



Belt Line

A publication of NIBA-The Belting Association

Recap: NIBA 2019 Annual Convention in D.C.



*"One of the better, maybe the best, NIBA Conventions I have been to!"**

On behalf of the NIBA leadership, Program Committee and staff, thank you to all who attended the 2019 NIBA Annual Convention Sept. 18-21 in Washington, D.C. A special thank you to our event sponsors, hospitality suite hosts, and member companies who sent more than one employee this year.

The Convention got underway Thursday morning with the annual NIBA Golf Outing (see winners on page 5), and optional tours of the Capitol Building and the National Mall via Segway.

The weather was picture-perfect for the opening dinner event, held outside on the patio of the Gaylord National Harbor Resort along the banks of the Potomac River. Night owls continued the fun at the rooftop night club for the NextGen Party.

Friday was all about business. The NIBA Annual Business Meeting, which showcased the work of the association and transitioned NIBA leaders, was followed by two keynote speakers with tips for generating leads and being a more mindful leader. In the evening, sponsored hospitality suites were packed with casino gamers and hippies.

Saturday was reserved for the NIBA Expo, where 90 booths showcased products and services across the membership. Saturday night, we closed the 2019 Convention with a guided tour of the Washington monuments. Stunning by moonlight!

Make plans now to join us in Austin, Texas for the NIBA 2020 Annual Convention, Sept. 16-19. Registration opens April 2020! ●



**All testimonials pulled from the results of the anonymous post-Convention evaluation. More on page 2.*

President's Message

John Grasmeyer,
2020 NIBA President

It's with great excitement that I write my first President's letter to the members following a very successful NIBA 2019 Annual Convention. Over 625 attendees (30 of them first timers) from the belting industry enjoyed a great overall program in our Nation's Capital. The theme was very fitting this year, as we look to capitalize on our strengths in the future. Thanks, so much for attending!



One of the biggest strengths of our association is the culture and community. The NIBA Board and Executive team recognize this and are hyper-focused on maintaining our original mission while looking to grow in some of the more strategic member types: Distributor/Fabricators and Component Manufacturers.

Over the next year, my main priorities will be to a) Implement a new three-year strategic plan for the period 2019-2021, b) analyze the current membership structure to support growth in 2020 and beyond, c) obtain manufacturer support for the NIBA certification program, d) grow local and regional opportunities for education and networking, and e) promote diversity by encouraging companies to send their best people to serve and attend the annual convention.

For the first time at the Annual

Continued on page 10

*"I was able to catch up on what other people are doing in the belting industry and ran into several people I haven't seen in years."**



*"It was an absolute pleasure to have attended such an event. Three cheers to the entire committee and board on a job very well done!"**



*"NIBA is always a good place to meet with vendors and other contacts you may not see at any other point in the year, and serves as a good place to reconnect with those contacts."**



*"A great opportunity to develop stronger relationships with people that I currently deal with over the telephone and email."**

NIBA'19

See hundreds more photos at www.niba.org/convention.

2020 Leadership

Executive Committee



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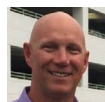
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Gary Dech, Shaw Almex Industries
Bert Flieger, Chiorino America
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Pam Hill, Habasit America
Mark Jadwin, Midwest Industrial Rubber Inc
Brian Laughlin, PANG Industrial
Beth Miller, Flexco
Don Rabb, Chemprene
Sergio Restagno, Belterra Corporation
Eduardo Streinesberger, Optibelt
Michael Wieland, Mulhern Belting
Buddy Wilson, Fenner Dunlop Conveyor Belting

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Group, Apache Division - Cedar Rapids
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Jason Crain, Apache
James Leach, Passaic Rubber Company
Randy Scofield, Midwest Rubber Service & Supply Co
Jessica Stroup, Stroup & Son
Jean Voorhees, WCCO Belting

Thank you to the following for their service on the Executive Board:

Bill Hornsby, Immediate Past President
Executive Committee, 2015-2019

Doug Gilg
NIBA Director, 2015-2019

Reducing Risks in the Food Industry with Metal-Detectable Conveyor Belting

by Bert Flieger, Chiorino America

It seems like every week we hear about another recall in the food industry. Often, the recall is due to foreign particles in food. And frequently, those foreign particles are either metal or plastic, and can be from a conveyor belt.

The consequences of a recall for companies can be significant. While the cost of the recall can be very high, the impact on brand reputation and the lasting effect it can have on consumer opinion is even more damaging. As a result, food companies are doing everything they can to avoid these situations. One of the most common ways is to use metal detectors in food processing plants.

Why are metal detectors used in the food industry?

Metal detectors for food are primarily used for the purpose of consumer protection. Despite maximum care, metallic contaminations of food products during the production process cannot be fully prevented. Metal particles that enter the product during the production process can cause serious injuries.

A metal detector for the food industry can help ensure the safety and integrity of a wide range of unpackaged, packaged or bulk goods, by identifying metal contaminants during processing or packaging, and helping to ensure that they do not enter food that we eat. As part of a HACCP program, metal detection systems can be utilized to provide compliance with food safety standards, retailers' codes of practice, and legislative and industry guidance.

Metal detectors for food provide effective protection against ferrous and non-ferrous metals (aluminum, stainless steel, etc.). They can be installed in any step of the production process and can be used for many different applications and industries.

Examples of food industries that use metal detectors

Breads and baked goods	Ready-to-eat meals
Snack foods	Meat and poultry
Candy, sweets or confectionery	Seafood and sushi
Cereals and grains	Fruits and vegetables
Pasta	Dairy, milk, yogurt

In addition to consumer protection, metal detectors are also used to protect machinery. Even small metal particles can lead to machinery failure. Expensive repairs and production downtimes are the consequences.

Where are metal detectors installed in the food production process?

When used for machinery protection, the metal detector is installed directly before the machine to be protected.

However, if consumer protection is the goal, several inspection points are typical. An inspection of raw material has the advantage that metal particles are separated before they are broken up into smaller pieces which might be harder to detect. Inspections at critical control points (HACCPs) during the production process are common and recommended.

Typically, food products in their final stage after packaging are inspected once again with a metal detector (or an X-ray system) to fully exclude contamination.

How do metal detectors work?

Basically, there are several types of metal detectors that operate with different detection methods. In the food industry, metal detectors usually apply the transmitter-receiver method.

Such metal detectors are equipped with a transmitter coil and two receiver coils. The transmitter coil generates a constant electromagnetic field. When a metal particle passes the detector, it interferes with the electromagnetic field, causing a signal to be detected by the receiver coils. The electronic unit in the metal detector analyzes this signal, evaluates it, and signals a metal contamination. As a rule, metal detectors in the food industry are equipped with automatic reject units that directly remove (either by a 'pusher' or air blast method) the contaminated product from the production line.

Types of Contaminants

There are three main groups of metallic contaminants that a food metal detector can sense: ferrous, non-ferrous, and stainless steel (detection depends on the magnetic or conductive properties of the contaminant).

The ability for a conventional metal detector used in the food industry to detect metallic contaminants depends upon their conductivity and magnetic permeability. Ferrous metal contaminants are both magnetic and conductive and are easily detected. Although they are not magnetic, non-ferrous contaminants are good conductors and can be detected relatively easily.

Conveyor belts for metal detection

Another potential foreign contaminant is the conveyor belt itself. Sometimes conveyor belts can get jammed, wear down, or break. These abrasive and mechanical conditions can sometimes lead to a belt or accessory (like a cleat, guide or sidewall) being damaged and ending up in the food. This is fairly common with plastic modular belting, where the modules or the plastic rod joining the modules can break off. But whether it is a plastic modular belt or a fabric belt, having a piece of conveyor belt in your chicken nuggets is obviously not desirable.

Therefore, some belt manufacturers have developed a metal-detectable conveyor belt offering, which may include fabric (flat) belts, round belts, positive drive belts and accessories. These belts contain metal particles that can be detected if some part of it ends up in the food, signaling their system to reject that piece via the pusher or air blast method.

In addition to the belt itself, any v-guides, cleats or sidewalls should also be metal-detectable, for the same reasons.

The metal particles, the size of additive used, and the ability to effectively mix in these particles throughout the belt determines how "detectable" a belt will be. Obviously, the smaller a particle that can be detected the better, so check the manufacturer's specifications and detection capabilities.

In summary, food processing plants that want to reduce the risk of foreign particles — like pieces of conveyor belting — ending up in the products they sell to the public are excellent candidates for metal detectable conveyor belting. ●

A Special Presidential Goodbye

During the 2019 Business Meeting, Brian Schachner ended his year as president of NIBA with a unique poem that brought laughs and a few tears. Please enjoy.

I began my belt career in 91'
We had moved to Spartanburg
and thoughtthis is going to be fun.
Kelly Jo was a teacher with a gleam in her eye.
She had made the move too.
Man, was I a lucky guy.
It turned out that the belt business was a lot to learn.
I was working 12 hour days
so the money was well earned.
Kelly was having some troubles of her own.
A teaching job was hard to get.
How could we have known?
It took three jobs for her to make ends meet.
She worked hard as hell.
We were not going to be beat!
We tied the knot in 92'
I had married up!
But this you already knew.
Along came NIBA for her and me.
It all had started in Montreal.
That was in 93'.
We sat in attendance wild-eyed as could be.
Two rookie members.
There was a lot to see.
The conference was great! We had lots of fun
until the final morning
when we seriously had to run.
We had slept in from the night before.
The phone in the room was ringing
and someone was at the door.
Kelly started packing. We had less than an hour.
What do you think I did?
I jumped in the shower!
She yelled at me "What the heck!"
I of course responded,
"I can't look like a train wreck!"
We took a cab to the airport. We didn't ask the rate.
They were calling out over the loudspeaker,
"would the Schachner's please report to the gate."
So that was our introduction to this great organization.
The fact that Kelly came back
is still quite amazin.'
The years were really starting to pass.
My dad was hard to work for.
He could really kick your ass.
We had a big arrival in 97'.
It was my son Trevor
and he was sent from heaven.
His start in this world happened like most.
What I did while waiting for him
did not make me a good host.



It had been a long day, as I had feared.
We were in a hospital room
and I wanted a beer.
So while Kelly was waiting to give birth
I drank a beer by the window.
I still don't know how I'm on this earth!
My boy is special as special could be.
He has made us proud parents
and one day the world will see.
He has all the talents that we could ask for.
He is a musician and an engineer
and so much more.
Now back to the road that has led me here.
I was meeting new people.
There was nothing to fear.
I had met O'conner and Archer and a man named Key.
They were all good belt people,
at least to me.
I had learned over time to listen to others.
I made some good friends
and some were like brothers.
The year 2000 was a turning point.
I was encouraged to buy Vaughn Belting.
Heck! I can run this joint.
It turns out that being the owner is a lot of work!
It can make you a loner
and get you called a jerk.
I surrounded myself with the right staff.
When they read what I've written
it should give them a good laugh.
So then it happened in 2003.
God gifted us a girl.
It was meant to be.
We named her Miller in honor of my mother.
She would wear pink and tassels
and be like no other.

It turned out that pink was not her thing.
She prefers to play ball
and I'm quite sure she will never sing!

She has speed and talent and gifts from above.
Watching her play sports
is one of my true loves.

She is a work in progress, at least for now.
Becoming a young woman.
It will happen somehow.

Let's fast forward a few years . . .
So one day I get a call from John Shelton
He says "How about committee work?"
It could help Vaughn Belting.

So it was then that I jumped on the NIBA train.
Being involved -
there was a lot to gain.

I tried to do my part year after year.
Doing the work
and then having some cheer.

Then came the call to join the executive team.
It had come from Tom Wujek
what in the world would it mean.

It turns out the decision I made was right.
This group I had joined
they were out of sight.

I certainly don't want to forget my friends from the bars.
There was Chris and Terri
and John and Char.

There was Dave Benbenek and his brother too
sitting with us by the fire pit
until one or two.

There was John and Monica and Bill and Rich.
But keeping up with JJ
was really a ____.

I'd like to give a shout out to Uncle Vernon.
You have been a mentor to me
so I've done lot's of learnin'.

There are many of you here that I did not name.
We've had lots of good times
and I'm sure many still remain.

Thank you to Michael and Brittany and the AMPED staff.
You've helped me get through all of this
and we've had a few laughs.

My time doing service is about to pass.
No more Tijuana stories
that made some of you laugh!

From Chicago to San Diego to the Florida coast,
being a part of the NIBA family
has meant the most.

So I'll close with a toast to my sweet Kelly Jo.
I most certainly married up.
And THAT I want everyone to know!

Thank you NIBA Family. Being the 50th President of NIBA has
been an honor and a highlight of my career. Thanks for allowing me
to serve.



NIBA

WEBINAR SERIES

How Belting Companies are Improving Employee Morale, Changing up Recruiting and Productivity

Wednesday November 13, 4:00 - 4:30 pm ET

Presenter: Robin Wood, (roundtable)

Attendees will learn about:

- The key factors of benefit plans to increase motivation
- How to realize greater employee retention
Creative strategies to discover new talent
- How to incorporate today's technology to better engage your workforce
- The importance of education and training opportunities

Workforce development is a key issue for all businesses. According to NAW's Optimizing Human Capital Development, intensified competition, constant technological innovations, changing customer expectations and a diversified workforce are just a few external forces that have disrupted distributors' traditional business practices. Recruiting new talent into our industry has been a major challenge for many member companies. Traditional methods are not producing the same results as they have in the past. Unemployment is at an all-time low and finding talent that is energized by manufacturing positions is getting tougher and tougher.

In this program, Robin Wood from Beltservice will lead a discussion about different strategies of effective employee retention, recruiting and productivity.

Register at www.niba.org



NIBA TRAINED



Give Back By Volunteering for NIBA

Looking for a way to give back to your profession while supporting NIBA and developing leadership skills? Consider participating in or heading one of NIBA's four Committees: Education/Technical, Marketing, Membership and Program. Members are vital to the strength of the committees and the committees are vital to NIBA overall. Express your interest! www.niba.org/committee-call-for-volunteers/

Certification Program to Launch in 2020

NIBA is developing a series of online tests on topics that support a basic understanding of belting concepts and materials. Employees who take these online tests will be more prepared to attend more advanced training with NIBA or their own member companies. Each test includes a 30-minute review and a 30-minute test. Upon successful completion, a certificate will be issued. The plan is to launch four initial modules to the public in Spring 2020. For questions, contact Michael Battaglia (mbattaglia@niba.org).

Hogan Wins Rubber Ron Scholarship

NIBA congratulates **Ed Hogan** from **ASGCO Complete Conveyor Solutions** for winning the Rubber Ron Scholarship during the fall 2019 3T Training session. Winners are selected by the instructors based on their perspective of the trainees and their involvement and interaction during the trainings. The sponsor company receives notification that their employee is awarded the scholarship, as well as a \$500 award back to the company.

Golf Outing Winners



Top 3 Individuals – Stroke Play

1st Place: Mike Braucher
2nd Place: Scott Frenz
3rd Place: Jerry Hayes

Top 3 Teams – Scramble

1st Place: Rich Aeschliman, Chris Jacobs, Danny Lee, Jeff Phillips
2nd Place: Brent Andersen, Howard McClure, Kevin Wooters
3rd Place: Tim Horn, Richard Milroy, Dean Thomas, Pete Zinecker

Contest Prizes

Longest Putt: Danny Lee
Longest Drive: Mike Braucher and Cheryl Leach
Closest to the Pin: Chris Jacobs

A post-Convention note from Brian Schachner



I wanted to write a short note to all of the NIBA members to again thank you for allowing me to have served as president of this wonderful organization. Many of my predecessors had told me the time would go by fast. And it did.

As I depart my role within the NIBA executive committee I did want to let everyone know that we have seen and read and are addressing the results of the post-convention survey. We tried some new things that we thought would make for a better experience for both members and their spouses and we may have come up a little short in that area. For instance, we could have been clearer during the registration process about the purpose and benefits of the different registration levels.

We also recognize that the golf course left something to be desired. Again, corrective measures are in place to ensure a more positive outing in the future.

Rest assured that the NIBA staff and leadership will always strive to make the Annual Convention the best possible experience for all our attendees.

I was honored to have served and look forward to seeing everyone at future events.

— *Brian H. Schachner, Immediate Past President*



*Matt Winstead
Production Manager
Accupad, Inc.
NIBA Marketing Committee
Member
(2018-present)*

AccuPad Inc. 
SILICONE • PRINT PADS • ROLL COVERINGS

*“Professionally,
NIBA has
helped me form
partnerships and
friendships that
make my job a
lot easier.”*

NIBA Member Spotlight **Accupad, Inc.**

Tell us about your company

We mainly produce silicone print pads for the pad printing in the manufacturing industry including medical, cosmetic, entertainment and automotive applications. These have been the focus for AccuPad since its foundation in 1991. In addition to silicone print pads, we have lines of silicone-based non-print components and products such as embossing and impression mats, silicone molded jigs and work piece carriers, silicone seals and gaskets, silicone molds and silicone pads. We supply silicone print pads and other silicone-molded products to customers worldwide including North America, South America, Asia and Europe.

Describe what you do on a day-to-day basis

As a production manager in a small company there is a bit of everything to do on a day-to-day basis. For the Belting Department I am personally responsible for everything from providing quotes, receiving orders, placing orders for raw materials, making the impression pads, packaging orders and answering emails regarding future projected orders. The benefit of working in a small company environment is that there is something different that needs to get done every day.

What was your first industry job and how did it lead you to where you are today?

My first industry job is the one I currently hold, only now I have a “title.” Not much has changed except for more experiences and knowledge of our silicone products.

What is the one piece of advice you wish someone had given you before you started in the belting industry?

I wish someone would have mentioned to me that in the belting industry, it is challenging to convince customers that change can be a good thing.

How did you hear about NIBA?

I was introduced to NIBA through our company. AccuPad Inc. has been a Component Manufacturer Member since 2006.

How has NIBA impacted you, both personally and professionally?

NIBA has helped me to see there are things in the world bigger than myself that need constant attention. Professionally, NIBA has helped me form partnerships and friendships that make my job a lot easier.

In your opinion, what sets NIBA apart from other associations?

NIBA is about networking and getting together. They welcome anyone with an interest in belting. NIBA is the only association we belong to because it’s always an exciting, comfortable and educational experience at all the events.

Tell us about your favorite moment from a past NIBA Annual Convention.

One of my favorite moments from a past Convention would be the incredible time in Palm Springs, California. The entire trip was a blast from the opening ceremony to the golf outing, to hearing from Joe Theismann, to taking pictures with a camel and finally the closing event with a Mediterranean-themed dinner.

What is the belting industry’s biggest challenge?

The biggest industry challenge to me as a “Next Gen” member will be to continue and grow the industry while keeping the same degree of success as the past and present companies have.

How can NIBA help to resolve it?

NIBA helps by continuing and increasing the scholarship and educational programs it offers. I know the scholarship opportunity is a very attractive way to introduce younger people to the belting industry. After introducing new members to the organization, they can then learn in so many ways from the experts how to become successful working in the belting industry. Making sure these programs continue is one of the best ways to increase growth and success for all member companies of NIBA. ●

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER NEWS

News submitted by and for NIBA members

NEW PRODUCTS

ASGCO "Complete Conveyor Solutions" unveils their newly enhanced series of Sure Grip™ Conveyor Belt Clamps in their line of Safe-Guard® safety conveyor products. Designed to secure the belt for safe repair, the BC6 (6 tons) and BC8 (8 tons) Sure Grip™ Belt Clamps were created for maximum grip. Able to handle more weight and work in any condition, they replace the existing BC5 (5 tons) and BC7 (7 tons) models. Sure Grip™ Belt Clamps are constructed from high-grade steel components that are light in weight, conducive for easy transportation and assembly. Its shock-absorbing end caps are designed to protect the bars from hammer use and drops.

PANG Industrial introduces a new electric belt cutter from Salvadori. This great new cutting tool easily cuts textile belt and rubber up to 2" thick. Features include an adjustable guide for fast, precise longitudinal cuts; powerful 550 watt 110V motor; and an adjustable base that allows for blade sharpening. Contact PANG Industrial's Brian Laughlin, blaughlin@trc4r.com, to learn more.

Flexco recently unveiled a new kit designed to make emergency rip repairs on heavy-duty conveyor belts fast and easy. The Rip Repair Kit from Flexco contains everything needed to splice up to 50 feet of belt with a power tool. Flexco recommends using standard Flexco® Bolt Solid Plate Fasteners for conveyor belt holes and edge tears. For jagged, lengthwise conveyor belt tears, or for bridging "soft spots," standard Bolt Solid Plate Fasteners can be combined with three-bolt Rip Repair Fasteners. Kits are available in a variety of belt thicknesses, ranging from ¼" to 1-1/4" (6 mm to 32 mm) thick. See www.flexco.com for more information.

Argonics has released its new dual durometer ceramic Redi-Liner panels. Available in a 93/63 durometer combination, the panels fuse the abrasion-resistant qualities of ceramic and harder urethane with the impact resistance of the softer urethane in the back. Use them in your toughest transfer points to protect hot spots. The single-bolt attachment method allows for quick change-out with limited downtime. Contact Argonics at 800-991-2746 or visit www.argonics.com.

REMA TIP TOP has developed RG 7000, a new versatile, fast-curing rubber repair product ideal for repairing conveyor belts. Complementary to the REMA GOO product, RG 7000 provides a solution to applications that have a non-horizontal surface or require a faster cure time. RG 7000 cures in 1 hour, can be buffed without pilling and dries in a highly flexible state which allows movement equal to the rubber substrate it is applied to. Tested to adhere to mechanical fasteners with use of the PR-200 Metal Primer. Request a demo today by contacting your area sales rep or Tom Reese at treese@rematiptop.com

Belting Industries announces an easy-to-install, pulley lagging for light-duty applications. This technology can be installed on the roller in the machine and only takes minutes. Visit www.beltingindustries.com/products/biglag/ for more information.

Hudson Belting is now stocking solid woven cotton belts – 2-ply and 4-ply in various widths, nylon-core folder gluer belts, and other nylon core transmission belts. Additionally, they also offer die cutting/stamping belts, solid-woven polyester belts, oak-tanned flat and round leather belts, and textile and woolen mill products.

ASGCO "Complete Conveyor Solutions" announces the latest addition to their line of Secondary Belt Cleaner products. The new Rotary Brush Cleaner™ uses the speed and force of the belt rolling over hundreds of SBR Rubber Fingertips to significantly eliminate material accumulation and dust. Rotary action, finger-length and spacing allows the carryback to fall free instead of clogging. Useful on worn or pitted vulcanized or mechanically spliced belts. It is designed to effectively clean chevron, cleated and raised-rib belts without the wear associated with conventional brush-type cleaners.

ACQUISITIONS

Precision, Inc. has acquired certain assets of The Chantland Pulley business in Humboldt, Iowa, effective August 30, 2019. Chantland Pulley is the newest member of the Precision Pulley & Idler (PPI) group within Precision, further positioning the organization as a world leader in the unit handling pulley market. The company will

complement the PPI product line-up, and enhance it with their baggage and warehousing pulleys and rollers.

PERSONNEL

ASGCO welcomes two new people to its team. **Ken Nitroy**, inside sales/customer service, comes to ASGCO with 10 years of sales experience in several industries; most recently industrial sales. **Aaron Evans**, territory manager, will cover California, Arizona and New Mexico and be responsible for the overall growth and management of the territory. Aaron comes with 20 years of experience in the industrial power transmission distribution industry.

Gates TPU announces the addition of Dennis Diaz, sales leader of the Americas. Dennis will assume responsibility for the Americas including all sales-related personnel. Diaz comes to Gates TPU with a wealth of sales leadership experience in the automotive and manufacturing segments. Having attained Senior Director and Vice President status with companies such as Valvoline, ITW, and Cardone Industries, Diaz is a valued addition to the Gates family.

ASGCO announces the promotion of John Hitzfeld to the position of OEM/AE account manager. Hitzfeld joined ASGCO® 8 years ago and has held the position of sales territory manager and western North American regional manager.

Chiorino America announces the addition of **Tristan Atkinson** and **Keith Maminski** to the Chiorino America team. Atkinson will be the key account manager for Wisconsin and Minnesota. He joins Chiorino with years of experience in belting. He started off in the fabrication workshop of a major lightweight belting distributor and was more recently in field sales with a lightweight belting manufacturer. Maminski will be the key account manager for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and parts of Virginia. He joins Chiorino with more than eight years of experience

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

Send to staff@niba.org or complete the form at niba.org/members/submit-news

in belting as well as a mechanical/technical sales background in bearings and power transmission.

RECOGNITION

Davis Industrial is pleased to announce it was selected from more than 500 nominees for Florida Companies to WatchSM, a statewide program managed by economic development group GrowFL, in association with the Edward Lowe Foundation. Davis Industrial's management team, competitive market position and strong community involvement were among several factors that put them in contention for the award.

FACILITIES

Chiorino America's Suwanee HQ facility continues to grow with the addition of a new 2-meter wide v-guide machine with the capability of applying two guides in one pass. The machine is in the final phase of testing and will be fully operational soon. Equipment upgrades in Newark, DE

and Dallas, TX facilities have also moved forward in the 3rd quarter, as they commissioned three new presses, a 2-meter splitter and a new 2-meter finger puncher in Newark and a new 2-meter press in Dallas.

Following its 2017 expansion, **Nitta Corporation of America** continues to make enhancements within its Suwanee, GA facility. Recent upgrades (including an additional rubber extruder, new Rotocure and new presses) have significantly increased production capacity for Nitta's truly American-made product lines, which now include select materials within the PolySprint[™] category. For the first time, Nitta has brought production of PolySprint[™] finger-splice belting to the U.S., where it joins Nitta's PolyBelt[™] nylon core and Carryflex[™] aramid cord belting on the list of products Nitta can proudly say are "made in the USA." Beyond improvements to production, NCA has made a substantial investment in the education of its customers and personnel with the completion of its brand-new state-

of-the-art, onsite training center. With this expansive, dedicated meeting space, NCA can now easily host product training seminars and other events for up to several dozen attendees at a time.

American Biltrite is pleased to announce the addition of a state-of-the-art rotocure to their production facility. With this new equipment, American Biltrite increases their capacity, and allows both the flooring and industrial rubber divisions to serve the growing needs of their respective markets. Over the past five years, American Biltrite has invested heavily, \$15M+ in their Sherbrooke, Quebec production facility, to modernize equipment and increase capacity. In addition to the new rotocure, investments include a patent-pending coating system for flooring, an ultra-modern mixer, a new press dedicated to stair treads, and ongoing automation programs. Significant investments are also made at the employee level through job creation and training. ●

President's Message from page 1

Business Meeting, NIBA presented 10 questions to attendees for live polling through the NIBA 2019 mobile app. It was a great way for the leaders of NIBA to gain some quick, important and insightful feedback. Results included:

- 66% of respondents have attended less than 10 NIBA Annual Conventions, and 34% had attended over 10 Annual Conventions.
- 57% of responding companies did not send an employee to a NIBA technical training in the last 12 months.
- 98% agreed that NIBA is an essential professional development and networking resource for their career in belting.
- 57% of respondents would like to volunteer in the future.
- 73% of respondents said their company would benefit if they could send an employee for only one day or part of the Convention.
- 78% of respondents would be interested in hosting a one-day module based NIBA technical

training for their company employees.

- 45% of respondents said NIBA's biggest priority in the next three years is to develop greater technical expertise through training and the certification program
- How important is NIBA's new certification program to your company? 64% of respondents scored it 7 or higher on a scale of 1-10 (10 = highest rating).

The responses tell us that members are looking for more local and regional educational opportunities, they want to volunteer and they support a new certification program.

I would like to welcome our newest Board members: Chip Winiarski, Flexco, Incoming Executive; James Leach, Passaic Rubber, Director at Large; and Jenny Dakos, Gates Mectrol Corp, Director at Large.

The Board met after the Convention and I have already seen an engaged group of volunteers who serve as a great example of the passion and energy that so many have for this association.

In closure, with humility and honor, I thank all of you for supporting me as your NIBA President. I look forward to leading a great team over the next year as we continue to grow NIBA and the value our members receive. ●



Membership at a Glance

The Numbers

Manufacturers	113
Distributor/Fabricators	138
Affiliates	10
Total members	261

Our Newest Members

- **Belt Tech & Supply, Inc.**
(Distributor/Fabricator)
- **JE Rhoads & Sons Inc**
(Distributor/Fabricator)
- **Mid Atlantic Industrial Belting**
(Distributor/Fabricator)

Gem Level Contributors (cumulative contributions)

Diamond

(Contributions of \$7,500 or more)

Advanced Flexible Composites Inc (AFC)
AFM Industries
Belt Power LLC
Chiorino Inc
ContiTech - NAFTA
Derco B V
ERIKS North America, Inc.
Flexco
Green Rubber - Kennedy Ag
Habasit America
Nashville Rubber and Gasket Co Inc
Nitta Corporation of America
Reichel-Korfmann Co Inc.
Shaw Almex Industries

Emerald

(Contributions of \$5,000 - \$7,499)

AccuPad Inc
American Biltrite
Ammeraal - an Ammega Company
Beltservice Corporation
Blair Rubber Company
Fenner Dunlop Engineered Conveyor Solutions
Forbo Siegling LLC
Friesen's Inc.-Conveying Solutions
Industrial Supply Solutions, Inc.
Passaic Rubber Company
Quality Belt Maintenance Ltd (QBM)
Shanghai YongLi Belting Co Ltd
Sparks Belting Company
Universal Belting Resource

Ruby

(Contributions of \$2,500 - \$4,999)

Accurate Industrial Inc.
All-State Belting LLC
BEHA Innovation GmbH
Bullitt County Belting & Supply
Canadian Bearings Ltd
Conveyor Accessories Inc
Conveyor Belt Service Inc.
F.N. Sheppard and Co
Forbo Movement Systems Transtex Belting
Friesen's Inc-Conveying Solutions
Great Lakes Belting and Supply Corp
Knoxville Rubber and Gasket Co
Midwest Rubber Service and Supply Co
Power and Rubber Supply
REMA TIP TOP - NA
RGA - Rubber and Gasket Co of America
Rubber and Accessories Inc
Sampla Belting
Uniband USA
Vaughn Belting Company Inc
VIS USA LLC
Voss Belting and Specialty Company
William Goodyear Company

COMMIT TO EDUCATION!

Contribute to the NIBA Scholarship Fund at
niba.org/scholarships/contributions/

Annual Go for the Gold!

The following companies have made contributions to the NIBA Scholarship Fund in 2019

Gold Sponsors

(Contributions of \$800 or more in 2019)

AccuPad Inc
AFM Industries
American Biltrite
Belt Power LLC
CBM srl
Chiorino America, Inc.
Continental
Conveyor Accessories Inc
F.N. Sheppard & Co
Flexco
Green Rubber - Kennedy Ag
Industrial Supply Solutions Inc
Nashville Rubber & Gasket Co Inc
Nitta Corporation of America
Norwesco Industries (1983) Ltd
Passaic Rubber Company
Reichel-Korfmann Co Inc.
Shanghai YongLi Belting Co Ltd
Shaw Almex International Headquarters USA
Uniband USA

Silver Sponsors

(Contributions of \$400-\$799 in 2019)

Accurate Industrial Inc.
AirBoss Rubber Solutions
All-State Belting LLC
ASGCO - Complete Conveyor Solutions
Baldwin Supply Company
Behabelt USA
Beltservice Corporation
Bullitt County Belting & Supply
Derco BV
ERIKS North America, Inc.
Friesen's Inc-Conveying Solutions
Gates Mectrol Corp
Great Lakes Belting & Supply Corp
Habasit America
JTE Machines, LLC
Midwest Rubber Service & Supply Co
P R C Industrial Supply
Power & Rubber Supply
Quality Belt Maintenance (QBM), Inc.
Reveyron SAS
RGA - Rubber & Gasket Co of America
Sampla Belting
Scout Belting SA de CV
Sparks Belting Company
Tribute Incorporated
Vaughn Belting Company Inc
WAGENER Schwelm GmbH & Co
WCCO Belting Inc
William Goodyear Company

Bronze Sponsors

(Contributions of up to \$399 in 2019)

Aarubco Rubber Co
Applied Industrial Technologies
Applied Power Products Inc
BDI Belt Network
Belt Tech Industrial Inc
Canadian Bearings Ltd
COBRA America (Depreux)
Conveyor Belt Service Inc.
"Dunham Rubber & Belting Corporation"
Dunlop Belting Products (Pty) Ltd
Equipment & Supply (W.I) Ltd
Novex Inc
Qingdao Huaxia Rubber Industry Co., Ltd.
R/W Connection Inc
Ram Belting Company Inc
REMA TIP TOP - NA
Souhegan Wood Products Inc
Stroup & Son Ltd
Universal Belting Resource
Virginia Carolina Belting a division of R/W Connection
VIS USA LLC
Voss Belting & Specialty Company



NIBA-The Belting Association
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Middleton, WI 53562

Save the Date!

