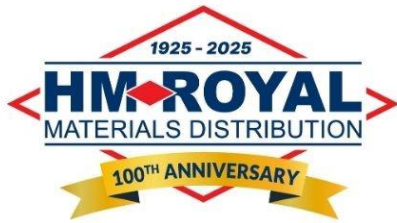


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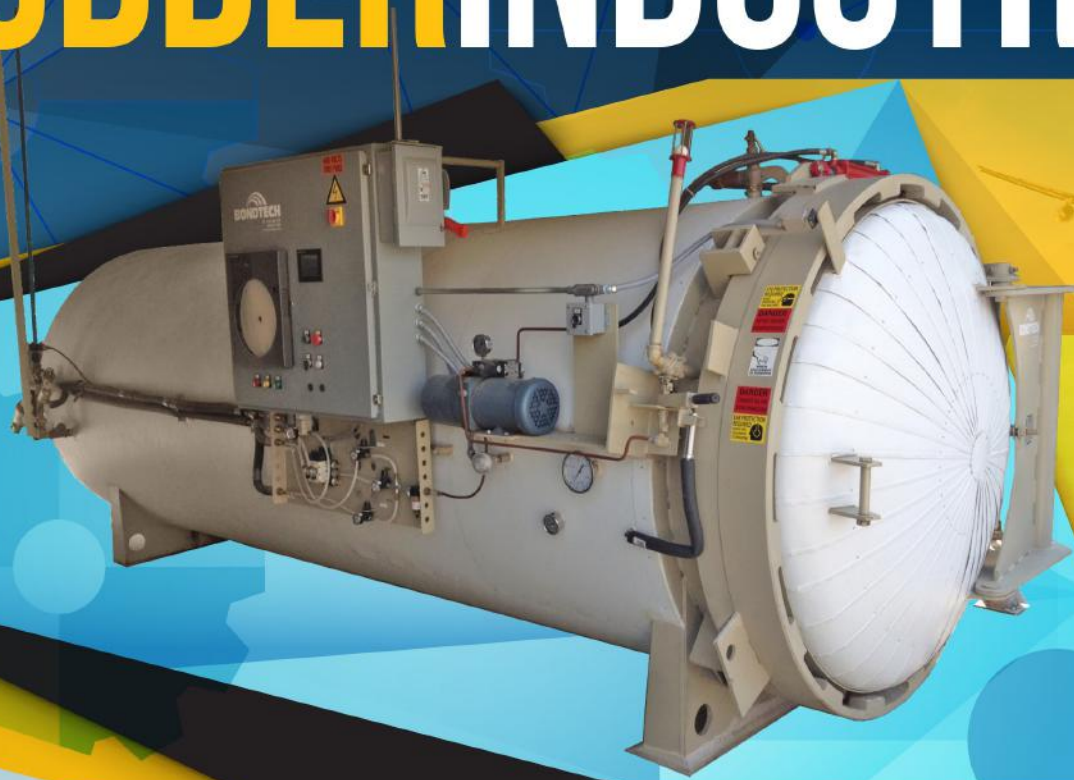


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contact@rubberrollergroup.com

Executive Secretary

Phone#: 417-337-0210

Host Hotel B Ocean Resort—Fort Lauderdale, FL



Mark your calendar now for the 2025 annual meeting to be in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on May 4, 5 and 6. If Formula One Racing is on your bucket list, you might want to come early so that you can check that off your list!

RESERVATION LINK & CUT OFF DATE:

Make their reservations online before **Wednesday, April 2, 2025.**

Link: [Rubber Roller Group](#)

They expect to sell out so don't you miss out!

We will start with the Reception on Sunday, May 4th, at 5:00—7:00 pm. The Board is working on the meeting content and timeline and that information will be shared via email as it is available.

Please invite others to join and to come to the meeting. Send any suggested members contact information to contact@rubberrollergroup.com.

Hope the remainder of your year is amazing and we look forward to next year as we embrace the transmission to IRMA!

