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# INSIDE TCMA

*Special Edition*

## Texas Delegation Joins Metalcasters AFS FLY-IN in Washington

On May 15th and 16th the American Foundry Society hosted the 2018 Government Affairs Fly-in in Washington D.C. Attending this event were foundry owners, executives, and staff, as well as foundry suppliers.

The largest, and most effective & attractive group, was of course the **Texas Delegation**.

On the first day of the two-day event, government and industrial experts addressed the U.S. economic outlook, trade and tariff issues, EPA environmental developments, the political landscape and outlook, national infrastructure modernization, OSHA's Silica Rule and other regulatory issues. The following day's activities included briefings on critical issues to the metal casting industry, which included Infrastructure Investment, OSHA's New Silica Rule, EPA Regulatory Reform and Workforce Development. For the balance of the second day, participants visited with their legislative representatives to present and discuss the critical issues and other extemporaneous topics.

Eric Meyers, President OCIW, Corsicana, and Owen Daniel, GM Midland Mfg Company, Fort Worth, acted as the Texas Delegation 'leads' thru many of the Congressional visits, having attended this event several times themselves and possessing a helpful "Capitol Logistics" knowledge.

"The Program was well organized and professionally executed", stated Pete Macler, PE, of Peter Macler and Associates. "All of the speakers were knowledgeable and were relatively candid about their views, including political issues. I attended group meetings, along with other Texas AFS members, with Senator John Cornyn, Ariel Gordon of Ted Cruz's office, and a private meeting the with Chris Morris, Senior Policy Advisor for Congressman Lamar Smith, who is my Representative. The focus of these meetings was to review pending legislation that would impact the foundry industry, including Infrastructure Investment, OSHA Silica Rule, EPA Regulatory Reform, and Workforce Development. I believe that all of our visits were productive. Owen and others articulated our issues and concerns very well, judging by the responses and "body language" of the legislative personnel."



Texas Delegates on their way to Congressional Appointments

Some of our membership are surely asking: does our Individual participation in this Event make a difference? To quantify this is difficult; but it is helpful to consider Delegation testimonials and these tangible outcomes: Eric at OCIW has already hosted Senator Cornyn (R, TX) and his facility in Corsicana, and will be pleased to host Sen Ted Cruz's COS at his OCIW facility the week of July 4th; and Rep Kay Granger's COS has called Owen Daniel personally to update efforts by Rep Granger's Office to speak directly with the Labor Secretary re mitigating OSHA Silica Rule Enforcement Activity scheduled for implementation June 23 (US Representative Granger, R-TX and Representative Mark Veasey, D-TX, have already paid several visits to Midland's non-ferrous sand-casting casting facility and machine works in Fort Worth).

Indeed, OSHA has announced that they are willing—for the first 30 days—to engage in compliance assistance (their term is 'soft enforcement') and/or until they have their Published Guidance Documents in place. They indicate that during this period they will issue Corrective Action Requests rather than fines/citations. Coincidence?

"Throughout my career, I have been involved in several visitation trips to Washington and to the Texas Capitol in Austin to address our Industry issues," said Dr. Clifford Smith, TCMA Executive Director, "and this one, in my view, was by far the most effective. There REALLY IS an ear for our collective voices."

"I was pleased with getting an 'inside look' at the Capitol, the House as well as the Senate, and to see how our Legislative Process works. We were treated like our voices mattered", said Bret Morehead, Regional Mgr, Porter-Warner Industries & TxAFS Chair. "I can't wait for the next opportunity!"

Also consider the comments of Harry Phillips, GM OCIW and incoming TCMA Chair: "I was very impressed by the AFS Fly In. It was my first one in 38 years of foundry business and what a learning experience. I will try and attend many more and recommend to all they need to dive in and participate. There is good work being done at this event. The biggest takeaway was the work the Texas Delegation performed at Capitol Hill. Our group was the largest and it was impressive to see how that size group is received by the legislators. There is strength in numbers. I believe we got the attention needed on all the hot button items affecting our industry because we were well organized and a formidable presence. It was an honor to be part of this group and event."

The Texas Delegation testimonials speak for themselves. Further, many of our Membership have heard me say that it is important to establish a 'personal relationship' with one's US Representatives--the District Rep for sure for your home and casting facility, and one or both of Texas' US Senators if possible. I have been told many times by the Representative and Staff that they get to see professional advocates (lobbyists) all day/ every day and it becomes tiresome; but that they are always truly pleased to host and have discussion with real-world constituents/Business Owners from their Home Districts. In fact, by virtue of Eric Meyers' close relationship with Rep Barton and his COS, some of the Delegates were treated to a rarely-granted tour of the West Wing of the White house.

I've seen a lot of sights; and I was personally blown away!

Therefore it seems obvious that this 'advocacy' activity is not only enlightening but extremely important, and ALL STAKEHOLDER/MEMBERS are urged to personally engage if possible-----ie, do your part to ensure the future of our Beloved Cast Metals Industry. It's a rare (and well-orchestrated) opportunity to make your Industry Voice heard. In the immortal words of our erstwhile TCMA Chair Chris Norch, VIP Denison Industries: "If you don't make a seat for yourself at the table, you're probably going to be on the menu!"

Happy Independence Day and Clear Sailing!

Owen Daniel, GM, Midland Mfg, TCMA Ex-Officio, NFFS GAC Chair, TxAFS Director & Scholarship Chair



AFS Past President Patricio Gil and Eric Meyers in the White House Press Room



Texas Delegates meet with Texas Senator John Cornyn



Texas Delegates meet with Texas Representative Kay Granger



Texas Delegates meet with Texas Representative Bill Flores



Texas Delegates on a White House Tour.