



SEPTEMBER 2022

INSIDE TCMA

In the News Chairman's Comments

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Summer is ending, kids are getting back to school, and football talk is in the air. As we are now getting close to ending 3rd quarter 2022, and we find that business is strong, most materials are available though higher priced, and mid-term elections are just around the corner.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The \$1.2 trillion H.R.3684 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed with bipartisan support in late 2021. Now in full swing, this bill provides new funding for infrastructure projects including; roads, bridges, and major projects, passenger and freight rail, highway and pedestrian safety, public transit, broadband, ports and waterways, airports, water infrastructure, power and grid reliability and resiliency (including funding for coastal resiliency, ecosystem restoration, and weatherization), clean school buses and ferries, electric vehicle charging, addressing legacy pollution by cleaning up Brownfield and Superfund sites and reclaiming abandoned mines, and western water infrastructure. With this new boost in funding, it is no shock that foundries producing water works and infrastructure castings are enjoying robust business.

RESHORING

The Reshoring Initiative forecasts that 350,000 new U.S. jobs will be created in 2022. There has been a pronounced increase in reshoring activities rising from the effect of domestic businesses filling the gaps in their supply chains for essential products. Most if not all Texas foundries are enjoying robust business and strong backlogs. However, this success is paired with the continuing and growing frustration of attracting and keeping all levels of employees, most noticeably in the skilled trades and general labor/finishing areas. I often hear, 'business is good, but it would be better if I could figure out how to get more castings out the back door'.

If domestic firms and foreign direct investment will combine to create an additional 350,000 jobs in 2022, who is actually going to do the work?

OCEAN SHIPPING

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act was recently signed into law by President Biden - 6/16/22. The AFS-backed bill boosts the investigatory authority of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), allowing it to probe ocean common carriers' business practices, including unreasonable demurrage and other charges which have skyrocketed throughout the pandemic. FMC will also receive new enforcement powers. TCMA and AFS members, as well as their suppliers and customers, have faced supply chain disruptions and congestion at U.S. ports, as well as surging shipping rates. Passage of this bill was a priority issue emphasized in AFS letters to Congress and during congressional visits at the Government Affairs Fly-In this year.

OSHA

At our last meeting we had talked about OSHA's plan to increase the number of inspectors nationally and a new focus on heat stress, but what does this actually mean. The goal of this National Emphasis Program (NEP - Directive Number CPL 03-00-024) is to reduce or eliminate worker exposures to heat-related hazards that result in illnesses, injuries, and deaths, by targeting industries and worksites, including worksites with radiant heat sources, where employees are exposed to heat related hazards and have not been provided adequate protection that includes cool water, rest, cool areas, training, and acclimatization.

These mitigation strategies are key in controlling the health hazards associated with heat exposures. OSHA's Compliance Safety and Health Officers are being instructed that they should inquire during inspections regarding the existence of any heat-related hazard prevention programs on heat priority days. A heat priority day occurs when the heat index for the day is expected to be 80°F or more.

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Chairman's Comments continued

We know that Texas summers are hot so our focus should continue to be to “provided adequate protection that includes cool water, rest, cool areas, training, and acclimatization”.

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

In the Senate; Thirty-five of the 100 seats in the Senate will be up for election, including all 34 Class 3 seats. A special election is being held to fill a vacancy from another Senate class. As senators serve six-year terms, the last regularly scheduled elections for Class 3 senators were held in 2016. The winners of the United States Senate elections will be sworn in on January 3, 2023, for the 118th Congress.

In the House of Representative Elections; All 435 voting seats in the House of Representatives will be up for election. Fifty-one representatives and one non-voting delegate (32 Democrats, 20 Republicans) have announced that they will be retiring. The incumbents in these races were determined in the 2020 House of Representatives elections and subsequent special elections. As these elections will be the first conducted after the post-2020 census redistricting, several districts lack an incumbent or have multiple incumbents.

Here at home in Texas:

The U.S. will hold its midterm elections on Nov. 8. In Texas, voters will elect officials for seven statewide seats — governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner, comptroller and one of three seats on the Railroad Commission. In addition, voters will also elect officials for district-based congressional and legislative offices, the State Board of Education and judicial seats.

- **U.S. House:** All 38 seats; Texas gained two seats in the House, as determined by population growth in the 2020 census
- **State Senate:** All 31 seats
- **State House:** All 150 seats
- **Governor:** incumbent Greg Abbott (R), Beto O'Rourke (D)
- **Attorney General:** incumbent Ken Paxton (R), Rochelle Garza (D)

Make sure to be heard at the ballot box in November Get out and vote!!!

Looking forward to seeing you at our September 23rd meeting. •

Brett Morehead
Chairman

Congressional Tour

AFS Government Affairs Committee Members Hosted Plant Tours this Summer: Many thanks to our GAC members for hosting tours! Freshman lawmaker Congressman Pat Fallon (R-4-TX) visited Denison Industries recently. Chris Norch had a chance to showcase the critical castings the foundry is producing for key defense systems, including the Bell V-280, Sikorsky CH-53K, Boeing JDAM and Harpoon missiles, Raytheon Long Range Stand Off missiles and a wide array of Raytheon naval defense and commercial castings. •

Upcoming Events

September 23rd

TCMA Board of Directors Meeting at Martin Sprocket in Arlington

September 23rd

Texas AFS Evening at Globe Life Field in Arlington

October 2-3

AFS 34th EHS Conference in Milwaukee: Safety 101 Seminar

Welcome

This TCMA newsletter is developed by the association to improve communication and provide members with the latest news and legislative action concerning their companies and the cast metals industry.

Let us hear from you!

Please send company news, legislative inquiries, product updates and employee highlights to TCMAINC.ORG.

Visit our website

WWW.TCMAINC.ORG

TCMAINC.ORG serves as a valuable resource for our members. Go online to read about our newest members to the association, members' achievements, the latest updates on our bulletin board and the latest news in the foundry business.