



Contact:

Rachel England
Marketing Assistant
Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association
5353 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 207
Minneapolis, MN 55416
Office: (952) 564-3041
E-mail: rachel@mpma.com

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**MINNESOTA PRECISION MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION FORMS REGIONAL GROUP
IN SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn — The Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association (MPMA) is forming its first ever regional group in southwest Minnesota. Companies who are a member of the MPMA and located in Blue Earth, Brown, Fairbault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan counties will make up the new Region 9 satellite group.

The group will promote workforce development initiatives specific to their communities. The focus will be on encouraging students to pursue careers in manufacturing, specifically in the areas of metal fabrication and welding; two highly sought after skills in this region.

“Increasing the awareness of manufacturing and the variety of jobs the industry offers is a key objective for the MPMA as a whole,” said the association’s Executive Director, Jaime Nolan. “The manufacturers in this area know what they need from future workers better than anyone,” continued Nolan, “forming this group allows companies to connect with local schools, instructors and counselors and encourage careers in manufacturing.”

In addition to hosting their own meetings and events, members of the Region 9 group will have full access to all MPMA member benefits including member rates to attend facility tours, monthly member programs as well as the ability to attend all educational workshops hosted by the association.

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“This is the first time MPMA has had a regional group,” said Nolan. “We’re excited for the group to grow and become a model for other regional groups within MPMA.”

Dues for companies joining the MPMA and its Region 9 group remain the same for “out-state” companies. The MPMA defines “out-state” as any company more than 75 miles from the associations home office in Minneapolis. For more information on membership and how to become a part of the Region 9 group, contact Jaime Nolan at jaime@mpma.com.

For over 50 years MPMA has been the leading voice of the precision manufacturing industry in Minnesota. MPMA introduces, leads and supports the initiatives and education that keep manufacturing in Minnesota a strong and vital component of the state’s economy. For more information visit www.mpma.com or call 952.564.3041.

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