



THE QUOTE

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November

2004

The mission of NAPM Central Michigan, Inc. is to serve the needs of its members and the profession by providing quality learning opportunities through educational forums, career broadening and mentoring experiences. Additionally, it is our mission to promote increased recognition of NAPM and the growth opportunities offered by the organization.

NEWS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I am sure all of you are as happy as I that the elections have come and gone. We may not be happy with the results, but we no longer have to endure the endless commercials and phone calls for various candidates. The day after the election the stock market jumped up 151 points, so I guess others were also glad to see it is finally over and that we may now get back to business.

The latest edition of Just in ETime Newsletter -- Oct Non-Mfg Report On Business® came out on Wednesday November 3rd. Be sure to check it out at <http://www.ism.ws/AboutISM/JustinETime/index.cfm> to get the current and past issues. Purchasing and supply executives report that business activity continued to increase in October in the non-manufacturing sector, with the fastest rate of increase since July. The Business Activity Index for October is 59.8 percent, up 3.1 percentage points from September's 56.7 percent. We hope your company is getting your share of the increase.

ISM has completed scheduling its Annual Conferences through the year 2008. Future Conference dates are:

- **2005:** May 8-11, San Antonio, TX
- **2006:** May 7-10, Minneapolis, MN
- **2007:** May 6-9, Las Vegas, NV
- **2008:** May 4-7, St. Louis, MO

Plan to attend one of these conferences. They are packed full of information that will help you do your job better.

Your Board wants to serve the members of NAPM Central Michigan so please tell us what you are expecting to get out of membership. Email one of the officers this week with ideas and any complaints. We cannot change anything unless we know what to change. We are working on the possibilities of having some joint meetings with other purchasing organization to share programs and ideas. We will also be sending out a survey to the membership in the future so we may learn to serve you better.

We had a wonderful tour of the TAC plant in Jackson in November. We were treated like honored guests and learned how the Japanese do business. This is a great facility and is one of the largest employers in Jackson County. We thank David Brown, C.P.M. for taking the time to show us around. Many thanks to Dave Taylor, C.P.M. for setting up the evening. We hope to see you at the next event. We have a great deal to offer each other.

OCTOBER SATELLITE SEMINAR

Our October Satellite Seminar was a great success. MSU had a good turnout, as usual, and we were also able to offer a second location in Ann Arbor, with 45 attendees! We are working on being able to offer this option again in February.

FEBRUARY SATELLITE SEMINAR OFFERS TIPS ON SOURCING

As supply managers adapt to the impact of globalization and continual technological advances, sourcing is becoming more multifaceted and critical. ISM's February 10, 2005, Satellite Seminar, "[Finding and keeping the Best Sources,](#)" explores [sourcing strategies, risk management](#), and how to use more sophisticated technology to streamline the sourcing process. The program will look at essential factors to consider in determining which suppliers will be most effective in meeting your organization's needs, and the discussion will include offshore sourcing, outsourcing, performance measurements, resources, and other management considerations to find the right sources and ensure long-term and successful supplier relationships.

NOV. DINNER & MEETING CANCELLED

The November Dinner & Meeting Planned for Tues. Nov. 16th in Lansing **has been Cancelled** due to scheduling problems with the speaker, Rod Sherkin from Toronto. This month was planned as "Bring Your Boss Month" and our topic was on elevating the importance and awareness of supply chain management & purchasing within our organizations. We are planning on rescheduling this program for our February Meeting.

One of our own members with a background similar to Mr. Sherkin, will present a similar program with the same theme: Bring Your Boss Night—Realizing the potential & impact supply chain management can have on the company or organization. Full details will be in our December issue of *The Quote*.

OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Officer contact information available at <http://www.msu.edu/~napmcm/> or email napmcm@msu.edu

TUESDAY OCTOBER 19TH PLANT TOUR & DINNER MEETING SUMMARY:

Tuesday 10/19/04 we were treated to a plant tour of TAC Mfg. Inc. in Jackson, Mi. David Brown, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager for TAC, hosted the tour of their facility.

Dave explained how Tac had grown from 100 employees when it opened in 1991 to over 400 current employees, with additional expansion announced and under way over the next two years. TAC is a subsidiary of Toyota and manufactures automotive steering wheels, air bags and shift levers for the luxury car segment.

The tour lasted an hour and a half & could have been much longer. Tac Mfg. exemplifies a clean, modern, neat and efficient state-of-the-art, production facility. Dave Brown explained the various methods of inventory and ordering procedures used such as JIT2, Kanban and others. He showed us the means of tagging & marking inventory throughout the shop, so that everything was in its place with safeguards designed into the part tags such as the addition of picture icons, to assure that parts are stored and retrieved from the proper locations.

One example of their quality discipline was that any part dropped on the floor during the day is NOT picked up by the associate. It is collected during and after the shift, quarantined and dispositioned by a material review committee for damage, blemish or contamination. If any of these conditions exist, the part is tagged, scrapped and removed from inventory. If the component can be cleaned or used as is, it is placed back into active inventory by the next morning. During our tour a spring was found on the wall by the door we entered into the shop. We showed it to Dave and the part was added to quarantined parts for disposition by morning.

We completed the tour by following a Lexus steering wheel through its production cycle from start to finish. The frame is die-cast in a new state of the art die-casting operation, which is now part of the facility buildings. Maple & Walnut wood planks are cut into half-moon shaped blanks for steering wheel hand grips. The wood cutting, routing, sanding & finishing operations used to be done in Japan. They have since been reverse-outsourced. Today, a subcontract supplier operates the woodworking operations inside the plant in a specially ventilated and atmospheric controlled room. Another subcontract supplier, completes the wood grip finishing, gluing, staining and polyurethane painting operations. Another contractor handles the plastic injection molding and application of hand stitched leather side covers to complete the steering wheel assembly. Very intriguing from start to finish.

Upon completion of the tour, we headed to Bullingers Restaurant for a tasty meal and a presentation after dinner by Dave Taylor, C.P.M., on: ***Inventory Management Strategies***. Dave tied together a variety of inventory strategies that can be combined in much the same way that Tac combined various strategies to optimize inventory effectiveness. A copy of the presentation outline is available in word.doc format for those who could not attend by contacting: dtaylor@parmatube.com

UPCOMING DATES & TOPICS

December: No meeting is scheduled!

January Dinner Meeting: Weds. January 19th, Lansing 6:30pm – location to be determined. Topic: Applying Best Practices in Your Supply Chain

February Dinner Meeting: Tuesday 2/16/04: Bring Your Boss-- Supply Chain Management Awareness Night

March Dinner Meeting: Tour of a Lansing area Mfg. plant with a focus on integrated supply chains.

April Dinner Meeting: Tuesday April 19, 2005
Measuring Your Purchasing & Supply Chain Performance
- Speaker: Dr. Steven Melnyk from MSU.

May: Purchasing & the Law details to be announced. Plans include a ½ day seminar with a separate dinner meeting segment for those unable to attend the half day session.

SATELLITE SEMINAR REMINDER

Thursday, February 10, 2005
Finding and Keeping the Best Sources

Thursday, April 14, 2005
Supply Chain Research Trends and Market Intelligence

Thursday, June 9, 2005
Discovering Supply Management's Social Conscience

Michigan Purchasing Conference 2005

The next Michigan Purchasing Conference will be October 5-7, 2005.