

MAY 2024



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Jim Degnan**

This year is bound to be as unpredictable as ever, with plenty of opportunities and challenges along the way. The fluctuations in demand, the growing number of supply chain factors, and constantly evolving technologies are just some of the reasons why our industry is becoming more complex. But some things remain constant, like the benefits of personal development. In this changing world, you need to be ready for changes, surprises, and

disruptions. Developing your skills is the best way to prepare for the next challenge, and the NFDA is here to help.

SW Anderson has been a supporter of the NFDA for a long time, but we didn't realize the full potential of our membership until we got more involved. A good friend of mine encouraged me to take a more active role (thanks Adam!), and since then we have gained much more from our membership. And it's not just the face-to-face meetings; the webinars are packed

with great content and discussions. The professional development the NFDA offers, both for our company and as individuals, is one of the main things that you can do to equip yourself and your team better for the future.

As I mentioned in my previous article, there are many benefits for the NFDA members, but there is also another benefit that is equally valuable, and that is the opportunity to connect with some of the finest people in any industry. And I'm not just saying that because you're reading my article! The fastener industry has some of the smartest people who know that developing the skillsets of your people is what makes a great team. They are also willing to share their insights to help you advance your development. I have met some of the best people since being more active, and I will say that I'm a better coworker and supervisor since interacting more with them. So, get more involved, meet some great people, utilize the resources available, and enjoy working with the best folks around.

This is my last president message and I want to thank all the members of the NFDA for this opportunity, but especially those who I have worked with on the Board, in our various committees, and past presidents. All of you are true professionals, and it's been a pleasure to spend time with each of you.

## **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:**

<b>May 29, 2024</b>	Print Reading Webinar
<b>June 6, 2024</b>	YFP Book Club
<b>June 11-14, 2024</b>	Annual Meeting & ESPS® – Irving, TX
<b>October 2, 2024</b>	Virtual Program
<b>October 16-18, 2024</b>	Executive Summit – San Diego, CA
<b>December 5, 2024</b>	NFDA/YFP Virtual Holiday Celebration

**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.

**SCHOLARSHIP  
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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 the recommendation from their employer, 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 [www.nfda-fastener.org/fastener-training-week-scholarship](http://www.nfda-fastener.org/fastener-training-week-scholarship). Apply today!

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



**ASSOCIATE  
CHAIR'S  
MESSAGE**

**Mike Robinson**

Spring is in the air! If you're in the south that means nice warm temperatures have come and you are working with those dock doors wide open. If you're in the Midwest that means there is a chance of snow and a chance it is 70 degrees out (haha)! I hope you're all hitting your stride in 2024 and ready for the exciting lineup of fastener events ahead.

If you didn't attend our CEO and Executive Virtual Round Table, you missed out on

a great event. We had some very good discussions ranging from succession planning, remote and office work schedules, labor, and once again cybersecurity seems to continue to be an issue for all our companies.

I can't wait to see everyone in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio for Fastener Fair USA at the end of May. Then in June, we have the return of the NFDA Annual Meeting & ESPS® in Irving, Texas! If you have never attended the Executive Sales Planning Sessions® (ESPS), it is something you don't want to miss. You will have the opportunity for up to 18 high-level personal meetings with your key suppliers,

customers, reps, and service providers all in one place. This is an event unlike any other event in the industry and the best one (in my humble but totally accurate opinion). If you haven't registered make sure you jump on our website and get your registration and rooms booked ASAP before they fill up.

Our YFP members have been hard at work creating opportunities for the next generation of fastener professionals. We are now five months into the mentorship program and continue to receive great feedback and results. We launched our new book club, and we are currently diving into The Five Dysfunctions of a Team by Patrick Lencioni. If you want to join, it's not too late. We will discuss the book over Zoom on June 6. So, if you have a new team member looking to make some connections in the industry have them grab the book and start reading! YFP was also able to team up with the Fastener Training Institute, and YFP members are eligible to receive one complimentary Fastener Training Institute webinar of choice per calendar year. The complimentary webinar may be redeemed on a live or recorded presentation.

As for me, this marks the end of my tenure writing this newsletter as your NFDA associate chair. It's been an incredible two years serving you and this industry. The people I've met and the experiences I've had with this association have been nothing short of amazing. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it all – until we meet again!

**WELCOME NEW  
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## NFDA STANDARDS ACTIVITY UPDATE Q1 2024 – John Medcalf

After 10 years of having the privilege of providing these updates to the NFDA membership, this issue marks my final article. As I pass the baton to another individual with an equal or greater amount of passion for the technical elements of our industry, I hope that my updates have done a bit more than just providing information. Rather, I hope readers have gained some appreciation of the value of understanding and using standards, especially how they benefit those in the distribution business. And finally, hopefully one or two readers have either gotten involved in the standards organizations personally or encouraged someone from their company to do so. My final update on activities is as follows.

### ASME

ASME B18 and the associated subcommittees will meet at the IFI headquarters in Independence, Ohio on April 16 and 17. A couple of significant topics are the ongoing major revision to ASME B18.21.1 on washers, ongoing review of ASME B18.3 on sockets to allow lower strength materials, a review of ASME B18.2.6 DTI protrusion specifications based on RCSC and AISC hole sizes, and a revision to ASME B18.16.4 on serrated hex flange nuts. After many years under revision, the updated version of ASME B18.6.3 on machine screws and tapping screws is expected to be published this summer. This will finally include the reduction in core hardness for tapping screws to reduce the potential for hydrogen embrittlement failures.

### ASTM

ASTM committee week will take place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania the week of May 6 and will include a celebration of 50 years of committee F16 on fasteners. Some of the projects within F16 include additional work on the ballot to incorporate 144 ksi assemblies in ASTM F3125/F3125M, additional balloting of the updates to F1137/F1137M on phosphate coatings regarding thread fit, hydrogen embrittlement relief, and salt spray requirements, and updates to F1789 on terminology (specifically adding or updating the definitions of proof stress, proof load, and yield strength). Notably, the updated definition for yield strength is intended to clarify that it measures the material property through machined specimen testing rather than through full-size fastener testing.

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.

### ISO

The 2024 plenary meetings of ISO TC2 will occur in October, jointly hosted by the United States and Canada. The most recent occurrences in North America were Montreal in 2018 and New Orleans in 2015. While the exact location and invitation are still to be finalized as of this writing, it will likely be a city in the Mid-West. It is a great honor to host the meetings, but it also requires funding, as our North American standards organizations do not cover the costs of hosting. For this reason, a fundraising effort will begin shortly. Hopefully some readers of this column will recognize the value of hosting this international group of fastener experts and can encourage their organizations to provide financial support.

### IFI

The IFI Technical Committee will hold its next meeting in mid-April. Along with an ongoing review of existing and potential new IFI standards, the task group reviewing the calculation of tensile stress area has begun a significant test program. Through an evaluation of multiple diameters and heat treatment conditions, the study aims to gather empirical data on how the strength of a threaded section compares to that of the base material. This data will be used to develop the North American positions on this element of ISO 898-1, with possible implications for inch-based standards as well.

With that, I conclude my time as the NFDA standards representative. I appreciate the NFDA for recognizing the importance of staying informed on these topics and remain thankful for having had the opportunity to serve in this role. Thanks for reading!

Please email your standards related comments, concerns, or questions to [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.*

### 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

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



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

### FASTENER TRAINING WEEK®:

- **August 19-23, 2024** – Chicago
- **November 18-22, 2024** – Cleveland

NFDA members receive discounted registration on all FTI classroom seminars. For more information and a list of all upcoming FTI events visit [www.fastenertraining.org](http://www.fastenertraining.org)



## YFP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Craig Beaty**

They say time flies when you're having fun, and 2024 has epitomized that old saying. With our first events behind us, the YFP team and I are happy to say that our new and existing programs are off to a fantastic start. We launched our in-person events and attendance this year at the Pac-West Spring Conference in Anaheim, California and it was very successful. Following that, we attended the Pac-West After Hours in San Diego.

Between the two events,

we have grown our member base, and have had very fruitful conversations with new and existing members, mainly surrounding our newly launched book club!

Moving forward into Q2, we are excited to see everyone at the following events.

- Fastener Fair USA (May 22-23, 2024 in Cleveland, Ohio). While here we will host a panel discussion with three well-experienced speakers. Please note that YFP members are able to receive free registration for the show! For more information, please reach out to Amy Nijjar at [amy@nfda-fastener.org](mailto:amy@nfda-fastener.org)
- NFDA Annual Conference & ESPS® (Tuesday, June 11, 2024 - Friday, June 14, 2024 in Irving, Texas)

- Pac-West After Hours (Thursday, June 20, 2024 in Vancouver, British Columbia)

If you're able to attend the events mentioned above, fantastic! If not, don't worry, there are plenty of ways to get involved!

- **YFP BOOK CLUB** - We are still welcoming new signups for our first round of the YFP book club! Well, signups are always open, but as our virtual meeting to discuss *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* is on June 6, it's better late than never! For those who aren't aware, the YFP now hosts a book club, with a new title selected every six months. At the end of the six months, all members will meet virtually to discuss their main takeaways.
- **YFP SPONSORSHIP** - As we build our member base, we are always striving to deliver more value to our members. Whether it's bringing in speakers, instructors or professional photographers for headshots, the more sponsors we have the better equipped we are!
- **REGIONAL COORDINATORS** - For more information on in-person events, virtual meetings and educational opportunities, don't be shy to reach out to your regional coordinator!

Visit YFP at <https://www.nfda-fastener.org/young-fastener-professionals1> for more information and details.



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*BBI Family 117 / VB9* (ASME B18.2.2 / DIN 934)

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**Flat Washers - Inch / Metric**  
*BBI Family 112 / VB8*

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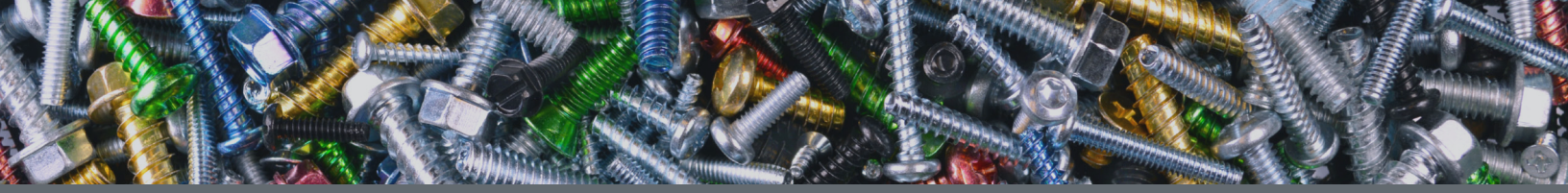


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# BEACON'S INVENTORY SOLUTIONS

It can be difficult finding inventory balance without shortage issues or carrying too much stock. Let our custom designed programs be your solution! We create inventory management plans that are specific to your demand ensuring your parts are in stock and available when you need them. As an extension of your procurement team we will streamline your supply chain, lower your overall inventory investments, and improve product availability so you can better support your customers' needs.

## Blanket Orders

This flexible program allows customers to place an order and then schedule releases as needed for up to a 12-month period. This reduces the administrative expense of having to place multiple purchase orders while improving product availability.

## Consignment Inventory

We allocate our inventory at your warehouse and payment is not due until parts are sold. Utilizing this program reduces your carrying costs while providing immediate access to inventory.

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