

# NORTHEAST PA Manufacturers & Employers ASSOCIATION

## MAEA April Happenings

## 2025 Events

## MAEA Excellence Awards Dinner



### Event Details

**Date:** May 6, 2025

**Location:** Mt. Valley Clubhouse, Barnesville

**Time:** Cash bar 5:00p.m., Dinner 6:00p.m.

**Cost:** \$68 members

## **Congratulations Winning Companies!**

### **Recipients of Excellence Awards**

#### **Manufacturers Awards:**

- Mrs. T's Pierogies- Community Involvement
- ITG Cigars - Process Improvement
- InterMetro Industries, Corp. - Product Innovation
- Simona America - Expansion
- Hydro Extrusions North America, LLC- EHS - Environmental, Health & Safety

#### **Manufacturers Honorable Mention Awards:**

- Surteco North America - Community Involvement
- van Hoekelen Greenhouses - EHS - Environmental, Health & Safety

#### **Employers Awards:**

- Quandel Enterprises, LLC - Community Involvement
- PPL Electric Utilities - Process Improvement
- Schuylkill Technology Center - Product Innovation
- Masser Family of Companies - Expansion
- Hayden Power Group -EHS - Environmental, Health & Safety

#### **Employers Honorable Mention Awards:**

- Walmart Distribution Center #7030 - Community Involvement
- L.R. Costanzo Co., Inc. - Process Improvement
- Lehigh Valley Health Network - Expansion

**Recipient of the 2025 MAEA Commitment Award:** InterMetro Industries, Corp.



## **MAEA Summer Golf Outing**

### **Four Person Scramble**

#### **Event Details**

**Date:** June 13, 2025

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start - a lunch buffet will be served during registration  
11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

**Location:** Mt. Valley Golf Course

**Golf & Party Package \$155 per golfer**

**Golf Only Package \$125 per golfer**

**Dinner Party Package \$62 per registrant**

When registering, please provide package, company name, golfers' names, and shirt sizes. (If a woman's shirt is requested, please let us know, otherwise a man's shirt will be ordered.)

Ask us about promoting your company with sponsorship opportunities and/or door prize donations.

## Join MAEA/MAEC at Upcoming Events

- YES Recognition Breakfast, May 8, 9am to 10:30am
- Fall Golf Outing, September 12,, 1:00pm shotgun start
- Labor & Employment Law Summit, September 25, 8:30am to 3:30pm



For Events, to register or become a sponsor, contact Joani at:

✉ **Email:** [jtrosterud@nepamaea.com](mailto:jtrosterud@nepamaea.com)

☎ **Phone:** (570) 622-0992

🌐 **Website:** [www.nepamaea.com](http://www.nepamaea.com)

[CLICK HERE to view the MAEA Events Calendar](#)

[CLICK HERE for the MAEA 2025 Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

## Legislative Update

### House passes bills to keep ACA provisions in place

The state House on Tuesday approved a package of bills aimed at keeping Affordable Care Act provisions in place if they are rolled back nationally.

The prospects of the bills in the Republican-controlled state Senate seem dim though.

In comments at the end of last Tuesday's session, Senate Majority Leader Joe Pittman, R-Indiana, said that Republicans will "evaluate whatever bills" come

from the House but that voters in the November election sent a message that lawmakers at the state level should pay attention to.

“We will adapt as things evolve,” at the federal level, Pittman said.

The House approved bills that would bar insurers from setting lifetime caps on insurance coverage; require insurers to cover preventative care; allow parents to keep their children on their family health care until those children turn 26 and bar insurers from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions.

The four bills all passed with varying degrees of bipartisan support. The closest vote came on House Bill 535, blocking coverage limits. That measure was approved by a 121-81 vote, with 20 Republicans joining all Democrats in support of the legislation.

After the House vote, Democrats held a rally in the Capitol rotunda to call on the Senate to pass the bills.

“We know what is happening at the federal government right now,” Speaker Joanna McClinton, D-Philadelphia, said. “And so many say, what are you all doing in Harrisburg? Well, I am here to tell you, we in Harrisburg are stepping up to defend your right to health care. We are not just saying it, we're doing it.”

Sen. Vincent Hughes, D-Philadelphia, the minority chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said that Gov. Josh Shapiro has indicated he would sign the bills if they reach his desk.

Pittman’s comments indicate it’s unlikely the bills will have an easy path to the governor.

He referenced the effort to keep in place the requirement that young adults be allowed to remain on their family health insurance.

Republican leaders, he said, think that the best approach for lawmakers would be to embrace “economic growth policies” that will help young adults land “family-sustaining jobs” that provide health insurance.

Capitolwire.com

## **Senate panel launches business tax cut salvo.**

By a party-line vote, a Senate committee approved legislation Wednesday to cut a key state business tax by half in an opening salvo for state budget negotiations later this spring.

The Finance Committee voted 7-4 with Republicans supporting and Democrats opposing in favor of Senate Bill 207 sponsored by Sen. Greg Rothman, R-Cumberland, to reduce the Corporate Net Income (CNIT) tax rate from 7.99 percent to 4 percent on Jan. 1.

SB207 would accelerate a CNIT tax cut schedule set in the state budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

The current schedule has the tax being cut in stages to 4.99 percent by 2031.

“This is not soon enough,” said Rothman adding an accelerated rate would attract businesses to Pennsylvania.

Committee Majority Chair Scott Hutchinson, R-Venango, urged a yes vote saying Pennsylvania needs to do something bold to stay competitive with other states.

New Committee Minority Chair Nick Pisciotto, D-Allegheny, said uncertainty in the national economy makes a tax cut of that size and immediacy difficult to undertake. A state Revenue Department estimate places lost state revenue at \$2 billion in the next fiscal year if the bill was enacted, he added.

Sen. Katie Muth, D-Montgomery, said a CNIT tax cut should be paired with wage hikes and health benefits for employees.

Both Rothman and Sen. Wayne Fontana, D-Allegheny, agreed that a CNIT tax cut should be part of negotiations for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget.

Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro has proposed reducing the CNIT rate in two stages to 4.99 percent by 2029.

The governor wants to pair the CNIT cut with an end to the so-called Delaware Loophole. The tax rule allows large businesses based in other states to shift their Pennsylvania-based income or intangible assets to out-of-state subsidiaries, often located in Delaware.

“Closing the Delaware Loophole will put all Pennsylvania corporations, large and small, on the same playing field by eliminating intercompany transactions and other tax planning techniques,” said Shapiro in his budget address last February.

Closing the loophole was first proposed by Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell.

The committee voted 8-3 to approve Senate Bill 473 sponsored by Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill, R-York, to allow business to get a larger discount to offset expenses if they file state sales tax collections to state government in a timely manner.

SB473 would remove a \$300 discount cap set in 2016 and reintroduce a discount equal to one percent of the tax collected.

The committee voted unanimously to approve Senate Bill 211 sponsored by Sen. Michele Brooks, R-Mercer, to allow taxpayers to donate all or a portion of their state income tax refund to support state grants programs for local fire companies, EMS organizations and volunteer rescue squads.

The three bills go to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a fiscal note.

Capitolwire.com

### **Senate Bill 473 Restoring the Sales and Use Tax Vendor Discount**

Senate Bill 473 is aimed at restoring the Sales and Use Tax Vendor Discount by removing the \$300 per month cap on the discount that businesses receive for timely collecting and remitting state sales tax. This means businesses would be able to keep the full 1% discount, which could significantly benefit those with higher sales volumes, allowing them to keep more of their revenue. The change would incentivize businesses to comply with sales tax collection while reducing their administrative burden.

The vendor discount is essentially a reward for businesses that act as tax collectors on behalf of the state. By restoring the full discount, the bill could provide financial relief for businesses, especially smaller ones, as they retain more of the sales tax they collect.

Senate Bill 473, introduced on March 19, 2025, by Senators Phillips-Hill, Pennycuik, J. Ward, Laughlin, Stefano, Boscola, and Hutchinson, aims to amend the Tax Reform Code of 1971 concerning the Sales and Use Tax Vendor Discount

Prior to 2016, Pennsylvania businesses that timely submitted sales tax payments received a vendor discount equal to 1% of the tax collected, without any cap. However, legislative changes in 2016 introduced a cap, limiting this discount to \$300 annually. For monthly filers, this equated to a maximum of \$25 per return; quarterly filers could receive up to \$75 per return; and semi-annual filers were limited to \$150 per return.

Senate Bill 473 seeks to eliminate the existing \$300 annual cap, restoring the original 1% vendor discount for timely sales tax submissions. This change is intended to help businesses offset compliance costs, including transaction fees, bookkeeping, and payment processing expenses.

On March 26, 2025, the Senate Finance Committee held a meeting to consider Senate Bills No. 207, 211, and 473, which included discussions on SB 473. The bill is currently awaiting further action.

Restoring the full 1% vendor discount would provide financial relief to businesses, particularly small enterprises, by reducing the costs associated with sales tax compliance. This measure underscores the state's commitment to supporting businesses in managing their tax-related responsibilities.



### **U.S. Approves Underground Exploration for Carbon Storage**

In a historic move, the U.S. federal government this week approved a carbon storage exploration project under public land in

**What's going on:** The Bureau of Land Management on Wednesday released final environmental assessments allowing Kansas-based Moxa Carbon LLC “to explore 605,100 acres of federal subsurface pore space—openings underground that can potentially hold injected carbon dioxide gas—for long-term storage.”

- It's the first time the U.S. government has given access to federal pore space through carbon dioxide injection wells.
- Though the approval does not include access to surface lands, “it could in the future with a separate approval.”
- Moxa will still require a permit from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to inject carbon dioxide underground.
- Wyoming is one of only four states the Environmental Protection Agency has given the authority to permit carbon dioxide injection wells.

**Why it's important:** “The BLM said that the project aligns with President Donald Trump’s goals to ‘unleash American energy,’ referencing a Jan. 20 presidential order.”

**Our view:** “Carbon capture is a vital part of an all-of-the-above strategy on energy,” said NAM Director of Energy and Resources Policy Michael Davin. “It’s among the processes that strategic energy incentives, such as the 45Q tax credit, are helping manufacturers pursue so the U.S. can realize both fewer emissions and continued competitiveness on the global stage.”

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**MAEA offers a variety of group programs for their member companies.**

Would you like to learn more about:

- Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare
- Energy - Enerconnex an SJI Company
- Shipping - DM Transportation
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To learn more about the exclusive member MAEA Group Programs, please contact Darlene J. Robbins at (570) 622-0992 or email at [drobbins@nepamaea.com](mailto:drobbins@nepamaea.com)

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## **Power Up Your Potential: Partnering With an Energy Consultant vs. Going Solo**

### **Power Up Your Potential: Partnering With an Energy Consultant vs. Going Solo**

Climate change, increased demand, and fuel costs for power generation are just a few examples of factors affecting energy pricing today. This whirlwind of elements entails an inherently complex market that's difficult to navigate solo — yet some businesses decide that that's what's best.

But how does doing energy procurement alone compare to partnering with a consultant? While a lone-star approach can offer more control, it requires significant time investment and extensive market knowledge to lock down a

contract that not only suits your business's unique needs but is fair and just in its pricing, too.

We're here to shine a brighter light on the benefits of energy consultants and how they can help you navigate the complexities of this ever-changing market.

What To Expect at Each Stage of the Procurement Process

From securing the best possible rates to building long-term energy strategies and managing contract renewals, we're shining a light on the reality of energy procurement and what businesses can expect whether they choose to work with a consultant or conduct a one-person show.

[CLICK HERE to continue reading "Power Up Your Potential"](#)

## MAEA Training Opportunities, Learn What is New, and Reminders

### **BOOST COMMUNICATION & LEADERSHIP WITH EXTENDED DISC® ASSESSMENT TRAINING**

Whether you are an HR professional, manager, or team lead, this training will equip you with valuable tools to drive success. Understanding behavioral styles can transform the way you communicate, lead, and collaborate in the workplace.

**Join us for an exclusive Extended DISC® with Certified Instructor, Carl Pyzowski**

**Date: April 23**

**Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (ET)**

**Location: Zoom only**

**Cost: \$175/member or \$350/non-member**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 11 by 5 p.m.**

Each registrant will receive the assessment link by email, and you must complete it by April 17 at Noon.

In this interactive session, you will learn how to:

- ✓ Interpret Extended DISC® assessments for individuals and teams
- ✓ Enhance communication and leadership effectiveness
- ✓ Apply DISC insights to improve workplace relationships and productivity

### **LEARN WHAT'S NEW**

#### **Unlock Workplace Success**

- Interactive 3-hour training sessions conducted on-site for your team
- Maximize Impact: Schedule monthly to complete all six courses

#### **Topics**

- Communicate with Impact
- DISC Assessment and Styles
- Navigating Workplace Conflict
- Accountability in Action
- Facilitation for Leaders
- Understanding Change Management

### **REMINDERS**

- Hydro Cressona Tour/Manufacturing Plant Operations Roundtable is set for April 17 from 11-1 p.m. (Registration Required) MEMBERS ONLY: \$43
- 2025 National Benefits Survey Report is available for purchase

Member Cost: \$325 and Non-Member Cost: \$650

**To learn more, contact Eileen Kuperavage, Director of Employer Engagement at 570-622-0992 or [ekuperavage@nepamaea.com](mailto:ekuperavage@nepamaea.com)**

## **WEBSITE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Boost your brand while empowering MAEA to deliver exceptional programs and services across Northeast Pennsylvania. Partner with us to enhance your visibility and make a lasting impact!

Sponsorship fee: \$2,500 for 12-month agreement

Contact Eileen Kuperavage at 570-622-0992 or [ekuperavage@nepamaea.com](mailto:ekuperavage@nepamaea.com) for details.

## **MAEA Training Catalog is Available**

### **DOWNLOAD THE CATALOG**

at: [www.nepamaea.com](http://www.nepamaea.com)

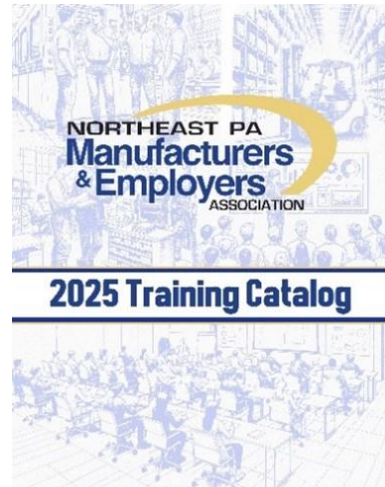
### **Customized & On-Site Training**

Select from any topic listed in the training catalog,

request a new topic or customize the content to meet the needs of your staff.

### **Consulting Services**

MAEA consultants excel in assisting organizations with addressing their most pressing challenges, critical issues, or high-priority projects. The areas of expertise include Safety, Communications, Data Management and Development, Extended DISC, Human Resources, IT, Process Improvement, and Team Building.



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**Topic: Common Misses  
and Errors in Employee  
Benefit Plans.**

Join Our Zoom  
Discussion Forum on  
April 29, 2025  
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30  
PM (includes a 30-  
minute Q&A session)

Presented by:  
Melissa M. Wolf, CPA  
Managing Director,  
Baker Tilly US, LLP

Jeremy Stewart, CPA  
Managing Director,  
Baker Tilly US, LLP

**Synopsis**

The presentation will cover  
common errors in employee  
benefit plans and effective  
strategies for prevention  
and correction

To Register email  
Darlene J. Robbins at  
drobbins@nepamaea.com or  
call the MAEA office  
at 570-622-0992.

**What You Will Learn**

Learn to identify common  
operational errors in  
Employee Benefit Plan  
audits and understand  
the necessary corrections  
to resolve them.

**Member Cost: \$33**

[www.nepamaea.com](http://www.nepamaea.com)

**Mark Your Calendars!**



**Darlene J. Robbins**

**President**

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