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2022 ISSUE 172

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2022 AWRF PRESIDENT

Jack Gibbons



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WE ARE GOING TO HOUSTON! WE ARE GOING TO HOUSTON!

**We Are Having Our First Meeting In 2-1/2 Years In Houston!
This Will Be A PIE. Please Register Now!**

Ok, I got that out of my system. The AWRF office, along with the Board of Directors and the Technical Committee have been working very hard to make this meeting a great success and we need your attendance to achieve that!

The Technical Committee and the Board of Directors just met in person in Phoenix. There is absolutely no replacement for in-person meetings.

The Technical Committee, chaired by Paul Boeckman and co-chaired by Tim Klein, is so critical to the AWRF. They are continually working on making us all better rigging products suppliers. Their work on the RP&G's continues and are so helpful us all. Their work on the AWRF/LEEA accreditation continues and is coming close to being a reality. A big thank you to Past President Brett Woodland for keeping this alive during these difficult couple of years.

There are so many important committees including Round Sling, Web Sling, Chain, Testing, Wire Rope and Wire Rope Slings, Cordage, Below the Hook, Load Securement, Blocks and Tackle, Sling Fittings, Mechanical and Non-Electrical Hoists, Information Resources, Risk Management and Technical Communications. Please take a moment to thank Technical Committee members for all the hard work they do for us.

The Board of Directors has been hard at work to make sure our Houston PIE meeting is well attended

and full of interesting and useful content for our members. Programs, chaired by Terry Driscoll, has been working with JAGwire and the PIE committee, led by Curt Jabben and Justin Brown, to coordinate speakers, entertainment (including virtual golf, cowboy hat station and a shoeshine station to mention a few), technical presentations and much more.

Our Breakout Groups have created a group known as "Emerging Leaders" led by Mike Poroo. They will host their Inaugural Reception for guests 40 years old and under to help get them more involved in all the things necessary to keep the AWRF strong into the future.

Speaking of keeping the AWRF strong, the JAGwire office has once again kept the AWRF financially sound in these very trying times. Thank you to Jeff, Barbara and Emily Gilbert as well as Caren VanZant for their efforts.

Tuesday night's reception will be a Casino Night Gala benefiting St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. This will be a fun night that will help raise funds for a wonderful organization.



Tournament Committee chair, Hugh Yoder has arranged for modified shotgun start on Wednesday at 8am (pick up at 7:15am), weather permitting. YES, we will be playing golf together again!





We are looking forward to seeing everyone together again. See you in Houston!

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FUTURE MEETINGS

2022

April 24 - 27 **AWRF General Meeting and P.I.E.**
Marriott Marquis Houston
Houston, TX

October 16 - 19 AWRF General Meeting
Loews Philadelphia Hotel
Philadelphia, PA

2023

April 16 - 19 AWRF General Meeting
Scottsdale Plaza Resort
Scottsdale, AZ

October 15 - 18 AWRF General Meeting and P.I.E.
Sheraton Dallas Hotel
Dallas, TX

2024

April 28 – May 1 AWRF General Meeting
Omni Nashville Hotel
Nashville, TN

October 27 – 30 AWRF General Meeting
La Quinta Resort (Waldorf Astoria)
La Quinta, CA

2025

April 6 – 9 AWRF General Meeting and P.I.E.
Sheraton Denver
Denver, CO

October 19 – 22 AWRF General Meeting
Omni Charlotte Hotel
Charlotte, NC



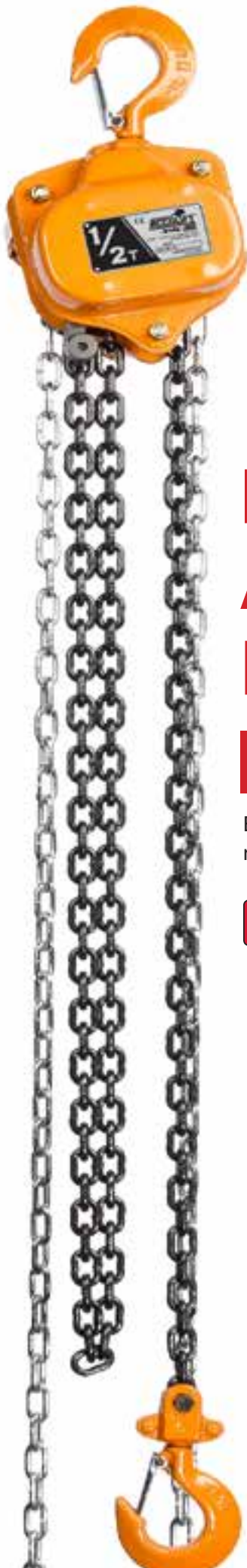
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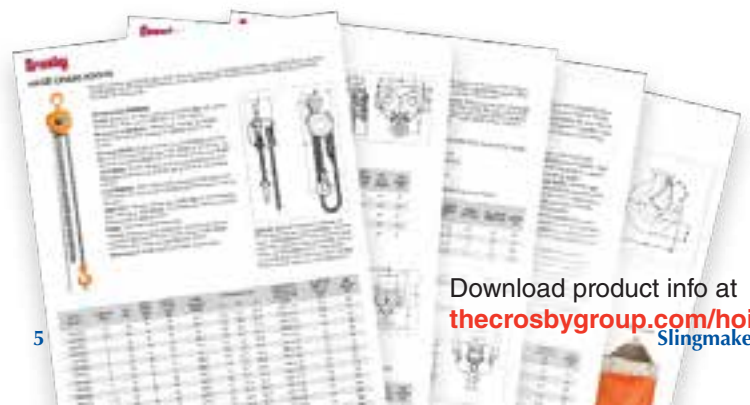
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GENERAL MEETING & PIE

April 24-27, 2022

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

AWRF GENERAL MEETING & PIE SPRING 2022 HOUSTON MARRIOTT MARQUIS – HOUSTON, TX

SUNDAY – APRIL 24th, 2022

7:30 – 11:00 am – Board of Directors Meeting – Hunter’s Creek
11:00 – 4:00 pm – Registration – Texas Foyer
10:00 – 4:00 pm – Product Information Exhibition Set-up – Texas Ballroom
4:00 – 5:00 pm – Emerging Leaders Inaugural Reception (40 & under) – **TBD**
5:00 – 5:30 pm – First Timer’s Reception – Event Pavilion
5:30 – 7:00 pm – Opening Reception – Event Pavilion

MONDAY – APRIL 25th, 2022

6:00 – 7:00 am – Workout Class – **TBD**
7:30 – 9:00 am – Breakfast Buffet – Texas Foyer
8:00 – 4:00 pm – Product Information Exhibition – Texas Ballroom
9:00 – 2:00 pm – New Product & Technology SPOTLIGHT! – Texas Foyer
11:30 – 1:00 pm – Luncheon Buffet – Texas Foyer
4:00 – 5:00 pm – Workout Class – **TBD**
6:00 – 7:00 pm – Reception – Texas Foyer

TUESDAY – APRIL 26th, 2022

6:00 – 7:00 am – Workout Class – **TBD**
7:00 – 8:00 am – Networking Breakfast – Texas A-D
8:00 – 1:05 pm – General Business & Breakout Sessions – Texas A-D, Kingwood, Briargrove, Hunter’s Creek
9:00 – 3:30 pm – The Tour – Meet in Lobby
4:00 – 5:00 pm – Workout Class – **TBD**
6:00 – 7:00 pm – Reception – Texas Foyer
7:00 – 11:00 pm – AWRF Casino Night Gala benefitting St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital – Texas A-D
*Monte Carlo themed

WEDNESDAY – APRIL 27th, 2022

8:00 am Modified Shot Gun Start (weather permitting) – Bus Pickup @ 7:15 am
4:30 – 6:00 pm - Closing Reception – Hunter’s Creek

*We will be presenting awards to 2022 Milestone Membership recipients and recognizing 2020 & 2021 Milestone and Safety Award recipients throughout the program.

***Schedule is subject to change**



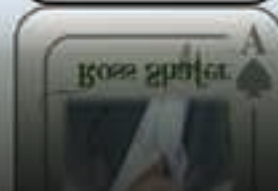
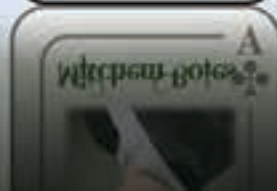
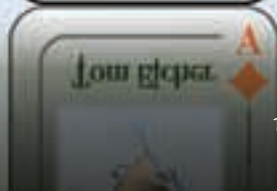
AWRF Fall General Meeting Houston, TX

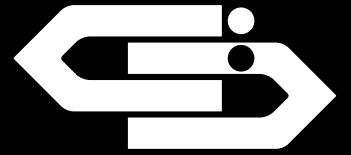
SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Tuesday – April 26th, 2022
Breakout Sessions

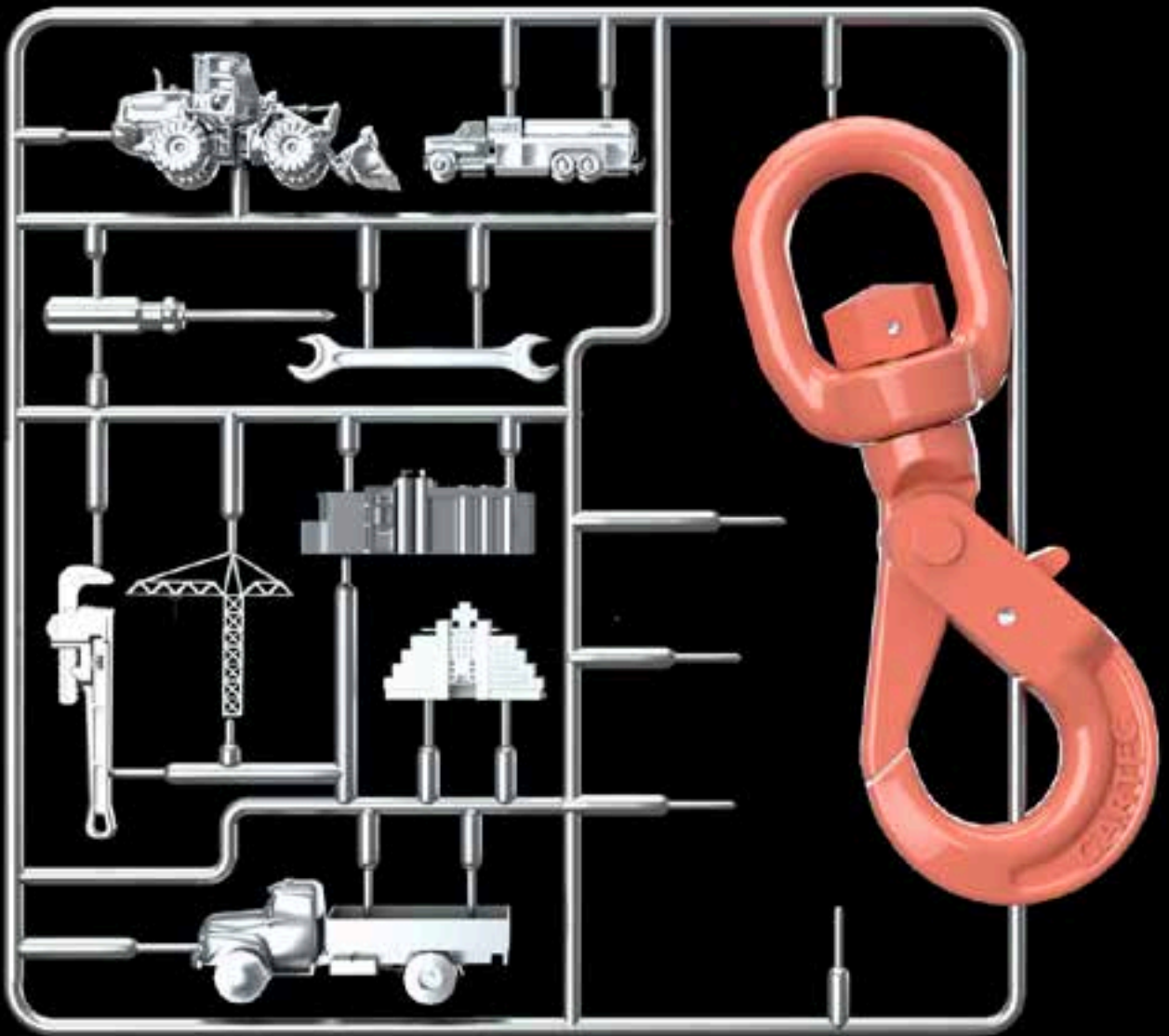
- 7:00 a.m. Networking Breakfast / Membership Plaque Awards
- 7:30 a.m. Tom Eicher – The Caldwell Group – *Update on ASME B30.20 Below-the-Hook Lifting Devices*
- 8:00 a.m. Mitchem Boles GuidePoint Security – *Cyber Security Roadmap*
- 8:30 a.m. AWRF Accreditation Program LAUNCH
- 9:00 a.m. Lisa Ryan – Grategy, LLC. – *Manufacturing Engagement*
- 10:00 a.m. KEYNOTE: Ross Shafer
- 11:15 a.m. – 12:05 a.m. – Session 1
- 12:15 p.m. – 1:05 p.m. – Session 2

	<i>Kingswood</i>	<i>Briargrove</i>	<i>Hunter's Creek</i>
11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.	Lisa Ryan – <i>Deep Dive into Manufacturing Engagement</i>	Mitchem Boles GuidePoint Security – <i>Cyber Security Roadmap – Deep Dive</i>	Tom Eicher – The Caldwell Group – <i>Update on ASME B30.20 Below-the- Hook Lifting Devices DEEP Dive</i>
12:15 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	Lisa Ryan – <i>Gen Z Engagement</i>	NEW – Create Your Own Safety Program! – AWRF's new safety video streaming service.	Technical Update – <i>Updates on B30.30 (Ropes) – Chris Richardson</i>





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The Government Affairs Committee

By: J. Barry Epperson
General Counsel and
Chairman of the
Government Affairs Committee



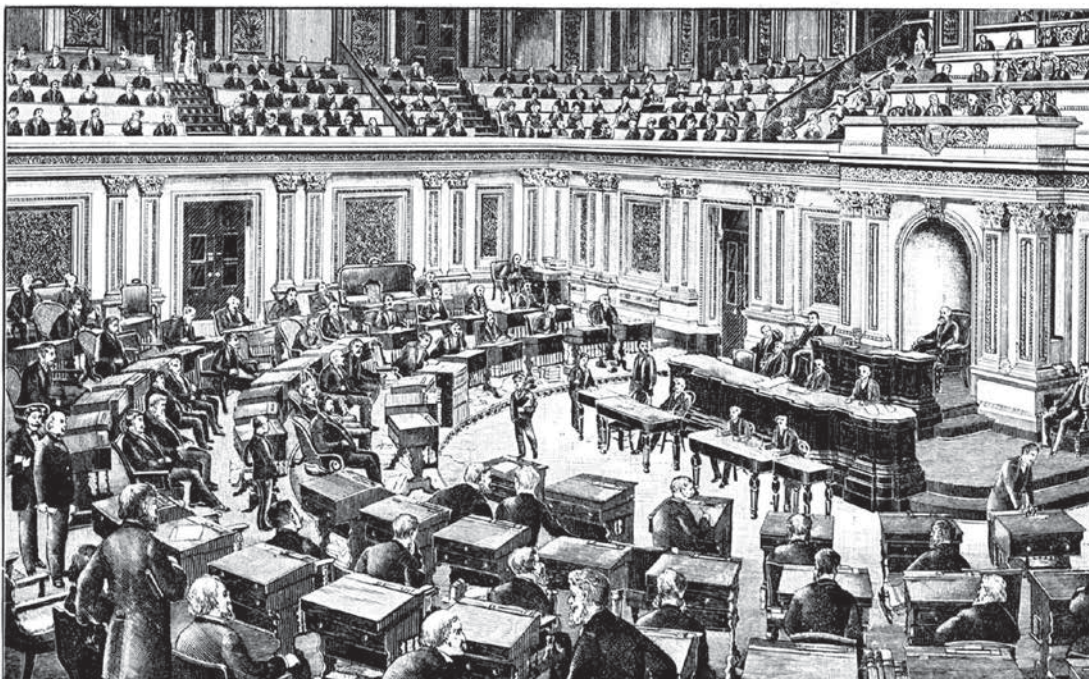
Actions and Reactions

U.S. Presidential Elections

Some members of Congress are of the opinion that their role in presidential elections should be held in check. We agree. The Constitutional separation of powers between the three branches of government establishes the essential checks and balances which foster independence tempered by limited mutual oversight. The original framers of that hallowed document provided in Article II that each state shall appoint electors in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct. Congress' involvement is limited to the time for selecting the electors and the day they must vote. In spite of these constraints, however, Congressional party line challenges to the credentials and behavior of electors have become commonplace. It seems that legislators in the losing party feel compelled to howl and wail. Remember hanging chads? Remember January 6th? Thankfully, we should soon see proposed bipartisan remedial legislation dedicated to limiting Congressional interference in presidential elections as per the obvious intent of Article II of the Constitution. Legitimate election complaints can best be resolved by an independent judiciary, relegating the theatrics of Congressional bereavement to sensational media interviews.

Filibuster vs. Nuclear Option

While the subject sounds like a World War II bombing mission we believe it to be an accurate description of U. S. senatorial warfare where the aftermath can be just as chaotic, for most Senate actions a super-majority vote is required. Invoking cloture with a minimum of 60 votes means debate is terminated and a vote (usually predetermined by count) is taken. Because many votes are along party lines, there must be some bipartisan cooperation for a proposed bill unless the party advancing the initiative enjoys at least a rare 60-40 advantage, today, with a 50-50 split, cooperation must be garnered for almost everything. It appears that most citizens are supportive of this procedure which tenders grudging respect to the minority party and is unique to the Senate. Indeed, many Americans are fed up with rabid governmental polarization. An exception to the super-majority rule was first invoked through the manipulation of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) in 2013. Referred to as the Nuclear Option, this process overrides the filibuster, calling for a simple majority vote for the appointment of Presidential nominations other than to the Supreme Court. Senatorial budget reconciliation, which also needs only a simple majority, has often been abused by attempts to draw non-budgetary initiatives into the process to avoid the 60-vote minimum. Consistently frustrated by the filibuster, Senate Democrats recently advanced a bill which would have denuclearized nearly all voting. But for two Senators, Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Krysten Sinema (D-AZ), this legislation would have passed. Fortuitously, it failed by a vote pf 52-48 on January 19th.



NEW SENATE CHAMBER.



The Durham Investigation

Last September, Special Counsel John Durham, an experienced federal prosecutor with impeccable credentials, indicted private attorney Michael Sussman following a revealing grand jury hearing. The indictment charges him with lying to the FBI about the identity of his client in his quest to undermine the Trump presidential campaign. Mr. Sussman has pleaded not guilty contending that he was operating solely as a concerned citizen out to uncover conspiracies. The veracity of the infamous Steele dossier with the same sources of financing has been previously debunked, but not before its wrongful use as a warrant justification allowing the FBI to spy on Carter Page's Trump connections had caused serious damage. All this skullduggery was developed with a common objective: to sabotage presidential candidate Donald Trump's election campaign. As Mr. Durham's excruciatingly thorough inquiries continue to unfold, a parade of new leads should completely discredit yet another defamation attempt by exposing fabricated claims of Russian collusion by means of allegedly illegal Trump ties to Alpha Bank which is located in Russia. According to Team Durham's newly decanted evidence, agents of the former President's political opponents have hijacked proprietary and legally protected White House and headquarters information. Now exposed, the implicated parties are contending that they conducted these nefarious espionage activities (once again) as concerned citizens rather than paid agents. Thanks to Mr. Durham and his dedicated team, new, equally stunning, revelations may be expected soon.

Topping Off Energy Production

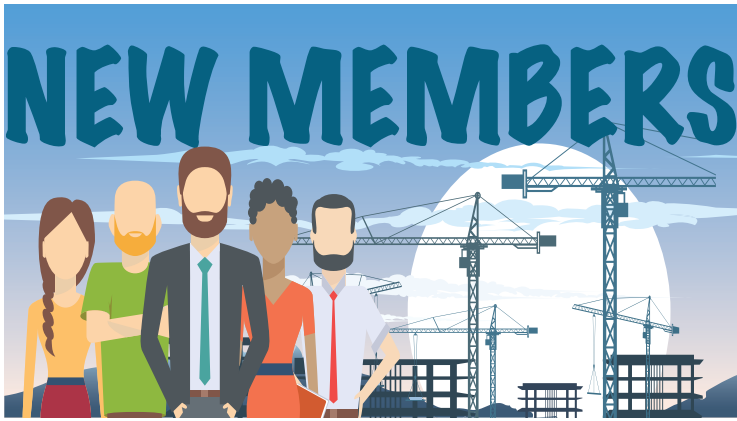
As the Covid pandemic morphs to endemic status, American oil and gas exploration, refining and distribution activities are rebounding accordingly. Notwithstanding new government roadblocks from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and an onslaught of Executive Orders shutting down pipelines and stopping leasing, the U.S. is once again the world leader in oil production as well natural gas extraction. This year the country may also enjoy the number one spot in liquified natural gas exportation. However, in the throes of global military upheaval, whether or not we resume our path to energy independence when we need it most, is a question. Moreover, these same debilitating regulations are getting in the way of a clean energy

future by obstructing alternative energy activities. Which of us creatures is the real endangered species?

It is clear that wind and solar fixes have proven limitations such as severe temperatures, clouds, flying breeds, etc. Applying the principles of cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment, perhaps the highest and best use of these power substitutes is in support of the fossil fuel industry where they intermittently supply supplemental power on remote drilling sites on and offshore. Another weakness in these alternative energy phenomena relates to reliance on industrial batteries which require copious supplies of the scarce and elusive mineral, lithium. While deposits have been discovered below southern California's Salton Sea, actual mining faces environmental and recreational impediments, burdensome costs and other practicalities.

As we write, America's strategic hydrocarbon reserves are being invaded and we find ourselves in supplication to OPEC while we close down new, safe pipeline projects and effect moratoria on promising oil and gas leasing. To make matters worse, on February 17th FERC further complicated its energy policy by expanding traditional compliance standards beyond public interest and environmental safety requirements to demand complex analyses of greenhouse gas emissions. Are they not aware that there is no dependable way to measure emissions before or after the product is in the pipeline? Senator Manchin called the FERC decision "reckless" ..."putting our nation at risk" and playing into the hands of the energy domination whims of Vladimir Putin. Comments by others are unquotable in polite society. As a result, the only current excess capacity of fossil fuels rests in unpredictable middle-eastern countries.

The United States has the proven engineering and a sound blueprint for oil and gas dominance. We believe that exploiting and capitalizing on North America's superior control over its valuable intellectual and natural resources is the vital substance of continental sovereignty—if not survival.



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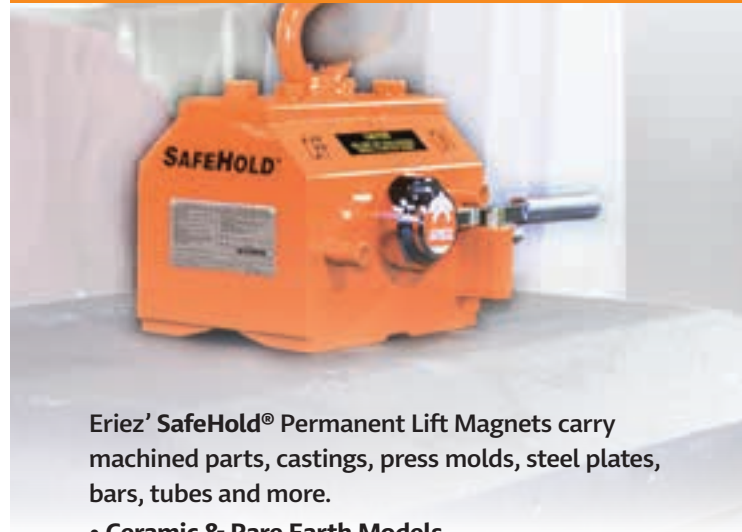
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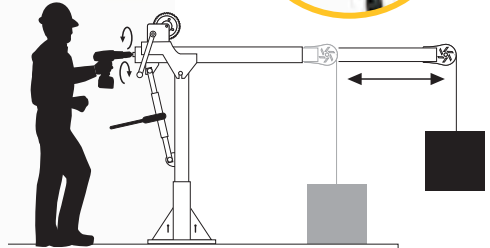
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The Government Affairs Committee

By: J. Barry Epperson
General Counsel and
Chairman of the
Government Affairs Committee



Infrastructure Job Opportunities for AWRF Members

Over the next several years AWRF members will be presented with challenging job opportunities funded by infrastructure legislation (H.R. 3684) passed by Congress last November.

To AWRF Members:

The attached ATRA 2022 Tort Reform Outlook contains a state by state breakout of anticipated civil justice measures for the coming year. The prospects of litigation are a constant concern within the lifting and rigging industry given the dynamic nature of our AWRF projects. The attached information should better prepare Association members for these challenges while providing contacts as well as the opportunity to participate in remedial initiatives for those who have the time and inclination to get involved.



U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

Navigating the Infrastructure Funding Process

Overview

The enactment of H.R. 3684, the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act” is a historic, generational funding commitment for our nation’s hard infrastructure – including roads and bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, water infrastructure, electric grid, and broadband. These are long-term, sustainable investments that will unlock our economy’s growth potential and productive capacity.

The bill:

- Provides eight years of funding, with \$550 billion in new investment on top of approximately \$500 billion in previously authorized “baseline” funding.
- Helps strengthen supply chains making them more efficient and resilient to evolving threats.

- Includes a new five-year surface transportation authorization with over 35 percent funding increases.
- Reforms the federal permitting process by enhancing the FAST-41 program and codifying One Federal Decision, which will substantially reduce the timeline for delivering large infrastructure projects and will encourage further private investment.
- Creates new programs to allow the private sector to increase the resiliency of our transportation and infrastructure systems, address emissions, and mitigate environmental impacts.

This document outlines what provisions are being allocated to different sectors.

Transportation

- Provides \$351 billion for highways over five years (30 percent average increase) from the Highway Trust Fund and General Fund, with \$307 billion provided as formula apportionments to states.
- Provides \$91 billion for transit, \$12 billion for highway safety, \$66 billion for passenger rail and \$20 billion for airports over five years.
- Creates a new \$27.5 billion formula-based Federal Highway bridge program via advance General Fund appropriations. Eligible uses include highway bridge replacement, rehabilitation, preservation, protection, or construction projects on public roads.

- Creates a new \$5 billion Electric Vehicles (EV) charging infrastructure formula program.
- Substantially increases passenger rail funding by providing \$66 billion in advance General Fund appropriations, including for Amtrak, CRISI, fed-state partnership, and rail crossing elimination.
- Provides \$69.9 billion from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund for transit formula programs (31.6 percent increase from FAST Act between FY2021 and FY2022), and another \$21.3 billion in advance General Fund appropriations for Capital Investment Grants and for certain formula programs.

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- Creates new discretionary grant programs and increases existing discretionary grant program funding via advance General Fund appropriations between FY2022 and FY2026, including:
 - o Existing: RAISE/BUILD/TIGER at \$7.5 billion
 - o Existing: INFRA by \$3.2 billion
 - o Existing: CRISI at \$5 billion
 - o Existing: Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail at \$36 billion
 - o Existing: Amtrak National Network at \$16 billion
 - o Existing: Amtrak Northeast Corridor at \$6 billion
 - o New: Bridge Investment Program (in addition to bridge formula program) at \$9.2 billion

- o New: National Infrastructure Project Assistance (for megaprojects) at \$5 billion
- o New: Safe Streets and Roads for All at \$5 billion
- o New: Culvert removal, replacement, and restoration in disadvantaged communities at \$1 billion
- o New: Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Program at \$500 million

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) launched a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law website focused on implementation of the bill, including fact sheets, funding information and guidance.

Please contact emortimer@uschamber.com for additional information.

Water

The economic prosperity of companies around our nation and the world is directly tied to access to clean water — for their customers, employees, and the communities in which they operate. There are numerous studies from the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) and [private organizations](#) demonstrating the significant gaps in water infrastructure investment at all levels of government. The enactment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide unprecedented funding to build smart, modern, resilient water and wastewater infrastructure to meet these needs.

The [\\$55 billion in investments](#) will flow through states to communities. The following highlights the available funding: (Source: American Water Works Association)

Drinking Water Appropriations

- \$50 million annually for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act programs for FY2022-2026.
- \$11.713 billion for the drinking water SRF; 49 percent to be in the form of grants or loans with principal forgiveness; only 10 percent state match required in FY2022 and FY2023 (the wastewater SRF program got an equal amount).
- \$15 billion for lead service line replacement, with 49 percent in the form of grants or loans with principal forgiveness; no state match required; \$3 billion annually for FY2022-2026.
- \$4 billion to be channeled through the drinking water SRF for emerging contaminants, all in the form of grants or principal forgiveness.
- \$5 billion to deal with emerging contaminants in economically distressed communities, \$1.126 annually in additional funding for the drinking water SRF through FY2026, and \$1.6 billion annually in additional funding for the wastewater SRF through FY2026.

Additional Appropriations

- \$50 million for Underground Injection Control grants to support state efforts.

- \$1.5 billion for Brownfields activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

Wastewater Appropriations

- \$11.713 billion through FY2026 for the Clean Water Act state revolving loan fund program.
- \$1 billion through the Clean Water SRF program to address emerging contaminants.

There is also language authorizing funds that require appropriations, including low-income assistance pilot programs, cybersecurity, lead testing in schools, workforce development, USDA watershed and resilience work, and other provisions.

Please contact your SRF manager for more information and to communicate your priorities. You can find your SRF manager [here](#).

Western Water

- \$8.3 billion for [western water infrastructure](#), including for water reuse projects, as well as \$3.3 billion for wildfire and \$2.1 billion for ecosystem restoration. Much of these funds are managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Resilience Appropriations

- \$1 billion for the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program](#), which provides direct grants to communities and not-for-profits from FEMA for pre-disaster mitigation projects, has [annual notices of funding availability](#) typically in the early fall.
- \$500 million over five years to help capitalize [state resilience revolving loan funds](#) for pre-disaster mitigation projects. Contact your [state emergency manager](#) to communicate your priorities as they stand up the program.

The Chamber has been facilitating sharing experiences between state SRF and state emergency managers and provided [suggestions to FEMA](#) for implementing the program.

The U.S. Chamber underscored the importance of water in passage of this legislation in this [blog](#).

Please contact cchaitovitz@uschamber.com for additional information.

Continued on page 60

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March Workplace Eye Wellness Month

Each year in the month of March many medical organizations come together to promote and educate on eye wellness. It is a need to address vision and related eye concerns at the workplace, where we sit in front of a screen all day improperly wear our eye protection or, negligence, not wear them at all.

As employees are working from home and putting in more hours Optometrist are seeing an uptick in eye vision concerns. Digital eye strain is caused by extended hours on a computer that has the possibility of causing eye discomfort, restless eyes, dry eyes, blurry vision, headaches, and other vision problems. To combat some of these concerns it is recommended to blink often to refresh eyes, take breaks, reduce glare lighting, use high resolution screens, keep distance from screen, and have annual eye exams.

Improperly or not wearing eye protection in the workplace is on the top of the list for eye injuries for employees. As a result, thousands of employees every day have eye injuries from tiny objects entering the eye or chemical burns. Wearing safety eye gear “Always & Correctly” on the job is one major way to reduce these eye injuries. Eye gear could be goggles, face shield, or helmets.

March being “Eye Wellness” month I would encourage all AWRF members to take this time and organize a meeting to review the importance of protecting eye vision with your employees. Highlight the importance of the organizational policies for eye protection and how it is an individual responsibility on and off the job of protecting their eyesight.

Protecting our eyesight and reducing eye injuries starts with education on screen time, correct safety eye gear, and having a diet that contributes to good eye health.



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A Year, So Far, In Review

Quite honestly, who would have thought it? Who would have thought that this pandemic would continue to be with us? What a world we live in. It has been 28 LONG months since we have had our association together. We are thankful for the membership for sticking with us through these tough times and continuously supporting our programs. We are proud to have continued with successful membership retention, and thanks to our Membership Committee and the Board of Directors' support and we have even gained new memberships.

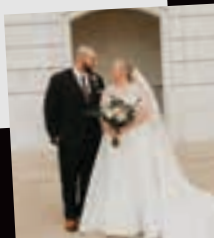
In January, our Board of Directors and Technical Committee met in Phoenix, Arizona for our Winter Meetings. The Technical Committee, as always, is working to provide necessary and important technical data and information for our membership. Many committees have tasks that they are working on to bring forth new ideas for RP&Gs, Safety Guides, and informative articles that the membership can surely benefit from. As always, the Technical Committee and its Sub Committees are continuously looking for membership participation. If you have interest in any one of the Technical Committee Sub Committees, please contact Caren (caren@awrf.org) and she will get you pointed in the right direction. It is quite the experience to sit in a room that is so full of knowledge, ideas, and expertise. Any expansion of that knowledge would be greatly welcomed.

Our Board of Directors also met during this time with the primary goal of gearing up for this meeting in Houston. The PIE Committee, Programs Committee, Tournaments Committee, QHSE Committee, and Entertainment Committee have all put forth great time and effort to ensure this meeting's success. We are excited to continuously make updates and adjustments to our current membership offerings and we are always looking for additional membership benefits we could add. If you have something you would like to see from our Board of Directors, please feel free to email me at emily@awrf.org and I would be happy to put that forward.

We are so excited to be hosting our first IN PERSON meeting in Houston, Texas at the Houston Marriott Marquis this upcoming April. Getting the membership back together collaborating, networking and learning for the betterment of the industry has remained top-of-mind for our office and the Board of Directors. Our committees have worked hard to put on a SOLID program for everyone to come and enjoy. Get ready for our AWRF Gala, a night in Monte Carlo, with a donate-to-play Casino Night! ALL, and yes ALL, proceeds will be donated to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. How this will work is you will donate between \$25 - XXX amount of donation monies and receive a set amount of "chips" to play at the tables. You will get raffle tickets as your "winnings" and be able to put your winnings in for raffle prizes! It will be such a fun and eventful evening filled with gaming, food, and entertainment! Dress your best!

There are so many accomplishments to celebrate while in Houston. We have had many companies celebrate Milestone Memberships with us! Can you believe that we will need to create a new milestone in 4 years? WOW! We have also continued with our Safety Program as well as our Scholarship Program, awarding many deserving companies and students for their accomplishments. THANK YOU to all members who have continued to participate and support the association through program participation. We appreciate the commitment.

SEE YOU IN HOUSTON! – Emily (Gilbert) Wagner
(Yes, I got married since we last met)



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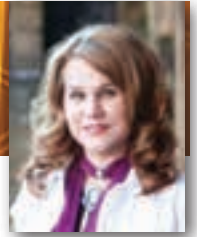
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(NOTE: THIS PROGRAM IS REPLACING CLMI CLIXSTREAM VIDEOS)

Load Securement Technical Committee

Celena Moses
Van Beest
Houston, TX



Human Trafficking in Today's World

We as businesses and individuals hear about human trafficking everyday but do we know enough about it to make a difference in our own states and around the world. Human trafficking has been a major concern in our world for many years now with states and organizations coming together to put out more awareness about what to look for, help prevent, and provide training on.

Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons, includes both forced labor and sex trafficking. It not only represents a threat to international peace and security but also undermines the rule of law, robs millions of their dignity and freedom, enriches transnational criminals and terrorists, and threatens public safety and national security everywhere.

There are estimated to be more than 24.9 million people — adults and children — subjected to human trafficking around the world, including in the United States. Traffickers often take advantage of instability caused by natural disasters, conflict, or a pandemic to exploit others. During the COVID-19 pandemic, traffickers are continuing to perpetrate the crime, finding ways to innovate and capitalize on the chaos.

Like the United States, many countries around the world have worked to implement the “3P” paradigm of preventing the crime, protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers, through the passage and implementation of national anti-trafficking laws. Today, there are 178 parties to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. Only 14 of the 188 countries and territories assessed in the Department of State’s 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report have yet to adhere to this international standard to ensure their laws criminalize all



forms of human trafficking; and take concerted steps to prevent human trafficking, protect all victims and cooperate internationally to combat this global crime.

Despite the nearly worldwide adoption of international and domestic norms to address and prevent human trafficking, we continue to witness traffickers exploit people in the United States and around the world. But everyone has the power to help make a difference. Every Presidential proclamation for January ends with a call to action for all Americans to recognize the vital role everyone can play in combating all forms of human trafficking.

<https://www.state.gov/national-human-trafficking-prevention-month/>

As individuals, business owners, and members of AWRP let's do our part to educate and train our employees and families to fight Human Trafficking. Below are some recommended resources to educate and train.

Understanding Human Trafficking

<https://www.state.gov/what-is-trafficking-in-persons/>

20 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking

<https://www.state.gov/20-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking/>

The U.S. Government's Response to Combating Human Trafficking

<https://www.state.gov/the-presidents-interagency-task-force/>

Human Trafficking Hotlines

<https://www.state.gov/human-trafficking-hotlines/>

U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking Annual Report

<https://www.state.gov/united-states-advisory-council-on-human-trafficking-annual-report-2021/>

- Governmental Affairs
- Round Sling
- Web Sling
- Chain & Chain Slings
- Testing
- Testing Methods
- Wire Rope & Wire Rope Slings
- Cordage & Cordage Slings

- Below-The-Hook Lifting Devices
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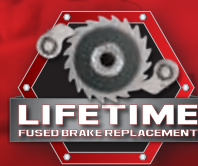
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(3,300 LBS.)

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(4,400 LBS.)

3 TON
(6,700 LBS.)

5 TON
(11,200 LBS.)



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Technical Committee



Robert Jasany
Liaison between AWRF and WSTDA



2021 In-Person General Membership Meeting of the Web Sling & Tie Down Association

The last general membership meeting of the Web Sling & Tie Down Association was held in Chicago at the Hotel Chicago Downtown October 25th and 26th, 2021. It was conducted as an in-person meeting as well as a virtual via Zoom.

The Load Securement Technical Chair, Rob Snyder, informed the committee that Mr. Stephane Theriault of Faucher Industries presently Co-Chair would be moving into the role of committee Chair effective following the current meeting and that Mr. Tim Sanders of US Cargo Control has accepted the role of Co-Chair. The new Chair and Co-Chair will continue the present committee work agenda regarding the review and updates to the recommended standards for Web Tie Downs, Winches Used with Web Tie Downs, Load Binders Used with Chain and the Synthetic Web Tie Down Operating & Inspection Manual. The Committee was reminded that the new T-5 Recommended Standard Specification for Interior Van Securement Devices is in the hands of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in consideration for adoption by reference in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

The Web Sling Technical Subcommittees have met three times via Zoom in the fall months of 2021 since the last general meeting. Six more Zoom meetings are

scheduled to take place month by month in the first half of 2022 for the purpose of finalizing the review and update to the Web Sling Recommended Standard, the Thread Standard and the Sling Webbing Standard. The Chair will follow-up with Dr. Tipton regarding his recommendations pertaining to applying the data from the Phase 2 test program results.

The Roundsling Technical Committee while reviewing the Polyester Roundsling Standard is focusing on a few specific topics such as potential length tolerance recommendations, special application criteria and the use of roundslings as Master Links in rigging situations. Discussions also continue on ratings and design of multi-leg roundslings.

The Testing Committee was notified of a change in the Co-Chair role. Mr. Ken Coe of Murdock Webbing, after many years of much appreciated dedicated service in that role, has decided to step down. Mr. Troy Raines of Columbus McKinnon has accepted the Co-Chair position. Mr. Raines is also the WSTDA Liaison to the ASME B30.9 Committee. Mr. Sam Socolow of Ashley Slings will continue as Chair of the Testing Committee. The committee continues to discuss the development of a standardized test protocol for the physical testing of sling protection devices.

Thank you.
Robert (Bob) Jasany, Technical Coordinator
WSTDA



Press Release



Ashley Sling, Inc.

7929 Troon Circle • Austell, GA 30168
P (404) 691-2604 • sales@ashleysling.com



Ashley Sling Celebrates 30th Anniversary

March 2022 marks the 30th anniversary for Ashley Sling, Inc., one of the leading wire rope and rigging fabricators in the southeast.

Since opening Ashley Sling's doors in 1992, owners and brothers, Greg, David and Mike Ashley, have focused on their mission to provide customers with the highest quality products and services. "Our father, Robert, started in this industry and influenced me and my brothers deeply," remarked Greg Ashley, Owner & President. "We decided to branch out and start our own business and have so much pride in how it has grown over the last thirty years. Ashley Sling started small, and we did much of the day-to-day fabrication

ourselves. We could not have grown into the business we are today without the help of our team, many of whom have been loyal and dedicated to working with us since early on. We are also thankful for our customers, who continue to trust our quality products and expertise."

Ashley Sling has grown from a small family business, into a proud leader in the wire rope and rigging industry. With locations in Atlanta, Charlotte, Columbus (MS), and Knoxville, Ashley Sling is a primary rigging provider throughout the southeast. Greg Ashley added, "We are thankful for our achievements over the last thirty years, and we look forward to what lies ahead for Ashley Sling."

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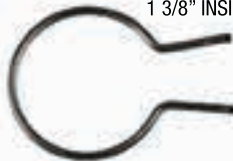
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Passing Over The Wire Rope Bridge



Charles Lucas (January 1, 1933 – March 1, 2022)



It is with great sadness that we have learned today that Mr. Charles Lucas passed away yesterday morning. Mr. Lucas was with The Crosby Group for many years. He served on the AWRP Technical Committee, was a member of the ASME B30 Main Committee and Authored and Guided the ASME B30.26 – Rigging Hardware publication.

WSTDA recently recognized Charles with a Lifetime Membership award, with his wife Mary by his side. He will truly be missed by many.

Mark Griffith Memorial Funeral Home
Westwood Chapel
4424 S. 33rd W. Ave
Tulsa, OK 74107

Church services were held March 4th at Red Fork Baptist Church 2821 W 40th St, Tulsa.

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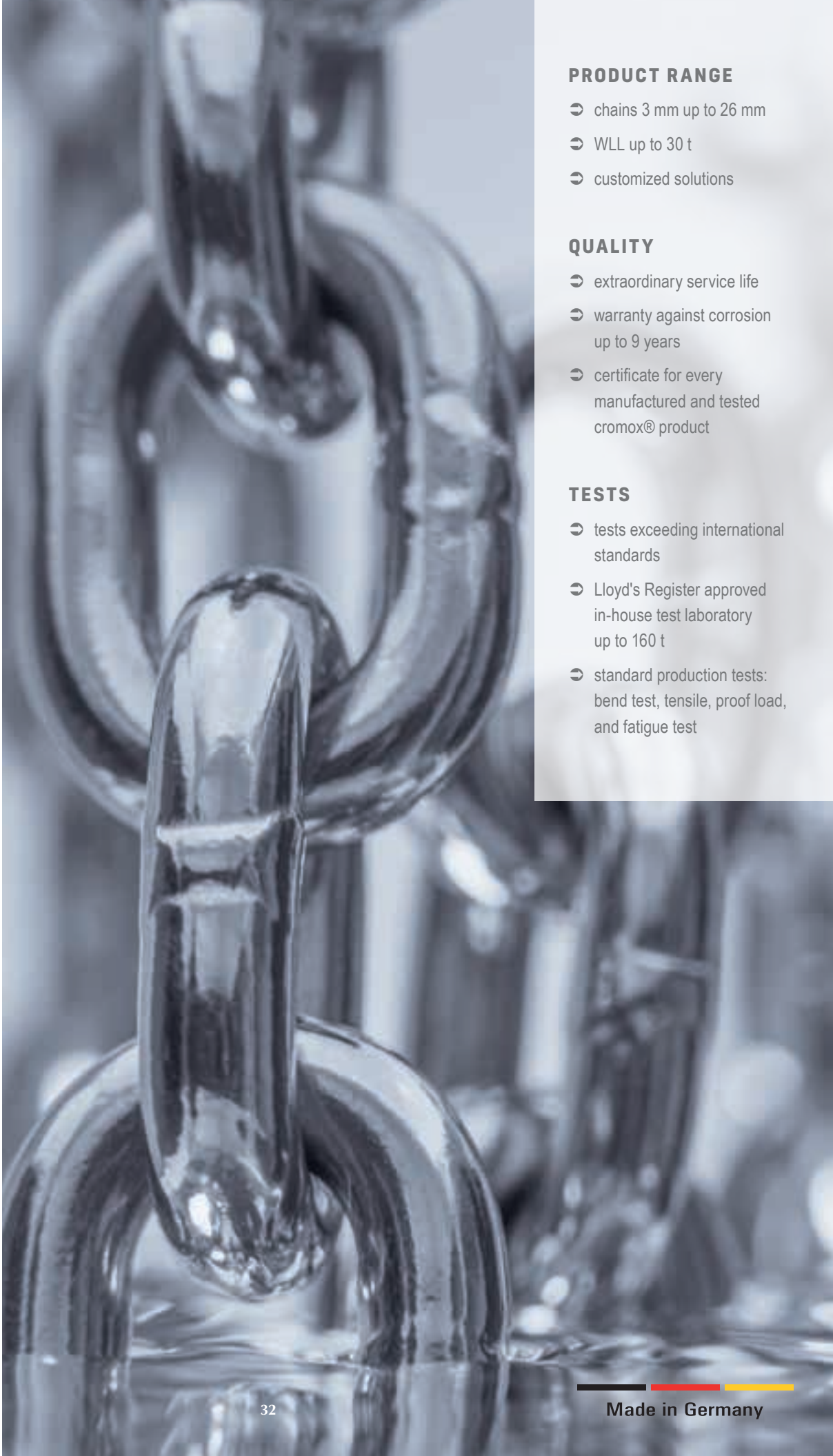
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AWRF/LEEA Accreditation Program



Brett Woodland, PP
LEEA Program Liaison
Yarborough Cable – A Certex Company



AWRF/LEEA Accreditation Program Update

AWRF embarked on a mission several years ago to find a way to help member companies differentiate themselves in the marketplace. The goal was to drive more business to AWRF member companies, and to help them win more market share, ultimately adding value to being an AWRF member. Your association is getting close to realizing this vision.

The AWRF/LEEA Accreditation Program, as a reminder, will consist of utilizing LEEA as a third-party auditing partner which will work with member companies that voluntarily sign up for the program through the AWRF office. The audit will be based on the latest AWRF Quality Survey, the same survey that became the framework for the RP&G for Rigging Shop Operation. The audit is in final review in preparation for the program launch in Houston this spring.

Once a member company successfully completes the audit, they will then be able to market themselves as AWRF/LEEA Accredited, which includes the use of a combined AWRF/LEEA logo which has been developed. Additionally, many benefits that LEEA members enjoy will be made available to AWRF member companies that are enrolled in the program.

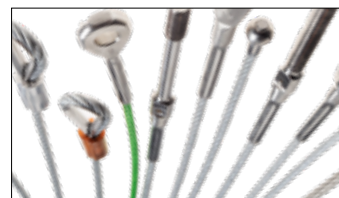
We are hoping for a big turnout in Houston to launch this program. AWRF and LEEA staff will be available during the meeting sessions to answer questions. Feel free to contact the AWRF office for more information on program fees, signup procedures, etc. This program is yet another example of your Board of Directors and your Technical Committee working hard to add value to your AWRF membership!

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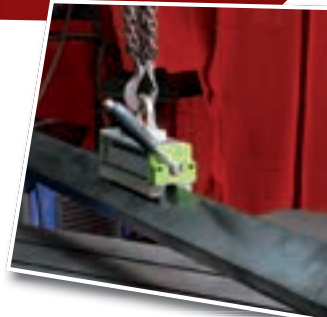
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A Deepfake Phone Call Dupes An Employee Into Giving Away \$35 Million

by Gene Marks, For The Entrepreneur Posted: January 24, 2022

"Hi Susan, it's Gene. Sorry for calling after hours, but I'm travelling. Can you please transfer \$35,000 from our business checking account to a new supplier for a deposit on a job? Here's their banking info..."

Does this sound like a familiar scenario? It should. It's not uncommon for the owner of a business to call a financial manager and instruct for a money transfer or online payment to be made to a supplier or to a personal account. Is anyone going to question the boss' request? Usually not.

But what if it's not the boss? What if it was just someone impersonating the boss? Or, more ominously, what if it was the actual voice of the boss, but manipulated into saying something different? Or that the request was for \$35 million?

This is exactly what happened in early 2020 to a Hong Kong bank.

According to a report in Forbes, a manager at the bank got a call from one of the bank's directors requesting that he make a transfer of \$35 million in order to fund an acquisition. However, it wasn't the director calling. It was a "deepfake" of the director's voice. And by the time the bank discovered the error, the money was long gone.

Oh, and this isn't the first time something like this has happened. Forbes also reported that an energy company in the UK fell for a similar ruse in 2019 and lost about \$243,000.

"Audio and visual deep fakes represent the fascinating development of 21st century technology, yet they are also potentially incredibly dangerous posing a huge threat to data, money and businesses," Jake Moore, a cybersecurity expert, told *Forbes*. "We are currently on the cusp of malicious actors shifting expertise and resources into using the latest technology to manipulate people who are innocently unaware of the realms of deep fake technology and even their existence."

What's even more terrifying is that deep fake technology is easily found online. Just go to sites like Resemble or Descript and then check out how amateur pranksters are creating videos like these that show just how easily we can be fooled into

thinking something that we see (and hear) is real, even when it's not. Now that it's out there, this technology is increasingly being used for blackmail, fraud and identity theft. And it's likely that audio will be more commonly used than video because, according to Moore, manipulating audio is "easier to orchestrate than making deep fake videos."

You may think that your business is too small to be impacted, but I don't think so. That's because if you're like most of my clients, you have fewer financial controls than larger organizations and you're probably increasing your use of online services to pay your bills. And getting a copy of your voice is easy, particularly if you've posted company videos on your website, did a public presentation, appeared in the media or got chatty with a "sales representative" on a cold call that's being recorded without your knowledge. With only a few hours of work, someone can likely dupe your financial manager out of tens of thousands and be gone before you know it.

So what to do? Tighten up your internal controls. Require more than two authorizations for any bank transfers or payments and perhaps three (and at the very least your own) for disbursements over a certain amount, like \$5,000. Hire your IT firm or subscribe to tools like *KnowBe4* or *Mimecast* to provide ongoing training for your employees so that they can spot warning sign. (In the case of the Hong Kong bank, fraudulent emails were also sent confirming the deepfake phone call.) Abolish any transactions of a certain size that are authorized by phone unless the person making the request has been called back. Involve your financial managers in large deals early so that they're more aware of the dollars involved. Because let's face it: This problem is only going to get worse.

"Manipulating audio, which is easier to orchestrate than making deep fake videos, is only going to increase in volume," Moore told *Forbes*. "And without the education and awareness of this new type of attack vector, along with better authentication methods, more businesses are likely to fall victim to very convincing conversations."



Gene Marks

Gene Is A Columnist & Author.

A past columnist for both *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, Gene now writes regularly for *The Hill*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Forbes*, *Inc. Magazine*, *Entrepreneur Magazine* and *Fox Business*.

Gene has written 5 books on business management, specifically geared towards small and medium sized companies. His most recent is *Want More Cash?: 100+ Ideas And Strategies For Increasing Your Company's Cash Flow This Year*.

A Professional Keynote Speaker.

Through his keynotes and breakout sessions, Gene helps business owners, executives and managers understand the political, economic and technological trends that will affect their companies and—most importantly—the actions they can take to continue to grow and profit.





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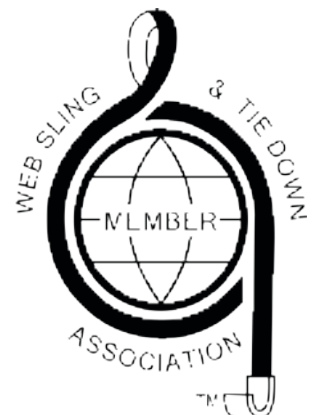
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Caldwell Custom Posi-Turners for Automotive

Rockford-based The Caldwell Group Inc. continues to customize lifters for the automotive sector, as two recent orders prove.

Caldwell partnered with distributors on the east and west coasts of the U.S. to deliver Posi-Turners to heavy truck manufacturers at either end of the country. The patented Posi-Turner, designed to rotate bulky and hard to handle objects during manufacture or assembly processes, is widely utilized throughout the automotive industry.

The standard version is targeted at anyone looking to make certain material handling processes more ergonomically efficient and safe while resulting in less product damage. The Posi-Turner is used by companies around the world to lift, suspend, rotate, and position hard-to-handle objects. However, they are frequently customized or modified for specific end-use requirements.

The optional patent-pending Auto-Leveler, for example, is an easy way to keep a load level during these rotations. The product can easily be added to the Posi-Turner at the time of the order or be field-mounted to existing units. The leveler automatically activates leveling adjustment. An independent drive system, meanwhile, combines with chain slings and two powered drive units suspended from a pair of cranes or hoists.

The Posi-Turner, which consistently represents a significant cost saving versus an alternative mechanical solution, recently combined with a chassis inversion system to lift heavy truck chassis that typically range in weight up to 30,000 lbs. The system encompasses the composite center of mass on the chassis making the turn-over process much more efficient. End users are reportedly prepared to invest up to \$100k on such Posi-Turner systems.

Patrick Eytalis, application specialist at Caldwell, said: “A standard product is designed once and then manufactured in large quantities, often for a very long time. That type of product has its place—and Caldwell sells a lot of them—but the automotive industry presents different below-the-hook challenges that might be unique to a manufacturer or even a single production line. The Posi-Turner is a great product in its own right, but when customized to specific end-use requirements, it’s a game-changer.”

Also of note to automotive users, Caldwell and the RUD Group have united their sales and marketing activities in North America for material handling and lifting devices within a common organization. Products like the VRS, for example, are used to replace standard eyebolts that must be de-rated for angular lifting—a common requirement on production lines—offering a safer option and one with less risk of a lifting point failure. The VRS can be loaded in any direction and does not need to be de-rated even for a side lift.

Eytalis added: “Recent orders demonstrated our ability to combine the best available engineering expertise with a dealer network that extends to the point of use in the country’s most demanding end-user applications and marketplaces.”



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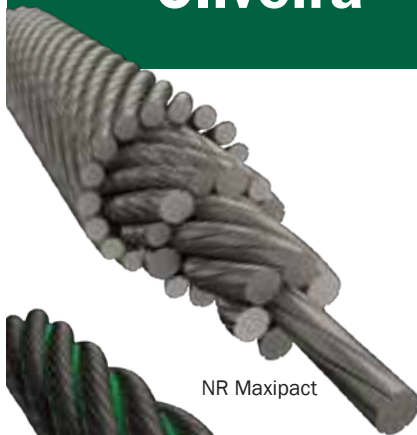
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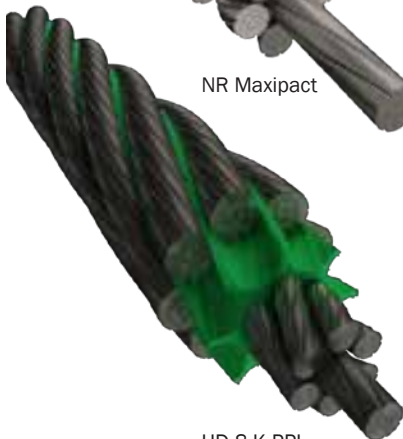
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Talurit Group unveils an updated brand identity reflecting the advancements of the industry

Talurit Group is a well-established manufacturer of equipment and systems for mechanical splicing of wire and wire rope. With representation in most industrialized countries, their products and solutions are used in a wide variety of sectors around the globe. Talurit Group starts the new year by announcing an updated identity for the Talurit® brand and the group as a whole. The decision was made as Talurit Group continues to grow and evolve in tandem with the advancements of the industry. Leading the way forward in their field by delivering the innovative top-tier products and solutions they are known for.

During the past decade, many industries have advanced and improved with new developments and an increased adaptation of new technologies. The wire rope industry and its related sectors have experienced the same transformation. Talurit Group has been a pioneering force within its field since its start in 1948. With a strong track record of innovative solutions and customer-oriented production, they have expanded further in recent years – continuing to perfect their offering to the market. At the beginning of 2022, Talurit Group announced a strategic realignment of its corporate identity and brand identity. The changes are made to reflect the evolution of the corporation and brand, in order to show where it stands today and where it is heading – while staying true to its origins. Designed to be globally accepted and work effortlessly across both digital and physical channels, the updated visual identity will help them communicate a unified and clear brand. The iconic blue colour that is strongly associated with the brand remains a vital element throughout the revised visual experience. To coincide with the new look, Talurit Group will update most of its sales and marketing material. The implementation will be done gradually within the group's various companies.

Victor Lindh, Vice President of Talurit AB, comments:

“While our business continues to transform and develop, it became clear that the perception of the company has not evolved at the same pace. We have introduced many technologic highlights that increase the value for our customers, making our machines more efficient and environmentally friendly. Further, we have strengthened our focus on

automatization and can offer complete systems with smarter processes. Our new corporate identity better communicates what the Talurit® brand stands for today and going forward. It reinforces the brand experience and showcases our expertise and strengths.”

Torbjörn Hillberg, Marketing & Communications at Talurit Group, comments:

“The updated branding emphasizes our desire and ability to drive innovations in our field, while also paying homage to our past endeavours and many proven solutions. As a global partner with a wide range of offerings, we have made these changes with all our markets in mind. The new look and feel embody our commitment to safety, sustainability and innovation in addition to mediate the professionalism our customers deserve. The brand rework will position us well for the future and empower the company’s continuous growth.”

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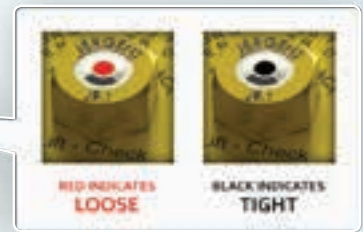
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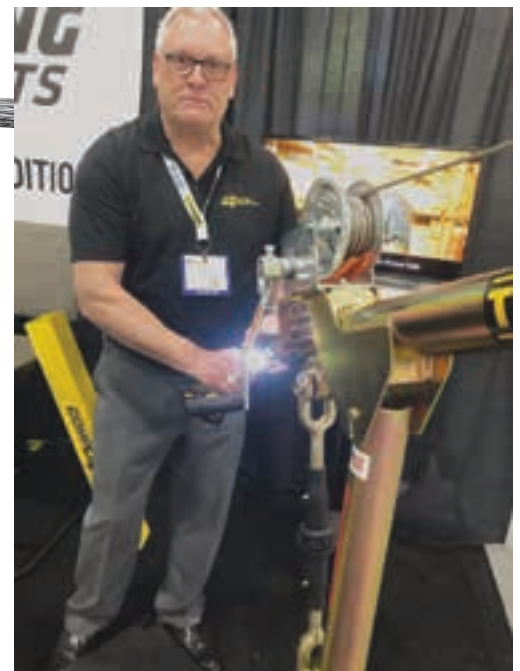
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Steve Napieralski, president at OZ Lifting, is looking forward to busier aisles at MODEX 2022.

OZ Lifting to Show Full Range at MODEX

OZ Lifting will show a variety of davit cranes, hoists, and lifting components at MODEX 2022 (Booth B2926) on 28-31 March at Atlanta’s Georgia World Congress Center.

Having debuted at the show in 2020, the Winona, Minnesota-based manufacturer will again take a 20 ft. by 10 ft. booth, this time in Hall B, within the event’s dedicated area for equipment and components for manufacturing / assembly solutions.

The Tele-Pro davit crane will be the centerpiece; the patented model allows users to leverage the benefits of other lifting technologies in its range, while telescoping the boom in and out under load. The CompOZite and CompOZite Elite carbon fiber models will also be on show.

However, OZ Lifting is more than a davit crane manufacturer, and its showcase will also feature several stainless steel products, designed for use in corrosive environments, including hoists, beam clamps, trolleys, and a manual winch that boasts a drill-adaptor feature. Spark-resistant hoists and trolleys will be of interest to exhibitors too.

Having recently added to its ever-growing industrial manual chain hoist range with 3-ton and 5-ton capacity models, the full line from 0.25-ton will be on the exhibit. Also in the company’s hoist family is the 600-lbs. capacity wireless builder’s (wire rope) hoist. Easily portable, it weighs in with a gross weight of just 49 lbs., suiting the product to short-term use or multiple points within a facility. MODEX attendees should also ask about the 2-ton capacity electric chain hoist and dyno-hoist. Components on the booth, meanwhile, will include a variety of mounting brackets.

To make it easier for attendees to find the solutions they need, the MODEX show floor will be divided into solution-specific sections. In addition to equipment and components for manufacturing / assembly solutions, there will also be special areas for information technology; fulfillment and delivery; transport and logistics; and emerging technologies. MODEX will also feature a comprehensive educational conference including keynotes and show floor educational seminars led by industry experts and leading authorities.

Engaging MODEX’s demographic

Steve Napieralski, president at OZ Lifting, said: “The industry-first [Tele-Pro] davit cranes will be a game-changer. However, we have found that all our products have been used in many different markets and industries, so the breadth of the MODEX demographic is of interest to us. We are focusing on the material handling, wastewater, manufacturing, and property management sectors, but our equipment is used in construction, aviation, gas, oil, boat, wind, manufacturing, among others—worldwide. We offer innovative products and solutions that make the job easier and safer.”

The two-yearly MODEX show will bookend the pandemic era, and Napieralski is enthused by the prospect of busier aisles. He said: “The last MODEX was very slow and Covid certainly impacted it. We are expecting a much better experience this time around. It appears business has been strong and optimistic as well. Of course, there is uncertainty, but it seems as though folks are eager and willing to get out and engage with customers and end users.”

OZ Lifting will exhibit at other shows in 2022, including the Associated Wire Rope Fabricators (AWRF) Product Information Exhibition (PIE) and Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition & Conference (WEFTEC). It has also made an advanced commitment to take a booth at MHI’s concurrent show, ProMat, which next takes place in Chicago in 2023.

Napieralski hinted at strategic product launches to chime with this in-person activity. He said: “We are looking at roughly three new product additions and launches as this year comes to a close and into next year—with more new products on the way.”

Visit OZ Lifting at MODEX show Booth B2926.



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Retirement Income and Succession Planning

Considerations When Selling to Family Members or Key Managers

If you are a business owner nearing retirement, you may wonder what succession/exit planning strategy makes the most sense for you and your business. After all, you want to maintain your net worth and retire comfortably, but you also want to ensure a successful transition to your company's next generation of business owners.

It's important to be aware of the following if you plan to transition your business to family members or key managers.

Where to Begin

When selling to family members or key employees, you have many options for generating future retirement income, reducing your income taxes on the sale, protecting your net worth and helping the company thrive after your departure. Begin by making some basic decisions about how the sale will be structured.

1. Determine who will step in as majority owner

One of your first considerations is to decide who will have majority control of the business. If one person will ultimately have control of the company, you will need to transition a controlling interest of at least 51% to that individual. If control will be shared by two or more people, you'll need to decide if one person should have majority ownership.

2. Implement a trial period

For some business owners, it's not immediately clear which family member or key employee is best suited to take over the company. If you're struggling with this decision, you may consider implementing a 12- to 24-month trial period in which you gradually allow potential owners to take on more and more control of running the business. Let them make big decisions and take the lead in working with employees, vendors and customers. Observe how they handle the pressures of running the business and how others respond to their management style. After this trial period, it may become obvious who is best suited to take over.

3. Decide how to handle company real estate

If you own the real estate where your business is located, you will need to decide how the property will be handled following the sale. You may consider establishing a long-term lease with the new owners in order to generate additional monthly income to fund your retirement. Or, it may make sense to sell the real estate to the new owner(s) and invest the lump sum in more liquid assets.

Establish a Source of Retirement Income

Most business owners still want, or need, additional retirement income after the sale is complete. It typically works well to use a combination of two or three of the income options below, keeping in mind that some of these are good for the company while others are good for the retiring owner.

- If you retain some of the stock, dividend some income.
- Serve on the board of directors and receive directors' fees for several years.
- Be paid a consulting fee to provide ongoing support to the company.
- If you own the building, retain rental income.
- Sell some of the stock with a monthly installment sale note.
- Take a reduced salary and work part time.

The goal here is to determine a combination of options that help minimize the seller's taxes and maximize the amount of cash flow available to the retiring owner.

Maximize Usable Cash Flow

Usable cash flow is to a business what gas is to a car. Just as a car will stop operating when it runs out of gas, so will a business stop operating when it runs out of cash. As you structure your business sale, it's important to make sure the business continues to have adequate cash flow.

Your advisory team can help you determine how much usable cash flow is available and make sure there is enough to pay an income to the new buyers, cover business expenses and taxes, and also make any required payments to you, the seller.

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#172	February 18th	March
#173	May 20th	June
#174	August 12th	September
#175	November 11th	December

NEXT ISSUE →

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by Dave Rosenberg, CPBA|CPDFA, Principal of Locked On Leadership, LLC

As a former Naval Officer and President of several companies, Dave Rosenberg understands the difficulties of managing tasks and personnel. Now he is on a mission to replace TGI Friday with TGI Monday. Dave is the founder and principal at Locked On Leadership, a consulting firm that focuses on practical tactical leadership skills that yield results. He is a Certified Professional Behavioral and Driving Forces Analyst and has worked with over 60 companies in 13 states arming them to achieve sustained and managed growth.

“The only that’s changed is I have another thing to deal with.”

Locked on Leaders

Reframing Your Perspective

Some of you know my friend and former podcast co-host Darren Cecil. For those of you who regularly listen to the *Disarming Persuasion* podcast know that Darren is caring, intelligent, and incredibly funny.

The other thing you need to know about Darren is he was born with his left arm missing from just below the elbow, more on that in a minute.

Last summer Darren was diagnosed with stage four glioblastoma, brain cancer. He is now home and resting comfortably in hospice care surrounded by his adult children, wife, and grandchildren.

I spoke with Darren for the first time since his diagnosis. He has a great outlook. Darren is from Boston. The first time I met him, he was on stage at a chamber event and he made fun of his own missing arm. I knew right away I liked the guy. As I got to know him, I learned that he has never viewed his missing appendage as a handicap. In fact, he turned it into an asset. He would hustle other kids on the basketball court for money; he used his self-deprecating humor to get girls, he learned to catch a ball, then hold his glove under his arm so he could use his one hand to throw it. I hold him in high esteem because of his refusal to let the circumstances of his birth define him as a victim.

With all of this in mind, I was not surprised and yet profoundly affected when I got to speak with him earlier this week. After the perfunctory how are you doing? How are you spending your time? What can I do/get for you? I asked “the question.” When two, east coast, city boys get together (he’s from Boston, I’m from Philly) we don’t dance around things so, I asked him “how long do they give you?” His response and the ensuing conversation were profound, affirming, and life changing for me and there is a HUGE leadership lesson here.

Darren’s response to “how long” was simply, “They don’t know. Could be days, could be years.” When I heard



that I thought and asked him, “Then what’s changed? Isn’t that true for all of us?” Darren’s response was typical Darren, “The only that’s changed is I have another thing to deal with.” There it is, the simple reframe. Sure, the illness means Darren’s life is different and he has always (like most of us) had some sort of issue to deal with. No, he doesn’t have the energy he once had. But really, who does? He can still help people, whether its his family, friends or strangers, that’s up to him. Nothing is stopping him from continuing to give to the world his love, wisdom, and knowledge. What a POWERFUL way to reframe his situation.

As leaders we are often faced with situations seemingly beyond our control, situations that may appear dire. Yet, in each of those situations there is a chance to reframe your perspective, look at it from a different point of view and in doing so, find real meaning and opportunity.

Darren has always been an inspiration to me and he continues to be one during this struggle. While I ask you to join with me in celebrating this story of strength, I also ask you to join me in praying for him and his family. If prayer is not your thing, send good thoughts and healing intentions, it all counts.

For more articles by Dave Rosenberg visit <https://lockedonleadership.com>

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Broadband

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides \$65 billion of funding opportunities for broadband.

- \$42 billion for Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment - National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
 - o \$100 million (at minimum) granted to states to utilize for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects. States will be required to develop a five-year action plan to be approved by NTIA to use the funds; local coordination is required/localities can submit comments on the state's proposal.
 - o States give subgrants to expand broadband; subgrantees can include private and government providers.
 - o Use of funds:
 - Priority on unserved (80% have less than 25/3 Mbps), then underserved areas (80% have less than 100/25 Mbps).
 - Include data collection, mapping, affordability, investments in multifamily units.

- o Other requirements on broadband service standards, low-cost options, time limit for deployment (four years), matching requirements for subgrantees (existing funding can be used).

- \$1 billion for Middle Mile Infrastructure to encourage resiliency of the network and increase broadband access.
- \$1.3 billion for Digital Equity Act, state-level digital inclusion grants (education and employment).
- Affordability and Rulemaking:
 - o Modifies the Emergency Broadband Benefit
 - o Consumer broadband label rulemaking at FCC
 - o Digital discrimination rulemaking at FCC

The U.S. Chamber outlines the principles and guardrails we think should be in place for broadband in this blog.

More information can be found by visiting the Broadband section of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce website and the Chamber Technology Engagement Center (C_TEC) website.

Please contact jcrenshaw@uschamber.com and mfurlow@uschamber.com for additional information.

Energy

It is estimated that some 45 percent of technologies needed to achieve a global net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions goal do not yet exist commercially. Passage of the Energy Act of 2020 represented a tremendous step by Congress addressing the need to accelerate energy innovation and was the culmination of years of Chamber work. That legislation refocuses the Department of Energy and its National Labs on developing key technologies necessary to reduce and eliminate GHG emission while preserving economic growth.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act builds on the Energy Act of 2020 and provides \$62 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE) to accelerate a ground-breaking energy innovation push. The vast majority of these funds are directed to existing programmatic offices to expand research, development, and demonstration of key innovative technologies. It will take time for DOE to map out various work plans, but there will be opportunities for collaboration with business and academia on the technology development and states and communities to host new facilities.

In addition to energy innovation, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act makes significant investments into preserving existing clean energy electricity generation, grid modernization, the clean energy supply chain, and energy efficiency.

Clean Energy Demonstrations

\$21.5 billion in funding for clean energy demonstrations and research hubs focused on next-generation technologies including:

- More than \$10 billion for carbon capture, direct air capture and industrial emission reduction.
- \$2.5 billion for advanced nuclear.
- \$9.5 billion for hydrogen, including \$8 billion for the creation of four regional hydrogen hubs.
- \$140 million to demonstrate the commercial-scale feasibility of rare earth elements refining and processing from waste material.
- \$84 million for enhanced geothermal demonstration.
- \$1 billion for demonstration projects in rural areas and \$500 million for demonstration projects in economically hard-hit communities.
- \$500 million to demonstrate the viability of clean energy projects on current and former mine land.

Existing Emissions-free Electricity

- Allocate \$6 billion in tax credits to prevent premature retirement of existing zero-carbon nuclear plants.
- Invest more than \$700 million in existing hydropower facilities to improve efficiency, maintain dam safety.

Grid Modernization

- \$11 billion in grants for states, tribes, and utilities to enhance the resilience of the electric infrastructure against disruptive events.
- Create a \$2.5 billion Transmission Facilitation Program for DOE to help develop nationally significant transmission lines.

- Back a \$3 billion expansion of the Smart Grid Investment Matching Grant Program, focusing on investments that improve the flexibility of the grid.

Clean Energy Supply Chain

- Invest more than \$7 billion in the supply chain for batteries. This will include producing critical minerals, sourcing materials for manufacturing, and even recycling critical materials without new extraction/mining.
- Provide an additional \$1.5 billion for clean hydrogen manufacturing and advancing recycling RD&D.
- Create a new \$750 million grant program to support advanced energy technology manufacturing projects in coal communities.
- Expand the authority of DOE's Loan Program Office (LPO) to invest in projects that increase the domestic supply of critical minerals and expand LPO programs that invest in manufacturing zero-carbon technologies for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, trains, aircraft, and marine transportation.

Orphan Wells and Abandoned Mines

- \$4.7 billion to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned wells via grants to the States and new federal programs.

- \$11.3 billion for the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund.

Energy Efficiency

- \$3.5 billion in the Weatherization Assistance Program to increase energy efficiency, improve health and safety, and reduce energy costs for low-income households.
- \$500 million for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements at public schools
- \$5 billion EPA effort to replace diesel school buses with electric buses.
- \$550 million in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) and \$500 million in the State Energy Program to provide grants to communities, cities, states, U.S. territories, and Indian tribes to develop and implement clean energy programs.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has outlined the energy innovation components of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. More information will be posted as it begins implementation.

Please contact cguith@uschamber.com for additional information.

Permitting

The federal permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was created to consider a project's potential environmental effects. However, the decision-making process under NEPA is widely regarded as broken due to the unreasonably long delays, unpredictability, and lack of process transparency. In addition to the federal permitting process, many states layer on their own redundant environmental review process. The unpredictability of these moribund processes deters capital investment into crucial infrastructure like road, broadband, and clean energy platforms.

The permitting provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, if adopted by States, would help reduce project delays and improve project delivery. These bipartisan reforms mark the first substantive updates to NEPA Congress has enacted in over 50 years.

Recognizing the need to deploy these infrastructure investments in a timely manner, Congress included provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that substantially update the environmental permitting process for major infrastructure projects and other federal authorizations. The permitting provisions are called the "One Federal Decision" or "OFD" and will help improve agency coordination, encourage the development of more concise environmental analyses, and help drive efficient decision-making.

Large-scale transportation projects have faced federal permitting delays under NEPA of seven years on average.

Some projects have taken decades just to reach a "yes" or "no" decision tying up capital investment. These delays add massive costs to projects as project sponsors attempt to navigate the complicated permitting process, which is further complicated when multiple agencies are involved. It is easy to understand why the OFD provisions had bipartisan support.

OFD expedites the federal permitting process for projects by:

- Establishing a project schedule that requires agencies to complete their Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) within two years.
- Requiring agencies to prepare a single, joint EIS with one single lead agency.
- Ensuring concise environmental analyses by limiting the length of EISs to 200 pages.
- Promoting use of categorical exclusions to eliminate lengthy NEPA review for projects with no significant environmental effects.

In addition, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expands the considerations to be used by the Department of Energy in its designation of high-priority National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors and amplifies the potential for needed new transmission facilities to come to fruition by providing federal backstop siting authority in instances where state approvals are denied or withheld for longer than one year.



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Another important provision of the bill is the removal of the sunset of the federal permitting council and the associated project dashboard. It authorizes the permitting council to continue beyond 2023, the prior sunset date of the council, to support large infrastructure projects that have to navigate the complex federal permitting process. It also approves the permitting council's public dashboard, an important transparency measure that requires agencies to post major project milestones online for projects that receive assistance from the permitting council.

Presidents from both parties have long identified the need for faster, more efficient permitting, issuing executive orders to expedite federal decision-making. These bipartisan provisions are a key part of the infrastructure

package as they recognize the need to quickly deploy the allocated resources to speed up project delivery. States should replicate these provisions to facilitate timely build-out of the infrastructure of the future to help stimulate the economy and improve the quality of life for every American.

Currently, 16 states require NEPA-like environmental reviews as part of the process for infrastructure projects. Those states should follow the federal government's lead and enact similar environmental permitting updates.

This letter was sent to the Hill back in March 2021 providing more background on the need for the permitting updates.

Please contact cwhiteman@uschamber.com for additional information.

Minority-Owned Business

With over 8 million minority-owned businesses in the United States, the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act presents a historic opportunity for them to play a key role in rebuilding America's infrastructure.

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

- The Act codifies the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) – creating an Under Secretary position and increasing its funding and reach.
- Expands the geographic reach and scope of MBDA and creates regional MBDA offices and rural business centers.

- MBDA will play a lead role in ensuring the participation of minority-owned businesses in infrastructure projects.
- The U.S. Chamber has a longstanding partnership with MBDA and supported its codification. We will coordinate outreach to minority-owned businesses in collaboration with the private sector and state and local chambers.

Please contact rwade@uschamber.com for additional information.



Press Release



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DICA SafetyTech Outrigger Pads Include Positive Ergonomic Features

December 14, 2021 (Guthrie Center, Iowa) In crane operations, we usually assume the crane is doing all the heavy lifting. However, one of the leading causes of workman's comp claims each year are caused by lifting heavy and awkward items such as outrigger pads and cribbing.

Manual lifting tasks for crane setup often includes handling outrigger pads, crane pads, cribbing, rigging, and tools. During crane setup, risks might include exerting excessive force, working in awkward postures, or exposing hands to being pinched or caught between items.

DICA® designs its products with positive ergonomic features, to minimize both the weight of its products, and the amount of lifting necessary when using them. DICA's SafetyTech® Outrigger Pads have received six patents in the U.S. and Canada for the ergonomic features of its pad and handle combinations.

Engineered thermoplastic SafetyTech Outrigger Pads are not porous, they will not absorb water or any chemicals, and they will not splinter or break under stress. TuffGrip® Handles and round pad shapes, allow for DICA's pads to be easily be lifted, slid, or rolled into place, reducing the potential for injuries to occur.

Protecting hands and encouraging proper lifting techniques and weights were primary objectives for DICA when developing its TuffGrip® Handle System. TuffGrip Handles are larger in diameter and made from comfortable yet strong and flexible engineered thermoplastic material. DICA's patented handles help reduce finger pinching and hand fatigue from placing and carrying the pads. In addition, the recessed TuffGrip Handles on round SafetyTech Outrigger Pads don't extend beyond the perimeter of the pads edge. This design allows for safe and easy rolling of the pads. This design gives the operator the option of not carrying the pad at all.



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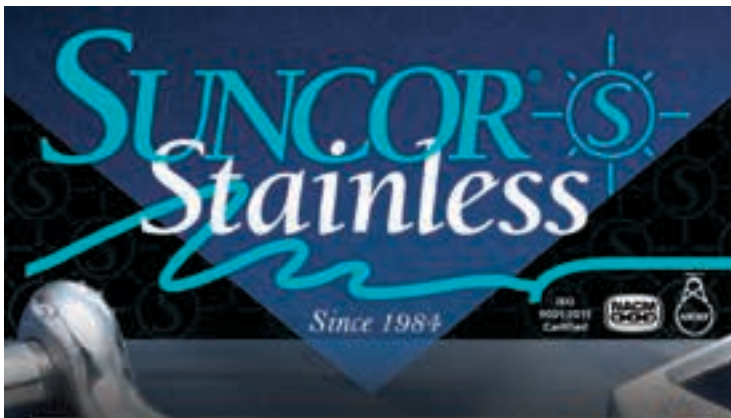
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Modulift, the renowned manufacturer for modular spreader beams are pleased to announce they now have stock on a next day delivery service to the European market via their new warehouse facility based in Czech Republic.

As the European market grows, the demand for Modulift's modular range of popular DNV Type Approved spreader beams readily available off the shelf has risen sharply. The warehouse facility holds stock from MOD 6 up to MOD 400/600 and CMOD corner units across the range. The CMOD corner units are compatible with the struts from the modular spreader beam system, making this a versatile solution for customers looking to achieve multi-point lifts.

Due to Brexit and the unprecedented upheaval this has caused, customers who purchase from Modulift's Czech warehouse facility can look to receive their order next working day, without the worry of customs paperwork.

John Baker, Commercial Director for Modulift said, "With a lot of delays at ports not just in Europe but around the globe, this is the perfect time for Modulift to expand by having a warehouse facility that will be able to provide off the shelf products ready and waiting to customers who urgently need them next working day."

Modulift Czech Republic s.r.o. warehouse facility address is located at Smetanovo nábřeží 934, 517 54 Vamberk, Czech Republic.

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Image: Courtesy of Dynamica Ropes ApS

Innovating the Floating Offshore Wind industry

The Crosby Group’s comprehensive portfolio, engineering expertise, and ability to innovate is driving cost-savings at the point of use in floating wind energy applications.

It has been nearly two years since The Crosby Group, a global leader in lifting, rigging, and material handling hardware, completed the acquisition of Feubo, a specialist provider of offshore mooring components for the oil and gas and wind energy markets.

The purchase included Feubo’s facility in Hattingen, Germany that has continued to serve as a center of excellence for mooring components. It is equipped to support the installation and safe operation of floating wind turbines, typically mounted on a floating structure that allows the turbine to generate electricity in water depths where fixed-foundation turbines are not suitable.

The Hattingen facility is also a focal point for key testing, engineering, and innovation, that notably led to the launch of the HFL Kenter, a high fatigue life shackle, based on the popular Crosby Feubo NDur Link.



Crosby Group acquired Feubo, a specialist provider of offshore mooring components for the oil and gas and wind energy markets.

of numerically solving differential equations in engineering and mathematical modelling, was used to identify stress hot spots and re-engineer the product.

He added: “In fatigue comparison tests in simulated marine environments, we were able to show that the Kenter boasts eight times more cycles. This has allowed us to show the floating wind sector our ability to engineer, innovate, and deliver product of high quality and proven fatigue life, for their specific, demanding applications.”

Duncan reiterated the capabilities of The Crosby Group’s center of excellence for mooring in Hattingen, Germany, which boasts static and dynamic testing machines that test mooring chains and components up to capacities of 60,000 kN, as well as fatigue testing in simulated marine environments. The facility can test and validate in real-time the fatigue life of components in association with DNV GL Type Approval Certificate, acknowledging that its equipment meets the rigorous standards of the global quality assurance and risk management company for their use offshore.



*Mike Duncan,
 Business Development
 Manager at The
 Crosby Group.*

Mike Duncan, Business Development Manager at The Crosby Group, said: “The floating wind industry remains relatively embryonic, and it needs product engineering and innovation partners to collaborate on products that can improve safety and reduce costs. The HFL Kenter for temporary mooring is just an example of how a new product can be developed and broadly deployed within an industry to achieve industry goals.”

As Duncan alluded to, the HFL Kenter is an accessory used for temporary and mobile mooring applications, such as rigging and anchoring Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs) or vessels. It represents the latest state-of-the-art evolution of a shackle concept that is over 100 years old. Finite Element Analysis, a method



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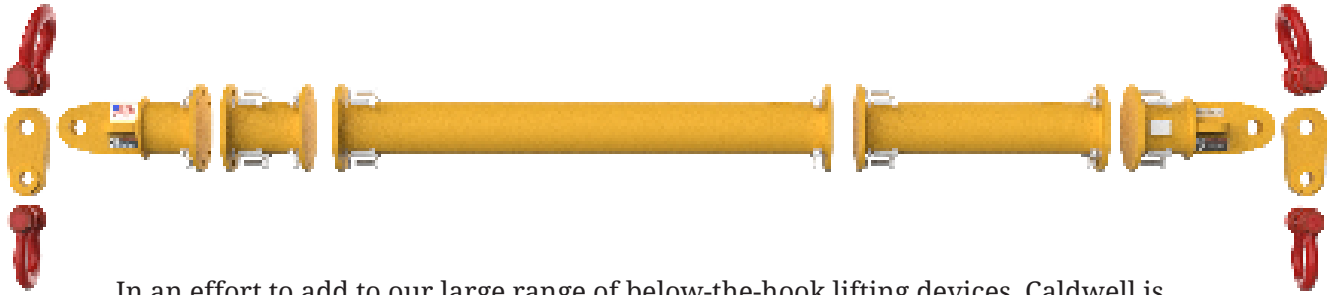





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 Elephant Lifting Products/Tiger Lifting

Elite Sales Inc.
 Erin Rope Corporation
 ESCO Group LLC
 Etched LLC
 Etiflex Corp
 FibrXL Industrial Inc.
 Handling Systems INTL
 Harrington Hoists, Inc.
 Holloway Houston, Inc.
 IBS Industrial
 Industrial Magnetics, Inc.
 Industrial Training International (ITI)
 JBL/Accu-Tech
 J.C. Renfro and Sons
 JPW Industries (JET)
 KWS Inc.
 Laclede Chain
 Liftex Corporation
 Lifting Gear Hire
 Loos & Co
 MAGNA Lifting Products, Inc.
 Meadowbrook Insurance Company

Miller Lifting Products
 Modulift UK Ltd.
 Murdock Webbing Co., Inc.
 Myers Design & Mfg
 National Band and Tag Co.
 OZ Lifting Products
 Peerless Industrial Group
 PEWAG
 Premier Wire Rope
 REID Lifting
 Ropers
 RUD Chain, Inc.
 Sahm Splicing GmbH
 Sheave Source
 Slingmax Rigging Solutions
 SunCor Stainless
 Talurit AB
 Redaelli
 The Caldwell Group
 The Crosby Group
 The Rubicon Group
 TP Industrial Yarns
 Tuffy Products

TW Products
 Ultra-Safe
 U.S. Rigging Supply / Pelican Rope
 Uniropo LTD
 Van Beest USA
 verope USA
 Washington Wire Rope
 William Hackett Lifting Products
 Wireco World Group
 Wirerope Works, Inc.
 Yale Cordage, Inc.
 Yoke Industrial Corp.

As of: 2/28/2022

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APRIL 26TH



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APRIL 27TH



The tournament will be at Wildcat Golf Club. Sponsorship opportunities will be available. ALL proceeds will go to St. Jude's Research Hospital.

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