

communiqué

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2017 Board of Directors

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- Jim Mellgren
President
- Jeff Root
Vice President
- Brooke Hamilton
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- Dean Anderson
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- Dean Anderson
- Russ Butchko
- Heather Chartrand
- Steve Davis
- Gary Gayton
- Brett Greene
- Brooke Hamilton
- Tanya McClafferty
- Jim Mellgren
- Jeff Root
- Bobby Welter
- Ralph West

Member Feedback

The GPI office would like your comments and suggestions to make GPI better than ever. If you have a meeting presentation topic, a suggestion for the website, potential member information, or anything that would benefit GPI, please e-mail Association headquarters at gpistaff@thomasamc.com.



MUSIC CITY, HERE WE COME

Nashville is a vibrant city with exceptional live music, and a great place to bring people together. The Hilton Downtown Nashville will serve as the host property for the 2017 GPI Semi-Annual Meeting, Oct. 1-3, 2017. The hotel is located just a block away from world-famous Broadway Street, home to some of the best live music anywhere.

We have a great program scheduled that GPI members can't afford to miss. GPI is pleased to welcome Patrick Schwerdtfeger from Trend Mastery, Inc. Patrick is a leading authority on technology trends including big data, artificial intelligence, and the social media revolution.

GPI will welcome back Bill Strauss, senior economist and economic advisor in the Economic Research Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Bill's presentation will review the performance of the overall macro economy with specific attention paid to key economic sectors and indicators.

Christopher Snider, CEO and president of the Exit Planning Institute, is recognized as a thought leader and

trendsetter in the field of value acceleration and exit planning. Chris advises business owners on transition strategies using value acceleration.

GPI welcomes back Marci Kinter, vice president for government and business information for SGIA. Ms. Kinter's presentation will focus on regulatory and policy issues under the current administration.

Also scheduled to present is Ray Weiss, digital imaging specialist for SGIA. Ray provides solutions and technical information on digital printing as well as digital equipment, materials, and vendor referrals.

Don't miss GPI Talks at this year's meeting. GPI Talks are 25-minute presentations given by GPI members that focus on delivering the most effective, beneficial information to attendees. Sam Wainer from Horizons is scheduled to present on lead generation. Steve Doerfler and Kyle Bermel of Metalcraft will share information on innovation and entrepreneurship. Douglas Gray from Natgraph will provide insight into innovations that are expanding applications for screen printing. This will include discussions of force-sensitive resistors and mould electronics. The final GPI Talk will be held on lean manufacturing, and will be presented by Jeff Root from GM Nameplate, Joe Petri from 3M and Michael Hess with LEM Products.

This is a great program filled with valuable business and technical information. GPI members are encouraged to bring operations and technical staff with them to the meeting. Please click on the following link to register for the meeting: <http://www.cvent.com/d/45qcqj>



GPI Future Meeting Locations	
2018 Annual Meeting	April 11-13, 2018 Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa Manalapan, Fla.
2018 Semi-Annual Meeting	Sept. 20-Oct. 2, 2018 The Omni Hotel Chicago, Ill.
2019 Annual Meeting	April 3-5, 2019 Ojai Valley Inn Ojai, Calif.

GPI WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBERS:

- LEM Products (Corporate Member)**
- Mitographics (Corporate Member)**
- Natgraph (Associate Member)**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jim Mellgren

Hello GPI Friends,

Dust off your boots and get ready for good music, because the 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting will be held in Nashville, Tenn., at the Hilton Nashville Downtown! I know I will be coming to town a few days early to check out the local music! There is a lot of excitement over the location and lineup of speakers put together by Jeff Root. The Program Planning Committee has assembled an impressive array of business and technical speakers. We also have some additional technical topics scheduled, which will be presented by GPI members, referred to as "GPI Talks." These short talks will share technical knowledge from the expertise within our industry covering lead generation, innovation, innovations in screen printing, and lean manufacturing.

The 2017 Annual Meeting was held in Napa Valley, CA. We enjoyed networking, thought-provoking speakers, and an excellent panel discussion moderated by Dolf Kahle on how CEOs lead their organizations. The dinner was held in an estate wine cave for a unique venue! Thank you to the Hohenrieders for providing a tour of Lustrecal after the meeting. Attendees were impressed with your facility as well as your gracious hosting of the backyard barbecue.

Thank you to Thomas Associates for the attention to detail that you put into planning, organizing, and managing the Semi-Annual, Annual and many other meetings in between.

The nominating committee of Steve Doerfler, Tim Merrifield, and John Freismuth nominated Tanya McClafferty, Brett Greene, and Heather Chartrand to serve on the board of directors. I am excited to serve with the new board members.

We are missing a member that was a foundation of GPI. Bob Boileau passed away on June 12th of this year after battling cancer. Bob was a mentor, friend, and inspiration to GPI. Bob and his wife, Carol, had an uncanny ability to make everyone feel welcome at meetings. Bob was always making sure that everyone in the hospitality suite was taken care of and had what they needed. Bob's Elvis sightings, and his warm, friendly smile will never be forgotten.

Finally, I am honored to accept the role as president of GPI. I greatly appreciate the support that Past-President Dean Anderson has provided throughout my years on the board. Dean and the many presidents before him have been strong leaders who have left big shoes to fill. I will do my best to serve GPI and its members. Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to seeing you in Nashville! (John Freismuth, I will be contacting you shortly for some insight on line dancing.)



LEGAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY

By Naomi R. Angel, Esq., GPI Legal Counsel

COURT DECISION HURTS PATENT TROLLS

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that patent lawsuits should be tried in the state where the defending company is incorporated. The court said that, for the past 30 years, lower courts have incorrectly interpreted the law, allowing patent holders to sue companies wherever they had an established place of business.

That allowed such suits to be filed in almost any federal court in the U.S. Consequently, in the first quarter of 2017, more patent infringement cases were filed in the rural Eastern District of Texas than in all other federal district courts. The Eastern District is widely known for being “plaintiff-friendly” and awarding large judgments.

This decision is a big win for patent holders and a loss for “patent trolls.” These firms hold or buy patents but don’t use them to manufacture products. They demand royalties and sue companies for patent infringement in hopes they will settle rather than go through expensive and lengthy litigation. The decision should significantly shift patent infringement suits to more-neutral venues, where a defending company has a better chance of fighting the patent troll in a court that has expertise in patent matters. Better to spend resources on development and invention, rather than frivolous litigation.

INSURANCE COMPANY REFUSES TO PAY DEFENSE COSTS

An insurance company’s client was accused of intentionally misleading the Patent and Trademark Office, and the court imposed sanctions against that client in a patent infringement suit. However, the insurance company does not want to pay defense costs, and it asked the court to support that refusal. The insurance company based its refusal to pay on a policy provision that excluded coverage for “intentional wrongdoing.”

Lessons: First, don’t mislead the PTO. Second, an insurance policy is just a contract. Insurance companies are not shy about looking for ways to avoid payment when they receive a claim. Read the many exclusions found in any liability insurance policy. Know how broad and how narrow your coverage may actually be.

NO CHANGE TO “AIRPLANE MODE”

Federal regulators have decided that they won’t roll back existing restrictions on cell phone use by air travelers. A rollback on those prohibitions was proposed by former FCC chairman Tom Wheeler, who thought that advances in in-flight communications had eliminated concerns about cell phone use interfering with pilot radios. But Wheeler’s successor, Ajit Pai, has withdrawn the proposal, calling it “ill-conceived” and not in the public interest.

Under Wheeler’s proposal, passengers would still have been prohibited from cell phone use during takeoff and landing. However, they could have used phones at higher altitudes. Now, the FCC says travelers must continue to turn phones off or put them in airplane mode throughout their flights.

SHIPPING LINE PLEADS GUILTY IN ANTITRUST CASE

An ocean shipping line has reportedly pleaded guilty to anticompetitive conduct in what may be the first criminal antitrust enforcement action under the Trump administration. However, a government investigation may have started while Barack Obama was president.

Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics was accused of conspiring with its competitors to fix prices, rig bids, allocate customers, and engage in monopolistic conduct. Wallenius was fined, and agreed to pay \$98.9 million. But the criminal case, filed in a Maryland federal district court, continues against its co-conspirators.

Wallenius and its co-conspirators may also face a civil antitrust suit by their customers and additional actions by various governments. Few companies and trade associations that are involved in potentially illegal conduct can survive the cost of defending such antitrust actions. That’s also true if the organizations are eventually found innocent.

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