

SMI Welcomes Three New Board Members

SMI is pleased to announce that Peter Mendel, president and CEO of Kern-Liebers USA in Holland, Ohio, Linda Froehlich, co-owner of Ace Wire Spring & Form Co. in McKees Rock, Pennsylvania, and Tony Pesaresi, president of Winamac Coil Spring in Kewanna, Indiana have joined the SMI board of directors.

Mendel was named to his current position at Kern-Liebers in July 2018, after spending nearly four years at Putzmeister America, Inc. in Racine, Wisconsin. His stint there included 2 ½ years as president and CEO and as COO for nearly 1 ½ years.

Mendel is no stranger to Kern-Liebers. He was vice president of operations for Kern-Liebers Inc. from July 2012 to February 2015; before that, he served for one year as operations manager for Kern-Liebers Texas. He started his career with the company at Resortes Kern Liebers in Río Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico as engineering manager for more than three years and for a year and a half as plant manager.

Before coming to the U.S. and Mexico, Mendel worked for different companies within the Kern-Liebers Group in Germany.

Ace Wire Spring & Form has been manufacturing compression, extension and torsion springs, as well as wireforms, since the company was founded in McKees Rocks in 1939 by the father and son team of Joseph Vodvarka Sr. and Joseph Jr. Today, Rich and Linda Froehlich are the second generation to run the business, and a member of the third generation, son Ritchy, is the general manager and chief design engineer for the company.

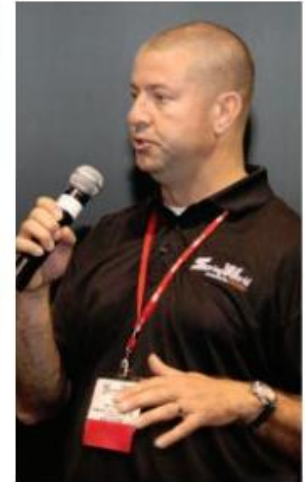
Linda Froehlich previously served on the SMI board. She returns to



Peter Mendel



Linda Froehlich



Tony Pesaresi

head up the workforce development committee (formerly Dream It. Do It.). The work of the committee is to assist SMI members in their efforts to recruit the next generation of workers for the spring industry.

The committee was started after SMI and The Manufacturing Institute issued a joint news release in 2017 to announce that SMI had joined the Institute's Dream It. Do It. program.

The program helps raise awareness of careers in manufacturing. Through this partnership, SMI and its members have access to market-tested materials targeting young people, parents, and teachers about a career in modern manufacturing.

Froehlich says the Dream It. Do It. program continues to be an important element in SMI's ongoing strategy to reach youth. The strategy includes organizing plant tours and school visits on Manufacturing Day and growing a network of industry "ambassadors" to lead youth activities in regions across the country.

"I'm excited to head up this effort, because workforce development is a passion of mine," said Froehlich. "We already have a great committee of industry champions and I invite others to get on board to help us in this effort."

Established in 2005, Dream It. Do It. works to change the perception of the industry and inspire next-generation workers to pursue manufacturing careers. The initiative offers local manufacturers, schools, community-based organizations and other stakeholders the opportunity to partner with a respected national platform to promote manufacturing as a top tier career choice in the United States. For more information, visit <http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/Image/Dream-It-Do-It/Dream-It-Do-It.aspx>

Pesaresi is a third-generation family member of Winamac Coil Spring. He has been actively involved in the business for nearly 25 years. He became president of Winamac Coil Spring in January 2015, even though he is

much considered as a “plant rat,” two titles of which he is proud.

Pesaresi is currently serving as the president of the Chicago Association of Spring Manufacturers (CASMI).

In addition to his studies at Purdue University in business administration and management, general, Pesaresi earned an associate degree in fire science from Keiser University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He’s put that degree to good use, serving as member of the Kewanna Volunteer Fire Department since October 1992.

Current SMI Board of Directors

SMI Executive Committee

President: Steve Kempf (Lee Spring)

Vice President: Bert Goering
(Precision Coil Spring)

Secretary/Treasurer: Dan Sceli
(Peterson Spring)

At Large: Gene Huber Jr.
(Winamac Coil Spring)

Past President: Mike Betts
(Betts Company)

Regional Board Members

Mid-West: Tony Pesaresi
(Winamac Coil Spring) - 2021

Mid-Atlantic: - TBD

Connecticut: David DeVoe
(Plymouth Spring) - 2020

Canada: Jeff Wharin and Chris Wharin
(Bohne Spring) - 2020

Southwest: Peter Mendel
(Kern-Liebers) - 2021

West: Agustin Estalayo
(RPK Mexico) 2019

Pittsburgh/Ohio: Ritchy Froehlich

(Ace Wire Spring & Form Co.) - 2019

Southeast: - Don Jacobson III

(Newcomb Spring), Magazine - 2020

Michigan: Don Lowe (Peterson Spring),
Membership - 2019

At Large

Daniel Pierre III (JN Machinery),
Associate Members,
MEE 2019 co-chair - 2019

Joe Devany (Betts Company) - 2020

Linda Froehlich (Ace Wire Spring & Form
Co.), Workforce Development - 2021

Chris Fazio/Kelley Christy (Diamond Wire
Spring), MEE 2019 co-chairs - 2019

Dave Deerwester (Yost Superior) - 2020

Brett Goldberg (International Spring),
Benchmarking - 2020