



For Immediate Release

November 12, 2013

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Council of Industry Annual Luncheon Looks at
Ways to Promote Growth in Manufacturing

Local manufacturing and associated industry leaders attended the sold out Council of Industry Annual Luncheon and Expo on November 1st where Ned Monroe, Senior Vice President of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), discussed policy issues concerning US manufacturers and outlined the NAM pro-growth agenda. The ~~sold out~~ event was held at the Powelton Club in Newburgh, NY and featured a Members /Associate Member Expo displaying a variety of products and services from the Hudson Valley. Certificates in Manufacturing Leadership were also presented to twenty individuals from eight companies that completed the CI/ SUNY Dutchess supervisor training program. The event was made possible by major sponsor Joe Pietryka, Inc. and supporting sponsors Central Hudson, The Chazen Companies, Fair-Rite Products and TD Bank.

The Expo portion of the event featured eighteen member and associate member displays that range from insurance and employment services to packaging, shipping, circuit boards, EMF suppression devices, janitorial supplies and many others in between. This was a wonderful opportunity to see some of the products and services made and offered throughout the Hudson Valley.

To kick off the luncheon Virginia Stoeffel, Dean of Community Services and Special Programs at Dutchess Community College presented certificates to the twenty individuals that completed the Manufacturing Leadership Program. This is a joint training for supervisors developed by the Council of Industry and DCC to prepare new managers or reinforce skills in existing managers that help them to be more successful and productive in the workplace. This is the 16th year of this tremendously successful program with graduates this year from Alcoa Fastening Systems, Balchem Corporation, Blaser Swissslube, Inc., EFCO Products, Inc., Konica Minolta, Selux, Viking Industries, and Zumtobel Lighting.

Following the certificate presentation, keynote speaker Ned Monroe addressed the crowd of manufacturers and their associates to provide insight into the politics, economics and issues in Washington that affect US industry and what the National Association of Manufacturers is trying to achieve with their Growth Agenda for Washington. The National Association of Manufacturers is the nation's largest industrial trade association, representing nearly 12,000 manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Their mission is to be the voice of all manufacturing in the United

States and inform policymakers about manufacturing's vital role in the U.S. economy.

Mr. Monroe is responsible for public affairs activities, including grassroots engagement, issue advocacy and election programs. His team also is responsible for allied organizations, affiliated state associations and meetings management. NAM's four growth goals are:

- The United States will be the best place in the world to manufacture and attract foreign direct investment.
- Manufacturers in the United States will be the world's leading innovators.
- The United States will expand access to global markets to enable manufacturers to reach the 95 percent of consumers who live outside our borders.
- Manufacturers in the United States will have access to the workforce that the 21st-century economy demands.

Monroe explained that one of NAM's top priorities is tax reform at both the corporate and individual level. NAM would like to see corporate taxes reduced to below 25% without an impact on individual tax. He also said top issues after tax reform among manufacturers include raising healthcare costs, unfavorable business climate, and the skills gap and other workforce issues.

Monroe encouraged advocacy efforts among Hudson Valley manufacturers such as participation in the Manufacturing Summit in Washington DC, writing letters to elected officials about the impact legislation or proposed legislation has on their business and holding tours of their facilities for legislators. He said surveys show that the most effective way to influence your elected officials is with a face to face interaction. Monroe took part in a tour earlier in the day of MPI, a manufacturer of wax injection equipment

for investment casting, in Poughkeepsie. After the tour a round table discussion was held with local industry CEOs.

The Council of Industry has been the manufacturers association of the Hudson Valley since 1910 and has held an annual event like this luncheon for its members since the beginning. It is the sponsors that make these events possible and the council would like to thank Joe Pietryka, Inc. for being a major sponsor and Central Hudson, The Chazen Companies, Fair-Rite Products and TD Bank for being supporting sponsors.

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