



**NORTHEAST PA
Manufacturers
& Employers**

ASSOCIATION

November Happenings



2025 Upcoming Event



MAEA Discovery Breakfast

December 5, 2025, 8:00am to 9:30am

**at Mt. Valley Clubhouse, 1021 Brockton Mountain Drive, Barnesville, PA
18214**



Potential Members



New Members



New Management

During this event, NEPA Manufacturers and Employers Association (MAEA) member company representatives will provide testimonials of MAEA services that have assisted them in their daily operations. You'll also have the opportunity to network with fellow members and MAEA staff.

There is no fee to attend; registration is required.

MAEA offers Sponsorship Opportunities to promote your company. contact the office for additional information (570) 622-0992.



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

✉ **Email:** jtrosterud@nepamaea.com

☎ **Phone:** (570) 622-0992

🌐 **Website:** www.nepamaea.com

CLICK HERE to view the 2026 MAEA Events Calendar to view the MAEA Events Calendar



Legislative Update

STATE:

Senate Approves Landmark Bill to Modernize Pennsylvania's Permitting Process

In a major step toward improving Pennsylvania's business climate, the state Senate has approved **Senate Bill 6**, a comprehensive permitting reform measure aimed at modernizing how state agencies handle permit applications. The bipartisan legislation, sponsored by **Senators Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York)** and **Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin)**, seeks to bring greater **accountability, transparency, and efficiency** to a process that many employers and developers have long described as cumbersome and unpredictable.

The bill establishes clear timelines for agencies to review permit applications, creates a statewide permit tracking system, and requires regular performance reporting so that applicants can monitor progress and hold agencies accountable. "When permitting is unpredictable, so is investment," said Senator Phillips-Hill. "By passing this bill in the Senate, we're sending a strong message that delays and inaction are no longer acceptable. We are saying Pennsylvania is open for business."

Senate Bill 6 builds upon last year's Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development (SPEED) program, which began implementing tracking tools within the Department of Environmental Protection. The new legislation expands these measures across all state agencies, helping ensure that reforms endure beyond any single administration. "Transparency and accountability in the permitting process will provide needed certainty, reduce delays, and encourage investment in Pennsylvania," added Senator Rothman.

By codifying key elements of Governor Josh Shapiro's recent executive order, this legislation locks meaningful reforms into law and signals a renewed commitment to creating a more responsive, business-friendly government. The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

FEDERAL:

MAEA keeping members updated. Below you will find a link to the 2025 International Tax Competitiveness Index Ranking.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view chart

Right to Repair: What Manufacturers Need to Know

The national conversation around **Right to Repair** legislation continues to grow, with potential implications for manufacturers, service providers, and consumers alike. The movement seeks to require manufacturers to make parts, tools, and diagnostic information available so that consumers and independent repair shops can fix products such as electronics, vehicles, and equipment without relying solely on authorized dealers or service networks.

While proponents argue that these measures support consumer choice, reduce electronic waste, and encourage sustainability, many in the manufacturing community have raised valid concerns. Sharing proprietary software and technical data could expose sensitive intellectual property, create cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and compromise product safety and quality standards. For industries that rely on precision manufacturing, technology integration, and data-driven systems, these risks are significant.

As policymakers continue to weigh the balance between accessibility and protection, it's important for manufacturers to stay engaged in the discussion. Understanding the potential impact on operations, warranty policies, and supply chains will ensure the industry's voice is heard as legislation evolves. The outcome of these debates could shape how manufacturers design, service, and support their products for years to come.




MAEA Group Programs

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
- Predictive Index

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:d Robbins@nepamaea.com)



enerconnex
AN SJI COMPANY



NEPA MAEA's Group Energy Solutions Provider

As a trusted partner, EnerConnex has delivered significant value to **NEPA MAEA** members for nearly a decade. We combine deep industry expertise with tech-enabled processes to help businesses procure electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy. Our partnership-first approach fosters a collaborative relationship to identify and customize a wide range of solutions tailored to your company's specific energy needs and challenges.



ECX Marketplace
**Utility Data
Management**



**Energy
Procurement**



**Demand
Management**



**Energy
Efficiency**



Renewables



Contact **Thomas Dufraine** for your organization's energy needs:



TDufraine@enerconnex.com



610-331-3869



www.enerconnex.com



[@Thomas Dufraine](#)

Choosing the Right Energy Consultant: What You Need to Know

What can an energy consultant do for your organization? And how can you make sure you pick the right consultant to work with? This blog will explain all you need to know about energy consultancy.

What Is an Energy Consultant?

An energy consultant helps clients secure beneficial energy contracts. They use their vast knowledge of the energy industry, market trends, the demands on the power grid, the specific regional Independent System Operation (ISO) or Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), utility contracts, and renewable energy projects to negotiate better agreements for their clients.

Consultants often start a new partnership with [energy benchmarking](#). This compares the results of an energy audit of one business or building to similar examples to determine how efficient it is in terms of energy use.

Energy consultants also gather [energy market intelligence](#) and make these insights and knowledge available to their clients. This delivers in-depth knowledge of the local energy market, allowing organizations to make informed decisions about their energy supply.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the entire article

Tom Dufraine, Enerconnex



Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence at MI Windows and Doors' Gratz Plant



Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence at MI Windows and Doors' Gratz Plant

There's something special about a company milestone that brings people together—not just to look back, but to honor the hands, hearts, and hard work that made it all possible. Recently, MI Windows and Doors proudly celebrated **30 years of quality manufacturing** at its Gratz, Pennsylvania plant—a place where dedication, craftsmanship, and teamwork have been the foundation since day one.

The celebration was a heartfelt tribute to the incredible people who've shaped MI's success. More than **55 team members were recognized for over 30 years of service**, and another **31 employees** were honored for dedicating between 25 and 29 years to the company. Their loyalty, expertise, and pride in their craft have not only sustained MI's reputation for excellence but also inspired the next generation of skilled team members.

As employees gathered under the big tent, shared stories over lunch, and celebrated decades of teamwork, one message was clear: success at MI Windows and Doors has always been built on people—on their commitment to quality, their care for each other, and their shared belief in doing things the right way. From a small start to three decades of excellence, the Gratz plant stands as a testament to what's possible when craftsmanship meets community.

Here's to 30 years of success—and many more to come.



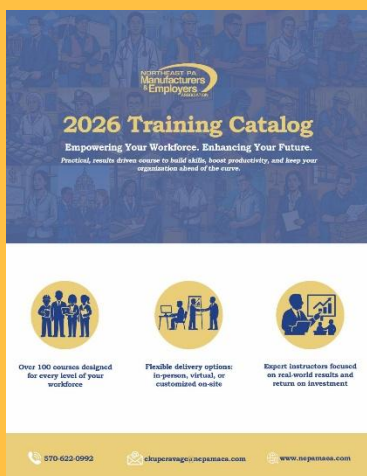
MAEA Training Update: New opportunities and Reminders!

FALL TRAININGS ARE NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

Fall is the perfect time to invest in yourself and your team. Our upcoming training programs are built to inspire growth, strengthen leadership, and provide practical tools you can apply right away. Whether you're tackling new challenges, refreshing your knowledge, or preparing your company's staff for what's next, these sessions are your opportunity to learn, connect, and lead with confidence.

[Click here](#) for training schedule

Coming Soon: MAEA's 2026 Training Catalog



Our 2026 Training Catalog is currently in development and will be released soon! The updated catalog will feature a wide range of programs designed to upskill and reskill today's workforce, while also supporting students and community partners who are building new skills to advance within their company and strengthen their career paths.

Stay tuned for new courses, expanded offerings, and continued resources to help employers and individuals strengthen the region's talent pipeline.

MAEA Connects with Future Talent at Penn State Schuylkill Career Fair

MAEA was proud to join more than 60 regional employers at the Penn State Schuylkill Fall Career Fair on October 28. This annual event provides an excellent opportunity for students to explore career and internship opportunities while connecting with companies that drive workforce development across our region.

MAEA highlighted internship opportunities available at its Pottsville office and promoted the training resources offered to Penn State students at special discounted rates. Through these initiatives, MAEA continues to strengthen its partnerships with the local community, preparing the next generation of professionals to support the region's thriving manufacturing sector and the employers who are members of the Association.

Representing MAEA was Faith Colahan, Administrative Support Staff member and Penn State Schuylkill student. Faith welcomed students throughout the day, shared her internship experience, and discussed the many ways MAEA connects education, workforce readiness, and industry needs through its programs and training held at the Pottsville conference facility.



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 for details.

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MAEA Upcoming Roundtables



Topic:
The Evolution of Maintenance in a
Changing Business Environment

Presenter:
Brian Poveromo
Sr. Director, Distribution Facilities
American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.

About American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.
American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. (AEO) is a global specialty retailer of apparel and accessories, founded in 1977. The company is known for its casual and on-trend clothing for young adults and teenagers, and it operates under several brands, including American Eagle, Aerie, and Offline by Aerie.



Presentation Overview:

This presentation highlights that business growth and change are essential for long-term success. A new product or service alone isn't enough sustainable success requires comprehensive change across the organization.

Brian will lead a roundtable discussion exploring how maintenance has played a vital role in AEO's growth into a company valued at over \$5 billion.

Key Discussion Points:

- Maintenance must be proactive, not reactive
- Businesses are rapidly adopting automation
- The intersection of hands-on maintenance and technology
- As maintenance needs evolve, organizational structure must adapt
- Tools and metrics that measure and support change



Date: Friday, November 21, 2025
Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Location: MAEA Pottsville Conference Room
Member Cost: \$43.00 (Lunch is included)

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

Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

The Council serves over 3,000 young adults every year. The same students could one day become part of your workforce!

MAEC, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is deemed an Educational Improvement Organization in providing innovative educational programs to, or in conjunction with, public schools.

PA businesses approved for EITC credits through the Department of Community & Economic Development are able to donate to the Council, allowing support for hundreds of local students in your community through the YES Certificate Program and other workforce development programs.




Darlene J. Robbins

President

Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association

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