



MCAA²⁶

BEYOND THE HORIZON

JW Marriott Phoenix, Arizona | **March 15-19**

FINAL PROGRAM SPONSORED BY

SIEMENS

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BENEFATOR



MAJOR



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WELCOME

In an ever-evolving industry, the future can feel uncertain. But while some approach it with caution, mechanical contractors approach it with confidence. We cross the threshold of the unknown into a frontier radiating with possibility and coming alive with the energy of transformation. At the 2026 MCAA Annual Convention, every innovation, every partnership, every member is part of a bigger, more vibrant picture. You'll experience a full spectrum of inspiration—from vivid industry insights to colorful conversations, to ideas that spark your next big breakthrough.

MCAA26: BEYOND THE HORIZON.

Brian Hughes
MCAA President





SPEAKERS

MONDAY

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

FEATURING MCAA PRESIDENT **BRIAN HUGHES**, UA GENERAL PRESIDENT **MARK McMANUS** AND **DREW BREES**

Start the week off with **President Brian Hughes's** reflections on the past year and what he envisions for MCAA's future, followed by remarks from United Association General President **Mark McManus** on the UA's initiatives.



MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 8:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

Doors Open at 7:45 A.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM

MONDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DREW BREES

Drew Brees is the former 2009 Super Bowl MVP-winning quarterback for the New Orleans Saints. A native of Austin, TX, Brees attended Westlake High School and earned his bachelor's degree in industrial management from Krannert School of Management at Purdue University, while lettering in football from 1997-2000. Drew went on to play five years with the San Diego Chargers and fifteen years with the New Orleans Saints. He has been elected to 13 Pro Bowls while being named 2004 Comeback Player of the Year, 2006 All-Pro Team, 2006 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year, 2008 and 2011 NFL Offensive Player of the Year and Super Bowl XLIV Champion and MVP.

As much pride as Brees takes in his on-field performance, he takes even more pride in his community service endeavors. Drew and his wife, Brittany, established the Brees Dream Foundation in 2003 and since then have contributed over \$50,000,000 to help improve the quality of life for cancer patients and provide care, education and opportunities for children and families in need. In addition to his personal foundation, Drew has co-founded SHIELD 1 Foundation to address the greatest needs in our communities, including but not limited to housing, healthcare, education, business opportunity, economic development, urban farming, support of HBCUs, social justice and legislative reform.

Brees is a proud partner of the GBX Group, Jimmy Johns, Walk-Ons Enterprises, Football N America, Smalls Sliders and Franworth. He participates as a Board Member for Surf Sports, Stretch Zone, Franworth and formerly with the NFLPA and President's Council for Fitness, Sports and Nutrition.

Brees has also proudly participated in five USO trips visiting Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Turkey, Djibouti, Dubai, Okinawa and Guantanamo Bay. Drew currently lives with his wife Brittany and children Baylen, Bowen, Callen and Rylen in San Diego, CA.

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 8:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

Doors Open at 7:45 A.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM

MONDAY FEATURED LUNCH SPEAKER

LUNCH FEATURING **ZACK KASS**

*Sponsored by **SLOAN***

Zack Kass is an advisor, researcher, keynote speaker and the former Head of Go-To-Market at OpenAI.

At OpenAI, Zack led sales, partnerships and customer success, helping turn breakthrough research into real-world business solutions. He has advised executives across dozens of industries on deploying AI at scale.

Today, as an executive business advisor, Zack works with Fortune 1000 boardrooms—including Coca-Cola, Morgan Stanley and Amgen—to help leaders navigate the rapidly evolving AI landscape. His mission is to ensure individuals, businesses and



governments are active participants in the AI-powered future by making the technology both understandable and actionable. Recognized as a leading thinker in applied AI, his insights have been featured in *Fortune*, *Newsweek*, *Entrepreneur*, *AdAge* and *Business Insider*.

Beyond his advisory work, Zack supports AI education and research at the University of Virginia. He holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley, and resides in Santa Barbara, California.

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 12:10 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.

Doors Open at 12:05 P.M. | Lunch Served 12:10 P.M. – 12:30 P.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM

TUESDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**BRUNCH
FEATURING**

MICHAEL MASSIMINO

Sponsored by Ferguson

Michael Massimino is a former NASA Astronaut, a *New York Times* Bestselling Author, a Columbia University Professor, a media personality and the first person to tweet from space. He is a four-time spacewalker on two missions to the Hubble Space Telescope, including the final Hubble servicing mission which has been called the most dangerous and complex mission in space shuttle history. Mike has made numerous television appearances, including a recurring role as himself on the hit sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*, has hosted educational

television programs and provides expert commentary on morning shows and network and cable news programs.

He has been called the real-life astronaut who inspired George Clooney's role in the movie *Gravity*. He uses humor and his unique storytelling ability to inspire audiences to identify the passion in their work, to use teamwork and innovation to solve problems, to provide leadership in the face of adversity and crisis and to never give up when pursuing a goal.



TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 10:00 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.

Doors Open at 9:45 A.M. | Brunch Served 10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM

WEDNESDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE BREAKFAST FEATURING

INKY JOHNSON

Sponsored by **MILWAUKEE TOOL**

Inky Johnson is a former collegiate athlete, entrepreneur and one of the most sought-after inspirational speakers in the world. After a life-altering injury ended his football career at the University of Tennessee, Inky turned adversity into purpose—motivating others to lead with resilience, perseverance and heart.



With a Master's in Sports Psychology, Inky has inspired audiences, and his powerful message transcends sports and business, focusing on leadership, mental toughness and embracing change. He is the host of the *Serendipity with Inky Johnson* podcast, co-founder of The Inky and Allison Johnson Foundation and a dedicated mentor to young athletes and underserved youth.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 7:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Doors Open at 6:45 A.M. | Breakfast Served 7:00 A.M. – 7:30 A.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM

WEDNESDAY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE BREAKFAST

Please join us to honor the achievements of our members and future professionals.

- ASC Engineered Solutions Fun Run & Walk
- Victaulic & Carrier Corporation Golf Tournament
- NIBCO INC. Pickleball Tournament
- MCAA/CNA Safety Excellence Awards
- MCAA/MILWAUKEE TOOL Safety Professional of the Year
- ATP Inspiring Future Leaders Scholarship
- Robert J. Durr, Sr. – UA/NCPWB Partnering Scholarship
- Josam Endowed Scholarship
- Ann Mattheis Memorial Scholarship
- Alan P. O’Shea Memorial Scholarship
- Robert T. Armistead Memorial Scholarship
- William A. Bianco, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- Bolton Family Scholarship
- Donald V. Brown, Sr. Family Memorial Scholarship
- DEWALT Patriot Scholarship
- EVAPCO, Inc. Engineering Scholarship
- Ferguson Women in the Mechanical Industry Scholarship
- Geiling Family Scholarship
- Rick and Debbie Gopffarth Mechanical Construction Endowed Scholarship
- Foster McCarl, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- Reilly Family Memorial Scholarship
- Trimble Future Estimator Scholarship
- Tyfoom “Become More” Scholarship
- Viega Scholarship
- Thomas J. Wanner Memorial Scholarship
- Educator of the Year
- Student Chapter of the Year
- MCAA Student Chapter Competition Awards

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 7:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Doors Open at 6:45 A.M. | Breakfast Served 7:00 A.M. – 7:30 A.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM

THURSDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION & CHANGING OF THE GUARD FEATURING

KEN SCHMIDT

MCAA President Brian Hughes will pass the gavel to his successor **Curtis Harbour**, who will share his vision for the year ahead. We will recognize our outgoing and incoming Board of Directors and our new MCAA officers will be presented to the membership.

Ken Schmidt is a renowned business strategist, speaker and former communications leader behind the legendary turnaround of Harley-Davidson. He helped transform the brand by shifting its focus from products to people—redefining how businesses connect with customers through authenticity, loyalty and memorable storytelling.



Ken's high-energy keynotes challenge companies to reject complacency, embrace bold differentiation and tap into timeless human desires to stand out in today's commoditized world. He's the author of *Make Some Noise: The Unconventional Road to Dominance*, host of the *Tailgating with Geniuses* podcast and co-founder of Torque Sessions Leadership Training.

Through his speaking, writing and consulting, Ken delivers unconventional insights that inspire lasting competitive advantage—rooted in being memorable not for what you do, but for who you are.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 | 9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Doors Open at 8:45 A.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM



PROGRAM

MCAA invites you to celebrate five days of incredible speakers, education seminars, entertainment, networking opportunities, motivated students looking for jobs and social events! Explore the program and plan your week in Phoenix.

MCAA Registration & Information Center

PINNACLE PEAK 3

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 6:30 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 | 7:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.



Political Action Committee Fundraiser

PINNACLE PEAK FOYER

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 10:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.





Annual Golf Tournament

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 7:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

WILDFIRE GOLF CLUB, FALDO CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE
AND PALMER SIGNATURE COURSE

*Sponsored by **Victaulic & Carrier Corporation***

Continental Breakfast	7:00 A.M. – 7:45 A.M.
Shotgun Start	7:00 A.M.

The Annual Golf Tournament will be held Sunday, March 15, 2026, with an 8:00 a.m. shotgun start. This year we will be playing two beautiful courses on property at the Wildfire Golf Club, the Faldo Championship Course and the Palmer Signature Course.

The **Faldo Championship Course** plays up to 6,846 yards and offers an inspired variation of the typical desert-themed course. Featuring generous fairways, a large green and 108 sand bunkers, the surrounding mountains and cacti become the backdrop for a championship round.

The **Palmer Signature Course** plays up to 7,145 yards and provides an unmatched scenic golfing experience. The flashed bunkering on Palmer is superb, and the putting greens carry plenty of undulation, like many Arnold Palmer designs.

Both courses are on-property at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge and pairings will be available at MCAA's Sports Desk on Saturday, March 14.

- **Golf = \$295**
- **Golf with rental clubs = \$425**

Visit the Sports Desk on Saturday, March 14 for more information.

SUNDAY

5th Annual Pickleball Tournament

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 7:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

JW MARRIOTT PICKLEBALL COURTS

*Sponsored by **NIBCO INC.***

Breakfast & Check-In	7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.
Pickleball Tournament	8:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
Awards & Photos	11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

The 5th Annual Pickleball Tournament is always a fun convention event for enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels.

Visit the Sports Desk on Saturday, March 14 for more information.



Annual 5K Fun Run & 1-Mile Walk

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 7:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

SUNSET LAWN

*Sponsored by **ASC Engineered Solutions***

Breakfast & Registration	7:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.
Safety Announcement	8:30 A.M. – 8:55 A.M.
Shotgun Start	9:00 A.M.
Post-Race Refreshments	9:15 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
Event Concludes	10:30 A.M.

Enjoy the beauty of a Phoenix morning as you embark on a competitive 5k run or less competitive one-mile walk. From the complimentary t-shirt to the warm-up exercises to the continental breakfast, everyone—participants and spectators alike—has fun at this annual event. The race and walk will start from Sunset Lawn on property at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge.

Visit the Sports Desk on Saturday, March 14 for more information.

Winners of all sports events will be announced at Wednesday morning's Awards of Excellence Breakfast.



MONDAY A.M.

FEATURED SPEAKER



Boots on the Ground

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM E - G

This powerful keynote talks about what it takes to be ready for battle every day. What do the best leaders ask of themselves and of their teams, and how do teams operate best? Learn from the front lines of a Navy SEAL commander and put it into action right away.

Key takeaways:

- Discover the principles and discipline needed to operate at peak performance under pressure.
- Apply proven, front-line leadership lessons to achieve consistent results in any situation.
- Learn how elite leaders prepare themselves and their teams to face challenges with confidence every day.

Commander Rorke Denver has run every phase of training for the U.S. Navy SEALs and led special-forces missions in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and other international hot spots. Rorke was an assault team leader for over 200 combat missions and awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for valorous action in combat.

His first book, *New York Times* bestseller *Damn Few: Making the Modern SEAL Warrior*, takes you inside his personal story and the fascinating, demanding SEAL training program. His second book, *Worth Dying For*, speaks to leadership, service and the future of our nation. Rorke starred in the hit film *Act of Valor*, which is based on true SEAL adventures. He also led a team in Season One of the FOX TV show *American Grit*, alongside host John Cena.

MONDAY A.M.



Beyond the Horizon: Shaping the Next Era of Mechanical Contracting

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM A - D

The mechanical contracting industry is changing faster than it ever has before and we, as industry leaders, need to stay on top of the curve. In this interactive seminar, MCAA's President-elect and three members of MCAA's President's Advisory Council, will share areas of concentration to successfully navigate this next era of mechanical contracting: strategic planning, market conditions and talent retention.

A contractor's strategic plan looks different now as opposed to five years ago, and has evolved to focus on agility, diversification and workforce sustainability, with investments in technology and expanded services. Meanwhile, current market conditions vary widely—some regions are booming while others face slowdowns—making strategic project selection and labor planning more critical than ever. Additionally, talent retention remains a huge factor as competition rises.

Join your peers to discuss how we are all handling and responding to these everyday challenges.

MONDAY A.M.

Robert Beck is CEO of the John W. Danforth Company, one of the largest mechanical contractors in the Eastern United States and is an MCAA Past President. Additionally, Robert serves as co-chair of the MCAA/UA Strategic Planning Committee.

Curtis Harbour is Vice President, Labor Relations with Southland Industries based in Houston, Texas. Additionally, Curtis serves as President-elect of MCAA's Executive Committee and Past President of the Dallas, Houston and Texas MCAs.

Brian Helm is President of Helm Group, Inc., one of the largest specialty contractors in the Midwest serving Chicago, Milwaukee, Kansas City and Omaha. Additionally, Brian is President of MCAA's John R. Gentille Foundation, an MCAA Past President, and the recipient of the 2022 Distinguished Service Award, MCAA's highest industry honor.

Mark Rogers is President and Founder of West Chester Mechanical Contractors, an HVAC, service and plumbing contractor that serves the Philadelphia area specializing in private commercial work in the healthcare and educational arenas. Mark is an MCAA Past President and recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Service Award, MCAA's highest honor. He is a speaker with MCAA's National Education Initiative and travels the country educating on leadership and our industry.



MONDAY A.M.



Why Aren't Your Salespeople Closing More Deals?

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM H - K

Join a powerful session that uncovers why even skilled salespeople struggle to close and what to do about it.

You'll learn a proven, time-tested Buyer Facilitator philosophy that helps your team stop selling and start helping people buy. Walk away with practical tools to shift mindsets, uncover real buying motives and increase close rates without pressure or pushiness.

Perfect for owners, leaders, sales professionals and project managers—or anyone who engages directly with clients and prospects.

Jorge Chavez is the President of Topaz Sales Consulting and a nationally recognized expert in sales training and sales hiring strategy. With a background in transforming underperforming sales teams into top producers, Jorge brings over three decades of experience helping leaders build repeatable, coachable and sustainable sales systems.

Through his Buyer Facilitator methodology, Jorge helps salespeople shift from traditional selling to a consultative, trust-first approach that aligns with today's buyers. His clients routinely see measurable improvements in closing rates, team accountability and revenue growth.

Jorge is passionate about empowering professionals to become confident communicators and trusted advisors.

MONDAY A.M.



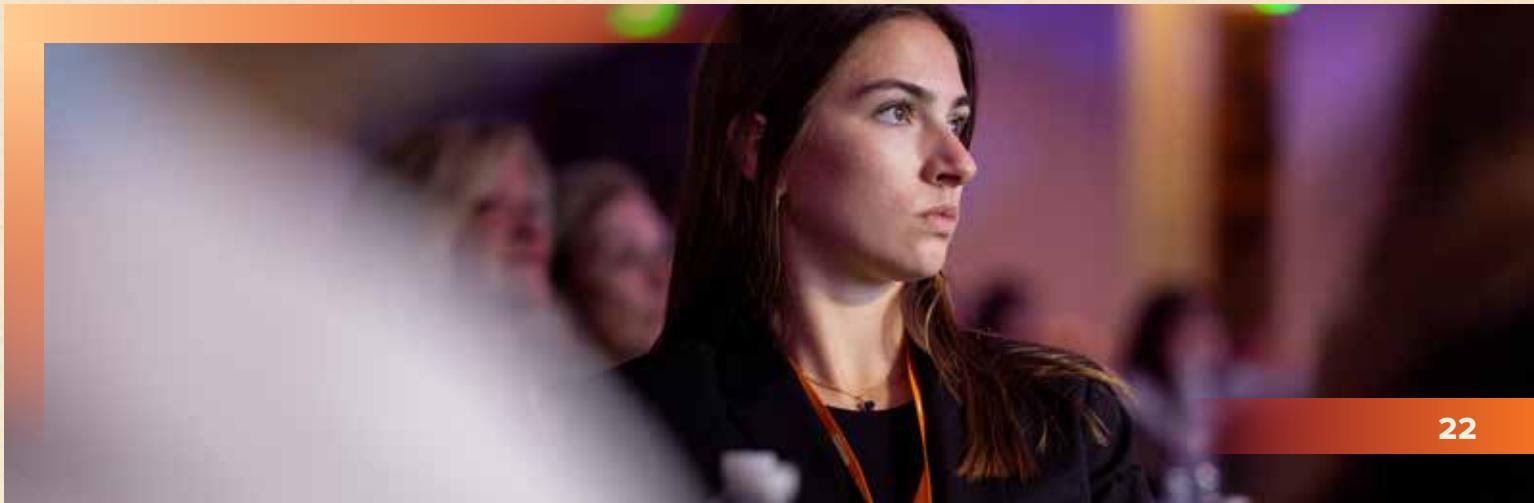
Working Through the Aftermath of a Fatality or Extreme Injury on the Jobsite

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

WILDFLOWER BALLROOM

Determine how best to work through the days, weeks, months and years that follow a tragic workplace fatality or severe injury. We will discuss three aspects of an incident: Business, Emotional and Litigious. This session includes a true case study that explores a recent steel piping system pressure testing incident that resulted in a fatality.

Don Campbell, CHST graduated from Central Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in Safety Management in 1998. He spent three years as Safety Manager for a large General Contractor, before starting his 23+ year career with P1 Construction. In his career at P1 Construction, he has held the roles of Safety Director, Vice President of Safety and is currently Vice President. He is involved in several national safety committees, MCAA, PFI, SMACNA, NECA and AGC, and is past president of Construction Safety Group of Kansas City and co-founder of the Safety Alliance of Kansas City. He was the MCAA/MILWAUKEE TOOL Safety Professional of the Year in 2021.



MONDAY P.M.

FEATURED SPEAKER



Beyond the Horizon

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM E - G

Each day has 24 hours, no more, no less. Imagine having your best year ever. Imagine information that would assist you in getting twice as much done in less time. What if you could do more of the right things that need doing in your business or job? Imagine achieving your professional and personal goals in a fraction of the time.

You will learn:

- How to conduct effective meetings that lead to implementation
- An effective system for goal achievement: the hour of power. How to achieve your goals in less time
- How to do first things first, one thing at a time, and finish what you start
- The Pareto Principle (80/20 Rule)
- You will be the same person in five years but for two things: the books you read and the people with whom you associate
- Discover ways to stop procrastinating and get the difficult things done
- Managing the rapids of change with soft skills
- How peak performers think differently
- Soar with your strengths and delegate your weaknesses
- How to work smarter, not harder, to achieve the results that matter to you most
- Discover the value of knowing “your Plimsoll line.” How much is too much? What is your sweet spot of effectiveness?
- The magic of the two questions

All this and much, much more...

MONDAY P.M.

Mark Matteson is a best-selling author, international speaker and consultant who helps organizations get more of the right things done in less time. Since starting as an HVAC technician in 1976, he has worked with companies like Amazon, Microsoft and John Deere across 48 states and five countries. His book *Freedom from Fear* has sold over 250,000 copies in 10 languages. Mark delivers 40+ keynotes annually and writes a monthly newsletter for 9,000+ readers. He lives in Gold Bar, WA with his wife, Debbie, and enjoys life as a father and grandfather.



MONDAY P.M.



Continuous Improvement: Enhancing Business Efficiency and Minimizing Waste

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM A - D

Join this dynamic manufacturer/supplier panel, moderated by a leading contractor, for an in-depth discussion on applying continuous improvement strategies to drive efficiency and eliminate waste. Learn how proven methodologies like Lean and Six Sigma can help streamline operations, boost productivity and support long-term, sustainable growth.

Chris Cornick is Vice President and Head of Strategic Sales at Ferguson, where he leads nationwide strategies that bring integrated products, solutions and services into the earliest stages of project planning. He oversees teams focused on large capital projects, sustainable solutions and business diversity, with an emphasis on practical, value-add approaches that streamline processes and support smarter resource use.

With nearly 20 years at a major construction management firm in roles spanning field operations, estimating, business development and P&L leadership, Chris brings real-world operational insight into how businesses can continuously improve performance.

Kit Fransen is a strategic leader with 14+ years of experience driving growth and transformation in the HVACR industry. As Senior Director at Johnson Controls, he leads initiatives that boost sales, efficiency and market share across a multi-billion-dollar portfolio. He is recognized for launching successful programs, building executive relationships and aligning teams around customer-centric strategies.

MONDAY P.M.

Alan Gasvoda has over 25 years of cross-industry experience in construction, software, manufacturing and automation. He has led enterprise-wide initiatives in HR, quality, project management and continuous improvement, delivering measurable gains in productivity, efficiency, safety and profitability through streamlined processes and waste reduction.

Chris Hutchings is President of Cerris Systems Inc., bringing 30+ years of mechanical construction experience and nationwide project leadership experience. He serves on the MCAA National Board of Directors and several nonprofit boards, and is recognized for fostering a culture of excellence and servant leadership that has made Cerris Systems one of Kansas City's best places to work.

Trey Kukwa has been an incredible asset to Victaulic for 13 years holding multiple roles in three different functions with his current role as Direct of Sales Operations. Throughout his tenure, Trey has successfully led several teams, implementing cross-functional structures that have significantly enhanced productivity and eliminated waste within our organization. His journey with Victaulic started in Supply Chain, transitioned through Finance, and finally settled in Sales Operations, where his focus on operational excellence has greatly improved our capabilities and streamlined our processes. Trey holds a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from Wake Forest University and a MBA from Lehigh University.

Jack Murphy has 15+ years of experience in the industrial equipment industry spanning new equipment, services and rental business units. He has held multiple roles in sales, business development, sales leadership and management. Currently, Jack leads the sales and business development team for the Rental Services Division for North America as part of Trane Technologies Commercial HVAC Business.

Jon Sillerud is an operations executive with extensive experience leading global and national corporations. He specializes in strengthening operations and supply chains, driving process improvements and delivering measurable results in productivity, quality and cost efficiency.



MONDAY P.M.



Career Path Mapping

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM H - K

Organizations are justifiably concerned about the ability to retain talent in an environment where availability of workers is very scarce. Additionally, the changing needs of today's workforce require employers to reassess their employee development programs. Career path mapping brings clarity to an otherwise cloaked path of progression, allowing the employee to understand opportunities within the firm and engaging them in creating, and owning, their own map.

Stephane McShane is a Director at Maxim Consulting Group responsible for the evaluation and implementation processes with clients. Stephane works with construction related firms of all sizes to evaluate business practices and assist with management challenges. With a large depth of experience working in the construction industry, Stephane is keenly aware of the business and, most specifically, operational challenges that firms face. Her areas of expertise include: leadership development, executive coaching, organizational assessments, strategic planning, project execution, business development, productivity improvement and training programs.



MONDAY P.M.



Importance of ITR Economics' Outlook for 2026 and Early 2027

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

WILDFLOWER BALLROOM

*Sponsored by **Baltimore Aircoil Company***

Business owners and operators stand to benefit significantly from understanding ITR Economics' outlook for 2026 and early 2027. The insights provided can help decision makers anticipate and navigate the complex economic landscape that lies ahead. ITR's leading indicators show that while 2026 may begin with a mild upturn, momentum could slow for some industries later in the year and into 2027—making it essential for businesses to stay informed and proactive. Key reasons include:

- **Anticipation of economic shifts:** Businesses can adjust their strategies to align with predicted changes in GDP and Industrial Production growth.
- **Risk management:** Early awareness allows for the implementation of measures to mitigate potential downturns in volume and increases in cost.

Furthermore, the ability to anticipate weak periods and set plans to act accordingly can be the deciding factor between merely surviving or thriving. As industries face varying impacts, specific insights into which sectors are more likely to falter will be invaluable. Additional reasons why the outlook is essential include:

- **Investment planning:** Businesses can make informed decisions about capital expenditures and resource allocation.
- **Competitive advantage:** Early movers can gain an edge by adapting ahead of their competitors.

MONDAY P.M.

Taylor St. Germain is an experienced economist and consultant with ITR Economics, specializing in market and company-level forecasting. He advises small businesses, trade associations and Fortune 500 companies across diverse industries, contributing to ITR's industry-leading 94.7% forecast accuracy.

Before joining ITR, Taylor worked in the tech industry providing market intelligence to OEMs and semiconductor firms. Based in Texas, he continues to research industrial trends, particularly in oil and gas. He holds a bachelor's degree in statistics from the University of Vermont and is completing a master's in applied economics at Southern New Hampshire University. Taylor has been featured in OEM Magazine, NALP, Lawn & Landscape and on the Fab Lab and Wealth Formula podcasts.





Annual Manufacturer/ Supplier Council Exhibit

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 7:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

GRAND SAGUARO BALLROOM

Discover the Latest Innovations in Our Industry

Join us for an exciting opportunity to explore the newest products and services shaping our industry. Representatives from **MCAA's Manufacturer/Supplier Council** will be on-hand to showcase their solutions and share insights on how they're helping contractors like you save time, cut costs and reduce errors.

Why Attend?

- Gain firsthand knowledge of tools and technologies that can give your business a competitive edge.
- Learn new strategies for increasing productivity in the office and the field.
- Discover innovative approaches that can improve your bottom line.
- Build valuable relationships with supplier and manufacturer executives who are deeply involved in the MCAA community.

At MCAA, our Manufacturer/Supplier Council members are integral to our association. Their long-standing partnerships with contractors are built on trust, collaboration and a shared commitment to success.

Don't miss this chance to connect, learn and grow.

Continental breakfast will be provided.

TUESDAY

LUNCH & LEARN



The Presentation Transformation

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM E - G

In the fast-paced and ever-changing mechanical industry, strong communication is essential to effective leadership and career growth. Join renowned broadcaster and communications expert Gerry Sandusky for an engaging, high-impact session focused on helping industry leaders refine their personal brand, speak with clarity and lead with greater confidence.

From high-stakes meetings to everyday conversations, this session will equip you with practical strategies to communicate with purpose, adapt to your audience and make a lasting impression. Whether you're presenting ideas, managing teams or building client relationships, you'll gain tools to enhance your presence and influence in any professional setting.

Gerry Sandusky is the play-by-play voice of the Baltimore Ravens, a New York Times best-selling author of *Forgotten Sundays* and the sports director at WBAL-TV in Baltimore. He is also President of The Sandusky Group, where he coaches leaders to become more impactful communicators on stage, on camera and online. A three-time Emmy and two-time Edward R. Murrow Award winner, Gerry lives in Baltimore with his wife, Lee Ann. Their grown children now live in San Diego and Nashville.

TUESDAY

LUNCH & LEARN



PFAS and Plumbing: What Contractors Need to Know Now

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM A - D

*Sponsored by **Plumbing Contractors of America***

PFAS—also known as “forever chemicals”—are rapidly becoming a top concern in the plumbing industry, with evolving legislation, increasing client awareness and new filtration technologies driving the demand for contractor expertise. This education session offers an overview of what PFAS are, current legislation, available filtration options and mitigation solutions, as well as emerging technologies. You’ll also hear from PCA Board members, Adrienne Bennett, Scott Nielsen and Michael Wallenstein, on how their companies are actively incorporating PFAS knowledge into their plumbing operations. Get the knowledge you need to stay ahead of the PFAS game.

Adrienne Bennett, President & CEO of Benkari, LLC, is a pioneer in America’s plumbing and construction industries. She is North America’s first and only female licensed master plumber and plumbing contractor; America’s first African American female plumbing inspector and certified medical gas inspector and installer; and one of America’s few minority-owned, woman-owned and operated, self-performing, union specialty trade contractors.

Scott Nielsen has been with the Zurn Elkay organization for 13 years. During this time at Zurn Elkay, Scott has held leadership roles within mergers & acquisitions, business development, strategy and most recently as head of Elkay’s drinking water filtration business. He has a passion for providing cleaner, safer and more sustainable hydration to schools, businesses, homes and much more! Scott’s current role as leader of the filtration business includes overall responsibility for the business’ strategy, growth, innovation and management.

Michael Wallenstein is Co-President and a third-generation owner of Neptune Plumbing & Heating Co., where he has served for over 15 years. After eight years as Director of Business Development, he and his brother, Adam, took over as Co-Presidents in 2016, leading the company's growth and innovation across Greater Cleveland.

Under their leadership, Neptune has advanced in technology, employee development and community involvement. The company has been named a Top Workplace five years in a row, and the brothers received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2019.

Michael is an active member of MCAA and MSCA and has served on the PCA Board since 2022 and the MSCA/UA Labor Committee since 2024.



TUESDAY

LUNCH & LEARN



The Real Cost of a Service Hour: Uncovering the True Cost of Service

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM H - K

*Sponsored by **Mechanical Service Contractors of America***

How much does a service hour *really* cost your business—and are you charging enough to cover it? In this 60-minute session, MSCA Chair David Geith will break down the true cost of a service hour, line by line. From labor burden, overhead, tools, training, travel time and administrative support, David will explain all the hidden and not-so-hidden costs that impact your bottom line.

Learn how to accurately calculate your service rate while avoiding common pricing pitfalls and set rates that reflect both value and viability. Whether you're reviewing your rates or building them from the ground up, this session gives you the clarity and confidence to price smarter.

David Geith is the Vice President of Service at EMCOR Services Mesa Energy in the Irvine, CA branch. His responsibilities include supervision over technician training, project planning and management, process scheduling and sales. In addition, he is the 2026 MSCA Chair, along with being on the MSCA Board of Managers and an MSCA Service Managers Training instructor.

David attended the University of Michigan for education and is a certified instructor of Journeyman and Apprentices. He is active in the Union Training Program helping to develop and teach curriculum for the Apprenticeship as a Licensed UA Instructor.

WEDNESDAY

FEATURED SPEAKER



The Power of Leaving Your Comfort Zone

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 9:15 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM E - G

Sponsored by Reece

In most ways, people today are more comfortable than ever. For example, we spend 93 percent of our time indoors in temperature control, we get our food from a drive-through window or microwave instead of hunting and gathering and our biggest stresses are presentations and artificial deadlines rather than ferocious tigers.

This lifestyle clearly has benefits, but it also has pernicious drawbacks. Michael Easter's investigative reporting shows that our overly comfortable and convenient lifestyles explain everything from why we feel burnout and get so stressed by events as harmless as traffic jams and work presentations, to why we're suffering from a creativity crisis and face the highest rates of chronic mental and physical diseases in human history.

Through vivid storytelling, he reveals the life-changing power of leaving our comfort zones. Along the way he lays out a handful of simple tactics we can use to expand our comfort zone. The result: We're left healthier, happier, more creative and productive, with calm and grace in the face of even the biggest stressors.

Michael Easter is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Comfort Crisis* and *Scarcity Brain*. He travels the world to uncover practical ideas that help people live healthier, happier, more remarkable lives at home and at work. His ideas have been published in over 60 countries and been featured in *The New York Times*, *Good Morning America*, *CBS News*, *Fox News*, *Wall Street Journal* and more. He lives in Las Vegas on the edge of the desert with his wife and two dogs.

WEDNESDAY



State of AI

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 9:15 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM A - D

Join a session focused on where AI is at, where it's going and how organizations like yours can be prepared.

Chris Carr is the founder of Farotech, a digital marketing agency and Dynaimix.ai. Since 2021, he has focused on how AI is reshaping business—and how most companies aren't ready.

Certified in Generative AI by MIT and Wharton, Chris leads workshops and speaks nationally to help businesses stay ahead of AI-driven disruption. He co-hosted the Digital Marketing Masterclass podcast with Andy Crestodina and is a recognized expert in AI strategy, consulting and training.



WEDNESDAY



The Data Center Explosion: What's Fueling It and What's the Impact?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 9:15 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM H - K

Discover the driving forces behind the explosive growth in data center construction across the United States and around the globe. Join a panel of industry experts as they explore the key factors fueling this unprecedented expansion, including the rise of artificial intelligence and cloud computing. The panel will also examine what's influencing site selection across the country, the investment strategies behind new developments and the significant impact these facilities are having on the nation's electrical infrastructure and skilled labor in the mechanical industry.

*With a passion for complex and challenging projects, **Tom Doig** is a seasoned leader with more than 30 years of experience in the construction and development industries. He excels at guiding the design and construction of mission-critical data centers, cultivating high-performing teams to deliver capacity on time and on budget. Tom ensures compliance with the highest standards of safety and ethics and leverages his expertise to optimize performance and foster a culture of extreme collaboration and diversity.*

***Rick Gopffarth** is the Immediate Past President of MCAA and Senior Vice President of Preconstruction for Dynamic Systems, Inc., a national turnkey mechanical and process construction firm. As an active industry leader, Rick has served as President of both the MCA of Dallas and MCA of Texas and held numerous committee and board roles with MCAA, including Education, Strategic Planning and the Manufacturer/Supplier Council Executive Committee.*

Chris Madello serves as the UA International Representative for Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., and represents the UA on all data center projects nationwide.

A former Business Manager of Steamfitters UA Local 602, Chris has also led the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and served on the UA/MSCA Joint HVACR Labor Management Committee. He has dedicated his career to growing membership, strengthening contractor partnerships and advancing labor-management relations.

Patrick Miller is a highly accomplished Global Labor Manager based in Portland, Oregon, with extensive experience in labor relations, contract negotiations, supplier development and project management across mega-projects and multibillion-dollar initiatives. Currently serving as Director of Global Labor Management for Data Center Delivery at Microsoft, Patrick has led strategic labor engagement, managed major labor agreements and pioneered data-driven workforce planning solutions. Previously, at Intel, Patrick was instrumental in labor relations, workforce development and procurement, negotiating landmark agreements and driving cost savings. His career includes international work, guest speaking at industry conferences, board leadership roles and holding eight patents in semiconductor process technology. Patrick's education spans Harvard Law School, Arizona State University and other institutions, with certifications in negotiation, construction management and project management.

Adam E. Snavely is President and CEO of The Poole and Kent Corporation, a leading mechanical construction, service and engineering firm headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland. Over the course of his career with Poole and Kent, Adam has held management roles across multiple regions—including Alaska, Georgia and South Carolina—before returning to Baltimore to oversee strategic growth and innovation. Under Adam's leadership, Poole and Kent has expanded its market reach and delivered some of the region's most complex mechanical projects for healthcare, industrial and mission-critical clients throughout the eastern United States. He has been a driving force behind the company's adoption of lean construction practices, advancements in VDC technology, growth of DFMA and off-site manufacturing facilities and use of autonomous robotics. Adam is a passionate advocate for connecting industry with education and community. In addition to his service on the MCAA Board of Directors and role as an instructor for MCAA's AIPM and IPM programs, Adam has served in executive roles on numerous boards spanning industry associations, universities and private schools—many focused on mentoring, workforce development and educational pathways into the A/E/C and specialty trades sectors.



WEDNESDAY



Business Succession & Exit Planning

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM A - D

This seminar will provide a comprehensive examination of business succession planning, with a focus on business valuations, exit strategies and ownership transfer options. The program will address the methodology and considerations involved in obtaining a business valuation, outline the key stages of the business sale process and evaluate the potential outcomes and implications associated with various ownership transfer strategies.

Kevin Clift is a Managing Director, Financial Advisor and Senior Retirement Plan Consultant with RBC Wealth Management. With over 40 years of experience, he advises businesses, institutions and families on investment strategy and retirement planning. He previously served as Senior Vice President at Morgan Stanley and holds a BBA from Eastern Michigan University, the CIMA® designation from Wharton and membership in the Investments & Wealth Institute.

Matt Sheldahl is a Corporate Retirement Director, First Vice President, Financial Advisor and Senior Portfolio Manager at RBC Wealth Management. With more than 22 years of experience, he advises businesses, institutions and families on portfolio management, asset allocation and wealth planning. He holds the CFA designation, is a member of the Dallas-Fort Worth Society of Financial Analysts and earned dual BBA degrees in Finance and Management Information Systems from The University of Iowa.

Les Williams works with RBC Wealth Management financial advisors and high-net-worth clients across the Eastern and Central United States. With a background as an estate planning and transactional attorney, he helps develop wealth management strategies focused on trust and estate planning, asset protection, tax efficiency, business succession and charitable planning. Les has been a member of the Maryland bar since 1996 and previously practiced law in Baltimore, most recently as a partner at Niles, Barton & Wilmer, LLP. He received his bachelor's degree in English from the Johns Hopkins University, his law degree from the George Washington University, and a Master of Taxation degree from the University of Baltimore.

WEDNESDAY



Game On: The Future Winner's Circle for Your Company

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM H - K

Moderator:

Andrew Palcan – MCAA Career Development Chair / Helm Group, Inc. Project Manager

This interactive roundtable discussion will hop, skip and jump your company's understanding and perception of your future workforce prominently into the winner's circle. The game is on for not only securing talent, but for truly developing a cohesive workplace that utilizes the unique skillsets of all generations on your team.

Roundtable Teams

- MCAA Members
- Student Chapter President / Leader
- Faculty / Industry Advisor
- Career Development Committee Member

Don't settle for a participation trophy, round out our championship discussion team and learn how to position your company for the ultimate victory—a GREAT future!

WEDNESDAY

Andrew Palcan graduated from the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) with a B.S./M.S. in Architectural Engineering. He was a member of his MCAA student chapter for his final two years in school, participated in the Student Chapter Competition and presented on stage in San Diego in 2017. He met the President of his current company in Orlando at the 2016 MCAA Convention and secured an internship for the following summer during his final year of school. Andrew has now been with Helm for seven years.

He started out as a project engineer, working with a project manager who ran his own work in their Milwaukee office. He spent most of his internship estimating and helping on a handful of small projects. Once he moved to Helm's Chicago office, he was immediately sent out to the field to help with a pharmaceutical project as a project engineer for the sheet metal team but eventually ended up working on both the sheet metal and process piping teams. He was on site for about a year and then returned to the office to continue estimating industrial work. One and a half years post-graduation, he was given the opportunity to run a school job as a project manager. He worked with a piping and sheet metal foreman for about a year on the renovation, which then increased to a new build for an additional year.

He has recently been involved with Helm's data center projects. Following graduation, Andrew knew he wanted to stay involved with MCAA and joined the Career Development Committee. After serving on the committee for three years, he was asked to take on the role of committee chair.



WEDNESDAY



Intro to AI for Mechanical Contractors

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

WILDFLOWER BALLROOM

This foundational course introduces AI concepts tailored for mechanical contractors. Attendees will learn how AI is transforming the industry and walk away with practical tools and strategies for immediate adoption.

This class will be limited to 50 attendees and pre-registration is required. All attendees should bring a laptop and smart phone to the class. Attendees are also encouraged to bring any Excel files or project files they want to use to experiment with the AI tools being explored.

Chris Carr is the founder of Farotech, a digital marketing agency, and Dynamix.ai. Since 2021, he has focused on how AI is reshaping business—and how most companies aren't ready.

Certified in Generative AI by MIT and Wharton, Chris leads workshops and speaks nationally to help businesses stay ahead of AI-driven disruption. He co-hosted the Digital Marketing Masterclass podcast with Andy Crestodina and is a recognized expert in AI strategy, consulting and training.

WEDNESDAY



Technology and Fabrication Roundtable: Lessons Learned from Contractors

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

DESERT SUITES 4 - 6

Contractors today are reshaping how technology is applied in the office and in day-to-day operations, while also advancing how it is used in fabrication facilities and in the field. This roundtable discussion between MCAA's Sean McGuire and Jeff Elwell, CTO of E.M. Duggan will highlight lessons learned directly from MCAA members. Drawing on insights from the 2025 MCAA Fabrication Conference and the 2026 MEP Innovation Conference, the discussion will show how contractors are using new tools and strategies to improve performance, productivity and workforce well-being.

Topics will include the rise of data centers and their impact on manpower and mental health. We will look at approaches to productivity tracking and the use of analytics as operations digitize. The discussion will also cover automation in both project management and welding, the role of AI in construction workflows and how service contractors are applying automation to improve efficiency. New emphasis will be placed on model-based fabrication and the growing role of CTOs in guiding technology strategy for contractors. Attendees will also hear what's driving the focus of the 2026 MCAA Fabrication and 2027 MEP Innovation Conferences, with a preview of the conversations and innovations that will define the next phase of contractor-led progress.

Jeff Elwell is the Chief Technology Officer at E.M. Duggan, a leading mechanical contractor based in Greater Boston. With over a decade of experience in construction technology (ConTech), Jeff has established himself as a prominent figure in the industry, particularly in the areas of Building Information Modeling (BIM), automation and field technology.

Sean McGuire is the Executive Director of Innovative Technologies and Fabrication at MCAA. In this role, he collaborates with the MCAA Innovative Technologies Committee to develop research and educational resources on emerging technologies, tools and processes that benefit MCAA members. Additionally, Sean serves as the liaison for the MCAA Fabrication Committee and the John R. Gentille Foundation, focusing on advancing the industry's technological capabilities and promoting innovation.

With a strong background in technology advocacy, Sean has been instrumental in driving the adoption of cutting-edge solutions such as Building Information Modeling (BIM) and digital integration within the mechanical contracting sector. His efforts aim to empower contractors with the latest data and tools to enhance efficiency and productivity. Sean's dedication to innovation and education have made him a key resource in preparing the industry for the future and driving the industry forward.





ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY

MCAA CASINO ROYALE: AN EXCLUSIVE 007 EXPERIENCE OPENING PARTY

Beverages sponsored by **Procore**

Dinner sponsored by **GF Uponor**

Souvenir Photos sponsored by **EVAPCO, Inc.**

Get ready to suit up and step into the world of Bond—James Bond—for an evening of elegance, entertainment and high-stakes fun. Hosted exclusively for MCAA, this private Casino Royale event brings the thrill of the casino floor together with the style and intrigue of a classic spy thriller.

It's not just another night out—it's a chance to connect, unwind and channel your inner secret agent in style.

The stakes are fun, the vibe is classy and the mission is simple: enjoy the night.



What to Expect:

- Vegas-style casino tables: Blackjack, Roulette, Poker & more
- Signature Bond cocktails, premium bar & upscale dining
- Live music featuring suave spy-inspired tunes

Dress Code: Cocktail attire—jackets are recommended for gentlemen. Expect a glamorous evening inspired by Monte Carlo and all its allure.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 6:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM

WEDNESDAY



CLOSING RECEPTION

*Sponsored by **MILWAUKEE TOOL***

Join your friends and colleagues at the Closing Reception hosted by MILWAUKEE TOOL, the perfect prequel to the Closing Dinner & Concert.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

BALLROOM LAWN

WEDNESDAY



CLOSING DINNER

*Beverages Sponsored by **Daikin Group**
Dinner Sponsored by **Watts Water Technologies***

The Closing Dinner offers the opportunity for one more meal shared with your MCAA family and friends. Dinner seating is based on your registered state, so please be sure to check the back of your name badge for specific dinner location information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

GRAND SONORAN BALLROOM & GRAND SAGUARO BALLROOM

WEDNESDAY



LADY A IN CONCERT

*Beverages Sponsored by **Daikin Group***

Built around rich vocal harmony, vivid emotional writing and a smooth fusion of country, rock and pop, Lady A has long been a model of mainstream success. The group has become one of the 21st century's premier vocal groups, blending deeply felt emotions with classic country sounds. As a country radio staple, the trio has amassed record-breaking success ushering in 10 No. 1 hits with more than 18 million album units and 34 million tracks sold and nearly 5 billion digital streams. Known for their 11x Platinum hit "Need You Now" which is the highest certified song by a Country group, they have earned ACM and CMA "Vocal Group of the Year" trophies three years in a row and countless other honors including seven Grammy awards, Billboard Music Awards, People's Choice Awards, Teen Choice Awards and a Tony Award nod.

Dress Code: Embrace the country western vibe and show off your boots, denim and hats for a relaxed and festive finale.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 8:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Chapter Connection Corner

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 | 7:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

GRAND SAGUARO BALLROOM FOYER

*Sponsored by **Viega***

Curious which chapters are at MCAA26? Stop by the Connection Corner lounge to network with students during session breaks and note the “We’re Here” banner for a list of represented student chapters.

This space is perfect for both contractor/student casual employment conversations as well as student peer-to-peer meetups for chapters looking to discuss best practices and share ideas.

On Tuesday morning, connect with students at the Job Fair, also located in the Grand Saguaro Foyer.



Faculty/Industry Advisor + Student Chapter President Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

WILDFLOWER BALLROOM

*Sponsored by **Viega***

This newly combined session brings together student chapter leadership teams for a dynamic and collaborative meeting designed to strengthen chapter success and engagement.

Recommended Attendees:

- Student Chapter President or alternate student leader
- Faculty Advisor (on-campus advisor)
- Industry Advisor (association executive/staff or designated MCAA member)

Session Highlights:

- Review of the master calendar, key deadlines and GreatFutures Forum 2026 event details
- Overview of grant opportunities available to student chapters
- Introduction to new resources, including the Mechanical Education Basics Guide
- Exchange of best practices, success stories and innovative ideas from chapters nationwide
- Preview of MCAA26 student chapter special sessions and updated policies

This session is a must-attend for chapter leaders and advisors looking to align on goals, share insights and prepare for a successful year ahead.



Student Chapter Orientation

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 5:00 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.

WILDFLOWER BALLROOM

Sponsored by Viega

Students and faculty will review MCAA26 program highlights and logistics, plus an alumni panel will share their personal roadmaps for creating a successful convention experience. The Marco Polo matching game will also return (with prizes)—don't be late! This peer-to-peer networking game is somewhat chaotic, but that's all part of the fun!



Student Chapter, Faculty & Industry Advisors Lunch & Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 12:15 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.

SUNSET LAWN

*Sponsored by **Viega***

Student chapter members are encouraged to split up and spread out for a lunch designed with the targeted intention of connecting students from different chapters. The agenda is wide open for discussion topics relevant to each student chapter's particular needs. Pop in, grab some lunch and get ready to talk about student chapter programming from A-Z.

Faculty and Industry Advisors will have a set of reserved tables for their own lunch discussion. Stickers will be provided to note the number of years each person has been advising an MCAA student chapter to assist with facilitating mentor relationships for new advisors with veteran advisors.

Have a question? Get an answer!



“Hire Me” Job Fair at the Manufacturer/ Supplier Council Exhibit

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 7:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

GRAND SAGUARO BALLROOM FOYER

*Sponsored by **Viega***

Students looking for internships or full-time positions will be wearing “Hire Me” pins throughout MCAA26. Three groupings of tables will be set up in the foyer space of the M/SC Exhibit with students eager to learn about employment opportunities at your company. The tables will be geographically split by west, central and east. Make your way over to the area that best represents your company and find your next great hire!



Student Chapter Competition

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

GRAND CANYON BALLROOM

Witness our industry's emerging leaders as they compete in the annual MCAA Student Chapter Competition. Four teams will compete for a total prize package of \$26,500, with the first-place team going home with \$10,000! These accomplished students secured their Final Four spot by submitting a written proposal that rose to the top of nearly 30 submissions for a real-world project bid (contributed by Helm Group).

Students will display their impressive presentation skills and insightful knowledge of mechanical systems as they take the stage for Round 2 of the competition. Following their 10-minute formal presentation, each team will be put on the spot for an additional 10 minutes of live Q&A from the panel of judges.

Don't miss your opportunity to vote for the MVP—*Most Valuable Presenter*—and cheer on your favorite team!



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONVENTION SPONSORS

BENEFACITOR

- **Aalberts IPS – Apollo Valves:** Convention WiFi
- **Carrier Corporation:** Annual Golf Tournament Co-Sponsor – Palmer Course
- **Daikin Group:** Wednesday Night Closing Dinner & Concert Beverages
- **DEWALT Industrial Tool Company:** Hotel Room Key Cards & Refreshment Break
- **EVAPCO, Inc.** Souvenir Photos & Education Seminar Handouts
- **Ferguson:** Tuesday Brunch Featuring Michael Massimino
- **GF Uponor:** Sunday Night Opening Party Dinner
- **Johnson Controls, Inc.:** Convention Souvenir
- **LAARS, a Bradford White Company:** Convention Souvenir Bag
- **MILWAUKEE TOOL:** Wednesday Night Reception & Awards of Excellence Breakfast
- **NIBCO INC:** Sunday Pickleball Tournament & Convention App
- **Procore:** Sunday Opening Party Beverages
- **SLOAN:** Monday Featured Lunch Speaker Zack Kass
- **Viega:** Student Chapter Activities
- **Watts Water Technologies:** Wednesday Night Closing Dinner
- **Zurn Elkay Water Solutions:** Opening Breakfast

MAJOR

- **ASC Engineered Solutions:** Annual 5k Fun Run & 1-Mile Walk
- **Baltimore Aircoil Company:** Education Seminar Speaker
- **BuildOps:** Convention Souvenir
- **Morris Group International:** Convention Lanyards
- **Mueller Industries:** Closing Breakfast
- **Reece:** Featured Speaker Michael Easter
- **ServiceTitan:** Program-at-a-Glance
- **Trane:** Refreshment Break
- **Victaulic:** Annual Golf Tournament Co-Sponsor – Faldo Course
- **Weldbend Corporation:** Convention Souvenir Journal
- **Winsupply:** Sunday Night Turndown Gift

SUPPORTER

- **AB&I Foundry:** Convention Souvenir
- **Aquatherm LP:** Convention Souvenir
- **Arizona MCA:** Convention Sponsor
- **Charlotte Pipe & Foundry:** Convention Souvenir
- **nVent:** Convention Souvenir
- **SIEMENS:** Final Program





MCAA27

March 7–11, 2027

**Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina
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MCAA

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