



DECEMBER 2022

# INSIDE TCMA



## Texas Lawmakers Prepare to Return to Austin

### CONTENTS

- 1 PREPARING TO RETURN TO AUSTIN
- 2 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS
- 3 REDUCING OSHA RECORDABLE EVENTS
- 4 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS CONT.
- 4 UPCOMING EVENTS

The 88 th Texas Legislature will convene on January 10 th to begin 140 days of fast paced committee meetings and hearings. The TCMA will be meeting in the capitol on February 28 th to discuss issues facing business, especially our industry. Because the legislature meets only every other year, there is a tremendous amount of energy expended to get the job done for a state the size of Texas! We are asking our TCMA members to invite their representatives and senators to join us for lunch and discuss with them the issues that are facing your businesses. Please take advantage of this time to connect with your legislators. Past TCMA Chairman and Texas State Representative Jared Patterson will be attending as his schedule permits. Don't miss this opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with the people who impact our industry.

For Registration Information, go to the TCMA website at [www.tcmainc.org](http://www.tcmainc.org) •



## Chairman's Comments

Greetings Fellow TCMA Members,

The past 12 months have been a whirlwind and now we find ourselves nearing the end of 2022. I hope that everyone paused, even if only briefly, to give Thanks for all our blessings through the Thanksgiving Holiday. It is the season of Holiday celebrations, expedited production orders, year-end reconciliations, maintenance shutdowns, equipment installations, and NCAA Bowl Games. This year started with robust business and many members report that their backlogs are still very strong as we come to the close of 2022.

Material availability and Transportation concerns ushered us into 2022. The ocean cargo containers being held up waiting to get unloaded at the docks started our year-long concern with transportation logistics – The Ocean Shipping Reform Act passed by congress on June 16th, which was supported by AFS and TCMA helped provide a path to solving this problem. Getting materials moved had never been such a major concern. Now problems in transportation logistic seem to be the new norm. Here we are at the end of the year narrowly avoiding a railroad strike that would have shattered material transportation logistics.

Reshoring has been a real success in 2022 with many foundries benefiting from work that they have not seen in years coming back. Two articles in the December Foundry Management & Technology are worth a read as we face 2023, pg 32 "For Reshoring to Stick" and pg 12 "2023 Metalcasting Outlook" both are fairly optimistic, but also reflect continued concerns about labor shortages and costs, material shortages and costs, energy costs, and regulatory requirements.

*Continued on page 4*

CHAIRMAN  
BRETT MOREHEAD  
PORTER WARNER INDUSTRIES.  
633 107TH STREET  
ARLINGTON, TX 76011  
[brett.j.morehead@gmail.com](mailto:brett.j.morehead@gmail.com)

VICE-CHAIRMAN  
ALBERT VEGA  
HENSLY INDUSTRIES  
2108 JOE FIELD RD.  
DALLAS, TX 75229  
[avega@hensleyind.com](mailto:avega@hensleyind.com)

SECRETARY / TREASURER  
JOHNNY HILL  
MARTIN FOUNDRY  
2944 OAK LANE  
DALLAS, TX 75215  
[jhill@martinsprocket.com](mailto:jhill@martinsprocket.com)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CLIFFORD SMITH  
PHONE 817-485-4769  
[csmith.tcma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:csmith.tcma@sbcglobal.net)

DIRECTORS TO EXPIRE 2022  
LEE BURGAMY  
Gamtex Industries.  
MARK SHELTON  
Oil City Iron Works  
TED KEEN  
Superior Cast Metals, Inc.  
JERALD MITTASCH  
Quality Electric Steel Casting Co.

DIRECTORS TO EXPIRE 2023  
STEVE HODGES  
Canfield and Joseph  
JOSHUA TREADWAY  
Riley Abrasives  
SCOTT HARRIS  
Tyler Pipe  
MILES BRADLEY  
EBAA Iron  
MITCHELL WRIGHT  
Henderson Mfg. Co.

DIRECTORS TO EXPIRE 2024  
CHRIS TOWERY  
Texas Aluminum Foundry  
BRIAN BASS  
Ft. Worth Aluminum Foundry  
TIM SCHULZ  
C & L Aluminum Foundry  
GEORGE WESTHOFF, JR.  
Midland Mfg. Co.

DIRECTOR EX-OFFICIO  
JARED PATTERSON

## How To Reduce OSHA Recordable Events

Early and ongoing interventions can reduce OSHA recordable events and make your workplace safer.

One way to avoid visits to the Emergency Room (ER) is by providing on-site first aid.

An ER visit is the most common response to most common types of on-the-job injuries, including:

- Overexertion and/or muscle strain;
- Falling, slipping or tripping;
- Repetitive motion injuries; and
- Colliding with a fixed object.

These and other minor injuries comprised the majority of OSHA recordable events in 2022. Such simple injuries do not generally require a trip to the ER. However, if an ER trip occurs, these incidents end up becoming an OSHA event.

Unfortunately, the ER is still the most overused part of health care delivery. Recent statistics show that 70% of ER visits are unnecessary for patients with employer health care. As Truven Health Analytics, an IBM Watson Health Company, reported: “The inappropriate use of ER services is growing, resulting in care that is more costly and lacks continuity.”

The ER has long been the costliest point of entry into the American health care system. It’s the ease-of-use that makes an ER the go-to response for even minor incidents. While many urgent care facilities offer the same 24-hour access, it’s simply often easier to head to the local ER.

This is particularly true for employers that lack an on-site medical provider to respond to a workplace injury.

While it may seem reasonable to send workers involved in a workplace accident to the ER, there are more proactive ways to improve your response. We’ll look at three tools employers can use to improve on-site care and how they can help reduce the number of OSHA reportable events.

### 1. Telemedicine

Telemedicine can help triage injuries and provide adequate on-site treatment, thereby reducing the number of employees who are sent to the ER. In many cases, this treatment will not trigger a reportable event because the injury falls under first aid of current OSHA rules.

### 2. First Aid Education

While most employers train employees to safely use equipment, not all employers train their employees in first aid. Clear instructions and proper training can outline direct steps for employees to follow in an emergency.

### 3. Prevention, Inspection, Attention

Many employers use a preventative approach to reduce the number of OSHA reportable and recordable events. This strategy focuses on lowering the risk of incidents resulting from faulty equipment or untrained employees. •

\*Excerpts taken from EHS Today.

## Chairman’s Comments continued

The Midterm election was no red wave, but it did shift us to a Republican majority in the House. So, as we move from 2022 into 2023 we can expect to see the Biden Administration, expecting more legislative gridlock in the House, shift their focus to the regulatory agencies to move forward on their agenda. Here are a few key areas to keep an eye on:

A new concept, that I have been seeing referenced more and more in recent years is the idea of Environmental Social Justice (ESJ). As reported in The White House on November 28th - Environmental justice leaders, members of Congress, and advocates applauded version 1.0 of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) released version 1.0 of the CEJST. The updated tool displays the lands of Federally Recognized Tribes, uses an updated methodology, and incorporates additional datasets including climate risks, transportation inequities, historic redlining, and legacy pollution. Federal agencies will use the CEJST to help identify communities that will benefit from President Biden’s Justice 40 initiative, which seeks to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of investments in climate, clean energy, and related areas to disadvantaged communities that are overburdened by pollution and underserved by infrastructure and other basic services. Foundries should at least investigate to see if they are in one of these identified areas. A reference that I found in an article, lead me to the Department of Energy (DOE) website which has made it clear that those impacted by pollution need to be the first to benefit from clean energy solutions, and that equity will serve as their guide. With the launch of the new Energy Justice Dashboard (BETA), the DOE is working to better understand how the department’s funding and investments are distributed to overburdened and underserved communities. If your foundry is looking for capital dollars to reduce their environmental impact and your foundry is located in a designated disadvantaged area, you may be eligible for DOE funding for enhancement projects.

PM 2.5 may get a review in 2023. I read an article in Chemical & Engineering News last winter that referenced that action was needed to protect the health of US residents. A panel of experts said that the Environmental Protection Agency should ratchet down the limit for airborne particulate matter. Breathing in particulates that are 2.5 µm or less in diameter (PM2.5) is associated with a host of medical health issues.

A majority of the EPA’s Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee panel expressed concurs and the panel recommended a limit of 8–10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of air; the current standard, set in 2012, is 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. During the end of Trump’s term, the EPA proposed to maintain the standard as set in 2012, but we may see another review of this standard by the EPA in 2023.

*Continued on page 5*

## Chairman's Comments continued

The focus from OSHA on Heat Stress will continue to develop in 2023 as states work to interpret the new directive. The Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) published a draft of a heat stress standard to protect employees in the state in October, but it received much negative feedback in November. 38 organizations and 35 individuals of the Maryland Heat Illness Prevention Coalition (MHIPC) called for the "withdrawal and redevelopment" of the standard. Of interest is that they felt that the vague language in the Maryland proposed standard was contrary to just about every other worker safety and health standard, Federal or state OSHA, which require the implementation of workplace hazard controls aimed at preventing injury, illness, and death on the job, MHIPC said in the press release. "The proposed standard instead suggests provisions that address heat illness after a worker gets sick, which is too late." It seems clear that the focus moving forward will be directed towards Heat Stress prevention.

Please continue to stay engaged with TCMA events and activities and make sure you stay informed on these and other developing trends and pending governmental regulations. Make plans to attend our TCMA Annual Meeting in Austin, TX February 27-28, 2023.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and year end and I'll be looking forward to seeing you at our February meeting. •

Respectfully Yours,

Brett Morehead

## 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](http://TCMAINC.ORG).

## Visit our website

[WWW.TCMAINC.ORG](http://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.

## Upcoming Events

**February 10, 2023**

**Texas Chapter AFS Meeting  
in Houston**

**February 27-28, 2023**

**TCMA Annual Meeting  
in Austin**

**June 20-21, 2023**

**AFS GAC Fly-In**