



John P. Green
NIBA President 2013



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Belt Line

Executive DirectorJennifer Rzepka, CAE
Account Coordinators.....Sandy Kaye
Amanda Wallich
Graphic Designer.....Dan Dudzinski

Editing of all member submissions for inclusion in the *Belt Line* is a NIBA Board of Directors requirement. Generally, comments regarding quality, value, cost, etc., will be deleted.

Corrections/Additions

In the Member to Member section of the December 2012 Issue, the wrong photo was included with the announcement of Patrick S. Spinelli's promotion to Plant Manager for Hyde Tools. The correct photo is below:



Letter from the President

Change, Evolution and People "Make it Happen" for NIBA

As I write this introductory "Letter from the President" I am reflecting on how much NIBA has changed over the past several years, especially in the years since I've been actively involved with the organization. While the term "change" is technically correct, I prefer to use "progress" and "evolve" because that is what I believe we continue to do as we move into the future. With this first Belt Line of 2013, we are "going green" (which is not a clever play on my last name) by offering this issue electronically as a way to be more environmentally conscious.

We continue to see our membership evolve as well. Every month we receive new applications from prospective members, and our numbers are growing—a very good sign that our organization provides value to our members. In recent years we have witnessed an unprecedented number of acquisitions, mergers, and changes of ownership within member companies, as competition grows more intense in the marketplace. NIBA has even joined the world of information and social media with utilization of Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to communicate with members. Most recently, our committees and Board met in January to begin our work for 2013 with an agenda full of tasks designed to continue to improve NIBA and provide valuable resources to the membership. Some of the upcoming advancements include more training (both online and regional hands-on), more business-friendly products and services, and more valuable business content at future conventions.

Another evolutionary item is the recognition that NIBA has truly become an international organization. At the close of 2012, no less than nineteen different countries were represented in our membership. In recent years we have been inundated with applications from prospective members that we currently cannot categorize, and as an unfortunate result, continue to turn these people away. For lack of a better term, we have labeled this new group as "Trading Companies." Over the next several months, NIBA will be working to educate our members by clearly defining how this group does business, and how we would create the criteria for such a membership category...all of which will be voted upon by you at our next Convention in September. As your representatives, the Membership Committee volunteers, Board of Directors, and the Executive Board present this proposed classification with the intent of improving NIBA, in a continuing effort to move NIBA forward as the global marketplace evolves.

This summer we will conduct the triennial strategic planning meeting, during which creative and energetic representatives from all facets of our NIBA demographic will meet for two days. This group will brainstorm to generate a course of action for NIBA in the short term, as well as a long-term vision of what will keep our organization vibrant, valuable, and relevant to our members in the years to come. My personal goal with this meeting is to provide our members with a list of realistic goals and innovative ideas to make NIBA the best trade organization in which your company belongs. I want it to be a symbol of pride and distinction to your employees and your customers when they see the NIBA logo on your website, letterhead, front-door, and office walls. Being a NIBA member should mean something special, and we are working hard to reinforce that idea in our ongoing efforts to improve and brand this great organization.

It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as your President. I often think back to when I first started working as a volunteer ten years ago, and remember being nervous and apprehensive that my contributions would be of any value to this organization. Never once did I imagine that I would one day be where I am today. I take this responsibility seriously, and have tremendous respect for the position. When my term has ended, I hope to look back at my year as President and take

Thank you to our 2012 Committee members!

The following members are not continuing on their 2012 committees for 2013. Some are continuing on other committees, but NIBA would like to recognize them all for their contributions in 2012. Thank you!

Board of Directors

Michael Labbé, REMA TIP TOP
Jeff Leach, Passaic Rubber Company

Education/Technical Committee

Mike Baker, Advanced Flexible Composites Inc
Michael Bruhn, Midwest Industrial Rubber Inc
John Grasmeyer, Sparks Belting Company
Carsten Möbius, Dunlop Belting Products (Pty) Ltd
Jonathon Morgan, Forbo Siegling LLC
Dan Paustian, Nitta Corporation of America
Erika Stoltz, Veyance Technologies Inc

Marketing Committee

Bo Fisher, Maxi-Lift Inc
Gary Hense, IBT Inc
Sharon Horn, RAM Enterprise Inc

Membership Committee

Terri Boyle, AccuPad Inc
Tom Pientok, Apache Inc
Brian Schachner, Vaughn Belting Company Inc
Mike Stein, Flexco
Mike VandenAkker, Sparks Belting Company

Products/Services Committee

Jim Bishop, REMA TIP TOP
Jeff Leach, Passaic Rubber Company
Linda Saunders, Canadian Bearings Ltd

Program Committee

Jason Jones, Belt Power LLC
Ana Laura Muñoz Enriquez, Vysisa de CV
Tom Wujek, Flexco

NIBA is Changing

By Doug Turk, Membership Committee Chair, Midwest Rubber Services & Supply Co.

Over the last several years, NIBA has gone through an evolution of changes within our organization. NIBA has become a Global organization with over nineteen countries represented. As this evolution has strengthened NIBA, it has seen numerous consolidations of Manufacturers and Distributors acquiring one another, as well as being acquired, by Holding or Equity Companies. Read more about this trend in action in the press release featured in the Newsworthy section of this edition.

With this Globalization trend, your NIBA Membership Committee remains cognizant of categorizing our new members in the appropriate category, while at the same time determining if prospects meet NIBA's mission statement and Guiding Principles. In so doing, over the next several months you will see educational pieces explaining a

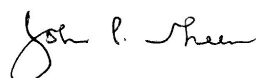
new membership category, Trading Companies. Culmination of this educational process will be a vote by membership attending the Fall Convention to approve or disapprove this category. All members attending the Convention are welcome to participate in this vote.

The process that is currently used to critique new prospects will also be detailed to make all members aware that the Membership Committee is tasked to grow our membership, but also to meet the commitment to Distributors as we are for all purposes a Distributor driven organization mentored by the Manufacturers with whom we are affiliated to sell and promote conveyor products.

The Membership Committee will look forward to your openness as we begin this educational process, through your responses via the various social media NIBA is associated with ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)).

Letter from the President *continued from previous page*

pride in having made some lasting (and hopefully positive) impact on NIBA. I have no doubt that I will enjoy this year thoroughly, and it helps to be surrounded by people who I respect and admire, and have the privilege of calling my friends. Coincidentally, the theme for our convention in September is "Make it Happen" which is highly appropriate as I think of the amazing people who make it happen year after year at NIBA. I couldn't ask for a better group of people to have as my backbone and support system. To me, it is completely astonishing to know that the group of people who work on the Committees and Board are all unselfishly volunteering their time and energy to do such demanding and time-consuming work for NIBA. As this organization changes, progresses... and evolves, you can rest assured that this group of dedicated individuals is working tirelessly to make sure NIBA remains valuable and relevant to our members for years to come.



John P. Green
NIBA President 2013
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