

PMA's 2007 Annual Meeting— A Great Networking Opportunity

More than 300 people attended the 2007 Annual Meeting, October 11-13 at the Westin LaPaloma Resort and Spa in Tucson, AZ. In keeping with 2007 Chairman of the Board Wes Smith's theme, "Thriving in a World of Change," an impressive lineup of assembly sessions and roundtables addressed important metalforming issues.

Assembly session speakers included two well-known and respected authors: Dr. Jeffrey Liker, author of *The Toyota Way*, and Ted Fishman, author of *China, Inc.* These speakers also participated in the roundtable discussions, allowing members to interact with them on a more personal basis. Other roundtable topics covered raw materials, insurance programs for member companies and their employees, labor law, OSHA regulations, advocacy, and two roundtables hosted by the PMA Educational Foundation on human resources and apprenticeships.

For the first time, PMA combined the Saturday assembly session and other social events with another association, the Precision Machined Products Association (PMPA). This allowed PMA attendees to meet, network and establish business contacts with members of PMPA. The two groups casually interacted, providing additional value to both organizations.

Social events at the Annual Meeting are always a highlight of the event. This year, atten-

dees enjoyed the sites, sounds and excitement of "The Old West" at the Chairman's Theme Dinner, which featured mechanical bull riding and a live country band. Spouses and guests designed their own live cactus garden at the Spouse Session, and were able to

take their creations home with them. The Next Generation Leaders Division ventured to the Sonoran desert in open-air jeeps to a private location for dinner, bonfire and horseshoe tournaments. The 007 Annual Banquet introduced the 2008 officers with the traditional spotlight walk through the ballroom to the head table.

This year's golf outing featured a new format—the Texas Shamble—where participants enjoyed the ease of a scramble, but were able to play their own ball. It also included the Men's Tournament, a long-time tradition of the Annual Meeting. Congratulations to the winners:

Men's Tournament:

- Low Gross: Jody Fledderman, Batesville Tool & Die
- Low Net: Dan Blatt, E & E Mfg. Co., Inc.



Shamble Foursome:

- Bruce & Dena Walker, Walker Corp.
- Keiichi & Yumiko Kashimura, Fuji Industrial Co., Ltd.

Closest to the Pin in Shamble:

- Dale Westerfeld, Essner Mfg., L.P.
- Bob Wilson, Sharon Custom Metal Forming

Closest to the Pin in Men's Tournament:

- John Meng, E & E Mfg. Co., Inc.
- Bill Adler, Stripmatic Products, Inc.

Mark your calendars now to attend the PMA 2008 Annual Meeting at the Westin Grand Bahama Our Lucaya Resort, November 6-8. For more information, contact Michelle Underwood at 216/901-8800 or munderwood@pma.org. We hope to see you and your family in the Bahamas!