



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Smith

I'll be honest — when I accepted the role of NFDA President, I had a long list of goals I hoped to accomplish. What I didn't fully anticipate was how much I would gain in return. Serving this association over the past year has been one of the true highlights of my career, and I say that with deep appreciation after so many years in the business.

At the heart of it all are the people. Whether in conversations at our annual meeting, thoughtful discussions with fellow board members working through challenges, or impromptu exchanges with association leaders abroad, I've been reminded time and again that while fasteners may hold the world together, it is the people in this industry who make it such a rewarding place to be.

Back in January, the NFDA Board of Directors gathered for our Strategic Planning Meeting. We spent a full day evaluating where the association stands today, what our members need most, and where we want to go next. The result was a focused, practical roadmap built around eight strategic initiatives designed to make NFDA stronger, more relevant, and more valuable to every member.

Here's a look at what we're working toward:

### 1. A Bigger, Better Brand

We're building an enhanced marketing plan designed to sharpen NFDA's brand recognition and improve how we communicate with members — and with the folks who aren't members yet but should be. Think of it as making sure the world knows what we already know: NFDA membership is worth it.

### 2. An Ambassador Program

This one is already in motion. We've identified a pool of NFDA ambassadors to help welcome attendees at our Annual Meeting & ESPS and the Executive Summit. The goal is simple — nobody should show up to an NFDA event and feel like a stranger.

### 3. Building Lasting Member Relationships

We want every NFDA member to walk away from each year having made at least two meaningful new connections with fellow members. This isn't about networking for networking's sake — it's about building the kind of relationships that help your business and make this industry more connected.

### 4. Targeted Membership Recruitment

Growth matters. We'll be developing a deliberate, strategic plan to identify and recruit the right individuals and companies into NFDA membership. The fastener world is full of smart people who would thrive in this community — let's find them.

### 5. A Rapid Response Team for Hot Topics

Between tariffs, CBAM, and compliance changes hitting the industry at a pace that would make anyone's head spin, we recognized the need for a dedicated team to identify emerging issues fast and get relevant, useful content to our members.

### 6. A Stronger Speaker Bench

Great speakers don't just fall into your lap — you have to build the pipeline. We're developing speaker selection guidelines, surveying members on topics and speakers they'd find valuable, and putting together a roster we can draw from for years to come. Got a great speaker in mind? Let us know.

### 7. Targeted and Tailored Learning Programs

One size does not fit all. We're looking at structuring learning experiences that speak directly to different functional roles within member companies — whether

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you're in operations, sales, finance, or leadership. Roundtables, industry panels, peer-led sessions — expect more of all of it.

### 8. Deeper Collaboration with Industry Partners

We're committed to expanding NFDA's reach by identifying meaningful ways to collaborate with other industry associations — through co-branded events, joint programming, shared recruitment, and networking opportunities.

One of the true highlights of this past year has been the opportunity to represent NFDA on the global stage. Most recently, I had the privilege of presenting at the Global Fastener Forum 2026 in Taiwan — an experience I will not soon forget. The audience included suppliers, distributors, and industry leaders from around the world, and the conversations that followed were exactly the kind of meaningful cross-border dialogue our industry needs more of.

My remarks focused on the current state of the U.S. fastener market, how American buyers view products sourced from Taiwan, and what Taiwanese suppliers can do to strengthen and grow those relationships. I came away genuinely energized — not only by the warm reception, but by the shared understanding that international collaboration is not just good business; it is essential to the future of our industry.

I said it at the beginning, and I will say it again: serving this past year has been an honor. The members of this association show up, contribute, and genuinely care — and that is what makes leading this organization a privilege.

We have important work ahead of us, and I am grateful to be doing it alongside all of you. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting & ESPS in June!



Ed Smith speaking at the Global Fastener Forum 2026 in Taiwan.



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

## NFDA CALENDAR

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

<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?
<b>October 28-30, 2026</b>	Executive Summit – Palm Desert, CA
<b>December 3, 2026</b>	Virtual Event

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



### ASSOCIATE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

**Christian Reich**

Spring is here, and it's time to put away those winter coats to enjoy the warmer weather! Don't forget to pick out those flowers for Mother's Day on May 10th. As the weather warms up, that also means this year's fastener events are starting to fill up everyone's calendars, and you don't want to miss them. We will see most of you at Fastener Fair USA in Charlotte, NC, May 5-6, 2026.

NFDA has offered some great virtual programs to kick off the year, and we are excited about the NFDA Annual Meeting & ESPS being hosted in Indianapolis, IN, on June 17-19, 2026, just in time to kick off summer. This is one of the best events of the year, focused on networking and relationship-building between distributors and manufacturers, with tailored meetings to maximize ROI on attendance. Make sure to register today before the ESPS appointments book up!

Before we know it, we will be talking about the NFDA Executive Summit in Palm Desert, CA, this fall. This is poised to be an incredible event with keynote

speakers, education seminars, networking activities, and more. The location itself will make this a well-attended gathering of leaders in the fastener industry. Make sure to keep an eye out for when registration opens up and the schedule of events! The Executive Summit will be held October 28-30, 2026.

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.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Indianapolis, IN, this June! Enjoy the rest of spring and safe travels as you attend the industry events this year!



**YFP  
PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE**

**Zech Williams**

professionals to attend the International Fastener Expo (IFE).

The scholarship package includes:

- Airfare
- Three-night hotel stay
- IFE show registration
- Ticket to the IFE Welcome Party
- Recognition at the Welcome Party
- Registration for the Fastener Training Institute Workshop

This scholarship was made possible through our partnership with the International Fastener Expo (IFE) and the Fastener Training Institute (FTI).

Hello fastener friends!

It's hard to believe we're already through the first quarter of 2026. I hope everyone has had a fantastic start to the year. With warmer weather rolling in and winter finally behind us for most, spring is officially in full swing!

YFP has been hard at work launching an exciting new initiative, the first-ever YFP Trade Show Scholarship. This new program offers a chance for young fastener

professionals to attend the International Fastener

Expo (IFE).

We sincerely thank our partners for their collaboration and enthusiasm; this program truly wouldn't exist without their support.

To be considered, applicants can complete the application available on the NFDA website under the YFP tab or directly on the IFE website. The application deadline is July 15, so don't miss this incredible opportunity and be sure to apply. Best of luck to all who apply!

We are now five months into the 2026 Mentorship Program, and it's off to a strong start for all participants. If you're interested in joining the program in 2027, there's still plenty of time: applications are due by November 1.

We're also excited to once again offer the YFP Fastener Training Week scholarship in partnership with FTI. Applications for this scholarship are due by October 15, so mark your calendars.

The YFP Book Club will host its next meeting during the NFDA Annual Meeting & ESPS on June 17. We're currently reading *The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari*, and it's been a great read so far. If you haven't started yet, it's not too late. Join us for a thoughtful and engaging discussion.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the NFDA Annual Meeting next month. From my family to yours, I wish you a wonderful close to the spring season and a fantastic start to summer.

<p><b>WELCOME NEW NFDA MEMBERS!</b></p>	<p><b>FASTENER SUPERSTORE</b> <a href="http://www.fastenersuperstore.com">www.fastenersuperstore.com</a></p>
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## NFDA STANDARDS ACTIVITY UPDATE Q1 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 our 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 [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 on this quarter, and there are several standards committee meetings about to occur just as this goes to press. I will report on those activities in the Q2 2026 update and instead take this opportunity to explain the roles of the various consensus standards organizations (CSOs) and fastener standards committees. There is a lot to know regarding each of the committees, so I will report on them one at a time. This time, I will focus on the ASME Fastener Standards Committees.

#### ASME – American Society of Mechanical Engineers

ASME helps the global engineering community develop solutions to real-world challenges. Founded in 1880, ASME is a not-for-profit professional organization that enables collaboration, knowledge sharing, and skill development across all engineering disciplines, while promoting the vital role of the engineer in society. ASME codes and standards, publications, conferences, continuing education, and professional development programs provide a foundation for advancing technical knowledge and a safer world. In 2020, ASME formed the International Society of Interdisciplinary Engineers (ISIE) II & III LLC, a new for-profit subsidiary to house business ventures that will bring new and innovative products, services, and technologies to the engineering community.

Among the hundreds of ASME technical committees, the ASME B18 Fastener Standards Committee develops and maintains more than 50 fastener standards. There are sixteen B18 subcommittees, including a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the ISO TG-2, Technical Committee on Fasteners. B18 standards mostly cover the dimensional and quality requirements for bolts,

screws, nuts, and washers, while referencing other CSO standards for material, performance, testing, and quality requirements. The occasional ASME fastener standard will be a more complete standard covering dimensional, material, and performance requirements. These include ASME B18.6.3, which covers all kinds of machine screws and tapping screws, and B18.16.6, which covers lock nuts.

The B18 subcommittee, the fasteners they cover, and key leaders can be found here:

<https://cstools.asme.org/csconnect/CommitteePages.cfm?Committee=C1800000>

Click on B18 Committee Structure in the left-hand column for a detailed downloadable PDF on the ASME B18 subcommittee structure.

The B18 committee holds in-person meetings twice a year in the spring and fall. The last meeting was on September 11-12, 2025, and the next meeting will be held April 30-May 1, 2026. The meetings usually take place at the IFI Headquarters in Independence, Ohio. Guests are welcome, and the meeting is usually hybrid with some attendees participating via Zoom. You do not need to be a member of ASME to participate. Only ASME members can hold voting positions on ASME committees, though. It is not expensive to join ASME, and the qualifications are not difficult. You do not need to be an engineer, you just need to have a compelling interest in a fastener product as a user, a producer, a service provider, academia, or military.

ASTM B18 subcommittees meet online and in person as needed throughout the year to prepare for the main B18 meeting.

Another very important ASME Committee is ASME B1, which covers screw threads of all kinds. There are five B1 subcommittees covering the dimensions, inspection, and gauge requirements for screw threads. Screw threads are one of the very first mechanical devices to become standardized, and while the B1 committee and its subcommittees are not technically a fastener standards committee, they are vital to the fastener industry. B1 standards are relatively mature

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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 —*

and do not require frequent revision or new standards. The committee and subcommittees meet as needed throughout the year.

Some other key fastener standards organization meetings in the near future are as follows:

- ASTM F16 on Fasteners and B08 on Coatings - Dallas, TX, May 4 - 6, 2026
- RCSC, the Research Council on Structural Connections – Peru, IL, June 2 - 4, 2026
- SAE International Fastener Standards Committee - Independence, OH, September 2026
- IFI Technical Committee – meets quarterly online
- ISO TC 2 Technical Committee on Fasteners Annual Meeting - Ningbo, China, October 2026
- The next in-person ad-hoc group meetings will be in Montreal, Canada, June 29 - July 2, 2026.

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 [carmenv@carverem.com](mailto:carmenv@carverem.com). Also, I am very curious to know if you read these updates. Please drop me a quick email to let me know!

*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.*

### 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>

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



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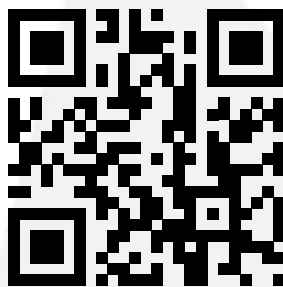
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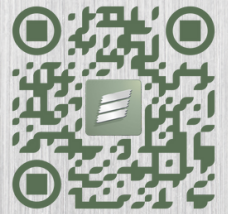
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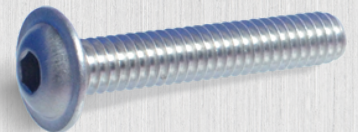
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