

Fall 2003

## LMC Members Celebrate S.C. Industry Appreciation Week at the 2003 Annual Meeting & Dinner



Representative Bobby Harrell (left) poses with former LMC Chair Marv Ervin (right) of Coburg Dairy.

More than 200 guests attended the **2003 LMC Annual Meeting** at Charleston Place Hotel on October 2, 2003. An evening dedicated to recognizing the efforts of the Lowcountry Manufacturers Council and celebrating South Carolina's Industry Appreciation Week, this year's annual meeting proved to be one of the best.

The event's keynote speaker Representative Bobby Harrell gave an entertaining and insightful address to the group. Representative Harrell stressed the importance of supporting businesses, growth and industry that keep the state's economy healthy. He thanked members of the audience for being strong business leaders and advocates of the small businessman. In addition to Representative Harrell, Representative Converse Chellis was in attendance. Both legislators voiced their support of manufacturers in South Carolina.

Other highlights of the evening included recognizing members of the LMC Board of Directors and certain members for their special contributions. Immediate Past Chair Mike Leatherwood of Leatherwood Electronics & Manufacturing was awarded a plaque for his accomplishments during his term as Chair. Jim Meeks of the Robert Bosch Corporation was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the LMC as Chair of the Education and Training Committee.



LMC Board member Mark Richards (third from the left) poses with his wife and other members of the team from The Richards Group.

This year's LMC gathering marked the state's 13<sup>th</sup> annual observance of South Carolina Industry Appreciation Week. This week-long celebration is a culmination of community efforts and recognition activities designed to say *thank you* and to show support for South Carolina industry. This year's theme was **South Carolina Industry: Setting the Pace for Innovation**. In an increasingly fast-paced global environment, innovation makes the difference in company effectiveness. South Carolina and LMC member companies are demonstrating innovation in technology, products, processes and services; innovation that is leading their respective industries. The LMC is proud to be a part of those efforts and initiatives.

Thank you to everyone who attended and showed his and her support for South Carolina's manufacturers!



LMC Chair Herb Ellis (left) presents Jim Meeks (right) with an award for outstanding service to the LMC.

### Thank you to the 2003 Annual Meeting Sponsors!



Gibson & Associates



#### IN THIS ISSUE

- Annual Meeting & Dinner
- Education & Training Committee
- UEC Electronics Profile
- Roundtable in Review
- The LMC's Legislative Involvement

Patron Sponsors Listed on Page 2.

## LMC's Education and Training Committee Meets the Challenge for Workforce Development

The needs of local manufacturers for highly qualified employees are increasing due to advances in technology, demands and pressures from customers on quality and the complexity of today's manufacturing processes.

To answer this need, the LMC's Education and Training Committee is working on two strategic initiatives which target the continued flow of qualified employees into manufacturing careers: the Manufacturing Certification Program and the "Manufacturing is Cool" Panel.

The "**Manufacturing Is Cool**" traveling panel provides on-campus education and awareness for high school students. The fun-filled, interactive "Hollywood Squares" game show format seeks to dispel the myths surrounding manufacturing jobs. The presentation also includes testimonials from local manufacturing employees who profile their companies as clean, safe and modern places to work. Many potential rewarding career choices are discussed. Quintin Wright from Robert Bosch describes the experience by saying, "We are showing young people the meaningful work opportunities that exist in industry today, where someone can use their talents and skills, whether it's in art, computers or mechanics."

**Manufacturers interested in having their company featured in the "Manufacturing Is Cool" panel should contact Catharine Sample at 843-747-6500.**

The **Manufacturing Skills Certification Program** is focused on providing training opportunities for job seekers to build skills as entry-level production employees. The pre-hire certification program is a unique partnership between local industry, Trident Technical College and the Trident One-Stop Career Center. The thirty-hour program creates a ready pool of better-qualified applicants who possess a consistent quality of certified skills that target the needs of local manufacturing employers. Participants will learn math, blueprint reading, safety awareness, mechanical reasoning, computer basics and manufacturing technologies, such as JIT, Kaizan, and Lean Production Systems.

Jim Meeks, Chairman of the Education and Training Committee, noted, "This program is a win-win approach for manufacturers and the community. Manufacturers can realize reductions in their hiring and training-related expenses while the condition of the community-at-large is improved over time as graduates deploy the basic skill sets learned in the program". **If your company is interested in getting involved, contact Jim Meeks at 843-760-7354.**

*The LMC's Education and Training Committee is committed to promoting workforce development, profitability for our companies and corporate citizenship in the community. Representative companies are: AVEBE, Berchtold, Bosch, Briteline, CMCI, Corning, JW Aluminum, Nucor Steel, Showa Denko Carbon, Trident One-Stop Career Center and Trident Technical College.*

Lowcountry Manufacturers Council  
2003-2004 Board of Directors

Larry Debevec, Corning Inc.  
Herb Ellis, Charleston Marine Containers Inc.  
Marv Ervin, Coburg Dairy  
Kerry Farmer, Alcoa Mt. Holly  
Bill Finn, AstenJohnson  
Ladd Hall, Nucor Steel  
Jack B. Hoey, Coastal Glass Distributors  
John Irion, SCMEP  
Don Kassing, JW Aluminum  
Mike Leatherwood, Leatherwood Electronics  
Ron Paquette, Hubner Manufacturing  
Mark Richards, The Richards Group  
Joe Schady, Alpha Sheet Metal  
David Smith, Bayer  
Pete Taylor, Cummins Marine  
Gene Walls, The Post and Courier

### The LMC Welcomes the Following New Members:

\* Denotes Associate Member

AMS Tube Corporation  
Stealth Concealment Solutions  
Innovative Product Solutions, Inc.  
\* Clement Lumber  
\* LBT Stainless

### 2003 Annual Meeting

#### Patron Sponsors:

Alpha Sheet Metal Works, Inc.  
Buist, Moore, Smythe & McGee  
Coastal Glass Distributors  
Dunaway, Fletcher & Moore -  
Engineering/Consulting  
Hubner Manufacturing Company  
*Thank you for your support!*

## Product & Materials Testing



4500 Leeds Avenue  
Suite 306, Dock 70  
Charleston, SC 29405  
imr@imrcharleston.com  
www.imrcharleston.com

Phone 843-740-2901  
Fax 843-745-1165

- Chemistry
- Metallurgy
- Failure Analysis
- Salt Fog Testing
- Metrology
- Product Testing
- Weld Testing
- Mechanical Testing

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Join us for our annual holiday tour of the Coburg Dairy facility on December 11th at 8:30 a.m. and sample some of their delicious seasonal Eggnog!

RSVP to Jennifer Robson at 843-805-3010 or [jobson@charlestonchamber.org](mailto:jobson@charlestonchamber.org).

**ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES:** Would you like to promote your company or services to area manufacturers? Call or email Jennifer Robson at 843-805-3010 or [jobson@charlestonchamber.org](mailto:jobson@charlestonchamber.org) to learn more.

## Member Spotlight: UEC Electronics, LLC & UEC Automation, LLC

Incorporated since 1995, UEC Electronics, LLC is an ISO 9001 certified comprehensive Electronics Manufacturing Services company which offers a full range of electronic design and manufacturing support. UEC Electronics' engineers and support team provide innovative product solutions and manufacturing expertise including:

- Product design & development: software, hardware, packaging and printed circuit board design. UEC Electronics specializes in transitioning concepts into value added products or in providing alternatives for product field problems by developing low cost, solutions.
- Rapid prototyping: UEC Electronics is prepared to meet extremely aggressive deadlines and schedules.
- Manufacture and Assembly: turn-key contract manufacturing services including: printed circuit board through higher level assembly; final system box build; wire and cable assembly, in-circuit and functional testing and post manufacturing services.



Customers include automotive, industrial, military and medical entities as well as innovative entrepreneurs. Recent projects include: heavy duty industrial engine control modules (design, prototype, and long term production support), water integrated sensor systems, aircraft and marine cable assemblies, radio mount assemblies, and general military contract support. Most recently, UEC Electronics acquired contracts to develop custom test equipment supporting the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program.

In 1997, UEC Electronics expanded by forming a new division, UEC Automation, LLC. UEC Automation is a systems integration and custom automated machine design and fabrication company. Our team, comprised of engineers and technicians, specializes in developing comprehensive industrial solutions and has proven experience in numerous industries. UEC Automation will design, build and integrate custom equipment including: in-process/final verification (IPV) equipment, process control systems, vision inspection systems and turn-key special purpose assembly machines. Support services include PLC programming, panel builds and machine and assembly line maintenance & service. UEC Automation has the ability to handle the most basic machine upgrades through a fully automated manufacturing process.

In January 2002, both divisions moved into a newly renovated, fully equipped 25,000 square foot manufacturing facility located in Hanahan. With this year's addition of a completely integrated enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and a mechanical design engineering staff, both UEC Electronics and UEC Automation have solid forecasts and are well positioned for continued growth.

Both UEC Electronics, LLC and UEC Automation, LLC operate with a total commitment to customer satisfaction, responsiveness, and continuous improvement allowing us to be a valuable and high performance supplier for design services as well as providing assembled products in an efficient and timely manner. Contact us at 843-552-8682 or visit online at [www.uec-electronics.com](http://www.uec-electronics.com).



U.S. Representative Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), a member of the Congressional Manufacturing Caucus, poses with LMC Chair, Herb Ellis (*left picture*) and addresses members of the LMC about issues affecting manufacturers (*right picture*).

**Want to “talk” with other manufacturers? Share ideas? Get advice?**

**Check out the online discussion forum at [www.lmcsc.org](http://www.lmcsc.org).**

## Roundtable in Review

Here's what you've missed if you haven't been attending the Manufacturers Roundtables!

**July:** The group welcomed representatives from the LMC's Affinity programs, which include medical insurance, workers' compensation and web site services.

**August:** The Education and Training Committee gave a great overview of their current initiatives, which include the “Manufacturing is Cool” panel and the “Workforce Development Certificate Program.” (See article on page 2.)

**September:** The University of South Carolina's Research Foundation presented an overview of how S.C. manufacturers can utilize the school's resources and services.

### Upcoming Events:

**October 29:** SCMA Legislative Reception at the Citadel Beach House. Meet your local legislators and network with fellow manufacturers. (See Page 4.)

\* **November 19:** Hear from the S.C. Chamber's Tim Timmons on Union Activity and what you need to know.

\* **December 11:** Coburg Dairy Plant Tour **8:30 a.m.**

The group meets the last Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. To find out more, contact Jennifer Robson at 843-805-3010 or [jrobson@charlestonchamber.org](mailto:jrobson@charlestonchamber.org).

\* Change from regular schedule due to holiday.



**Kaleidoscope**  
Technical LLC  
[www.k-scope.com](http://www.k-scope.com)  
(866) 854-0362 (toll free)

- Engineering
- Project Management
- Industrial Hygiene

**Serving manufacturing for 20+ years**



P.O. Box 975  
Charleston, SC 29402-0975  
www.lmcsc.org

## ***Serving Manufacturers in the Lowcountry and throughout South Carolina***

### Upcoming Events:

Thursday, October 16  
Education & Training Committee Meeting  
*Best Practice Tour Series*  
8:30 a.m., S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Center

Wednesday, October 29  
SCMA Legislative Reception  
5:00 p.m., Citadel Beach House

Thursday, November 13  
Board of Directors Meeting  
7:30 a.m., AstenJohnson

November 12, 2003  
JW Aluminum Plant Tour  
8:30 a.m., JW Aluminum

Wednesday, November 19  
Manufacturers Roundtable Dinner  
6:00 p.m., Sunfire Grill

Thursday, December 11  
Coburg Dairy Plant Tour  
8:30 a.m., Coburg Dairy

***You're invited!***

### **Legislative Reception & Cookout**

**Wednesday, October 29, 2003**

**5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Citadel Beach House**

Come talk to your local legislators, socialize with area manufacturers and enjoy some great food!

RSVP to Jennifer Robson at 843-805-3010 or  
[jrobson@charlestonchamber.org](mailto:jrobson@charlestonchamber.org).

***Hosted by the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance in partnership with the Lowcountry Manufacturers Council***

The Lowcountry Manufacturers Council is a local nonprofit organization, comprised of and representing the needs of the greater Charleston manufacturing community, as well as members throughout South Carolina. In each issue of *Network News*, we will print announcements about LMC member companies. Advertising opportunities are also available. To include your news, learn more about the LMC, or inquire about advertising, contact Jennifer Robson at (843) 805-3010, email [contactus@lmcsc.org](mailto:contactus@lmcsc.org), or visit the LMC online at [www.lmcsc.org](http://www.lmcsc.org).

#### **THE NETWORK NEWS STAFF:**

**Publishers:** Jennifer Robson, Philip Owens  
**Contributors:** Mandy Denaux, LMC Marketing Committee  
**Graphic Designer:** Jonathan Ady