

AUGUST 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Melissa Patel

It is with great gratitude and humility that I begin my term as president of the National Fastener Distributors Association. Thank you to our member companies for your confidence, encouragement, and support. Your commitment to NFDA demonstrates the true strength of our community and reinforces why this association continues to thrive.

As I step into this role, I do so with a deep appreciation for the many outstanding leaders

who have served before me. Their stewardship, vision, and dedication have built a strong foundation that allows NFDA to continue growing and delivering value to our members. I have been especially fortunate to witness that leadership firsthand. At Field I have the privilege of working alongside three former NFDA presidents, each of whom has demonstrated what it means to lead with integrity, serve the industry, and invest in the success of others. They have always instilled the value that NFDA has provided for our development and their appreciation for the people who have provided guidance.

I would especially like to recognize our immediate past president, Ed Smith. It has been a true privilege to serve alongside Ed. His leadership has been defined by vision, inclusion, and a genuine commitment to our members. On behalf of the Board and our entire association, thank you, Ed, for your outstanding service and the positive impact you have made on NFDA and with me personally.

I am also excited to welcome our new vice president, Angela Philippart, and our new associate chair, Scott Camp. Joining them are new members of our Board of Directors: Kevin Hochstetler, George Hunt III, Tim Roberto Jr., Harry Doherty, and Brandon Wiley. They will serve alongside returning board members Jennifer Sturm and Christian Reich, whose continued leadership and experience will be invaluable in the year ahead.

At the same time, we extend our sincere appreciation to four exceptional board members whose terms have concluded: Steve Andrasik, Alex Goldberg, Scott Longfellow, and Scott McDaniel. Thank you for your years of service, leadership, and dedication to advancing our association.

As I reflect on this opportunity, I can't help but think about how fortunate I've been throughout my career. I began at Field as an 18-year-old college student and have been blessed with leaders within our four walls and those in this industry who believed in me, challenged me, and invested in my growth. Their mentorship taught me the importance of giving back, which is one of the reasons serving NFDA is such a privilege. I hope to pay that same investment forward throughout my term as president.

Looking ahead, I am energized by what this talented group of leaders can accomplish together. Our purpose remains clear: to help our members thrive in a global marketplace. One of the most meaningful ways we fulfill that mission is by creating opportunities for engagement, education, and collaboration. We are committed to providing outstanding educational content, quality speakers, and valuable networking experiences that encourage members to learn from one another and share best practices.

We recently wrapped up another successful Annual Meeting & ESPS (Executive Sales Planning Sessions) in Indianapolis, and once again, it proved to be one of my favorite events of the year. There is tremendous value in spending two days connecting with industry peers and partners. Our keynote speaker, Scott Tillema, challenged us to think differently about the power of authentic connection and how it strengthens our influence—in our organizations, during negotiations, and even within our families. If you have never attended, I strongly encourage you to consider joining us next June in St. Louis. I am confident you will leave with new ideas, stronger relationships, and renewed energy.

Our momentum continues this fall with what promises to be another outstanding event at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, California,

— Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1 —

October 28–30. This year’s program will explore one of the most transformative topics impacting our industry: artificial intelligence. We will have an insightful presentation and an interactive workshop. We’ll also hear a session on developing a champion mindset. And, of course, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention that our now-famous pickleball round robin will once again provide a fun opportunity to connect, compete, and build relationships beyond the meeting room.

As we move through the remainder of the year, my commitment is simple: to listen, to serve, and to help ensure NFDA continues to be an organization where every member finds meaningful value and opportunities to succeed. All feedback is welcome, so please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support of NFDA. I wish you, your families, and your teams a safe and enjoyable remainder of the summer. I look forward to seeing many of you this fall in Palm Desert.

NFDA CALENDAR

MARK YOUR 2026 CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 2, 2026	Virtual Event – My Major Customer Has a Quality Concern. What Now?
October 28-30, 2026	Executive Summit – Palm Desert, CA
December 3, 2026	Virtual Event – Transportation and Supply Chain Outlook

Visit the NFDA website at www.nfda-fastener.org for our full event calendar and more information.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR FASTENER TRAINING WEEK



The National Fastener Distributors Association (NFDA) recently awarded a scholarship for Fastener Training Week, an advanced fastener technical training program produced by the Fastener Training Institute, to Michael Abukhader, senior application engineer for Shamrock International.

Scholarship applicants were evaluated based on 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, 2027. 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



ASSOCIATE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Scott Camp

For my first newsletter submission as your incoming associate chair, I wanted to share a message about something that is especially meaningful to me: the power of participation.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Annual Meeting & ESPS in Indianapolis this past June. The event was exceptionally well organized, well attended, and filled with valuable conversations, new ideas, and renewed friendships. It truly reflected the strength of our association.

At the same time, I couldn't help but think about those who were unable to join us. This isn't a criticism of attendance; far from it. Rather, it's a reminder of the tremendous opportunity we have as an organization. I genuinely believe we can do even more. We can engage more members, foster stronger relationships, and collaborate in ways that create even greater value for everyone involved.

One of the greatest strengths of our association is the diversity of our membership. Whether you are a fastener distributor, an associate member, or a service provider, each of us brings unique experiences, perspectives, and talents to the table. Participation isn't simply about attending meetings or events; it's about sharing ideas, building relationships, volunteering, mentoring, serving on committees, and contributing in ways that strengthen our industry and our association.

It is both a privilege and a responsibility to be part of this outstanding organization. Each of us has something meaningful to contribute, and together we can continue building an association that not only serves its members but also advances our industry for years to come.

As a reminder, the purposes for which NFDA was formed are:

- To advance the interests of the fastener industry by promoting the distribution of fasteners through persons engaged in the industry.

- To collect and disseminate useful statistics and information for members.
- To encourage enlarged and more friendly relationships between persons engaged in the fastener industry.
- To foster improvement in the service rendered by the fastener industry to consumers.
- To promote the improvement of quality in and the expansion of markets for fasteners.
- To develop new uses for fasteners.
- To assist in the maintenance of sound relationships between the industry and its employees, its customers, the general public, and the federal government.

So, I encourage each of you to challenge yourselves to become even more involved as we continue advancing the mission of our association. Every event we attend, every committee we serve on, and every conversation we have presents an opportunity to learn, contribute, and strengthen the relationships that make our industry so unique.

We have some outstanding opportunities to do just that in the months ahead. On September 2, I hope you will join us for our virtual event, "My Major Customer Has a Quality Concern: Now What?" This timely and practical discussion promises valuable insights that can benefit all of us.

Then, of course, we'll gather for the International Fastener Expo in Phoenix, Arizona, October 7–9. While it will certainly be a different experience outside of Las Vegas, I am excited to see what this new venue has to offer. As the old saying goes, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." My hope is that this year's event has the opposite effect: that the knowledge we gain, the ideas we exchange, the relationships we strengthen, and the partnerships we build extend far beyond the conference halls. Together, those connections can continue to elevate our businesses, advance our industry, and strengthen the association we are all proud to be a part of.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Phoenix and to working alongside you as we continue building an even stronger future together. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments, or ideas you would like to see NFDA incorporate into future events.



YFP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Zech Williams

Hello, fastener friends!

It's hard to believe we're already in the heart of the summer season. I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer so far and has had the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends.

It was great to see so many of you at the NFDA Annual Meeting & ESPS in Indianapolis this past June. The time spent together led to meaningful conversations and valuable connections with industry friends and colleagues.

During the NFDA Annual Meeting & ESPS, YFP hosted its largest book club meeting yet, with approximately 17 attendees attending the in-person session. Everyone brought thoughtful insights and contributed to engaging discussions around *The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari*. A special thank-you goes to Mike White of Brighton-Best International for once again moderating another impactful YFP book club meeting. Don't miss out on the next chance to join in on the YFP book club. Be on the lookout for our next book announcement!

I also want to highlight one of the newest offerings from the Young Fastener Professionals: the YFP trade show scholarship. This scholarship provides an outstanding opportunity for a young professional or someone new to the industry who may not otherwise have the chance to attend the International Fastener Expo (IFE). While the application deadline for this year has already passed, if you didn't get a chance to apply this

year, don't miss out on next year's opportunity. I would like to extend a sincere thank-you to our scholarship partners, IFE and the Fastener Training Institute (FTI), for helping make this opportunity possible.

In other YFP news, the 2026 mentorship program is now well underway and, by all accounts, has been a tremendous success. If you are interested in participating as either a mentor or mentee, the application deadline for the 2027 program is November 1, 2026. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to give back to the industry, expand your network, or further your professional development.

Additionally, I would be remiss not to mention the YFP Fastener Training Week scholarship. The application deadline for this year is October 15, 2026. Having attended Fastener Training Week myself, I can confidently say that it is an exceptional program that will accelerate your fastener knowledge and professional growth. I would also like to thank our partner, the Fastener Training Institute, for its continued support of YFP and for helping provide this outstanding educational opportunity.

You can keep up to date with YFP by joining our mailing list and by checking out the YFP section on the NFDA website. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions regarding YFP.

In closing, I hope you all enjoy the remainder of your summer. Before we know it, the fall colors and falling leaves will be upon us. Wishing everyone a safe, enjoyable, and successful season ahead!

**ADVERTISE
WITH NFDA**

Interested in having an ad in the next issue of *NFDA Today*? Contact Amy Nijjar to make the arrangements at amy@nfda-fastener.org or 562-799-5519. You can also view information on our website under Advertising.

WELCOME NEW NFDA MEMBERS!	GOGEL FASTENER & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CO. www.gfisco.com
ENGINEERED COMPONENTS www.engcomponents.com	HARDWARE SPECIALTY CO. www.hardware specialty.com
METAL COATINGS CORP. www.metcoat.com	BERINGER PLATING INC www.beringerplating.com



NFDA STANDARDS ACTIVITY UPDATE Q2 2026

— Carmen Vertullo

If you are reading this, you must have a compelling interest in fastener standards, and you may even serve on a fastener standards committee or two. I am happy to receive any information you readers may have regarding fastener standards changes and committee activities. If you are not serving on a fastener standards committee, I want to encourage you to consider serving. Just email info@nfda-fastener.org if you have something to share or want to join a fastener standards committee.

This update will not be exhaustive. Instead, it will focus on the involvement that I have in standards development in ASTM F16, RCSC, AISC SSSC, and ASSHTO regarding new Stainless Steel Bolting Standards.

Look for a detailed report on all fastener standards activity in Q3 2026.

Starting with RCSC (The Research Council on Structural Connections aka The Bolt Council). I serve on the RCSC Main Committee and on the Research and Education Committees. In 2023, the RCSC Research and Education Committee voted to recommend to the Main Committee that we develop a new specification for using stainless steel bolting in structural connections.

Up until then, RCSC only had one specification - Specification for Structural Joints Using High-Strength

Bolts. This specification only covered high-strength steel bolting.

After some discussion, it was decided that a new stainless steel specification would be developed by the AISC (American Institute of Steel Construction), a collaborative organization with RCSC. The AISC contracted to have the new specification- actually a guide – written. The RCSC provided the oversight committee, which consisted of about 12 members and some other interested parties. I was the chair of that committee. AISC also provided a review committee. The guide was funded jointly by RCSC and AISC. It is designated as AISC DG 41 - Structural Joints Using Stainless Steel Bolts. It was formally published in March of 2026, on time and on budget. Congratulations to the DG 41 authors for a job well done: Nancy Baddoo, Associate Director at SCI and Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers (Great Britain), Jason Provines, PE, Senior Research Scientist at the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC), and Francisco Meza, PhD, Principal Engineer at the Steel Construction Institute (SCI). In as much as possible, DG 41 mirrors the RCSC Specification.

During this process, it was recognized that one of the challenges of writing such a structural bolting guide was that there were no actual stainless steel structural bolting standards - not in ASTM, ASME, RCSC, or AISC. DG 41 specifies standard stainless steel bolting from

— Continued on Page 6

Carmen Vertullo'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.

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

Continued from Page 5 —

ASTM Standards A193, A194, F593, F594, A1082, and A962. It does specify bolting "assemblies" though – nut, bolt and washer(s) and requires performance testing of the assembly. The guide is very informative on the use of stainless steel bolting in general and is recommended reading for anyone involved in the use, sales, or specification of stainless steel fasteners.

Coincidentally, with this effort, AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) is writing a new standard for bridges: S32205, Duplex Stainless Steel Bridge Bolting Assemblies Specification. It also leans on ASTM A1082 and A962, and as much as possible, also mirrors the RCSC specification. This specification is in the final stages of development and should be published this year or early 2027. As with AISC DG 41, AASHTO S32205 specifies bolting assemblies and requires performance testing of the assemblies.

At this point, it is important to note the difference between a guide and a specification. Mainly, a specification, when invoked, becomes a requirement without deviation unless agreed to. A guide is not mandatory but is designed to provide helpful guidance and engineering information to the user. Guides can complement specifications and are often referenced in them.

Having recognized that we do not have any ASTM specifications for stainless steel structural bolting, and because I serve on the ASTM F16 Fastener Standards Committee and on the Non-Ferrous Fastener Subcommittee, I proposed that we develop a new standard for stainless steel structural bolting assemblies. This task group was approved at the May 2026 ASTM meeting in Dallas. I am the chair of that task group, and if you are interested in stainless steel bolting, please contact me. I can use all the help I can get.

Fast forward to the most recent RCSC meeting in Peru, IL. At that meeting, the council decided that we need a specification for the use of high-strength stainless steel structural bolting. We formed a new committee for that purpose, and I am also the chair of this committee. One of only two specification committees in the RCSC. Fortunately, this task will be confined to turning the AISC DG 41 into an RCSC specification. We have an excellent group of RCSC volunteers and generous help from the authors of ASIC DG 41.

There are some other exciting things going on in the world of stainless steel structural specifications, and I will keep you updated on these and other fastener standards activities in future quarterly updates.

There are hundreds of fastener professionals around the world working to keep our fastener standards current. If you are one of these people – thank you. If you would like to be one of these people, email me at carmenv@carverem.com.

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.



Amy Nijjar
Executive Vice President
amy@nfda-fastener.org

3020 Old Ranch Parkway Suite 300
Seal Beach CA 90740
562-799-5519
www.nfda-fastener.org

Coming Soon to the LindFAST Lineup



Flush Fasteners™

Precision you can't see.
Performance and aesthetics you can.

Exclusive US Provider



LindFASTgrp.com



➤ **M29** FAMILY CODE

BBI HAS YOUR PLASTIC BINS IN STOCK!

READY FOR DISTRIBUTOR ORDERS.

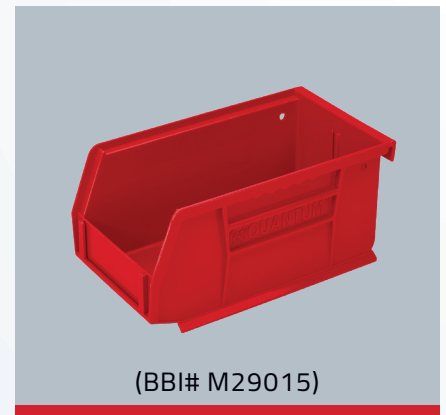


STACKABLE & HANGABLE HEAVY DUTY STACKABLE BINS

➤ **AVAILABLE NOW. ORDER TODAY!**

FEATURES:

- HEAVY-DUTY STACKABLE BINS DESIGNED TO KEEP INVENTORY ORGANIZED
- BUILT IN REAR HANGERS TO HANG FROM LOUVERED PANELS OR RAILS
- MADE FROM FDA APPROVED MATERIAL
- ENGINEERED TO WITHSTAND EXTREME TEMPERATURES – FROM HIGH HEAT (UP TO 250 °F) TO EXTREME COLD



(BBI# M29015)

NESTABLE HEAVY DUTY SHELF BINS

➤ **IN STOCK AND READY TO SHIP!**

FEATURES:

- TOUGH, HIGH-QUALITY BINS DESIGNED FOR LONG-TERM USE AT A COST-EFFECTIVE PRICE
- MOLDED-IN LABEL HOLDER FOR QUICK AND EASY IDENTIFICATION
- BUILT-IN REAR HANG LOCK FOR SECURE PLACEMENT
- NESTABLE DESIGN REDUCES STORAGE SPACE WHEN BINS ARE EMPTY



(BBI# M29052)



BRIGHTON-BEST INTERNATIONAL

**TESTED,
TRIED,
AND TRUE.**



www.brightonbest.com
1.800.275.0050

When the **HEAT** is on, Choose the strength of **A286 STAINLESS**



A286 SS
Smooth Head
Shoulder Screw



At AMPG, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, we don't just supply parts; we provide solutions. We know that sourcing rare, high-performance materials is only half the battle—the other half is the precision manufacturing required to turn them into reliable, world-class fasteners.



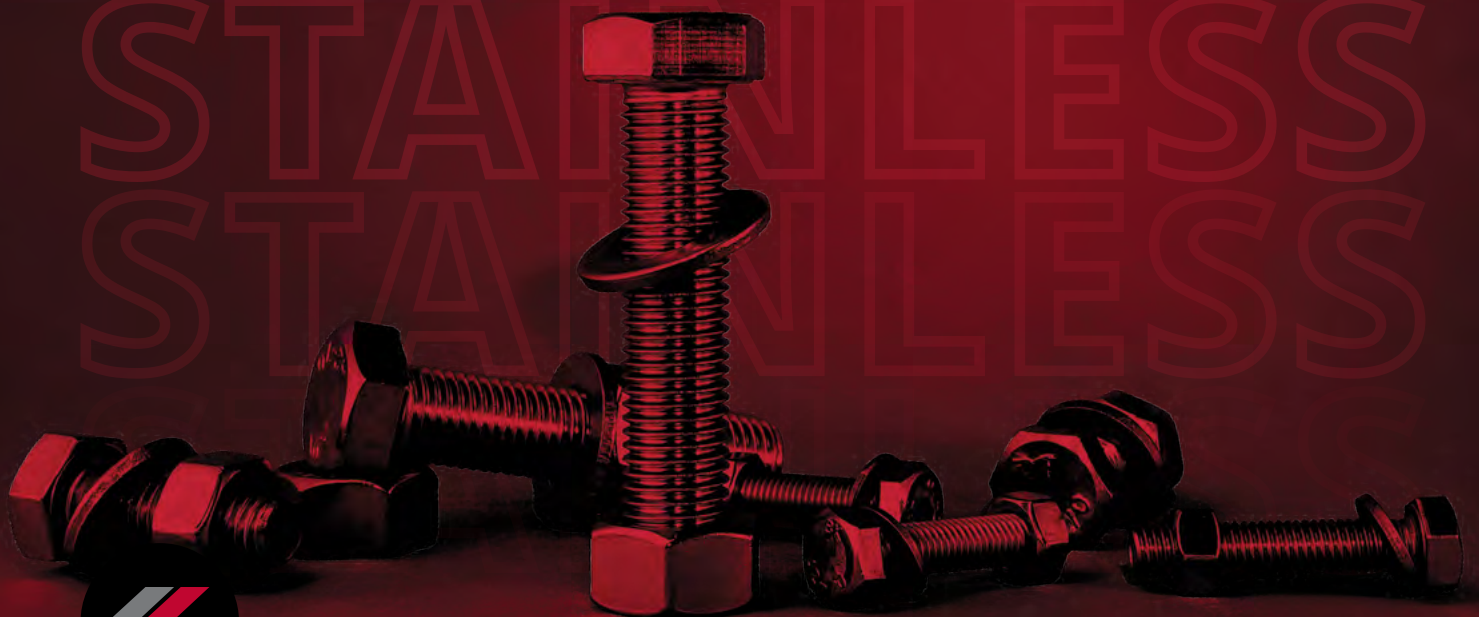
www.ampg.com



Search our beautiful fasteners at ampg.com.

8090 Woodland Drive | p: 317.472.9000
Indianapolis, IN 46278 | f: 317.472.9010

WE SPEAK STAINLESS (INCH & METRIC)



Go beyond at BRIKKSEN.com

RISK MANAGEMENT FOR THE FASTENER INDUSTRY

A PRODUCTION OF CARVER LABS, EL CAJON, CA

**A TWO-DAY IN PERSON
PROGRAM FOR
FASTENER INDUSTRY
PROFESSIONALS AND
EXECUTIVES**

**SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
September 24-25, 2026**

If you sell industrial products or services where failure can cause damages, loss of property or even loss of life – and you know you do – are you aware of the failure events that could consume your time and money for the foreseeable future?

Take a risk – a small risk. Spend some time and money. Attend this Risk Management Strategy Workshop - Find out what you don't know and be able to sleep at night.

Come and let our experts help you learn some simple steps that you can implement now that will significantly decrease the likelihood of a failure event.

HOW TO REGISTER and GET MORE INFORMATION

CALL (619) 440 5888, press 4 and
Cassandra will take care of you.

Our program will take place at the beautiful,
newly renovated **Sheraton Hotel and
Marina, Bay Tower on Harbor Island
in San Diego** - Just a few minutes from the
San Diego International Airport.

Scan our QR code or for a registration application.

And you can always call or email Carmen
for details or questions.

(619) 204 1543 carmenv@carverem.com

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!



The world-famous Miramar Air Show is in San Diego this weekend! We are planning a trip for Saturday September 26.



Sheraton Harbor Island Bay Tower



Distributor Quoting *for Fastener Companies*

Deliver higher quality quotes in less time and with less effort.
Win more business with QLM Distributor Quoting.

★ NEW

AI-Powered Non-System **Supplier Response**

Upload supplier PDF quotes or paste email text directly into the tool.
AI extracts pricing, quantities, lead times, and supplier details instantly.



Zero Manual Entry

PDF & Email

No Friction

Accuracy ↑

Faster procurement cycle times · Improved supplier participation · Lower operational effort

WHY QLM

Benchmarking

Cost reduction via comparison

Efficiency

Greater spend managed per Buyer

Error Reduction

Normalized data for accuracy

Speed

Faster quotes = higher win rates

Supplier Mgmt · Strategic Sourcing · e-RFQ · Pricing & Quoting · Automation · Analytics

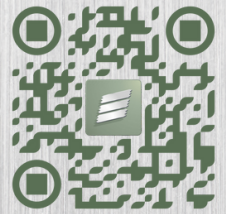
Trusted by fastener distributors to streamline quoting, reduce costs, and accelerate the entire procurement cycle.

The only cloud-based unified quoting & sourcing solution,
purpose-built for the fastener distribution industry.

sales@qstrat.com

www.qstrat.com

Ready... **SETKO!**



Imports

- HEX SOCKET SET SCREWS
- NYLON & BRASS TIP SET SCREWS
- SOCKET, FLAT & BUTTON HEAD CAP SCREWS
- HEX SOCKET & 6-LOBE CAP SCREWS
- SQUARE HEAD SET SCREWS
- SHOULDER BOLTS
- HEX & 6-LOBE KEYS
- DOWEL PINS
- ZINC PLATED SOCKETS
- SPECIALS, STANDARDS & SECONDARIES

USA Made

- HEX SOCKET DRIVE, 6-LOBE (TORX®), 6-LOBE PLUS (TORX PLUS®)
- SOCKET, FLAT & BUTTON HEAD CAP SCREWS
- SHOULDER BOLTS
- SET SCREWS
- HEX SOCKET BUTTON FLANGE SCREWS
- SPECIALS OR STANDARD SIZES

USA Made, USA Made & Melted, DFARS

- ALLOY, STAINLESS AND OTHER MATERIALS
- STAINLESS BLACK OXIDE FASTENERS
- ZINC PLATED AND OTHER FINISHES



SETKO
FASTENERS

 630.800.6377
 SetkoFasteners.com
 Sales@SetkoFasteners.com

Exceptional IT Support for the Fastener Industry

Cyber Security



Complete cyber security services, data recovery, and disaster protection with quick response time in any emergency

Helpdesk Support



Friendly, experienced, and responsive technical support - Seamless solutions with only one number to call

Customized Packages



World Class management for a small business cost - We will custom tailor your plan to fit YOU and YOUR business's budget

Who We Are

Founded in 2012, WTC is a trusted managed services provider specializing in delivering reliable and expert IT support to the fastener industry. Serving clients from our locations in California and Arizona, we provide comprehensive remote and onsite solutions to promptly address any IT issues.

What We Do

WTC provides customizable business solutions tailored to your unique needs. Focused on innovation, cutting-edge technology, and a deep understanding of the fastener industry, we help overcome business challenges and unlock new opportunities for success.

WTC HQ

1732 Spring St. Unit A
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Get in Touch

 877-604-0282

 info@wtcitservices.com

 www.wtcitservices.com



International Fastener Expo

Summit: October 7, 2026

Expo: October 8-9, 2026

Phoenix Convention Center | Phoenix, AZ

We're heading to Phoenix, AZ!

Join us from **October 7-9, 2026**, for an extraordinary event! **The International Fastener Expo** stands as the leading B2B trade show, showcasing a wide range of fasteners, machinery, tooling, and industrial products. Explore innovative technologies, network with industry experts, and learn from world-class speakers.



Scan the QR code to register today!

Use promo code **NFDA50%off** for 50% off an expo pass.

