

**ROLL CALL NEWSLETTER** 

Volume 38

October 2025

Our Chairman, Matt Umemtum, Says....

### Why Join an Organization Like IRMA that is Currently Losing Members?

In a very niche industry serving manufacturers from all over the world, the value of collaboration and community cannot be overstated. Unfortunately, The International Manufacturers Organization (IRMA) previously the Rubber Roller Group (RRG) has seen a decline in membership from 188 in 2016 to 142 today. The reason for the decline is twofold: we have seen the number of manufacturers drop due to attrition and consolidation. Secondly, organizations are enrolling less of their people in IRMA. Thirty years ago, our industry was dominated by small family-run organizations that concentrated their efforts on small geographical markets. Today, we have fewer but much larger organizations serving customers throughout the nation and the world. The small "Mom and Pops" are simply going the way of the dinosaur. A second reason is that organizations will often only enroll one or two members. Years ago, a single organization would often enroll five or more of or their associates as members. Today, even though the organizations are larger, they support IRMA to a much lesser degree. Understanding and promoting the benefits of IRMA is crucial to our survival because without the manufacturer members, the suppliers will not engage, and the declining spiral will begin. Below are four reasons to promote IRMA within your company and to encourage more of your colleagues to join:

### 1. Networking Opportunities

Joining IRMA provides unmatched networking opportunities within a very small business community. These connections with both suppliers and fellow manufacturers can enhance your organization's growth. Members can connect with industry peers, share insights, and build relationships that may lead to collaborations, partnerships, problem solving and new business opportunities. Getting to know the key players in this very small world on a personal level over is the most valuable benefit we can offer. Attending the annual meeting is the best way to meet the right people in our industry to help your company and for individual members to grow their network.

#### 2. Access to Industry Resources

IRMA is an excellent channel to meet suppliers that will assist in solving the tough issues. When your customers have unusual requests or stingy problems that will not go away, the supplier connections made through IRMA can provide timely solutions to solve the toughest problems. The wealth of information available from IRMA suppliers can be crucial for staying ahead of industry trends, understanding market demands, and giving informed advice to your customers. The RRG Handbook is "The Bible" for our industry providing best practices and recognized specifications. The handbook is only available to our members. Having access to these suppliers and resources provides a competitive edge that is essential for your business to compete and win.

#### 3. Professional Development and Training

Continuous learning is vital in every industry and our annual meeting offers opportunities for growth at many levels. At the meeting, you will find training sessions, the mini supplier expo, the very popular cocktail hour(s) and expert speakers. These programs can enhance member skills and knowledge, helping the member to grow personally and professionally. The investment in attending the annual meeting is invaluable for organizations looking to advance and bring company sales, techniques, and strategies to the next level.

### 4. Increased Visibility and Credibility

Membership in IRMA will improve your visibility and credibility. You will become better known within the industry. As we previously mentioned, you will meet fellow manufacturers and suppliers over the years. But the credibility goes far beyond the visibility within IRMA; your customers will know you are a member of this international trade organization. Being a current member, you have the gravitas of IRMA behind you when discussing standard tolerances or accepted industry practices with your customers or prospective customers. It signals to the customer that your company is committed to achieving top quality and is dedicated to continuous improvement.

As our organization faces a decline in member numbers, it is imperative to recognize and articulate the benefits of joining IRMA. By fostering connections, providing resources, offering professional development opportunities, and enhancing credibility, IRMA can play a vital role in the success of your businesses.

We need to understand that there are less manufacturers around and that there will be even fewer in the future. The pool has become more narrow but much deeper with larger manufacturers dominating the marketplace.

If you're considering joining or re-engaging with IRMA, we encourage you to contact Robbi Miller at <a href="mailto:contact@rubberrollergroup.com">contact@rubberrollergroup.com</a>. Encourage others from your organization to join and to attend the annual meeting. Support, IRMA, your organization. Don't become one of the extinct Mom and Pops.

### **President Sinclair invites you to Music City!**

Dear Members,

The countdown is on for the **2026 IRMA Annual Technical Meeting**, happening May 3–5 at The Westin Nashville. Set in the heart of downtown, steps away from Broadway and the Grand Ole Opry, "Music City" is the perfect backdrop for our industry to gather, connect, and learn.

This year's meeting will focus on the topics you told us are top of mind:

- Workforce retention and hiring finding and keeping the people who keep our industry strong.
- Al and automation how new technology is shaping manufacturing in practical.
- Cost pressures raw materials, freight, competition, and strategies to stay competitive.

**Roll-building innovation** – the latest advancements in materials and processes.

Each session is being chosen with care to deliver value and real takeaways you can bring back to your business.

Just as important as the presentations is the <u>Networking</u>. One of the best parts of IRMA is the chance to sit down with peers, suppliers, and competitors alike to share ideas. Bringing more than one person from your company gives you more connections, more learning, and a stronger presence. Let's continue to make these meetings the best place to build relationships across our industry.

Nashville is a popular spring destination, so be sure to **book your hotel early** at The Westin to secure your spot in the center of the action. Between the sessions, the Mini Expo, and the city's legendary live music scene, this is a meeting you won't want to miss.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your ongoing support and engagement with IRMA. We look forward to welcoming you and your teams to Nashville this May for an unforgettable meeting in Music City.

See you in Nashville!

-Tyler Sinclair

**IRMA President** 

### Vice President, Jeff Hemmingway Request your input for the upcoming meeting

### Hello to all International Roller Manufacturer Association Members-

I hope everyone has had a great summer and has had a chance to make lasting memories with friends and family. As we enter the last few months of 2025, we are looking forward to planning our next IRMA meeting in 2026. Our 2025 meeting turned out to be a huge success! Fort Lauderdale's Ocean B Resort was a beautiful setting and were outstanding hosts to our group. Many thanks to Robbi Miller for her hard work and dedication to making sure the venue and accommodations were excellent. We were privileged to have a great variety of speakers including Dr. Don McNeeley delivering his economic presentation "Lions, Tigers, and Tariffs Oh My.." and Alan Bernstein of HR Florida State Council, Inc on "Attracting & Retaining Top Talent". Our meeting also included our first town hall session, "Heard it On the Street-Market Trends" hosted by Darrin Roe of Zeon Chemical.

During our 2025 Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, the Board unanimously approved holding the 2026 annual meeting in "Music City" (Nashville). Our meeting will be held at The Westin in downtown Nashville in the heart of the nightlife and entertainment this iconic city has to offer. As a music enthusiast, there is no better place to be!

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, one of my roles as the sitting VP of IRMA is to coordinate speakers for our meeting. Our Directors have reviewed the 2025 surveys and many of the requested topics echoed surveys from the previous years. The future state of the economy, workforce challenges, supply chain outlook, material cost and availability seem to be common themes, which makes sense as these factors largely determine the success or failure of our businesses. There was also a resounding request to hold more technical-related presentations pertinent to the roller industry and new technology associated with it. I would like to extend an open invitation for anyone interested in speaking on any of these topics or even offering additional topics of interest. We will have more details regarding our speakers and the agenda in our Spring Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Nashville next May!

Please don't forget to register for this meeting and renew your membership while doing so. If you need assistance with registration or membership, please contact Robbi Miller at contact@rubberrollergroup.com

Best Wishes,

Jeff Hemingway

**VP-IRMA** 

### **Outline of Changes for IRMA**

As we look ahead to another year as a trade organization, we are excited to complete our transition from the Rubber Roller Group to the **International Roller Manufacturers Association (IRMA)**. While our foundation remains the same, this change reflects our commitment to expanding into a new generation of professionals and strengthening our presence in the global roller industry.

Like many of you, we're facing new challenges that didn't exist just a decade ago. Costs across the board have increased—especially in hotel accommodations, catering, and event services. Full-service hotel options are becoming fewer, and planning group meetings that are both enjoyable and cost-effective has become increasingly difficult. Room rates, catering fees, and destination charges continue to rise, forcing us to evolve and adapt to sustain our operations.

To meet these economic challenges, we've identified key areas of focus for the coming year:

- **Membership Dues**: We are implementing a modest dues increase to help cover the annual costs of running the organization. Additionally, we're exploring automatic membership renewals to ensure continuous access to group communications and benefits.
- **Meeting Registration**: The average cost per attendee has nearly doubled since 2015, primarily due to increased costs for meeting space and catering.
- Sponsorships: We deeply appreciate the continued support from our supplier community. As a supplier myself, I recognize the value of networking and engagement through IRMA. Sponsorship opportunities for receptions and the golf tournament will continue—and they're not limited to suppliers. We welcome roller companies to get involved as well. Keep an eye out for some exciting new sponsorship options!
- **Newsletter Advertising**: Our newsletter remains a valuable tool for both communication and financial support. Advertising continues to play a key role in offsetting operational expenses.
- Golf Outing: Our golf outing is designed to be a self-sustaining and enjoyable event. It will continue to be part of our gathering in Nashville. Stay tuned for upcoming details on the venue in our next newsletter.

  We are committed to ensuring the continued success—and growth—of IRMA. Your feedback is always welcome as we chart a course for the future. I look forward to seeing everyone in Nashville!































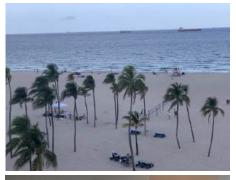








































The Supplier hosted Reception is always a great time to reconnect.

## The general sessions covered the "Lions, Tigers and Tariffs Oh My" to "Attracting & Retaining Top Talent" and "Heard it on the Street"!

















### **ROLMACON GLOBAL**



· Sales agent for new machinery

- · Supplier of key consumables
- · Rubberhog grinding wheels
- Machine tooling











+44 (0)1484 502204 sales@rolmaconglobal.com rolmaconglobal.com



WACKER

CREATING TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

WE HELP YOU MAKE PEOPLE'S LIVES BETTER, ONE COMPOUND AT A TIME. Let us adjust to your needs. FLEXIBILIT SILAIX SPEED

Our compounds meet the needs of the roller industry.

SILMIX® CALIFORNIA, 13910 Oaks Ave., Chino, CA 91710 SILMIX® OHIO, 2215 International Parkway, North Canton, OH 44720 TEL: +1 833 474 5649 (833 4 SILMIX), www.silmix.com, silmix@wacker.com





### SPECIFICALLY FORMULATED FOR YOUR ROLLER APPLICATIONS

The right compound for your applications.



Ace is leading the way in the design, formulation development and custom mixing of proprietary elastomer compounds across the natural and synthetic polymer range, including a variety of custom mix compounds.

For more info please contact:

Craig Bramble: craig.bramble@aceelastomer.com

320 Bryant Blvd, Rock Hill, SC 29732 877 324 7979 • airboss.com



Providing the most complete line of compounding materials in the industry.

## FRICTION

Spanning the Globe to Provide Exceptional Customer Service





100x Around the Earth



2.5 Million Miles





# Printing, Industrial & Specialty Roller Compounder

Custom Formulations Calendering Specialty Polymers Barwell Preforms



Sales & Technical Kiet Ong 817-528-1137 Ed Reker 562-761-2325 John Doma 675-351-9873 www.KMCRUBBER.com







**Rubber Hose Production Rubber Coating** Other Rubber Vulcanization **Applications** 

### RUBBER VULCANIZATION











- @ www.rolmaconglobal.com
- sales@rolmaconglobal.com













### Rolmacon Global LLC

- 7901 Research Forest Drive STE400 #3134 The Woodlands TX 77382 USA
- +44 (0)1484 502204 E sales@rolmaconglobal.com

#### Akarmak USA Inc.

- A 13127 Middletown Industrial Blvd Bldg A, Suite 2 Louisville KY 40223 USA
- +1 502 795 02 25 E usa@akarmak.com



## Independent Rubber Roller Technical Experts For More Than Six Decades

### Mechanical

- · Unaged & Aged Properties
- Friction/Fatigue/Flex Testing
- Abrasion & Tear Resistance
- **Burst Testing**
- Ozone & Weathering

### Analytical

- Formulation Fingerprinting
- Thermal: DSC, TMA, TGA, DMA
- Reverse Engineering
- Microscopy
- Failure Analysis

### Consulting

- · Expert Witness & Litigation
- **Technical Consulting & Training**
- Process Improvement
- Compound Development
- Sustainability Initiatives



ardl.com sales@ardl.com Contact Our Experts Today



rubber. plastics. latex.



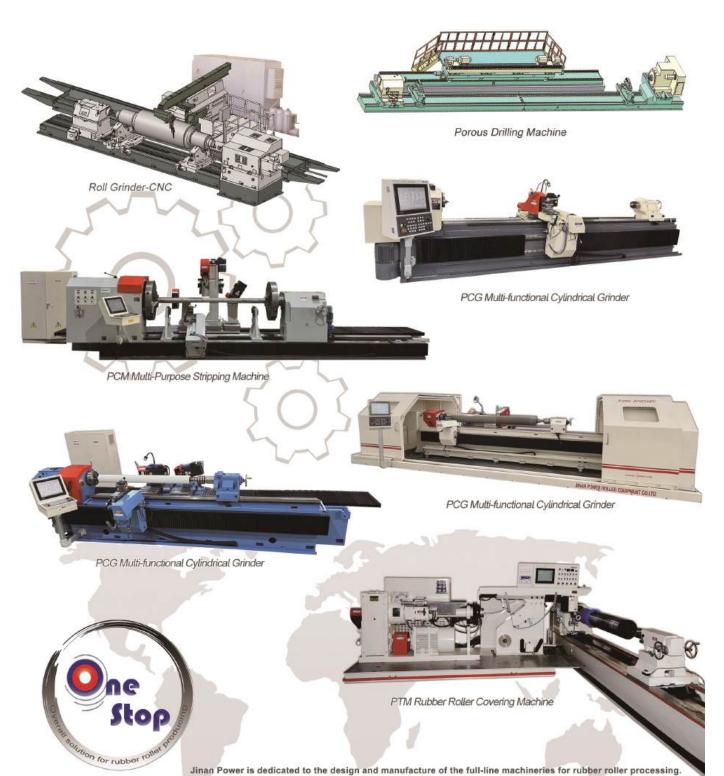








Established in 1998
Rubber Roller Group Member since 2005
www.jn-power.com, manager@jn-power.com



Over the past 25 years, we are focusing on the improvement of the rubber roller production, and constantly improving its efficiency.

The production process has passed ISO9001 since 2001. CE certified products can be provided upon request.

Until 2023, our company has more than 23 patents, and the products have been exported to more than 30 countries.

### Where Calendering & Custom Mixing Goes Full Spectrum

### We are best known for our outstanding customer service & rapid turnaround

### Formulation Development

- Compound development
- Factory trials
- Many testing capabilities & proven formulations

### **Custom Mixing**

- Open mill mixing batches from 20-175 lbs
- Color mixing
- We mix most polymers

### Calendering

- Custom needs from 2" 60" and .020" .500"
- Multiple product quality checks

### Short lead times

- 44,000 sq. ft. modern facility
- Responsive shipping, expedited orders available





101 Ascot Parkway, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223 (330) 923-4101 FAX: (330) 923-4464

DAVE CORRON - General Manager | GraphicArtsRubber.com



## CALENDERED UNCURED COMPOUNDS

- High abrasion
- High heat resistance
- Enhanced bonding
- Thermally conductive
- Thermal Transfer

\*Strip and coil available

\*Mix and formulate in-house

\*Domestic materials

\*Testing on-site

\*Color matching available





(562) 946-2405 Info@inter-sil.com www.inter-sil.com





### KEEPING YOU IN BUSINESS IS OUR BUSINESS

Industrial manufacturing breakdowns are inevitable, even with the most robust equipment. We are dedicated to minimizing your downtime through overthe-phone technical support, expedited replacement parts, site visits, and repairs.



### CONTROLS THAT PUT YOU IN CONTROL

We offer a wide array of methods to operate your autoclave, ranging from traditional controllers with pen recorders to modern PLC controllers with real time monitoring, data logging, and ethernet capabilities. We also provide replacement parts and technical service to keep you up and running.



### IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY

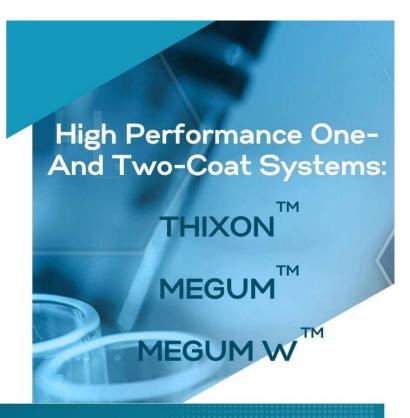
We can design a custom cart system specific to your needs. In conjunction with our hydraulic door unlock/lock, hydraulic door swing, and cart winch systems, we can help you to automate much of your process, increasing your productivity and efficiency while lowering safety risks to your employees.

US Autoclave Ltd. 1200 E. Kibby St., Building #3 Lima, Ohio 45804 419-224-4441 www.usautoclave.com



### Reliable **Bonding Solutions**

H.M. Royal, Inc. has 100 years of experience servicing customers in rubber, plastics, adhesives, and more. In adhesives, we are A Supplier You Can Stick With.



### Our Rubber-to-Substrate Bonding Services



**On-Site Support** Process Safety and Improvement Audits.



In-House Testing Your Materials. Our Lab. A Complete Report.



**Technical Library** Blogs, Studies, TDS, SDS, and More.



Supplier Support Expertise in Production, Supply, and Analytics.

Low VOC, Low HAP and Waterborne Offerings

### Why Choose Us?

A Culture of

🕖 A History In

Service.

Supply.

A Team of 15

A World Class Customer

Technical Sellers.

Service Team.

Contact Us



(800) 257-9452



689 Pennington Ave. Trenton, NJ



MRCustomerService@HMRoyal.com







### LAUR SILICONE

## Custom Silicone Compounds

for roller applications

We specialize in formulating and mixing silicone compounds tailored for industrial roller applications. Our product range includes compounds designed for enhanced thermal conductivity, high-strength, custom color solutions, and specialized bonding layers. Value-grade options are also available.

### STANDARD MATERIALS

- High Strength
- Anti-Static
- Thermal Transfer
- High Temperature
- High Resilience
- Flame Retardant

### **CUSTOM MATERIALS**

- Color
- Catalyst
- Special Properties
- Packaging: Strip Form, Slab, Calendered





+1 989-435-7400



laursilicone@laursilicone.com

We welcome all orders, big and small!



4930 S. M-18 Beaverton, Michigan 48612

## 100 Years of Reliable, Consistent Elastomer Compounding Ingredients

Polymers(inc. CPE, eSBR, FKM, & Nitrile),Co-Polymers,Curatives, Plasticizers, Activators, Fillers and more..



A Century of Trust & Quality

t: 1-800-257-9365
e: info@recarroll.com
w: www.recarroll.com

VERIFIED OF TREET

Knowledgeable, Responsible, Trusted: What Matters To You, Is Important To Us

## RUBBERHOG

Roll Grinding Wheels

### OVER 60 YEARS of INNOVATION

ORIGINATORS OF THE STRUCTURED-TOOTH TECHNOLOGY

- Sharper increased cutting action
- More uniform teeth better roller finish
- Lower cost helps your bottom line



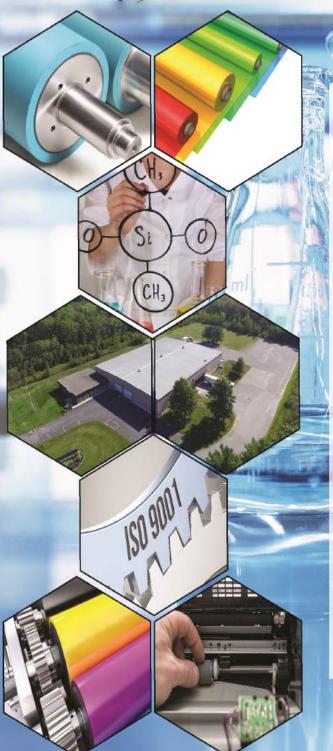
rolmaconglobal.com

Come see us at the Mini Expo! - rubberhog.com



## CRI-SIL

### SILICONE TECHNOLOGIES



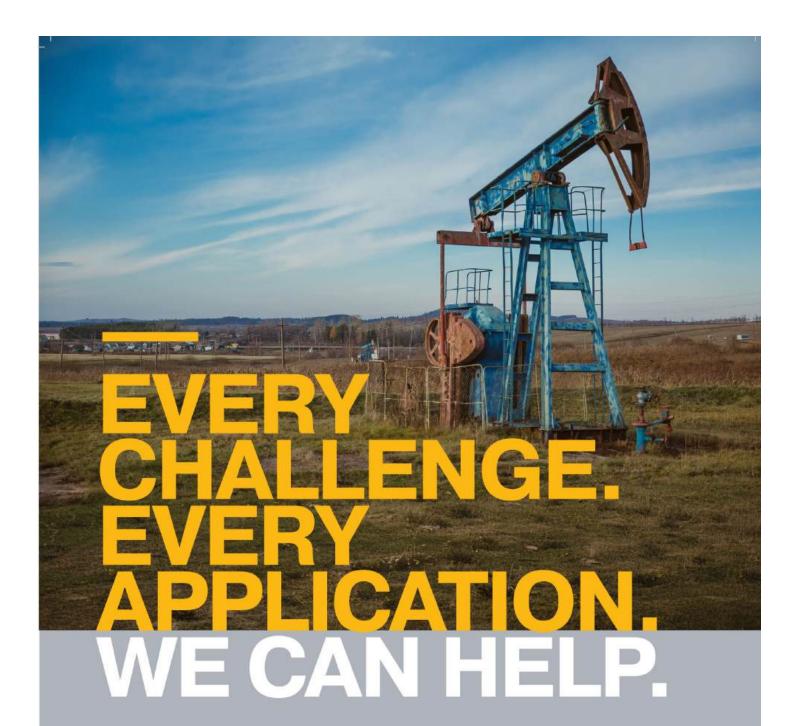
Silicone
Compounds
Customized for the
Roller Industry

### **Applications**

- Fuser
- Film
- · FDA
- Corona Resistant
- High Abrasion
   Resistance
- General Purpose
- Thermally Conductive
- Custom Designed

359 Hill St. Biddeford, ME 04005 Phone: 800-290-9192

email: silicone@crisil-silicones.com website: www.crisil-silicones.com



### **CHEMLOK® ADHESIVES**

Rubber-to-metal and rubber-to-plastic bonding adhesives stand up to any challenge - across any industry, in any application - delivering reliable value to your business.



parker.com/epm

### THE NEXT CHAPTER IN A LEGACY OF RUBBER COMPOUNDING



WITH OVER 150 YEARS COMBINED OF INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE IN RUBBER COMPOUNDING AND RUBBER FABRICATION, NGC IS READY TO HANDLE YOUR COMPLEX COMPOUNDING NEEDS.

**NEXTGENCOMPOUNDING.COM** 

### **DIAMETER TAPES**

Prosco, Inc. is an official distributor for **Pi Tape**<sup>®</sup>. \$\$ Discounted Prices Available \$\$





scan QR code







Matt Umentum, Rol-Tec Inc

mumentum@rol-tec.com

Chairman of the Board

Phone#: 920-339-3150

Tyler Sinclair, Redwood Plastics & Rubber

3

tsinclair@redwoodplastics.com

President

Phone#: 604-240-4507

**Jeff Hemingway,** Vail Rubber Works

jeff.hemingway@vailrubber.com

Vice President

Phone#: 269-983-0155

Steve Chase, Next Gen Compounding

schase@nextgencompounding.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Phone#: 817-528-1143

Josh Watson, Laur Silicone

jdwatson@laursilicone.com

Parliamentarian

Phone#: 989-435-7400

Darrin Roe, ZEON Chemical

 $\underline{droe@zeonchemicals.com}$ 

Supplier's Representative

Phone#: 817-939-0583

Steve Aker, American Roller

 $\underline{stephen.aker@american roller.com}$ 

Manufacturer's Representative

Phone#: 219-983-1425

Ryan Smith, Harwood Rubber Products

ryan@harwoodrubber.com

Manufacturer's Representative

Phone#: 330-923-3256

Mike Diskin, Halifax Numerical Controls Ltd

Mike.D@hnc.ltd.uk

International Representative

Phone#: 01-422-360607

Robbi Miller, IRMA/Rubber Roller Group

 $\underline{contact@rubberrollergroup.com}$ 

**Executive Secretary** 

Phone#: 417-337-0210

### **WESTON-NASHVILLE**



Our Annual meeting May 3, 4 and 5th is fast approaching! Mark your calendar and be watching for your membership and registration invoice in your email box after the first of the year.

### **RESERVATION LINK & CUT OFF DATE:**

Make your reservations online before *Monday, April 13,* 2026.

### Book your group rate for 2026 Annual Meeting Rubber Roller / IRMA

We will start with the Reception on Sunday, May 4th, at 5:00—7:00 pm. The Board is working on the meeting content and timeline and that information will be shared via email as it is available.

Please invite others to join and to come to the meeting. Send any suggested members contact information to

contact@rubberrollergroup.com.

### **COUNTRY MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD**

There's more to Nashville than the live entertainment and bars on Broadway. In recent years, Nashville has propelled its city status by becoming a beacon for noteworthy dining, cultural experiences and fun for all ages through experiences like the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum, the Grand Ole Opry, and the Ryman Auditorium, a churchturned-music venue with pews for seating.

If country music is not your thing, there are day and night events for you that include a dinner cruise on the Cumberland River, brewery and distillery tours, plantations, ziplining, hiking, pube crawls, museums and lots of sightseeing. Come early or stay over to see the best Nashville has to offer!