

FEBRUARY 2026



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Smith

As we kick off a new year, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I hope your holidays gave you some well-earned time to slow down, spend time with family and friends, and recharge for what's ahead in 2026.

I also want to thank everyone who took the time to complete our recent member survey. Your feedback truly matters.

It's what helps keep the association focused on what's most important to you and to our industry. The Board has since completed our strategic planning session, and I will share the strategic goals in my next article.

As part of our member value commitment, I encourage you to join us for our upcoming HR Trends Report virtual program and remember to get your HR teams registered. NFDA has partnered with McLean & Company to bring a program exclusively for our members. This highly anticipated report is a

vital resource for leaders looking to understand the evolving HR landscape and make informed decisions that support thriving, inclusive workplaces. Workforce challenges continue to be top of mind across the fastener industry, and this session will offer timely insights and practical takeaways you can apply within your own organizations.

We're also looking for folks who want to get more involved with the association. If you're interested in sharing ideas, contributing, and being part of a group making a real impact in our industry, we'd love to have you.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the recent tragic loss of one of our industry colleagues, Sebastian Janas. Sebastian will be deeply missed, and it's impossible to replace his personality, passion, and willingness to step up as a steward of our industry. My thoughts are with all who knew him and had the privilege of working alongside him.

I'm looking forward to a strong and productive year ahead and truly appreciate your support of the association and our industry. And for those in colder climates, hang in there; warmer days will be here before you know it.

### WELCOME NEW NFDA MEMBERS!

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## ASSOCIATE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

**Christian Reich**

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are ready for the opportunities that 2026 has in store for all of us. The consensus throughout the industry is positive, with many new projects kicking off this year, and many organizations are targeting growth objectives that they are excited to get started on.

NFDA has a great event lineup this year starting with virtual events, then our widely anticipated Executive Sales Planning Sessions (ESPS) in June,

and our Executive Summit in October. These flagship events have grown into some of the industry's most highly attended gatherings, and the education presented at each is very valuable. As you are planning your schedule this year, I encourage you to save the following dates:

### NFDA VIRTUAL EVENTS

**February 11, 2026**

Virtual Event – HR Trends Report

**April 9, 2026**

Virtual Event – Distributor Fastener Quality

**September 2, 2026**

Virtual Event – My Major Customer Has a Quality Concern – What Now?

**December 3, 2026**

Virtual Event

### NFDA IN-PERSON EVENTS

**June 17-19, 2026**

Annual Meeting & ESPS – Indianapolis, IN

**October 28 - 30, 2026**

Executive Summit – Palm Desert, CA

As with anything, the more you put in, the more you will get out, and this stands true with these NFDA events: the more effort you put forth in attendance and networking with industry leaders, in turn the more personal and professional benefits realized are second to none.

I am looking forward to working alongside my fellow Board members on the initiatives that we at NFDA have planned for this year and to seeing our NFDA members at the various events in 2026. Thank you to all our members for your continued support and commitment to our association. Together, we have achieved remarkable successes and are well-positioned to face the future with confidence and resilience. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments, or ideas you would like to see NFDA incorporate into events.

Here's to a successful and rewarding 2026!

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## NFDA CALENDAR

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

### MARK YOUR 2026 CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

<b>February 11, 2026</b>	Virtual Event – HR Trends Report
<b>April 9, 2026</b>	Virtual Event – Distributor Fastener Quality
<b>June 17-19, 2026</b>	Annual Meeting & ESPS – Indianapolis, IN
<b>September 2, 2026</b>	Virtual Event – My Major Customer Has a Quality Concern. What Now?
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<b>December 3, 2026</b>	Virtual Event



### YFP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Zech Williams**

Sinha, and our directors, Craig Beaty, Mallory Nichols, and Jake Glaser for their continued dedication and contributions to YFP.

Looking ahead, my goal is to continue strengthening YFP's offerings and ensuring we remain true to our core purpose of empowering young fastener professionals. The YFP Book Club continues to gain strong traction and engagement across the industry, and we are excited to carry this momentum into 2026 with two new opportunities to participate. A special thank-you

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a fantastic start to the new year!

I am truly honored and grateful to serve as president of YFP this year. YFP offers so many outstanding programs for our industry, and I'm beyond excited to work alongside such an incredible team.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to Immediate Past President Hristijan Georgievski for his outstanding leadership in 2025. I'd also like to recognize our vice president Nihar

goes to Mike White of Brighton-Best International for his outstanding support and leadership as moderator.

The YFP Mentorship Program is also thriving. We're excited to launch 12 mentor-mentee matches this year, and I'm confident the program will provide valuable guidance and lasting benefits for all participants throughout 2026 and well into their careers.

I want to give a big congratulations to Ethan Loomis, supplier quality engineer at Shamrock International, for being selected as our 2025 Fastener Training Week scholarship winner. It's a fantastic achievement! For those of you applying for the 2026 scholarship, best of luck. We're excited to see your submissions!

Lastly, I am thrilled to share some exciting news for 2026! We'll be launching a brand-new opportunity — the YFP Trade Show Scholarship, created in partnership with the International Fastener Expo and the Fastener Training Institute. Stay tuned for more details about this exciting new initiative in the coming weeks.

On behalf of the entire YFP team, thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. I encourage all young professionals in the industry to get involved with YFP.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead. We can't wait to see where 2026 takes us!



## NFDA STANDARDS ACTIVITY UPDATE Q4 2025

— 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 have any information you readers may have regarding fastener standards changes. If you are not serving on a fastener standards committee, I want to encourage you to consider serving. Just email [carmenv@carverem.com](mailto:carmenv@carverem.com) if you have something to share or want to find a fastener standards committee to join.

There is not a lot of new information to report in this update, but there are a few very important developments. Please take a look at the previous 2025 Q3 edition of the Standards Activity Update, as this edition leans on it and is somewhat repetitive. Also, I am very curious to know that you have read this update. Please drop me a quick email to let me know at [carmenv@carverem.com](mailto:carmenv@carverem.com)

### ASME – American Society of Mechanical Engineers

- The ASME B18 Fastener Committee last met September 11-12, 2025, at the IFI Headquarters in Independence, Ohio. The meeting was also attended by some members via Zoom.
- Major work continues on ASME B18.3 for Socket Head Cap Screws and Keys. The second ballot closed on October 28, 2025. In addition to a minor title change, the proposed changes include:
  - Reintroducing spline drives for socket set screws
  - Revising the thread requirements for short set screws
  - Revision of Table 14, Socket Set Screw Dimensions
  - Accommodating lower strength steel socket products for applications where plating is used, thus eliminating the risk of hydrogen embrittlement where higher strength fasteners are not required.
- ASME B18.16.4 on Serrated Hex Flange Nuts was revised to improve hardness testing requirements and better define hardness and chemistry to prevent the possibility of hydrogen embrittlement. There is a minor negative vote still being processed.
- The next ASME B18 Fastener Committee meeting is yet to be scheduled, but will likely be held in September 2026 in Independence, OH.

### ASTM – American Society for Testing and Materials

- The ASTM F16 Fastener Committee last met in Atlanta, GA the week of November 10, 2025.

- ASTM F3125/F3125 is in ballot to consider the hot dip galvanizing of Grade A490 heavy hex structural bolts. Group 144 heavy hex and twist-off type bolts have been added. The Group Designation system has been adopted, giving manufacturers the option to mark bolts with their group designation (120 & 150); 144 already complies.
- A new standard for the Presentation of Fastener Quality Documentation is through final balloting.
- ASTM F606/F606M is in ballot for clarifying tensile wedge angle and hydrogen embrittlement wedge angle requirements for small screws. A new coupling nut proof load test is under consideration.
- ASTM F1136, F2833, and F3019 standards for dip-spin were all finally withdrawn in favor of F3393.
- W96753 is a work item for development of a new standard for high strength stainless steel bolting assemblies for use in structural and other applications. There is on-line task group meeting in February 2026. Please contact me if you have interest in helping to develop this standard or would like to attend the meeting at [carmenv@carverem.com](mailto:carmenv@carverem.com)
- ASTM F1554 has a proposal in draft to make all Grade 55 rods weldable.
- Work is underway to consider an ASTM standard to cover stainless steel backup and reaction washers. Currently only steel washers are covered under ASTM F3394. Most likely this will be incorporated into the new high strength stainless steel bolting standard.
- There are more than 70 work items on 40 different fastener standards underway. Too much to report here. To access details on these work items, go to <https://www.astm.org/get-involved/technical-committees/committee-f16/subcommittee-f16>
- ASTM B08 Coatings Committee last met in Atlanta, GA the week of November 10.
- B08 also held a workshop on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS), percentages of hexavalent chrome in (trivalent chrome), and cadmium plating properties on May 7, 2025 in Toronto.
- The ASTM F07 Aerospace and Aircraft Committee held a very successful conference on hydrogen in materials in La Rochelle, France June 4-6, 2025.

- The next ASTM F16 Fastener Standards Committee and B08 Coatings Standards Committee meetings will be held the week of May 4, 2026 in Dallas, TX.

#### **SAE International**

- The SAE Fastener Standards Committee met on September 10, 2025 in Independence, OH.
- A draft revision of J429, Externally Threaded Fasteners will go out to ballot by the end of the year. The main subject of the revision will be to introduce socket products to the standard.
- SAE J1701, Torque Tension Fastening has been revised to combine J1701M for metric fasteners.
- A task group has been established to revise and improve SAE J995 Mechanical and Material Requirements for Steel Nuts.
- Other standards under revision include SAE J58, J78, J995, J1237, and J81.
- The next SAE Fastener Standards Committee meeting has not been scheduled but will likely be in September 2026 in conjunction with the ASME B18 meeting.

#### **RCSC - Research Council on Structural Connections (The Bolt Council)**

- The RCSC last met in Cincinnati, OH June 3-5, 2025.
- The 2025 revision of the RCSC specification for structural joints using high-strength bolts is complete and should be published in early 2026. Significant changes include new DTI language, removal of calibrated wrench method, addition of 144 ksi heavy hex and twist-off assemblies, new EOR section, backup and reaction washers added, ASTM F3394, bolting personnel qualifications section added, non-conformance disposition section added.
- Fatigue section revised to follow recent changes in AISC TC6.
- The new AISC/RCSC Stainless Steel Structural Bolting Guide is complete and is in the hands of the publishers. The guide should be available in early 2026.
- The next RCSC meeting will be held in Peru, IL June 2-4, 2026.
- AASHTO/NSBA steel bridge collaboration is developing a new standard S18.3 – 2025 specification for duplex stainless steel bolting assemblies for bridges.

#### **IFI - Industrial Fasteners Institute**

- The IFI 2024 (12th Edition) Book of Fastener Standards has been published and is available for purchase (always worth repeating).

- The IFI Technical Committee has made significant progress on updating IFI-114-2015 break mandrel blind rivets, IFI-113-2015 steel self-drilling tapping screws, and IFI-115-2014 flange 12-point screws.
- A new standard for rivet nuts is in consideration.
- The IFI Technical Committee will establish a new Fastener Standards Camp program to encourage young professionals to get involved in fastener standards committees. It is likely to be held in Independence, OH, at the IFI Headquarters in April of 2026. Contact this author or the IFI if you wish to participate.
- The IFI Technical Committee will next meet on January 22, 2026 online.
- If your company has an interest in North American fastener manufacturing and you are not a member of the IFI, please consider joining.

#### **ISO**

- The ISO TC2 Fastener Technical Committee met October 20-24, 2025 in Hamburg, Germany. The next meeting will be April 8 in Montreal, Canada (tentative).
- ISO 10684 Fasteners - Hot Dip Galvanized Coatings has revisions that will be going out for ballot.
- ISO 15330 Fasteners - Preloading test for the detection of hydrogen embrittlement has made significant progress on needed revisions and is in ballot.
- ISO 898-1 Externally Threaded Fasteners is under revision specific to tensile stress area, chemistry terminology, and an annex on hardenability.
- ISO 16047 Fasteners - Torque/Clamp Force Testing is under revision for splitting into two parts: acceptance inspection and application engineering.
- Two new standards ISO 898-11 and -12 are under development for coverage of large diameter bolts and nuts.
- ISO 6157 - Fastener Surface Discontinuities is under revision.
- ISO 10666 - Metric Self Drilling Screws is under consideration to lower core hardness. This is a US initiative and is not seeing consensus at this point.
- The latest revisions of ISO Fastener Standards can be purchased through the IFI website, or for information on a comprehensive subscription to the ISO online browsing platform, please email me at [carmenv@carverem.com](mailto:carmenv@carverem.com)

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## Military and Federal

- Revision J of FF-S-86, a very important socket head cap screw specification, was published on April 1, 2025. This problematic federal specification has long needed revision, and much work was done by the committee leading up to this revision. There was no consensus on all items, and work will continue after the publication of revision J. Revision J can be downloaded from <https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qssearch.aspx>, or you can contact the author for a copy.

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, you know the email.

*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.*

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

## SCHOLARSHIP FOR FASTENER TRAINING WEEK



Each year NFDA awards a scholarship for Fastener Training Week, an advanced technical training program produced by the Fastener Training Institute®.

Applicants are evaluated based on recommendations from their employers, personal achievements, work experience, and an essay. Identifying information is redacted, so the team members evaluating the applications do not know the names or employers of those applying.

The Fastener Training Week scholarship is a benefit for NFDA members only. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is June 1. The application can be found at <https://www.nfda-fastener.org/fastener-training-week-scholarship>



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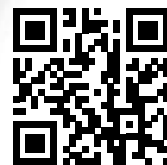
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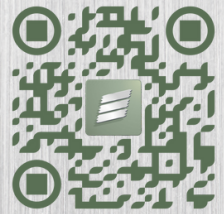
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