



# NFDA TODAY

YOUR NATIONAL FASTENER NEWS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Jim Degnan**

As we move through the fourth quarter, this market continues to present many challenges for our industry. While some aspects have become more predictable, still others are very volatile. Inflation and labor remain common primary topics of concern for many. While there may not be much we can do to change inflation, there may be several resources to consider to improve the productivity and capacity of your employees.

As I previously mentioned, the NFDA Board held its strategic planning session to review the survey that our membership participated in earlier this year. The most prevalent theme from the survey is to provide more support to our membership to assist them in the development of their employees. With that in mind, and with the details from the survey, the Board commissioned several task forces.

- Human Resources Task Force, whose focus is to create a robust human capital management resource page on the NFDA website that provides members with tailored, ready-to-use recruitment, retention, and employee development tools.

- Position Resources Task Force, to create mechanisms for development and/or identification of relevant tailored training content to further develop business skill sets. This content will serve front line positions, teams, and departments, and eventually will include implementation templates for users.
- Learning Content Task Force, to develop list of subject matter experts who can be called on as speakers, presenters, or content creators through which they will provide training and development on critical topics.
- Membership Marketing Task Force, to develop marketing programs that will disseminate the newly developed content to existing and new target member profiles.

These task forces, along with our permanent Learning Committee, Marketing Committee, and Member Value Committee will work to identify and develop resources to assist you in your efforts to develop your employees. We will provide updates on their progress and will be eager to share with you the content developed. If you have any suggestions or resources you would like to share with our association, please contact me.

Challenging times should motivate us to reinforce our core strengths. Investing in our people provides many positive returns for them and for the companies they work for. And that is in line with the NFDA's core purpose, which is to help NFDA members thrive in a global marketplace.

## MEET THE 2023-2024 NFDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- November 30, 2023** Virtual Program - Using the Power of AI and Automation to Make Your Business More Efficient
- December 14, 2023** NFDA / YFP Virtual Holiday Celebration

**SAVE THE DATE:**

- June 12-14, 2024** Annual Meeting / ESPS – Irving, TX
- October 16-18, 2024** Executive Summit – San Diego, CA

**ASSOCIATE CHAIR'S MESSAGE****Mike Robinson**

I hope this message finds you all in high spirits and good health as we move into the final quarter of 2023. Hopefully everyone survived the IFE show in Vegas and was able to strengthen your business relationships during those busy three days. It has been a successful and eventful year for our association. Many of you just returned from our Executive Summit in Scottsdale. This event was a resounding success, thanks in no small

part to the esteemed speakers who graced our gathering.

Bill Kaiser, a renowned expert in the field of company culture, took the stage and delivered an enlightening talk. Bill covered a range of critical topics, from strategies for improving retention and recruitment, to methods for reducing burnout and inspiring innovation. His insights on boosting efficiency and productivity, as well as elevating the customer experience, were both eye-opening and practical.

NFDA brought forth a powerhouse panel discussion featuring Scott Longfellow, Doug Ruggles, Nick Ruetz, and Jerrad Douberly. These experts left a profound impact as they delved into the stark reality of the digital age - the dangers of cyber extortion. The riveting discussion dove into personal experiences, revealing tales of resilience and resolve when faced with ransomware attacks. These accounts involved ransoms, the extensive costs related to consultants, legal procedures, and cybersecurity experts. Scott Longfellow, our expert moderator, led the discourse on the indispensable technological and

behavioral measures to deter these cybercriminals.

Attendees were also treated to a stimulating and timely session led by Donald Critchlow. The topic of discussion was both intriguing and pertinent: "China Invades or Blockades Taiwan? Donald's deep insights and expertise provided attendees with an illuminating perspective on the complex geopolitics surrounding China and Taiwan. Equally crucial, the session examined the potential global responses to such developments.

We ended with Jim Derry's presentation on data analytics. Jim's talk offered a roadmap for understanding the intricacies of data management, aimed at helping organizations within our industry define the data they possess, the data they require, and the data they can effectively utilize. With a focus on practical applications, Jim presented a series of real-world examples drawn from his own experience overseeing this process at Field. It's safe to say that our event was a treasure trove of invaluable education. Each session was packed with insights and knowledge, leaving attendees with much to contemplate and apply within their own organizations. I believe that everyone derived as much inspiration from these sessions as I did. The exchange of ideas and the depth of learning at the Executive Summit is the reason the NFDA is one of the best in our industry. A special thanks and shout out to Bill Derry and Tim O'Keeffe for bringing an outstanding education series to our group.

Lastly, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each and every NFDA member 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 enthusiasm. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas for future events or education please let me know!

**WELCOME NEW NFDA MEMBERS**

**DB ROBERTS**  
[dbroberts.com](http://dbroberts.com)

**E-Z LOK**  
[ezlok.com](http://ezlok.com)

**NEWREX SCREW CORP.**  
[newrex.com.tw](http://newrex.com.tw)

**SMARTCERT**  
[smartcert.tech](http://smartcert.tech)



## NFDA STANDARDS ACTIVITY UPDATE Q3 2023 – John Medcalf

While work happens year-round, late summer through fall is the busiest time of year for fastener standards activities. In August, a record number of students learned about fastener standards during the Chicago session of Fastener Training Week. Then, in mid-September, the SAE and ASME fastener committees held meetings with above average participation for both. The IFI held its fall meeting in Texas in late September, which included an update on the efforts of the revitalized technical committee. As I write this update, I am preparing for a trip to Tokyo for the annual meeting of the ISO/TC 2 fastener committee, and the season will conclude with ASTM meetings in Washington, DC in early November. Some of the significant projects are as follows.

### ASME

The revision to ASME B18.6.3 on machine screws and tapping screws has passed balloting by the standards committee and will proceed toward publication. This will include the long-discussed revisions to case hardening specifications for prevention of hydrogen embrittlement. Other projects still going through balloting include a major revision to ASME B18.21.1 on flat and lock washers, updates to ASME B18.2.1 on bolts and screws, a revision to ASME B18.2.9 on straightness gaging, and the reintroduction of spline products in ASME B18.3. In the latter, discussions are also beginning on the path to allowing lower strength inch socket products.

### SAE

The comprehensive revision to SAE J429 on mechanical properties of externally threaded inch fasteners went through the first round of balloting. As expected with the volume of revisions, a number of negatives were received and will be addressed. One area of uncertainty is the need for Grade 1, which was eliminated in the first ballot draft. Other projects include a revision to SAE J58 on flanged 12-point screws which would increase flange thickness and additional updates to the J78 self-drilling screw standard.

### ISO

In the working group on washers, the new standard on stainless steel flat washers is moving through the balloting process, while a new standard has been proposed on surface discontinuities of flat washers. Also still at the working group level is the new proposed standard for pre-applied adhesives, which is nearing a draft ready for ballot. Two technical reports are being prepared: one to disseminate the results of a round robin study of salt spray testing and the other on the calculation of tensile stress area. These will likely influence the future course of coating standards and mechanical property standards

respectively. Additionally, while the mechanical property standards for fasteners greater than M39 diameter have progressed, there are still some technical points to be developed prior to drafts being balloted.

### ASTM

As usual, there are several active projects. Four metric stainless-steel standards (F836M on nuts, F837M on socket cap screws, F879M on button and countersunk socket cap screws, and F880M on socket set screws) have been balloted for withdrawal in favor of the corresponding ISO standards (3506 series). A563/A563M on carbon and alloy steel nuts is getting updates, including referencing the combined zinc-flake standard (F3393) and clarifying when requirements for overtapping apply. The allowance of hot dip galvanizing of grade A490 bolts continues to be discussed at a task group level.

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**

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. YFP is at an all-time high coming off the success of our events at International Fastener Expo. Many of you stopped by our booth and had your professional headshots taken for free by our photographer. We are also proud of the conversation and participation at the YFP panel, "The Importance of Mentorship." A huge thank you to our moderator, YFP's very own, Zech Williams, and

our panelists, Kelly Charles, Mike White, and Nihar Sinha.

One of the proudest accomplishments of YFP is the establishment of our mentorship program. We understand

the immense value of mentorship in our fastener community, and this program serves as a testament to our commitment to nurturing the future of our industry. We encourage both young professionals seeking guidance and seasoned experts looking to give back to get involved. The applications for both are open on the NFDA website through November 3rd.

In addition to our mentorship program, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our regional coordinator program. This initiative is designed to connect YFP members at the local level. We believe that these regional coordinators will foster even stronger relationships among our community, making it easier for our members to engage in events, share knowledge, and strengthen their networks. Keep an eye out for updates on this program as it develops.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you, who contribute to the success and vitality of NFDA and YFP. It is your passion and commitment that make our industry exceptional. Be excellent to each other.

## YFP AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP FOR FASTENER TRAINING WEEK



The Young Fastener Professionals recently awarded a scholarship for Fastener Training Week, an advanced fastener technical training program produced by the Fastener Training Institute, to Stephen Chrysler, customer service representative for Tower Fasteners.

For more information about the YFP scholarship, visit [www.nfda-fastener.org/yfp-scholarship-for-fastener-training](http://www.nfda-fastener.org/yfp-scholarship-for-fastener-training)

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

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



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

### **FASTENER TRAINING WEEK** ®

**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)



Amy Nijjar  
Executive Vice President  
[amy@nfda-fastener.org](mailto:amy@nfda-fastener.org)

3020 Old Ranch Parkway Suite 300  
Seal Beach CA 90740  
562-799-5519

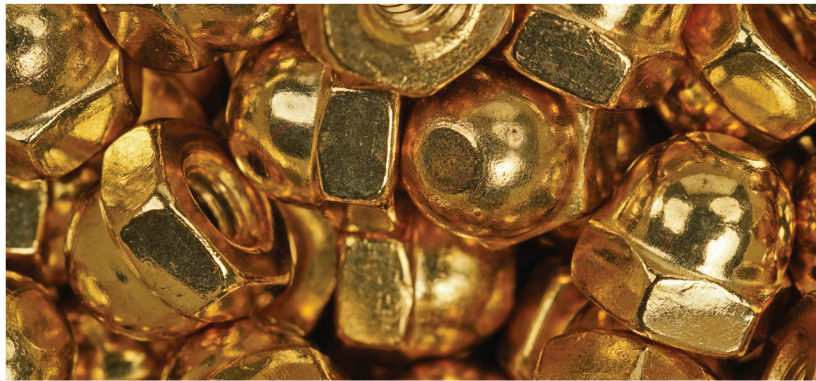
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## **Hex Finished Nuts - Inch / Metric**

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

## **Flat Washers - Inch / Metric**

**BBI Family 112 / VB8**

## **Machine Screws - Inch**

**BBI Family 116** (ASME B18.6.3)

## **Wood Screws - Inch**

**BBI Family 114** (ASME B18.6.1)

## **Heavy Hex Nuts - Inch**

**BBI Family VB2** (ASME B18.2.2)

## **Hex Jam Nuts - Inch / Metric**

**BBI Family VB3 / VB6** (ASME B18.2.2 / DIN 439)

## **Hex Machine Screw Nuts - Inch**

**BBI Family 113** (ASME B18.2.2)

## **Acorn Cap Nuts - Inch / Metric**

**BBI Family VB4**

## **Wing Nuts - Inch**

**BBI Family VB5** (ASME B18.6.9)



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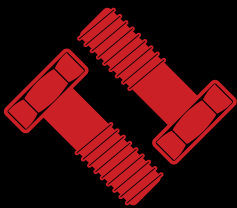
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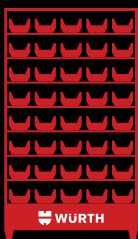
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