



**In This Issue**

- 1 Upcoming Events
- 2 Upcoming Events | Lean Bronze Cert | Lean Bronze Portfolio Webinar
- 3 Upcoming Events | TOC Workshop | 12 Principles of Mfg Excellence
- 4 Upcoming Events | Accounting for Lean Enterprise | Toyota Kata
- 5 AME White Paper Series | Benefits of Corporate Membership
- 6 Challenges Facing the Manufacturing Industry White Paper
- 7 Southeast Region Board of Directors

AME**CHICAGO**2012  
**EXCELLENCE**  
**INSIDE**  
CONFERENCE



[www.ameconference.org](http://www.ameconference.org)

October 15 - 19, 2012

## LEAN BRONZE CERT

April 11-12, 2012 | Ft. Lauderdale, FL



Bronze Certification is focused on tactical lean. Tactical lean is the deployment and application of lean principles, concepts and methods locally, within a work cell, work group or value stream. This may be a workshop or project focused on implementation of specific lean concepts or techniques.

Read more at <http://www.ame.org/events/lean-bronze-certification-preparation-course-exam>

## CREATING A SUCCESSFUL LEAN BRONZE PORTFOLIO

April 24, 2012 | Webinar

Read more at <http://www.ame.org/events/creating-successful-lean-bronze-portfolio>

**Sign Up Now! Call  
AME at 224.232.5980.**

## Upcoming Events

Events	Dates	Location	Cost
Lean Bronze Cert	April 11-12	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	\$795
Lean Bronze Portfolio Webinar	April 24	Webinar	\$45
High Impact Lean – TOC	May 16-17	Richmond, VA	\$600
Achieve & Sustain Mfg Excel	June 19-20	Athens, GA	\$495
Lean Accounting	June 19-21	Jacksonville, FL	\$900
Toyota Kata Seminar	July 17	Decatur, AL	\$445
Building Dream Teams	August 14	Newport News, VA	\$250
Dream Team - IIE Conference	October 1	Louisville, KY	\$295
AME National Conference	October 15-19	Chicago, IL	\$2,150

To sign up for AME events, contact AME at 224-232-5980. To host an AME event in your area contact a SE Region Director in your state.

## Upcoming Events

### LEAN BRONZE CERTIFICATE PREPARATION COURSE & EXAM

April 11-12, 2012 | Ft. Lauderdale, FL

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to prepare attendees to take and pass the Lean Bronze Certification Examination. To earn this certification, you should demonstrate your understanding of the Lean Certification Body of Knowledge, including: Setting goals, gap analysis, project management, Teamwork, team facilitation, team selection, Tactical results measurement (initial goal, results to goals, gaps). The two day course helps students understand the body of knowledge that test questions are drawn from, provides practice exams and exercises to give students a good idea of what will be included in the exam and offers several takeaways that students will find useful on exam day.

#### Recommended Reading

Exam questions are based on specific Recommended Readings selected by knowledgeable and experienced individuals:

- *Gemba Kaizen*, Masaaki Imai
- *Lean Production Simplified*, Pascal Dennis
- *Lean Thinking*, James P. Womack and Daniel T. Jones
- *Learning to See: Value Stream Mapping to Create Value and Eliminate Muda*, Mike Rother and John Shook

More info at <http://www.ame.org/events/lean-bronze-certificate-preparation-course-exam-0>

### CREATING A SUCCESSFUL LEAN BRONZE PORTFOLIO

April 24, 2012 | Webinar

#### WEBINAR DESCRIPTION

This webinar provides you a clear approach to achieving first time success on your portfolio. Your instructors are current portfolio reviewers and can offer guidance so you provide the correct information, communicate your role in the projects, and articulate the learning you gained through your reflection.

More info at <http://www.ame.org/events/creating-successful-lean-bronze-portfolio>



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## Upcoming Events

### HIGH IMPACT LEAN and THEORY OF CONSTRAINTS APPLICATION WORKSHOP

May 16-17, 2012 | Richmond, VA



#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The objective of this endeavor is to provide a meaningful introduction and application of the Theory of Constraints, in a High Impact Lean envelope, delivered within a two-day, train and do workshop with live simulation that will result in meaningful transfer of knowledge and application to real world problems.

- The use of Lean Principles to attack the eight wastes and drive up value added in the process
- The concepts of Theory of Constraints and application to production and manufacturing systems
- *Drum – Buffer – Rope*, theory, application and notable examples
- “The Goal” and the Five Focusing Steps
- How to identify and exploit the system constraint
- Typical strategies and measurements
- TOC measurements and Octane Analysis
- Aligning organizational goals to drive desired behaviors
- How to practically apply the learning on factory floor examples

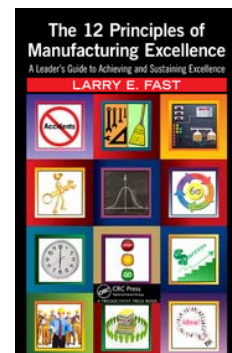
More info at <http://www.ame.org/events/high-impact-lean>

### THE 12 PRINCIPLES OF MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE HOW TO ACHIEVE AND SUSTAIN EXCELLENCE!

June 19-20, 2012 | Athens, GA

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This highly interactive workshop focuses on Larry Fast’s 12 Principles of Manufacturing Excellence. Each principle is addressed in detail and demonstrates how plants evolve from Stage 1 or Stage 2 plants, i.e. very traditional, under-performing manufacturing plants, as they transition into Stage 3 and, ultimately, Stage 4 plants that are globally competitive and delivering world-class results. It is a proven, auditable process in both union and non-union plants that has yielded numerous award winning operations as well as saved other plants from closure all across North America. Based on feedback from prior workshops, it is being expanded from a 1 day to a 1.5 day workshop to allow more detailed discussions re: the Principles and how to use the Manufacturing Excellence Audit tool.



More info at <http://www.ame.org/events/12-principles-manufacturing-excellence>

**Sign Up Now! Call  
AME at 224.232.5980.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ACCOUNTING FOR LEAN ENTERPRISES

June 19-21, 2012 | Pensacola Beach, FL

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This three-day seminar will teach you how you can make appropriate changes in your accounting systems to support an overall transformation to a lean enterprise. This course is appropriate for accounting managers and operations managers and will help both improve their production systems and supporting accounting systems.

#### ACCREDITATION:

Auburn University is authorized by IACET to offer 2.0 CEUs for this program. CEU conversion to CPE may apply based on specific organizational requirements.

More info at <http://www.ame.org/events/accounting-lean-enterprises>

### TOYOTA KATA SEMINAR

July 17, 2012 | Decatur, AL



#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Drawing on six years of research about management and leadership at Toyota, presented in Mike Rother's book *Toyota Kata*, this seminar will provide a research and experience-based look at two particular behavior routines, or kata (meaning pattern or form, translated literally from the Japanese as "way of doing things"): The Improvement Kata and The Coaching Kata.

These research findings reach a level where we are talking in more detail about human psychology in organizations than is currently practiced anywhere in business. The described behavior routines are universal and applicable in many different organizations, old or new, manufacturing or otherwise, and they provide a new and more effective model for how to manage organizations.

Attending the one-day seminar is a good first step into this new style of leadership. For companies that want to evolve their management system and take their lean efforts to the next level, participation in all three days is recommended.

More info at <http://www.ame.org/events/toyota-kata-seminar>

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AME at 224.232.5980.**

## AME WHITE PAPER SERIES

In February 2012, the Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) released a whitepaper detailing three vital aspects of revitalizing manufacturing, one of North America's most critical sectors. The whitepaper—which references President Obama's plan to revive the industry, as well as some recent, astounding statistics—explains why manufacturing is so critical to economic growth, and determines that “Made in North America” is a priority, as Canada, Mexico and the U.S. are all dependent on one another.

In this three-part series, AME will explore the three aspects that manufacturing leaders, industry organizations and policy-makers must consider in order to strengthen manufacturing—the challenges facing not only manufacturers, but North America as a whole; examples of how companies and organizations are currently working toward a better future; and how we can all prepare for and execute a sustainable manufacturing industry. As the leader of the “Revitalization of Manufacturing” initiative, AME has set a goal to provide expert knowledge and awareness about how anyone and any company can help make this revitalization a reality.

Go to the next page to read the 1<sup>st</sup> in the series.



### Benefits of Corporate Membership

- At the lowest corporate membership (Level 1, \$600 per year), a company can register five individual members. Individual membership is \$150 per year. So for Level 1, this is basically a “buy four, get one free” deal.
- The individual memberships are transferable. For a Level 1 member, your company can send up to five people to any event and receive the membership discount. And the attendees do not have to be the same names “on file”.
- All members receive discounted rates for regional events, typically \$150 per person. If a Level 1 corporate member sends in total a minimum of four individuals to events throughout the year, the membership fee will pay for itself.
- The individuals listed under a corporate membership will receive the award winning Target magazine four (4) times per year

## Challenges Facing the Manufacturing Industry

America has a huge problem. It faces four major challenges on which its future depends and has been failing to meet them. In *That Used to Be Us, How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back* by Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum, the authors analyze those challenges—globalization, the revolution in information technology, the nation's chronic deficits and its pattern of energy consumption.

In addition, the authors point out how America's educational system has not adapted to changed priorities around the world—the critical need for more math, physics, engineering and technical knowledge and skills in economic development. This has caused Americans to rapidly lose jobs, while more emphasis on these subjects in China, India and other countries has made America's competitors gain employment in manufacturing.

The National Association of Manufacturers' (NAM) Manufacturing Institute 2011 [Skills Gap](http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/Research/Skills-Gap-in-Manufacturing/2011-Skills-Gap-Report/2011-Skills-Gap-Report.aspx) (<http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/Research/Skills-Gap-in-Manufacturing/2011-Skills-Gap-Report/2011-Skills-Gap-Report.aspx>) study states that 82 percent of manufacturers have a moderate or serious shortage of skilled production workers, and 5 percent of all manufacturing jobs—or 600,000 jobs—are open because there is no qualified talent. In addition, 2.7 million manufacturing employees are 55 years of age or older and likely to leave the labor force over the next 10 years. The growing shortage of skilled workers needed for North American manufacturers to sustain and grow the business are compounded by a 20 percent structural cost burden compared to our key trading partners as reflected in the [Structural Cost of Manufacturing](http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/Research/Structural-Cost-of-Manufacturing/Structural-Cost-of-Manufacturing.aspx) (<http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/Research/Structural-Cost-of-Manufacturing/Structural-Cost-of-Manufacturing.aspx>) study.

To participate fully in society and the workplace, citizens will need powerful literacy abilities that until now have been achieved by only a small percentage of the population. Having a steady supply of highly skilled workers, scientists, researchers and engineers is seen as the top driver of the manufacturing competitiveness of nations and the standard of living of their people.

Students in the United States are trailing other industrialized nations as reported in the 2009 report of the Program for International Student Assessment. These results show America as being average in reading and science, and below average in math. America's high school graduation rate ranks 19th in the world, while 40 years ago, we were number one.

Other factors contributed to the current situation and future of manufacturing jobs, and much can be attributed to laws and regulations that make it more difficult for manufacturers to meet foreign competition on level ground. Every new expense, whether it is to comply with new regulations, to fund government programs or to defend lawsuits and pay unwarranted claims, is a loss to the high-quality, job-generating capacity of manufacturing.

*Next month, as part of AME's continuing whitepaper series, we will provide examples of how manufacturers and industry organizations are working toward a better future, both locally and for the overall industry.*



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## AME MISSION

**Our Mission** is to inspire commitment to enterprise excellence through shared learning and access to best practices.

## AME VISION

Bringing people together to share, learn and grow.

## CORE VALUES

- Volunteerism
- Continuous Improvement
- Integrity & Trust
- Engaging & Welcoming
- Practitioner Focused