

DECEMBER 2005**Calendar of Events****December 8, 2005****CMFI/AESF Holiday Party. Stevens
Steakhouse, Elmhurst****March 5-8, 2006****SFIC Industry Convention
Boca Raton, FL****May 23-25, 2006****SFIC Washington Forum
Washington DC**www.sficwashingtonforum.com

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO OUR
CMFI FAMILY**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE

The 2005 CMFI Nominating Committee, Chaired by Joelle Zak (Scientific Control Labs), has filed the following nominating slate to be voted on by the membership at the January 26, 2006 Annual Business Meeting.

A proxy form for the January 2006 Annual Business Meeting of Members is included in this issue of the newsletter. Please return the pink form **ONLY** if you are unable to attend the January 26 Member meeting.

2005 Nominating Slate

President	Rick Delawder (SWD, Inc.)
Vice President	Brian Blackledge (Craftsman Plating & Tinning)
Secretary-Treasurer	Robert Swanson (Gatto Industrial Platers, Inc.)

Directors (2-year Term)

Kevin Grant (Electro-Max, Inc.)
Rick Kostner (Grove Plating Co., Inc.)
Bruce Laken (Finishing & Plating Services, Inc.)
Doug Mangino (Accent Metal Finishing)

Directors (1-year Term)*

Robert Giomi (Morgan Ohare, Inc.)
Marshall Handelsmann (Cornerstone Systems, Inc.)
 {*to fill unexpired terms}

Additional nominations may be made by written petition signed by ten or more members in good standing and filed with the Executive Secretary at least five days prior to the meeting. No other nominations shall be considered at the Annual Meeting except to fill a vacancy created by withdrawal or disqualification of any candidate.

LEGAL COUNSEL BULLETIN

CMFI Legal Counsel, Chris Nowotarski, has advised us of the following two Illinois Statutes which may impact our member companies.

I. Employee Blood Donation Leave Act

The Illinois Legislature has passed the "Employee Blood Donation Leave Act" which will become effective January 1, 2006 and impact employers who have 51 or more employees.

Under this Act, an employee, upon request, may be entitled to blood donation leave with pay. Employees may use up to one hour to donate blood every 56 days in accordance with appropriate medical standards. Participating employees may use the leave only after obtaining approval from the employer.

Rules governing this leave have not, as yet, been finalized regarding: (a) the conditions and procedures for requesting and approving the leave, and (b) the required medical documentation necessary before the leave is approved.

II. Victims' Economic Security & Safety Act (P.A. 093-0591)

This Act is effective as of August 2003 and employers are required to post this notice for all employees. It is mandatory for employers who have 50 or more employees.

Under this Act, employers may not discharge or discriminate against an employee who is a victim of domestic violence or who has a family or household member who is a victim, for taking up to a total of 12 workweeks of leave from work during any 12 month period to address the domestic violence.

Employers are prohibited from discharging, discriminating, or retaliating

against a person taking such leave from work to: (a) seek medical attention or counseling for injuries or psychological trauma, (b) obtain victim services, (c) relocate, (d) seek legal assistance, or (e) participate in a related court proceeding.

The employer may require the employee to provide certification to the employer. The employer is not required to provide paid leave under this Act, but may not suspend group health plan benefits during the leave period.

CHROME PEL UPDATE

By: Christian Richter

(Ed Note:-- With the January 2006 deadline quickly approaching, the NAMF Government Relations Committee and, more specifically, Christian Richter have stepped up their final efforts to achieve reasonable chrome numbers under the pending legislation. Below is a summary of recent DC actions provided by Christian to the NAMF Board of Directors.)

Our October effort focused, among other things, on securing key Senate and House letters to the Department of Labor Secretary and the White House expressing concern over the OSHA Chromium rulemaking. We have drafted the letters and (1) succeeded in getting congressional champions to circulate them to their colleagues for signature and (2) convinced a solid group of lawmakers to sign on to the letters. Special thanks go to Representative Candice Miller (MI), and Senator Kit Bond (MO) who coordinated this effort with us. Several senators and house members have also either personally called the Labor Secretary or the White House on our behalf.

We also met with the Chief Solicitor of the DOL, Howard Radzely, who is the top lawyer and litigator for the department and is overseeing the legal aspects of the

chrome rulemaking. We invited the aerospace, steel, and steel fabrication industries to attend with us to amplify our arguments, and are told we continue to raise visibility and importance of the issue. At no time in recent memory – save for the massive ergonomics (MP&M) rule of several years ago – has an OSHA rulemaking achieved such thorough technical review and political attention at the highest levels of the Department of Labor. Whether this will be enough to move things our way remains to be seen. We are aware that Public Citizen, the primary litigant in the OSHA chromium PEL lawsuit, was in to see the Chief Solicitor just after our meeting.

We have also had meetings with political folks from the White House and were informed that we are executing our technical and political strategy appropriately, and that the analytical underpinnings of the rule are getting the full scrutiny of the White House regulatory review shop even before the final rule package comes over to the White House for review.

A recent wrinkle is that President Bush has nominated a new chief of OSHA, and the Senate may hold his nomination hearing sometime in the coming weeks. There are discussions with us now from the relevant Senate committee on how and even whether the chromium PEL issue should be raised, or whether the issue will become a lightning rod and attract all sorts of inquiries from our opponents on whether the rule is being unduly influenced by business.

There are a number of other discussions we're still managing week-to-week, such as orchestrating the Department of Commerce, Small Business Administration, and Department of Defense involvement in the White House review process of OSHA's regulatory package.

We very much appreciate the work of several finishing firms, supplier companies, and technical experts in all of these activities. Your involvement has been vital thus far.

Your contributions to the industry's Chrome PEL fund are urgently needed. If you have not already done so, please send in your contribution in any amount to:

SFIC
21165 Whitfield Place, Suite 105
Potomac Falls, VA 20165

**LOVE CANAL OFF THE
LIST IT STARTED**
FROM: "Environmental Compliance,
Issue 270

(Ed Note. -- Here's a true test to determine: (1) how old you really are and (2) how much trivia you can still dredge up from your brain. If the term "Love Canal" immediately recalls familiar news media pictures of the evacuation of families and lots of people moving around wearing contamination suits, then, like me, you're probably beginning to think of retirement. Here's a follow-up on the site that started it all – from EPA to Superfund).

The site that launched one of the most contentious environmental laws is now all cleaned up. So EPA claimed when it proposed to take Love Canal off Superfund's National Priorities List (NPL).

The 70-acre Love Canal site encompasses a hazardous waste landfill at which chemical waste products were disposed of from 1942 to 1952. In 1953, the original 16-acre hazardous waste landfill was

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covered, and a school and more than 200 homes were built nearby. Studies in the 1970's showed that numerous toxic chemicals were migrating from the landfill and contaminating nearby waterways. Over 900 families were relocated.

Superfund's passage in 1980 is largely attributed to issues related to Love Canal. The NPL was developed for sites that are considered the nation's most hazardous.

EPA claims that the Love Canal area is now a thriving community. Forty acres are covered by a synthetic liner and clay cap and surrounded by a barrier drainage system.

Contamination from the site is also controlled by a leachate collection and treatment facility. Neighborhoods are being revitalized and the area east of the canal has also been sold for light industrial or commercial redevelopment.

December's here already – Time flies! And Time flies usually when you're busy and "busy" in most conversations implies an increase in production/sales. Over the last year, I've noticed a lot of "busy" people. Why? Because they are "active". If you know about PEL, ELV, RoHS, NASF, NAFTA, chances are you ARE "active/busy". These abbreviations have or will impact you and your customers! If you believe that "you are only as good as who you surround yourself with" then surround yourself with a wealth of knowledge from the CMFI and NAMF to educate yourself, your employees, customers, and maybe an elected official or two. I wish you joyous holidays, and a new year of health, happiness, and prosperity.

Bruce Laken
CMFI President