

PMPA to Offer Continuing Education Units to Bring Added Value to Learning Experiences

The Precision Machined Products Association will be awarding Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to individuals who take part in the association's various learning opportunities. The awarding of CEUs is scheduled to begin in September of 2013 when the association's fall schedule of events kicks off.

As an association with 80 years of providing valuable content and training through local, regional and annual meetings, this CEU process will help employers and employees track the value of this training.

The idea of developing a CEU program began in early 2013 at the association's annual Strategic Planning Committee meeting. The planning group and the PMPA board of directors recognize ongoing skills development as a critical need

for association members and the precision machining industry as a whole.



"We're very excited to announce this new enhancement to the great line-up of programs PMPA already provides to the industry," says current PMPA president, Ron Bracalente of the Bracalente Manufacturing Group, Trumbauersville, Penn. "Now when we send employees to chapter meetings, national conferences or webinars, they will be earning valuable CEUs to help them further develop their skill sets."

Earning CEU credits is a win-win for both the employer and employee. Employers will receive documented proof of ongoing workforce training and the employee will be able to demonstrate to his or her employer, and future employers, a commitment to skill development.

"The greatest need for our companies today is qualified talent to help our shops compete at the highest possible level," says Mr. Bracalente. "This CEU program that the association has created will go a long way in helping to further develop the manufacturing workforce of tomorrow."

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“PMPA produces valuable content to upgrade the skills and knowledge of our members’ personnel,” says Mike Duffin, PMPA executive director. “As an association with 80 years of providing valuable content and training through local, regional and annual meetings, this CEU process will help employers and employees track the value of this training. Human resources professionals in our companies face plenty of challenges; the PMPA CEU process will provide them with an easy-to-use system for tracking training and professional development of their staff. And their professional staff can use the PMPA CEUs as evidence of continuing education to maintain their certifications in organizations that require evidence of ongoing training and continuing education.”

Providing the means to recognize and track the training provided to member employees via CEU credits is one more benefit that PMPA provides to assist members with advancing the knowledge and skills of their people and helping to develop a skilled workforce for our industry.



To learn more about PMPA's CEU program visit the association's website at pmpa.org or contact Monte Guitart, Director of Technical Programs, at mguitart@pmpa.org or 440-526-0300, ext. 227.

Protect Your Good Name

Brought to you from Federated Insurance

Identity theft is “invisible” and often unavoidable, but sound business practices can help reduce the risk.

What do criminals do with your information?

- Apply for loans and credit cards in your name
- Open new bank accounts and transfer your funds into them
- Set up utility services or long distance phone service
- Obtain employment and benefits
- Create documents for illegal immigrants
- Receive Social Security benefits
- File false tax returns
- File for bankruptcy
- Use your name if arrested for committing a crime
- Ruin your credit and your reputation

Establishing and enforcing sound business practices may be your best defense against identity theft for yourself, your employees and your customers. Here are some practices you can implement:

- Develop an Identity Theft Prevention Program to comply with the Red Flags Rule, if your business falls within its jurisdiction.
- Make sure you have a written company policy on record storage and disposal. The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, passed in 2005, includes provisions requiring organizations to properly dispose of consumer records.
- Review your hiring practices, sales practices, employee training procedures and communication procedures.
- Evaluate the confidential aspects of your operations and take steps to improve risk management in areas that may be lacking.
- Implement an information security policy. The policy should cover electronic communication, internet usage, mobile device security, personal use of business property and password responsibilities.
- Order your credit report annually and act on suspicious activity.