

Volume 12, Issue 45 ☐ November 07, 2005*Important Dates to add to your calendar...*

- ☐ **Nov 16, 8 am-12:30 pm: HPM Health & Safety Officers Exchange.** Host: Rockwell Automation – Raglin Facility. Bill Malus will host this freewheeling, exchange of issues for HPM Companies.
- ☐ **Nov 22, 9-11 am. HPM Employee Leveraging Tour # 3.** Member: Orenda Aerospace. Host: Brenda McIntosh. 12 seats only available – first come. Register with Nicole at info@hpmconsortium.com
- ☐ **Dec 1, HPM Share Showcase, GE HQ Mississauga.** If any HPM'ers did not get the Guidelines & Registration forms – contact Nicole. She needs the basic forms this week & names by Nov. 15th.
- ☐ **Dec 13, 9-11 am. HPM Employee Leveraging Tour # 4.** Member: Gerrie Electric. Host: Jenny Worthington. 12 seats only available – first come. Register with Nicole at info@hpmconsortium.com
- ☐ **June 12-15th, 2006 Second Canadian Regional Conference... Kitchener-Waterloo Region Canada.** Consider accelerating your Lean Journey. Download from www.hpmconsortium.com – Click "Resources" on the home site, and then "2006 CDN Conference". Much more will be added after the Boston Conference.

AME Conference Shows Evidence of Lean's Acceleration – AND – new-found Energy in US Mfg

While 92 Canadians participated – the impact on our competitiveness can be substantial

For the first time in 21 years – this year's AME International Conference was sold out. The following highlights only a few of the many things that your roving editor picked up.

It was the sheer energy that stood out at this year's largest lean Mfg. Conference in North America. Not only were records being re-written, but also blasted out was a wake-up call to anyone who understands that they have competitive challenges coming at them. Here are some of the messages which ricocheting around Boston this week.

The comments from attendees were exceptional and effusive – for example here is an actual quote given to your roving reporter's recorder from a 4th time attendee:

"This has been an incredible conference – it is my 4th AME Conference and it's by far the best yet. I definitely recommend these for everyone in manufacturing – It is a must – an absolute must – for anyone in manufacturing that they attend. Nowhere else can you get this volume of the latest ideas; hear what is happening directly from other companies; and learn all kinds of opportunities of how other companies overcome challenges. This is a sure step forward to improving your operations. This was fantastic!"

And there were so many more that it got repetitious – What we can learn from this, is that the energy is returning to drive manufacturing further ahead to dramatically increase competitiveness. **In short, US manufacturers are getting a 'second wind' which means great things for Canadian suppliers coupled with much challenge for those Canadian competitors who are not seeing the need to drive improvements now.**

This is the first conference that has seen such grass roots and open discussion about TPS - the Toyota Production System (or the Thinking Production System if you prefer) and what it has to offer. It always did have lot to offer, but there appears to be a definite advance in its acceptance by North American mfrs just from the sheer volume of talk!

Jim Womack, the founder of the Lean Enterprise Institute and Thursday's Keynote drew top interest of the entire week. He was in his full stride and rated as 'spectacular' by many who were part of the well over 1000 people jammed into the main ballroom to hear him. All standing room was taken. His message, like Lean Thinking, was simple yet profound as he wove his argument for the power that can come from understanding the entire consumption phase to the point you realize that if you don't see yourself as the total solution provider - another competitor surely will.

Jim was scheduled for a simple and informal exchange at a "Special Interest Group" from 1:30 to 3:00 in a small room with some 30-50 people. Unfortunately, the room filled to capacity long before lunch in anticipation. In the end, this 'small gathering' was rescheduled to the main ballroom where it swelled quickly to some 300 people. Jim's animated discussion – almost all Q&A - was filled with questions from operations leaders at all levels looking for genuine insights on the added advantage a 'consumption perspective' could yield – and they got it in spades and had to be chased from the room because of the next event taking over the facility.

NOTICE: TO HPM HEALTH & SAFETY LEADERS**An Issues & Challenges Exchange**

The agenda is coming together now and will be out this week. The session will be open and informal and will relate to the issues among HPM folks who are responsible for Health and Safety concerns and the winning culture in their plants.

It's from **8:30 to 12:30 at Rockwell's Raglin** facility (Nicole will send a map to those who register).

This half day will identify common concerns that will provide the opportunity to learn what other folks are doing, and, just who you might add as a new link in your personal "**knowledge supply chain**" around this very World Class topic. At last, H&S is gaining the stature it deserves as a key element in the characteristics that define World Class operations.

To register – simply email Nicole at nsyvier@hpsinc.ca or call her at 519-893-6260.

We did have a brief chance to talk with Jim after the second session which left him exhausted but pleased. Once could not help but gain the impression that the garden was beginning to grow after so many years of planting and fertilizing. He had just landed at the conference from England where Dan Jones is running a Lean Summit and after a few hours headed home to 'pick up a shirt or two' before heading to China. There was very high interest in his new book which Jim authored with the UK's Dan Jones entitled "**Lean Solutions**".

Believe me, this book will have the same impact as **Lean Thinking** has had – as the message it brings clearly communicates why manufactures now need to be concerned about the entire consumption phase or face losing markets to those who do. Like his other insights – once you see the picture he paints the lights go on.

Here are just a smattering of some of the other items of significance that were noted:

- ▶ The US Air Force is putting teeth into the lean transformation with sites not complying destined to be phased out... and so is the Navy and the Army. We will have at least one example coming to Kitchener in June where you will learn how a US Supply Line making Hummers jumped from 3 Hummers per day to over 100 per day on the same line.
- ▶ India, and to some extent China, are excited by Lean. A leader from Milton Plastics in India who presented, could not understand why every company would not begin by leaning out their facilities before investing in technology and capital
- ▶ Manufacturers from 24 Countries showed up to learn. And what was noteworthy was the number who wanted to every piece of information they could get their hands on to promote the next conference in Dallas in their countries. A few of these countries with specific requests included Norway, Sweden, Denmark, India, Mauritius, China, Africa, Mexico – and those are only the one's your reporter bumped into personally.
- ▶ Now this is 'way cool' – **Did you know that Mauritius is the first nation on earth to declare its intent to become the first 'Muda-free' country on the planet?** Here are the exact words of the island's president on May 30th, 2001 when he said: *"Let us pause for one moment and try to visualize what would happen if each of us takes the vow to remove Muda in our everyday life. Mauritius would then become a better place to live in, a more attractive place for investors and an upper market tourist destination...Let us therefore all resolve to make Mauritius a Muda-free nation."*
--The Honorable President of the Republic of Mauritius.
- ▶ **Lean Certification is finally gaining energy.** The AME, the SME and the Shingo Prize have been

laboring long and hard to identify the body of knowledge and to put in place a credible process that will overcome the lack of respect lean has on the world stage. The interest again produced standing room only participation in the demonstration sessions in preparation for the first exam sessions which will be launched in California in March. "The sheer interest from industry across the country has produced a demand we have not seen," commented AME's Terry Begnoche.

- ▶ There will be more coming in the weeks ahead.

Share Showcase

December 1st

GE HQ – Mississauga - Are you ready, HPM'ers?

The Vision

- ▶ To enable HPM'ers to exchange ideas & best practices they have innovated – and to make them better through discussion in a safe and open environment.
- ▶ To provide a forum for exchange and mutual learning.

The Spirit

This day-long program is designed to facilitate an uncomplicated and fun format that consists of table-top displays, presentations, and much one-on-one interaction.

The spirit is to expose employees from each HPM Member company to 'A world beyond their own' as it provides a safe environment to stimulate new thought, ideas, and practical innovation. This event serves as an accelerant to informal interchange among motivated people with ideas who are in search of improvement.

The Process

Open to HPM Member Companies – one presentation per Member. Each company will select their own "Best Practice", Improvement, or Innovative Achievement.

Electronic presentations must be in PowerPoint, and submitted with the presentation entry form from Nicole in the HPM Office. Presentations are limited to **20 minutes** (including set up time).

DISPLAY FORMAT: Each HPM member company is assigned a table (approx. 30" x 5') in the breakout room to display photos or examples of their achievement and invite participants to review and discuss the ideas presented.

ENTRY PROCESS: Complete the entry form obtained from the HPM Office and return it to: info@hpmconsortium.com For questions – call Nicole or Dave at 519-893-6260.