



ROLL CALL NEWSLETTER

volume 34

OCTOBER 2023

## Our Chairman Says....

Hello to all *International Roller Manufacturer Association Members* –

This is the first article that I have addressed to the IRMA signaling the forward-thinking mentality of our Board and membership. The new brand allows us to pay tribute to our founding members as well as recognize the global diversity of the group and the advancements that we work towards as manufacturers and suppliers. Details to finalize this change are still being worked through to make sure certain we meet any legal requirements, but work is ongoing on every front of this transition from the RRG to the IRMA.

During the 2023 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas (which I am again very sorry to have missed), the membership decided that San Antonio would host the 2024 meeting. As I had not been to San Antonio in many years, I was excited that this was the decision the group landed on. As luck would have it, I was able to attend part of a conference in San Antonio in mid-September. I had an amazing experience touring downtown, The Alamo, and the River Walk. I even had the opportunity to visit our host hotel, The Drury Plaza Hotel. I was supremely impressed with the location, cleanliness, and friendly greeting I received when I walked into the building. I am sure our meeting will be a success in part due to the service we receive when we are on property. My thanks to Robbi for working through negotiations with multiple hotels and providing a detailed summary for the Board. Robbi's efforts make these decisions very easy.

I also learned that our meeting next year will begin a week earlier. While I am a creature of habit, accustomed to a certain cadence of annual events, I think this change will benefit our members by reducing or eliminating scheduling conflicts with other organizations that hold large events early in May. I hope this change increases our attendance and participation. While I was in San Antonio, I learned that "Fiesta San Antonio" will be taking place during April and that it ends just as our meeting begins. You might consider getting into town a day or two early to experience a city-wide celebration.

As to the IRMA meeting itself, from our last Board meeting, the Directors are working together to build an agenda that will provide real value and insight to our members. And as always, the Annual Meeting is an amazing networking opportunity for both manufacturers and suppliers.

I look forward to our meeting and to seeing you all in San Antonio!

Please do register for this meeting while renewing your membership. Again, if you need any help, please contact Robbi Miller at [contact@rubberrollergroup.com](mailto:contact@rubberrollergroup.com)  
My very best to each of you!

Vail

## Note from our President—Matt Umentum

It is hard to believe that five months have already passed since our last Rubber Roller Group meeting in Las Vegas. During the conference, we discussed the initial steps considering a name change from the RRG to reflect more closely who we are and where we need to go in the future.

For our group to not only survive but to thrive, we need to broaden our base both geographically and industrially. We also desire to change the name to reflect a more professional organization than “Group”. The International Roller Manufacturers Association accomplishes all of the above. Obviously, “International” reflects our desire to attract more suppliers but especially roller manufacturers from around the world. We kept “Roller” in the name because that is the crux of our organization but, as blasphemous as it sounds, we removed the word “Rubber” to reflect the desire to broaden our appeal to other roller manufacturers and service providers. We feel that “rubber” pigeon-holes our group to too narrow of a lane as we move to attract a wider array of roller suppliers and manufacturers. Many of us presently in the group are rubber centric but also offer roller services and coverings far afield from just rubber covers. We want to attract new members that are affiliated with the roller industry but may not be involved strictly in rubber covering.

As Vail stated in his article nearby, work remains to be done to assure the name International Roller Manufacturers Association and the acronym IRMA are viable and available alternatives to the RRG. Nothing will be permanent until this vetting process is complete and the entire membership votes to adopt the name at our meeting in San Antonio.

The name Rubber Roller Group has served us well for over forty years but we feel it is time for a change to propel the organization over the next forty years. Think about the name change and the reasons for it and be ready to vote when we see you in San Antonio in April, 2024.

## Note from our Parliamentarian—Josh Watson

**Call for volunteers,**

**As a board, we have been planning the meeting in San Antonio and looking towards the future of the group. Digital and social media seem to be an area that could be very beneficial not only to help grow the group but also to provide information to the members. We would like to put together a subcommittee to work on the group’s digital media presence. We are asking for a few volunteers to help generate and monitor content. If you or someone in your organization would be interested please reach out to me at [Jdwatson@laurSilicone.com](mailto:Jdwatson@laurSilicone.com)**

**I look forward to connecting online and seeing everyone at the meeting in San Antonio.**

**Josh Watson**

**Parliamentarian**

## Our Vice President — Tyler Sinclair says Get Ready for Unforgettable Experience

Dear Valued Members of the International Roller Manufacturers Association (IRMA),

As the days grow longer and spring beckons, we can't help but feel the excitement building. Why, you ask? Because it's time to mark your calendars for the highlight of the year—the 2024 IRMA Annual Meeting, and it's shaping up to be an event you won't want to miss! So, dust off your travel bags and join us from April 28th to 30th in the vibrant city of San Antonio, Texas.

**Venue:** Picture this: an upscale environment that seamlessly blends sophistication with comfort. That's the Drury Plaza Hotel, our splendid venue for this year's gathering. Nestled in the heart of San Antonio, this gem offers not only enhanced meeting spaces but also puts you within arm's reach of the famous San Antonio River Walk. Enjoy delightful dining options and top-notch amenities as you immerse yourself in all that our meeting location has to offer.

**Speaker Spotlight:** While we're keeping some details under wraps for now, we're thrilled to give you a sneak peek into what's to come. Our upcoming Late Winter Newsletter will unveil the stars of our event—a dynamic lineup of speakers. Get ready to gain insights from an HR Manager sharing the latest hiring and retention trends, an OSHA representative addressing critical safety matters, and a visionary speaker diving into the cutting-edge world of HNBR Rubber innovation. These thought-provoking presentations will keep you engaged and informed.

**Supplier Speaker Corner:** Calling all suppliers! Here's your chance to shine. Just before our Mini-Expo Trade Show, we're reserving eight coveted fifteen-minute speaking slots exclusively for suppliers. It's the perfect opportunity to captivate our audience with your latest innovations. Leave a lasting impression before attendees visit your booth during the Mini-Expo. Express your interest and secure your spot at the Supplier Speaker Corner—it's your time to shine!

**Registration:** We're busy putting the finishing touches on our registration details, including early bird rates and deadlines. Stay tuned for the official announcement and make sure to reserve your spot early. This event promises to be one for the books!

**Networking:** While we won't have specific networking events this year, we're keeping some cherished traditions alive. Join us for our Sunday Evening Reception—a fantastic way to reconnect with old friends and make new connections. And don't forget our Tuesday Afternoon Golf Outing, where camaraderie and competition come together against the backdrop of Texas's scenic beauty.

**Member Engagement:** Your voice matters! Our Member Surveys, completed at the close of each meeting, play a pivotal role in shaping our future events. Your insights guide us in delivering exactly what you need, ensuring that our association continues to thrive.

As we gear up for this incredible event, we encourage you to start planning your trip to San Antonio. Brace yourself for a lineup of engaging presentations, valuable networking opportunities, and the chance to explore the beauty of this city. We can't wait to see you there!

Stay tuned for more updates in our upcoming newsletters, and please reach out with any questions or suggestions. Together, we'll make the 2024 IRMA Annual Meeting an unforgettable experience.

With anticipation,

Tyler Sinclair

Vice President, IRMA

## A Few Pictures from the Las Vegas Meeting





Networking—Eating— Speakers— Presentations—Mini Expo—Business—Fun



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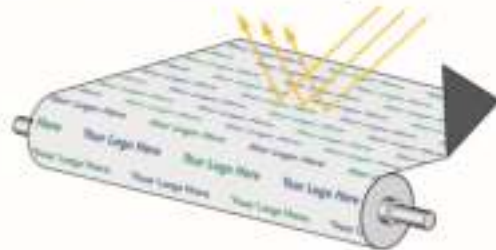
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Phone#: 920-339-3150

**Tyler Sinclair**, Redwood Plastics & Rubber

[tsinclair@redwoodplastics.com](mailto:tsinclair@redwoodplastics.com)

**Vice President**

Phone#: 604-240-4507

**Steve Chase**, Next Gen Compounding

[schase@nextgencompounding.com](mailto:schase@nextgencompounding.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**

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**Josh Watson**, Laur Silicone

[jdwatson@laur silicone.com](mailto:jdwatson@laur silicone.com)

**Parliamentarian**

Phone#: 989-435-7400

**Frank Batton, Jr.**, Harwood Rubber Products

[frankbattonjr@harwoodrubber.com](mailto:frankbattonjr@harwoodrubber.com)

**Manufacturer's Representative**

Phone#: 330-923-3256

**Jeff Hemingway**, Vail Rubber Works

[jeff.hemingway@vailrubber.com](mailto:jeff.hemingway@vailrubber.com)

**Manufacturer's Representative**

Phone#: 269-983-0155

**Darrin Roe**, ZEON Chemical

[droe@zeonchemicals.com](mailto:droe@zeonchemicals.com)

**Supplier's Representative**

Phone#: 817-939-0583

**Jessica Petras**, ChemRep, Inc.

[jessica@chemrep.com](mailto:jessica@chemrep.com)

**Supplier's Representative**

Phone#: 847-551-9060

**Mike Diskin**, Halifax Numerical Controls Ltd

[Mike.D@hnc.ltd.uk](mailto:Mike.D@hnc.ltd.uk)

**International Representative**

Phone#: 01-422-360607

**Robbi Miller**, Rubber Roller Group

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**Executive Secretary**

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## Host Hotel 2024 DRURY PLAZA HOTEL—SAN ANTONIO



Our 2024 annual meeting is scheduled for April 28-30 at the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk. It has been many years since we have met in San Antonio. We will start with the Reception on Sunday, the 28th, at 5:00—7:00. The Board is working on the meeting content and timeline and that information will be shared via email as it is available.

### San Antonio Overview

- Seventh largest and one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S.
- Host to more than 39 million visitors a year, including 31.1 million overnight guests
- Home to the River Walk – a 15-mile network of stone paths along the San Antonio River that connect hotels, shops, restaurants, theaters and more
- Has the largest concentration of Spanish colonial architecture in North America, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, that includes five 18th century missions. The city also has the oldest active cathedral sanctuary in the U.S.
- Designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in November 2017, only the second city in the U.S. to receive the designation.
- Home to The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) – one of only three campuses in the country; including a focus on Latin American cuisine
- Known for the Alamo, the number one tourist attraction in Texas and one of the city's five Spanish colonial missions.
- Entertains with top theme parks: SeaWorld San Antonio, Six Flags Fiesta Texas and Morgan's Wonderland – the world's largest ultra-accessible theme park designed for those with special needs
- Offers nationally acclaimed museums including two Smithsonian affiliates
- Recognized for events including Fiesta San Antonio, Luminaria: Contemporary Arts Festival, Culinary Food & Wine Festival, the Conjunto Music Festival and the largest Día De Los Muertos celebration in the U.S.

