



TREASURE COAST  
MANUFACTURERS  
ASSOCIATION

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## Treasure Coast Manufacturers Association celebrates its first year

**Fort Pierce/August 7, 2017** -- Dignitaries from across the region helped the Treasure Coast Manufacturers Association (TCMA) mark its first anniversary at the organization's annual meeting at the Pelican Yacht Club in Fort Pierce on August 2.



U.S. Rep. Brian Mast, the keynote speaker, was joined by commission chairs from St. Lucie, Indian River and Martin counties; three mayors; multiple commissioners; multiple council members from throughout the region and more than 100 other attendees in recognizing the growing association's successes.

Tammy Roncaglione of CenterState Bank and Peter Tesch of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County envisioned the TCMA as a way to recognize, support and empower the region's manufacturers. After a year of initial organizational efforts, TCMA officially formed in June 2016. First-year membership grew to 39.

"I'm so glad we have a voice now, and you can see we do based on who attended our annual meeting. Before TCMA, no one was listening," said Bill Wilcox of Phoenix Metal Products, the TCMA vice president. "We picked up three new members yesterday, including Piper Aircraft. We've come a long way in a short period of time."

Over the last year, with TCMA President Jerry Jacques of Advanced Machine & Tool leading the organization, the group offered plant tours at Piper Aircraft, PAC Seating, Tropicana, Investment Casting

Specialists, Expert Shutters, Paradigm Precision, Aluma Tower and Waterblasting Technologies; as well as two lunch-and-learn sessions at Indian River State College and has begun forming committees.

One of the issues local manufacturers are grappling with is finding qualified, skilled labor. The TCMA is part of a task force that has recently begun working on this issue. “When he was running for president, Senator Marco Rubio said, ‘We need more welders and fewer philosophers.’ That is the truth; by 2024, we’ll be 400,000 welders short in the U.S.,” said Wilcox. “The TCMA and our partners are working on doing something about that here on the Treasure Coast.”

During the meeting, TCMA recognized the local winners of the South Florida Manufacturers Association’s 2017 Manufacturer of the Year Award – Paradigm Precision (Stuart) in the 171+ employee category and Shurhold Industries (Palm City) in the 1-40 employee category. Area finalists for the award included Chemical Injection Technologies (Fort Pierce), Seatorque Control System (Stuart), Advanced Machine & Tools (Fort Pierce) and Girard Equipment (Vero Beach & Fort Pierce).

#### **About the Treasure Coast Manufacturers Association**

The not-for-profit Treasure Coast Manufacturers Association was formed in 2016 to promote the collective interests of manufacturing, distribution and wholesale trade companies, advocate public policy and focus on mutual areas of concern within the business sector. For more information, visit [www.tcmamfg.com](http://www.tcmamfg.com).