



# NFDA TODAY

## YOUR NATIONAL FASTENER NEWS



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Jim Degnan**

It is a special honor to serve as your president. I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity to work with you to advance our core purpose: to help NFDA members thrive in a global marketplace. That objective is best accomplished by leveraging the vast institutional knowledge that our members possess. The members of NFDA are a virtual who's-who of our industry. To be in a position to work with you folks truly is a privilege.

First, a thank you to our immediate past president Nick Ruetz for his guidance and leadership over the last year. Nick's vast experience was influential during our strategic planning sessions. More details on that later. I would also like to thank retiring board members Kelly Charles, Jon Queenin, and Kevin Godin who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to advance our objectives.

Please help me extend a warm welcome to our newly elected board members Steve Andrasik, Alex Goldberg, Scott Longfellow, and Ed Smith. They will join existing board members Gigi Calfee, Jake Glaser, and Melissa Patel. Scott McDaniel has been elected vice president and Mike Robinson will serve another term as associate chair. I look forward to working with each of you. Thanks again for your dedication to the association.

In February, the NFDA held a strategic planning session. A main input to the discussion was the content of the Whorton survey, which was conducted earlier this year and included input from a substantial number of members and a few nonmembers. The results were generally positive and constructive. More than 77% of respondents said that their NFDA membership was either "extremely" or "very" important. Thanks to all who submitted feedback. Your input is very important and will be the basis of our efforts moving forward.

The top opportunity identified from the survey is to continue to improve member value in the form of 1) enhanced educational content tailored to the participants, 2) providing tools to assist members with hiring, retaining, and developing talent, 3) furthering our collaboration with other fastener associations to help drive more participation in our industry, and 4) improved utilization of our existing programs. The Board's efforts moving forward will be focused on, but not limited to, these important topics as identified by our membership. Our progress will be shared with you throughout the process.

There are several important initiatives and enhancements that we will be rolling out as we work our way through your suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or anyone on the Board with any questions, suggestions, or comments. We are here to serve you and to advance our members' positions in the industry. It was a pleasure seeing many of you at the annual meeting in Chicago, and I look forward to catching up with you at the next NFDA event.

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



The Fastener Training Institute® offers the following opportunities to increase your fastener knowledge:

#### **FASTENER TRAINING WEEK®**

**August 21-25, 2023** – Chicago

**December 4-8, 2023** – Los Angeles

NFDA members receive discounted registration on all FTI classroom seminars. For more information and a list of all FTI events visit

[www.fastenertraining.org](http://www.fastenertraining.org)

## NFDA CALENDAR

Visit the NFDA website at [www.nfda-fastener.org](http://www.nfda-fastener.org) for more information

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 28, 2023** CEO / Executive Virtual Roundtables
- October 25-27, 2023** Executive Summit – **Scottsdale, AZ**
- November 30, 2023** Virtual Program
- December 14, 2023** NFDA / YFP Virtual Holiday Celebration

### SAVE THE DATE:

- June 12-14, 2024** Annual Meeting / ESPS – Irving, TX



### ASSOCIATE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

**Mike Robinson**

getting to see downtown Chicago on the river tour, and enjoying a packed day of informational sessions. If you missed the ITR Economics presentation, Jim Ruetz' dissertation on family business and succession planning, the fashion show from the Taiwan Fastener Trading Association, or the state of the industry panel discussion, you can find information on those presentations on our website. We had a few Board members say their farewells and newly elected ones

Ready or not it's August already and the end of Q3 is quickly sneaking up on all of us! Kids are getting ready to head back to school, summer is getting close to ending, and football season is right around the corner.

I love the fall, but this one snuck up on me quicker than usual. It seems like yesterday we were at the NFDA Annual Meeting in Chicago. We had a blast teaming up with MCCD for their annual fundraiser,

join our Board in June. I can't wait to start working with the newly elected Board members and using their new perspectives to help provide our members great content.

In a few short months we have our Executive Summit coming up in Scottsdale, Arizona. If you have attended the Executive Summit in the past, you know how productive and informational these sessions are. If you haven't attended one, I strongly suggest you make it to this one. Two of our previous NFDA leaders helped our Learning Committee out to put together a fantastic set of programs and schedule for everyone. We will be learning about labor shortages and overcoming them, how some of our own fastener companies dealt with cybersecurity, overseas market conditions, and how data analytics can play a pivotal role in your business. As always, we will have our fan favorite flotilla, bigger and better than ever.

As always, the more you participate in the NFDA and our events, the more you will get out of it. We are here to help and support you. If you have any topics, ideas, or suggestions, please reach out and let us know how we can improve. You can reach me at [mrobinson@starstainless.com](mailto:mrobinson@starstainless.com). Looking forward to seeing all of you later this year!

## WELCOME NEW NFDA MEMBERS

**3Q, INC.**  
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## NFDA STANDARDS ACTIVITY UPDATE Q2 2023 — John Medcalf

I would like to take this issue's update as an opportunity to highlight two areas seeing renewed focus relating to fastener industry research and standardization. I believe both represent important initiatives for the North American market to be represented and continually improve.

First is a renewed focus on improving US input on ISO fastener standards. Since the 1970s, ISO TC2 has been developing metric fastener standards. The initial US contribution to that committee was to bring the concept of an "optimized" metric system. While many concepts didn't stick, the legacy is a reduced width across flats on a few key sizes of bolts and nuts (for better or worse). However, at that time it was also a practice to create American national standards for these products; overall compatible with ISO, but sometimes containing additional sizes or products not covered at the ISO level. As a result, ASME, ASTM, and SAE all had a full complement of metric fastener standards. Efforts were made over the years to update the American standards to remain harmonized with ISO, but in the last 15 years or so, a change in mindset was adopted.

Rather than maintaining essentially duplicate standards, the North American committees began withdrawing all metric fastener standards with a direct ISO counterpart. This was certainly a sound practice in favor of global standardization, but it also had an unintended consequence. All things relating to metric fasteners were largely left to a single subcommittee and its limited membership, ASME B18.4, that serves as the US technical advisory group to ISO/TC 2. (It should be noted that ASTM F16.03 now also represents the US TAG to ISO/TC 2/SC 14 on surface coatings.)

Just because the US is no longer publishing our own metric standards doesn't mean we don't have a vested interest in those products; we simply need to adjust our approach. Going forward the B18.4 subcommittee is subdividing the work and increasing outreach to ensure that, as an example, metric nut standards are seen and reviewed by the experts in the ASME and ASTM subcommittees dealing with nuts. The ASTM subcommittees also are establishing standing task groups to handle review of ISO documents as they come up. As a result, the hope is that the North American fastener industry can return to a position of influence in metric standardization and ensure the needs of our marketplace are incorporated into ISO documents.

The next development is the relaunching of the Industrial Fasteners Institute (IFI) Technical Committee. While everyone reading this article should be familiar with the IFI Fastener Standards books (a.k.a. the fastener industry bibles), these are mostly compilations of standards from other organizations such as ASME, ASTM, and SAE.

You may not be aware that the IFI had its own Technical Committee. This is partly due to the fact that a number of years ago it went from a standing committee to more of an ad hoc system dealing with specific issues as they came up. However, it is now being revived with the goals of continuing to address fastener standardization topics, conducting and disseminating the results of research and development activities, and addressing impacts of new developments affecting the fastener industry such as the electrification of the automotive industry. In the end, the committee aims to support the original IFI goal of keeping manufacturers and users of headed and threaded products informed of the best practices in the industry and ensuring a robust North American fastener industry.

In summary, the opportunities continue to expand to influence and improve the health of the industry through standardization and research. If there is a topic you feel should be addressed, bring it to the attention of a committee or, better yet, join and address it yourself!

*Please email your standards related comments, concerns, or questions to John at [standards@nfda-fastener.org](mailto:standards@nfda-fastener.org)*

*Communication between NFDA members and the NFDA technical standard representative (the "Representative") through email or otherwise is provided by NFDA as a courtesy to its members. NFDA provides no assurance as to the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of any statement made by the Representative to the member or fastener technical standards organizations. Neither NFDA nor the Representative makes any representation as to whether any statement of the Representative is consistent or compliant with fastener technical standards. Neither NFDA nor the Representative shall be responsible for any loss or damage suffered by the member or any other person as the direct or indirect result of any statement made by the representative.*

John Medcalf's appointment as the NFDA technical standards representative allows the NFDA membership not just visibility of standards activities, but also a voice in the process. NFDA members are encouraged to express their comments or concerns relating to fastener standards. The only way to influence the process is to stay engaged and participate. Please email your standards related comments, concerns or questions to John at [standards@nfda-fastener.org](mailto:standards@nfda-fastener.org)

### MEMBERS CAN:

- Inquire about changes to drafts noted in quarterly reports
- Ask general standards related questions
- Raise suggested revisions or technical updates to standards
- Offer feedback to continue refinement of these articles



## ADVERTISE WITH NFDA

Interested in having an ad in the next issue of NFDA Today? Contact Amy Nijjar to make the arrangements: [amy@nfda-fastener.org](mailto:amy@nfda-fastener.org) or 562-799-5519. You also can view information on our website. Click on Advertising in the menu.



### YFP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Mallory Nichols**

It has been an exciting and busy year for YFP so far!

In January, we launched the revamped NFDA/YFP mentorship program. We have 15 pairs of mentors/mentees in this program and have received great feedback from our participants. If you are interested in participating in our 2024 mentorship class, then today is your lucky day because applications are open now! Just head to the NFDA website to sign up. Applications will be accepted through November 1, 2023,

and the program begins in January 2024.

YFP is also on the edge of launching our regional coordinator program, which aims to create a larger

network of YFP representatives throughout the country. Our goal is to boost attendance at regional events while getting more YFP members actively participating in the industry.

As for in-person events, we are busy prepping for IFE in Las Vegas! YFP will host a session on the importance of mentorship, featuring panelists that are currently participating in the mentorship program. Also at IFE, at the YFP booth we'll host a professional headshot photo booth! This is the perfect opportunity to get an updated professional headshot for your LinkedIn profile or company website.

Finally, I want to extend a huge thank you to the YFP Board for all their hard work on these projects. Craig Beaty, Jake Glaser, Christian Georgievski, and Zech Williams: you all are rock stars!

I hope everyone has a great summer and I am looking forward to catching up with people at the next event!

Be excellent to each other.

### NFDA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP FOR FASTENER TRAINING WEEK

The National Fastener Distributors Association recently awarded a scholarship for Fastener Training Week, an advanced fastener technical training program produced by the Fastener Training Institute, to Garrett Wilson, sourcing and inside sales for NSK Industries.



Scholarship applicants were evaluated based on the re-recommendations from their employers, personal achievements, work experience, and an essay. Identifying information

was redacted, so that the team evaluating the applications did not know the names or employers of those applying.

The next deadline to apply for an NFDA Fastener Training Week scholarship is June 1, 2024. The application can be found at <https://www.nfda-fastener.org/fastener-training-week-scholarship>

For more information about Fastener Training Week, visit [www.fastenertraining.org](http://www.fastenertraining.org)



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- Hex Weld Nut (Inch & Metric), Long Pilot, 6 Projections, Plain Steel (W84)
- Hex Weld Nut (Inch & Metric), Short Pilot, 6 Projections, Plain Steel (W85)
- Hex Weld Nut, DIN 929, 3 Projections, Plain Steel (416)
- Hex Weld Nut, Short Pilot, 3 Projections, 18-8 Stainless Steel (V07)
- Spot Weld Nut (Inch & Metric), Single Tab, With Target (W86)
- Spot Weld Nut (Inch & Metric), Single Tab (W87)
- Spot Weld Nut (Inch & Metric), Double Tab (W88)
- Spot Weld Nut (Inch & Metric), Dual Rib Projections (W89)
- Spot Weld Nut (Inch & Metric), 4 Projections (W90)
- Spot Weld Nut (Inch & Metric), Single Tab, Single Projection (W91)
- Retainer Weld Nut (W92)

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- Stainless Steel (V21)
- Aluminum (V22)

### WELD STUDS

- Headed Weld Stud (W93)
- Ferrule for Headed Weld Studs (W94)

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### WELDING CONSUMABLES

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- TIG Gas Lens (WT3)
- TIG Back Cap (WT4)

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- Ironclad Safety Glasses (G61)

### PROFERRED ABRASIVES

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- Flap Disc Type 29 (A10)
- Flap Disc Type 27 (A12)
- Carbon Steel Wire Brush (C38)
- Stainless Steel Wire Brush (C39)



### PROFERRED SAFETY

- PU Foam Bullet Earplugs (M17)
- N95 Respirators (M19)
- Safety Glasses (M15)

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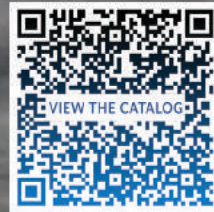
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