



FOCUS

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President's Perspective

by Mike Richie, PTR A President

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Mike Richie

With the beautiful Sandestin, Florida resort and 39th annual PTR A meeting in our rear view mirror, plans are moving ahead to next year for our 40th anniversary conference on beautiful Coronado Island at the historic Hotel Del Coronado Resort, just across the

bridge from San Diego.

You will see in this issue that Bill Taylor, our Conference Chairman for 2012, has plans well underway to make our conference another you won't want to miss! And there will be more to come as we get closer to next May.

I would like to take a minute to thank our principal members for their support — both at our annual conference and throughout the year; our principals understand the reps function, how we work with multiple principals to generate synergistic sales through our customer base, and the advantage that gives back to each of the principals. We have all opened doors to lines we represent because of our vast customer bases that would not normally be opened to a line with a direct sales force.

Without our principal's participation and un-

derstanding it would be impossible to have an association of manufacturers' representatives with the high caliber of sales professionals working toward our common goal of increased sales and market share.

To our new members, I would like to encourage you to come to our annual conference, meet the rep and principal members and become involved. That doesn't necessarily mean work — we all have enough of that. I just mean meet people in the same business as you that share your same concerns.

Social networking is of great importance to our members, whether it is on the golf course, meeting by the pool or beach, or sharing ideas in our break-out sessions and round-table discussions. We all seem to get the most out of our time when we express our ideas to one another, so I encourage you to step forward and share you experiences with fellow members.

As I became more active in PTR A, I began to see the benefits they were offering could actually make me more efficient in my everyday work.

One great educational tool is MRERF (Manufacturer's Representatives Education and Research Foundation), who started offering the CPMR course in 1990, and many of

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The Older I Get, the Better I Was

by Don Elfstrom, Past PTRA President



Don Elfstrom

“Past President”...“has been”...“out to pasture”...how about, “he was darn good.” Yep! I’ll go with that. And I’m only getting older, so in my own mind I will have been that much better! I like that. Obviously, serving as President for PTRA was a gas for me. If you all would let me, I’d hold the mike forever. However, I surrender. It’s Mike’s turn.

I mentioned something in my outgoing speech at Sandestin that I really meant. Anyone in membership can have the same opportunity that I had to be PTRA President. Please embrace that and give some personal thought to the possibility. It is a journey that begins with committee work. Mine began in the late 1990’s as chairman of the now defunct “Business Practices” committee. I had no idea what I was doing, but that was beside the point. With the help of other committee members, we made something of it and got recognized as a contributing member and we were off and running. The task forces and committees today are much more organized and focused, so contributing as a member is quite easy and not too time consuming.

My hope in passing the baton to future PTRA leaders is to encourage them to have a commitment to seriously understand and

embrace the changes and opportunities of what is coming. I believe the manufacturer’s representative industry for industrial products is just scratching the surface of its opportunity and capability. Take a look at the history of retail product sales and how reps and brokers have become a solid and complete norm for sales AND marketing. Yes — AND marketing. Retail reps and brokers do EVERYTHING associated with getting the product to the market. Reps — given our expertise at customers and their satisfaction, what else can we do for our manufacturers? Principals — the core competency of your companies is designing, and manufacturing products to a quality specification. What other functions can your agencies provide to better reach new customers and to ensure their satisfaction? Can it be? Reps do what they do best. Manufacturers do what they do best. Customer service is maximized. Is that not completely possible? I get excited at that thought.

Thanks very much to you all for allowing me to serve my one-year term as President. I appreciate your willingness to allow me to speak frankly. Please feel free to call or e-mail me about anything I can help with.

- Cell: 630-632-3814
- E-mail: donelf@kaceyinc.com ▲

President’s Perspective

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us have taken advantage of it and gained a great deal of insight as to how to run a rep organization effectively and work smarter with our principals.

With the addition of the CSP (Certified Sales Professional), a course designed for the salesman in the rep organization, I hope our members will take advantage of these educational opportunities that address the needs of individual salespeople.

If you attended our conference in April and saw Alan Beaulieu’s presentation, then you know we have basically “flat” growth coming over the next 2-3 years. That means we’ll all have to work as smart as possible to

take business from companies with direct salespeople and “transfer” it to our PTRA principals. For now, it looks like the pie is going to stay roughly the same size — it’s up to each of us to gain a larger slice.

Please start making your plans to attend next year’s conference on Coronado Island. With the feedback we received on our conference surveys, we are putting a schedule together that will bring new ideas to you and your company and are looking forward to seeing everyone there next May 20 through the 24 at the Hotel Del Coronado!

All the best to you for the remainder of 2011 and beyond! ▲

Welcome New PTRA Members

Principal Members:

Mark Gaudet
AMERICAN AUTOGARD CORP.
Rockford, IL
(815) 229-3190

John Atkinson
CLEVELAND GEAR CO., INC.
Cleveland, OH
(360) 896-4090

Michael Crosby
C & U AMERICAS
Plymouth, MI
(734) 656-0260

Mike Markley
HUB CITY-A DIVISION OF REGAL-BELOIT CORP.
Aberdeen, SD
(605) 225-0360

Tony Hood
IEC HOLDEN
Montreal, QC, Canada
(859) 795-1774

Ken Ferguson
ONVIO
Salem, NH
(603) 685-0404

Tom Hickey
MAC CHAIN CO., LTD.
Woodland, WA
(360) 225-6000

John Michael Good
PBC LINEAR
Roscoe, IL
(815) 389-5662

George Graham
RENOLD JEFFREY
Knoxville, TN
(423) 714-1485

Raul A. Martinez
SERVOMECH US, LLC
Webster, TX
(281) 280-0147

Candace L. Oliver
SYSTEM COMPONENTS
South Haven, MI
(269) 637-2191

Beth Krise
SYMMCO, INC.
Skysville, PA
(814) 894-2461

Greg Brown
THREAD-CRAFT, INC.
Sterling Heights, MI
(586) 323-1116

Paul Barlow
VOITH TURBO
York, PA
(717) 767-3200

Greg Cheng
WD BEARING AMERICA, LLC
Addison, IL
(630) 613-9792

Representative Members:

Bob Darby
DARBY & ASSOCIATES
Tampa, FL
(813) 994-3760

Tim Smith
ELECTROLINE SALES, INC.
Edina, MN
(952) 426-0003

Paulo Martin
INDUSTRIAL COMPONENTS OF LATIN AMERICA, INC.
Tampa, FL
(813) 621-3030

Gary Schumacher
INDUSTRIAL SALES & SOLUTIONS
Orlando, FL
(352) 289-0468

Joey Lane
J.R. LANE ASSOC., INC.
Raleigh, NC
(919) 235-0245

Ken Anvender
PREMIER PRODUCTS, INC.
St. Louis, MO
(314) 714-1460

Rob Churak
REMCO MARKETING RESOURCES
Cerritos, CA
(562) 924-9227

Jim Arnick
ROCKY MOUNTAIN COMPONENTS
Castle Rock, CO
(303) 688-6993

Educational Opportunities

FOR REPRESENTATIVES

CPMR Certification Program (MRERF)

May 21-25, 2012
Indianapolis, IN

CSP Certification Programs (MRERF)

September 13-16, 2011
Minneapolis, Minnesota

September 19-22, 2011
Dallas, Texas

October 25-28, 2011
Chicago, Illinois

FOR PRINCIPALS

Building a Successful Rep Network PLUS (MANA)

September 13-15, 2011
Chicago, Illinois

Successful Rep Channel Management (MANA)

September 14-15, 2011
Chicago, Illinois

FOR BOTH

MANA/PTRA Teleforums

(12:00 pm Eastern Time | 9:00 am Pacific Time)

Improve Rep/Principal Relationships through Rep Councils

October 14
Dearborn, Michigan



Sustainability and Prosperity was the Destination at PTRA's 39th Annual Conference



Conference 2011, Sandestin Remember

by Curt Benson, 2011 Conference Chairman

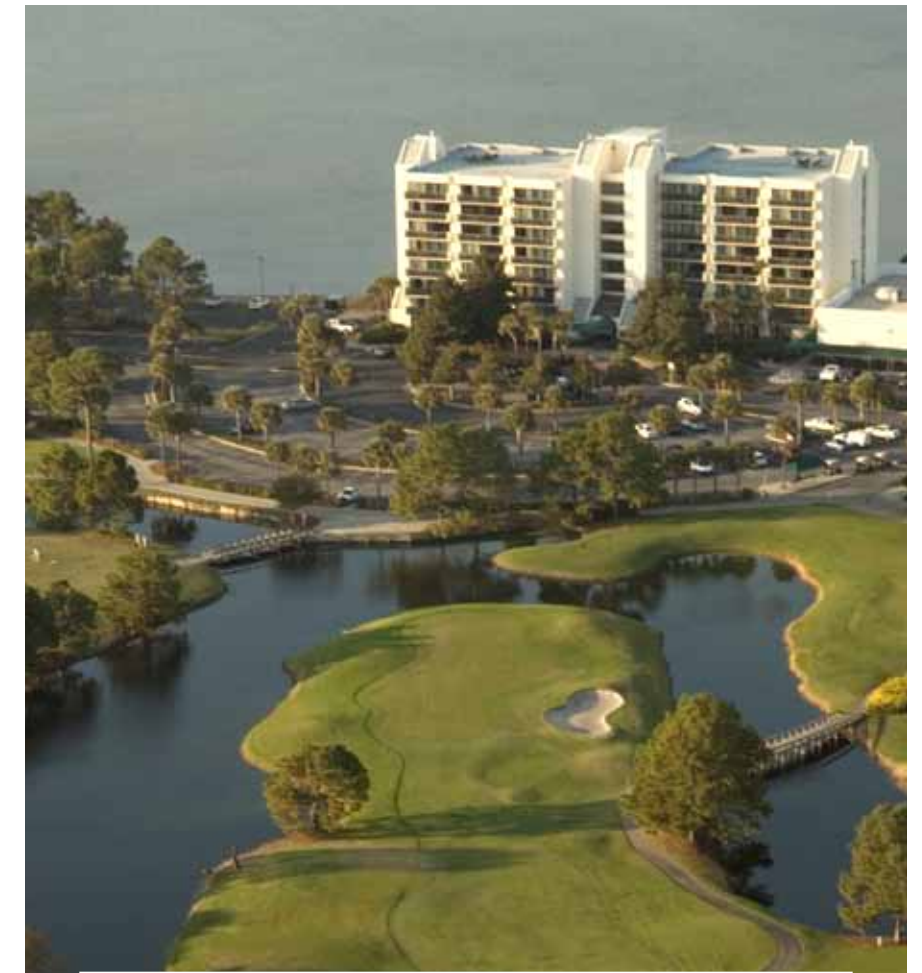


Curt Benson

It's hard to believe that several months have passed since the 39th annual PTRA Conference in Destin, Florida was held! For those of you that attended, it's my hope that you not only enjoyed your time at such a great resort but also were able to take home some useful information that will help you achieve what the conference was intended to convey — sustainability and prosperity in the coming year! I would like to take a moment and thank all of you for your attendance (238 strong), as well as your support during the conference, as myself and those on my committee tried to make your time at the conference as enjoyable and informational as possible. I hope we accomplished that. There was great discussion, informational speakers, relationships made and some renewed.

We were able to try some new things this past year — some that were successful and some not so successful — but as an organization it is our goal to continue to strive to bring the membership new things and new ideas. Fresh is much better than stale. I know that Bill Taylor is already working on next year's conference and will continue to raise the bar for conference 2012. I strongly urge the membership to make your plans now to attend conference 2012 in San Diego as I am quite sure it will be well worth your time and expense to do so!

It was a pleasure to serve the membership as Conference Chairman this past year and I again thank you for your support in attending. I look forward to seeing everyone again in San Diego! ▲



Mark Your Calendar For 2012

by Bill Taylor, 2012 Conference Chairman



Bill Taylor

The 40th Anniversary of PTRA will be held at the world renowned Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego from May 20-24, 2012! Emperors, Kings, Princes and Princesses, Barons and Baronesses, movie stars and U.S. Presidents have all been drawn to the hotel, one of the most famous ocean front Victorian style resorts in the world. Loaded with history, the resort served as the backdrop for the movie, *Some Like it Hot*, starring Marilyn Monroe and L. Fran Baum wrote the *Wizard of Oz* while staying at the resort. The hotel retains its charm (it continues to maintain a hand operated elevator) and is said to be the #1 destination for weddings in the U.S. I can't think of a more desirable destination to hold our conference and celebrate our association's anniversary.

You spoke and we listened. Back by popular demand is Alan Beaulieu from the Institute of Trend Research whose presentations are always packed and generate numerous questions and discussions. We are in the process of completing our list of speakers and will forward information to you in the coming weeks. Look for the 2012 presentations to be informative, practical and a valuable source of information.

As an added plus and in case you didn't know, Dr. Stephen Letterman (drbeach.org) is the Director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University and "America's foremost beach expert." Each year, Dr. Letterman ranks the top beaches in the United States and Coronado Beach is ranked #2 for 2011 and a virtual shoo-in for first place in 2012 during our conference! On his website, Dr. Letterman describes Coronado Beach as "the toast of Southern California; it is a veritable oasis by the sea, measuring hundreds of yards wide. With its lush subtropical vegetation, unique Mediterranean climate, and fine sparkling sand, beach-goers flock to this beach for great ship watching and the summer's mild surf." For you beach lovers, Coronado Beach sounds hard to beat!

The Hotel Del Coronado is on my "bucket list" and I can't wait to spend time at this historic venue and national treasure. The conference program, networking, hotel, climate of San Diego and surrounding beach make this conference a "must do" for all members of PTRA. Please mark your calendar for May 20-24, 2012 and join us in San Diego! More to come soon.... ▲



Lines Available

Custom Machine & Tool Co., Inc.

301 Winter St.
Hanover, MA 02339

Contact

Rob Munstis, Marketing
(781) 924-1003
fax: (781) 924-5154
e-mail: rmunstis@cmtco.com
website: cmtco.com

Joint Way International, Inc.

1645 NE 72nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97213

Contact

Scott Toms, V.P.
(503) 286-7781
fax: (503) 286-8251
e-mail: scott@jointway.com
website: jointway.com

Territories open

All except Pacific Northwest.

Product Description

Roller chain sprockets, bushings, hubs, chain, collars.

Target Markets

OEM and Distributors.

Cleveland Gear Company

3249 East 80th Street
Cleveland, OH 44104

Contact

John Atkinson, V.P. Sales & Marketing
(216) 641-9000
fax: (216) 641-9080
e-mail: jatkinson@clevelandgear.com
website: clevelandgear.com

Territories open

AZ, CA, CO, ID, KS, MO, MT, NC, NE, NM, NV, OR, SC, UT, WA, WY.

Product Description

Standard wormgear reducers (1.0" to 12" C.D.'s) helical shaft mount reducers, open gearing, custom gear drives, speed reducer repair.

Target Markets

OEM and Distributors.

Member News

R.J. Hughes Sales, Inc., is pleased to announce the addition of our newest sales associate Jeff Carlson. Jeff will be assisting in covering the state of Wisconsin on behalf of R.J. Hughes Sales and our principals. Jeff spent the last four years as a Special Weapons Maintenance Missile Technician at Naval Base Kitsap. He spent six years in the strategic weapons system made up of systematic troubleshooting, corrosion protection, control and repair and operation of nuclear ballistic missiles in the U.S. Navy. Troubleshot and replaced components related to the navigation function, target data and acquisition processing. Replaced delicate electro-sensitive and pyrotechnic missile components to ensure flight worthiness and prevention of failure. A few areas of expertise are electromechanical systems, quality assurance training, technical analysis, electro hydraulic systems, pneumatic systems, AC/DC circuits, and materials management. Jeff has been awarded Top Secret SIOB Security Clearance and Secret Clearance by the U.S. Navy. Jeff is certified in Trident D-5 Missile Back-fit, has an associates in electronics, and is completing an Electrical Engineering Degree. Please welcome Jeff Carlson to R.J. Hughes Sales, Inc.

Smith Industrial Group, Inc., is proud to announce the addition of Tod Boise to their sales team. Tod has over 20 years experience with industrial sales in the state of Indiana. Tod resides in Carmel, Indiana. His territory will be the entire state of Indiana with responsibilities for distribution, OEM and key end user development.

Please visit www.smithindustrialgroup.com for more information on Smith Industrial Group.

Industrial Sales Associates, Inc., (I.S.A.) is pleased to announce the addition of Brandon Smart as a sales associate to their team. He joins Warren Hoffman and Rick Deering in the outside sales department. Brandon's background and experience includes sales, customer service, communication, computer and electronic skills along with the desire to continue the professional approach to territory management, which I.S.A. requires and their principals have come to expect.

I.S.A. has three outside sales representatives, two IT support staff and a clerical position to help service the territory. For more information visit their website @ www.indsales.us.

Let PTRA call attention to your successes, growth & changes!
E-mail your industry news and information or updates about your company to us at any time and we'll include your news in the next edition of *FOCUS*.

Send your news to: info@ptra.org

2011-2012 Board of Directors

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President
mrichie@jtchapman.com

Jerry Rhodes, CPMR
First Vice President
jrhodes@midwestptsales.com

Gord Jopling, CPMR
Second Vice President
gordj@mesaco.com

Kurt Fisher, CPMR
Treasurer
kfisher@eip-inc.com

Doug Landgraf, CPMR
Secretary
dlandgraf@landgraf-mcabee.com

Don Elfstrom, CPMR
Immediate Past President
doneelf@kaceync.com

Fred Crider
Principal Director 2012
fred.crider@vacon.com

DIRECTORS

Walt Brooks, CPMR
wbrooks@wcbrooksco.com

Mike Dietz
mdietz1030@aol.com

Paul Mooney
paul@mooney-inc.com

Scott Olmsted
driven.sales@verizon.net

Bobby Epperson
bepperson@swdrives.com

Adam Cooler
adamcooler@jwcooler.com

Tim Mayerat
mayerat@winsmith.com

Jan Schade
jan.schade@bookcromptonna.com

PTRA Code Of Ethics

The position of Manufacturers' Representative is unique in that the Representative is the liaison between the distributor, the original equipment manufacturer, the consumer, and the company represented.

As a power transmission/motion control advisor, the Representative upholds a high professional responsibility to the distributor and the original equipment manufacturer, and at the same time occupies a position of trust and loyalty to the company represented. Only by observing the highest ethical balance can the Representative avoid conflict between these responsibilities.

As a Manufacturers' Representative, it is my responsibility to:

- Hold my business in high esteem and strive to maintain its prestige.
- Keep the needs of my distributors at the forefront.
- Respect my distributors' confidence and hold in trust personal information.
- Render continuous service to my distributors, customers and manufacturers.
- To employ every proper and legitimate means to persuade my customers to use the proper equipment for their application, if known, while strictly adhering to the highest standards of business and professional conduct concerning these recommendations.
- Present accurately, honestly and completely every fact essential to my distributors' and customers' final decisions.
- Perfect my skills and add to my knowledge through continuous thought and study.
- Conduct my business on such a high plane that others emulating my example may help raise the standards of my profession.
- Keep myself informed with respect to my manufacturers' policies, rules and regulations, and to observe them in both letter and spirit.
- Respect the prerogatives of and cooperate with all others whose services are constructively related to mine in meeting the needs of my distributors and customers.

Professional Resources



INSURANCE ADVISOR

Pat Brown
Associated Benefit Planners, Inc.
abppbrown@aol.com
(800) 854-4636



WEBMASTER

Donna Frendt
Creative Cyberservices, LLC
dfrendt@ccllc.info
(419) 878-2787



LEGAL COUNSEL

Mitchell Kramer
Kramer & Kramer, LLP
mkramer@kramerandkramer.com
(800) 451-7466



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Doug Bower
PTRA
dbower@ptra.org
(949) 859-2885

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Phone: (888) 817-PTRA (7872) | (949) 859-2885 | Fax: (949) 855-2973 | E-mail: info@ptra.org
16 A Journey, Suite 200, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

Visit us on the web @ www.ptra.org