



Harold King
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A CHANGING LANDSCAPE


DEAR READER

Change was in the air as we assembled this spring 2017 edition of HV Mfg. The surprise victory of Donald Trump as the 45th president of the United States and the somewhat less surprising, though still unexpected, election outcome of Republicans maintaining control of the United States Senate have resulted in strong reactions amongst the Hudson Valley Manufacturing community. While these reactions are largely optimistic they are still wide ranging. We hear of excitement as well as apprehension, optimism and skepticism, hope and fear, enthusiasm and outright depression. Much remains unknown, but for certain there will be change in the next year or two, and the effects of that change will likely be as varied as the companies and people in our region are diverse.

The Council of Industry has now been supporting manufactures for 107 years. When we were formed in Poughkeepsie in 1910 William Howard Taft was the 27th President. Two years later his predecessor and one time mentor, Theodore Roosevelt, ran again for that office as a third party candidate and in doing so ushered in Woodrow Wilson as the 28th President. Our association and many of its members have been through a lot of history: Two World Wars, five other “hot wars,” one cold war, a great depression and a great recession, red scares, race riots and more. Through that same period we have also seen women’s suffrage, the defeat of fascism and communism, the end of Jim Crow, the dawn of the atomic age, computers, economic booms and great improvements in longevity and quality of life.

I believe this historical context is very helpful as we look toward the change that’s coming. While elections, and public policy are vitally important they are not the only things that matter to manufacturers, to their employees and their employees’ families. Manufacturers make important things and you love doing it. You make products that make life better for billions of people across the globe and you build strong communities through the good jobs you provide and the wealth you create. Whether the changes that are coming make this easier or harder for you remains to be seen. That we will carry on as we have for more than a century is certain.

With that certainty in mind, I call your attention to the terrific content in this edition of HV Mfg. Our Leader Q&A is with Benjamin Katzenstein, the 4th generation CEO of Star Kay White located in Congers, Rockland County; David King writes that social media may provide solutions to the skills gap problem; Recruit Right’s Rebecca Mazin (one of the key instructors in the Council of Industry’s very popular Manufacturing Leadership Program) discusses how DISC behavior analysis tools might be utilized to maximize organizational effectiveness; We went inside Simulaids in Saugerties to learn about the fascinating work they do creating rescue mannequins and patient simulators; Susan McKeever-Duys from Barton & Loguidace, LLP writes about best practices in building a sustainable company; and we learn about a big advance in Nano-science - a microscopic “submarine” that delivers antibiotics directly where they are needed in the human stomach.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers, all of whom understand that a thriving manufacturing sector is vital to a healthy economy. Their support of HV Mfg, Hudson Valley Manufacturing and the Council of Industry is much appreciated. 

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