

# IRMA

INTERNATIONAL ROLLER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION



## ROLL CALL NEWSLETTER

Volume 39 April 2026

### Our Chairman, Matt Umentum, Says....

I am writing to personally invite you to join us at the Westin Nashville from **May 3–5, 2026**, for the International Roller Manufacturers Association annual meeting. As we transition into a new era under our updated association name, formerly the Rubber Roller Group, this gathering in "Music City" represents a critical moment for our industry to understand the effects of changes in the manufacturing world. Our time together will begin with a welcoming reception on Sunday evening, providing the perfect setting to reconnect with colleagues and rub elbows with industry leaders.

The theme of this year's meeting is industrial adaptation, and our agenda is designed to address the most pressing challenges facing our industry today. Specifically, we will have formal and informal discussions on the shifting landscape of global trade, focusing on the real-world effects of onshoring and the latest tariff developments. As manufacturing moves back to the United States, this can only be looked at as a boon to the roller manufacturing business. As manufacturing fundamentals evolve, understanding how these economic policies impact our supply chains and bottom lines is essential for every member.

Beyond these critical policy discussions, the meeting will offer a glimpse into the future of our trade, including sessions on the integration of artificial intelligence in roller manufacturing. We have secured a block of rooms at the Westin at a discounted rate, but I urge you to complete your reservations online before the **Monday, April 13, 2026** cutoff date. Your voice is vital to these conversations, and I look forward to seeing you in Nashville this May!

Matt Umentum

## Vice President, Jeff Hemmingway Provides some details about our meeting

If you live in the Midwest, I hope everyone has survived this brutal winter and is looking forward to warmer weather and longer days ahead. If you live in the south, I hope you feel good about yourself! This year's meeting will take place May 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> in "Music City," Nashville, TN. I would like to again recognize Robbi Miller for her dedication to our group and for working tirelessly securing the venue for the event and all past events that I can remember. For those interested, we will kick off the annual meeting with a cocktail reception Sunday night with the technical meeting following Monday and Tuesday.

Throughout the winter, our board has met to ensure we have a lineup of speakers that pique the interest of our group and are beneficial to a broad audience in our industry. We will begin our meeting hearing from Charlie Neff of Friction Coatings. He, along with some other long-time members, will lead us on a trip down memory lane with the history of the Rubber Roller Group and the influence it has had on our industry. We are in the final stages of lining up our Economist to discuss current economic affairs and issues our industry is facing.

From an historical retrospect and economic insights, we will pivot to our technical presentations, concluding our first day of meetings with Robert Czeiszperger from Anderson Development. He will be presenting new technology in the urethane sector of our industry. Our mini expo will follow, which is always a great networking opportunity for both suppliers and manufacturers. On the final day of our meeting, we will start the morning with a presentation from Dan Cahalane with American Roller. He will be delivering an interactive presentation on AI and its relevance in our industry. This will be an exciting presentation as we all strive to use the latest technological advancements to improve our businesses. Our final two presenters to conclude our meeting will be Justin Pflug with HM Royal and Erick Sharp with Ace Laboratories. Justin will present polymer to metal bonding techniques and failure analysis. Erick will present Ace Laboratories' capabilities to support the roller industry. Finally, we will end the meeting with our annual golf outing. Steve Chase will provide more detail on this in his article.

As we move closer to the event, I strongly encourage everyone to register for this meeting while renewing your IRMA membership. If you need any assistance please contact Robbi Miller at [contact@rubberrollergroup.com](mailto:contact@rubberrollergroup.com)

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Nashville in May!

## Parliamentarian, Josh Watson Explains upcoming elections

I hope everyone is having a good start to the year and is ready for the warmer weather ahead!

During this year's meeting, we will hold our standard elections for the board of directors. The officer positions have 2-year terms and are therefore on the ballot in every standard election. The following positions will be on the ballot:

### **2 Year Term Positions:**

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Parliamentarian
- Vice president (must be a manufacturer and is head of next two year's annual meetings)

## Parliamentarian, Josh Watson Explains upcoming elections (Continued)

Director positions have a 4-year term, which allows them to alternate with the election cycle and helps maintain continuity on the board.

### 4 Year Term Positions:

- International Rep Director

Last year, we held a special election to confirm the manufacturer representatives who were appointed to fill vacancies. Therefore, the manufacturer representatives do not need to be voted on this year. Their terms will carry over.

If you're interested in running for any of these positions, please feel free to reach out to our current Chairman, Matt Umentum, or myself, Josh Watson, your IRMA Parliamentarian.

## Golf will be awesome in Nashville!

As we all prepare for another Rubber Roller Group, I encourage you to plan on joining us for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Outing! These events seem to get better every year, but last year's event will be tough to match! This year's event will be held at the [Hermitage Golf Course](#) at 1:30 PM Tuesday, May 5th.

This resort has 2-18 hole courses. We will be playing their feature course called The Presidents Reserve. **The President's Reserve**, built in 2001 and designed by architect Denis Griffiths with the course that trails through 300 acres of natural Tennessee wetlands and along the banks of the beautiful Cumberland River. Playing up to 7200 yards, the President's Reserve is designed to cater to a diverse range of golfers. Hermitage Golf Course has established itself as the best in Tennessee public golf. As a unique bonus, roaming on both courses are the renowned [Scottish Blackfaced sheep](#) that joined the Hermitage Golf Course in 2012. As a nod to the ancestor of golf, Scotland, more than 40 sheep roam the course year-round and have become the official brand and mascot.

For more information about Hermitage look them up at [www.hermitagegolf.com](http://www.hermitagegolf.com). Cost for the event is \$140. This will include the round of golf, cart, practice range, lunch before the round. There are opportunities to win prizes for the winning team, closest to pin, and also long drive. Rental clubs are available, which are contracted through the course.

Suppliers, if you are interested in a hole sponsorship, please let myself or Robbi know or simply register for the sponsorship when completing your meeting registration. The sponsorship is \$350. You will have a sign with your company name or logo (if supplied) at a given tee box. The funds are used to purchase additional prizes and catering. We hope that you can join us! See you in May!

If you have questions, call me at 817-528-1143 or email at [schase@nextgencompounding.com](mailto:schase@nextgencompounding.com)



## Rohn Quince (Ronny) Rhodes, 84, passed away December 29,2025

The roller industry has lost another truly remarkable soul. Ronny Rhodes of **Craftex** has passed away, leaving behind a legacy that will not be forgotten. Ronny served on the RRG board from 2002–2012 — four years as Manufacturer Representative, two as Vice President, two as President, and two as Chairman. His service speaks volumes, but his heart spoke even louder.

Ronny was a steadfast supporter of the RRG and its mission from the very first day he joined us. Throughout my time on the Board, he was always there — offering encouragement, lending an experienced ear, or simply showing up when someone needed him. Even when he no longer held a position, he never stopped giving back.

What set Ronny apart was his generosity of spirit. He never hesitated to share technical insights or hard-earned knowledge, even when it meant giving away “secrets” that others might have guarded closely. For him, helping a fellow peer or competitor solve a customer problem mattered far more than protecting any advantage. He believed deeply in lifting others up.

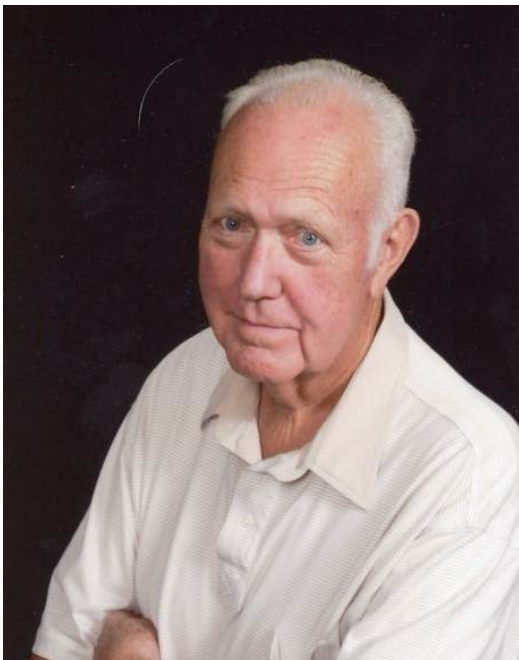
Ronny was gentle in nature but unwavering in conviction — a man who carried himself with kindness, humility, and an unshakable passion for helping others succeed. His steady presence, patient guidance, and quiet wisdom helped shape the roller industry and strengthened the Rubber Roller Group in ways that will endure long past his years of service.

Ronny, you will be deeply missed — but never forgotten. Your impact lives on in the people you helped, the industry you strengthened, and the countless challenges you helped us all find solutions to.

Randy Apperson

RRG past Chairman

1994-1998



I also served with Ronny while I was on the Board as well as in my current position. He served on the Rubber Roller Group Board for 10 years in all capacities and became a Life Member.

He was the founder and President of Craftex Protective Coatings in Moundsville, AL..He is survived by his children, Rohn , Rhonda, Veronica, and Cameron, ten grandchildren and three great grand children.

I cherished him as a friend and mentor. He left a mark on my life and will not be forgotten.

Robbi Miller

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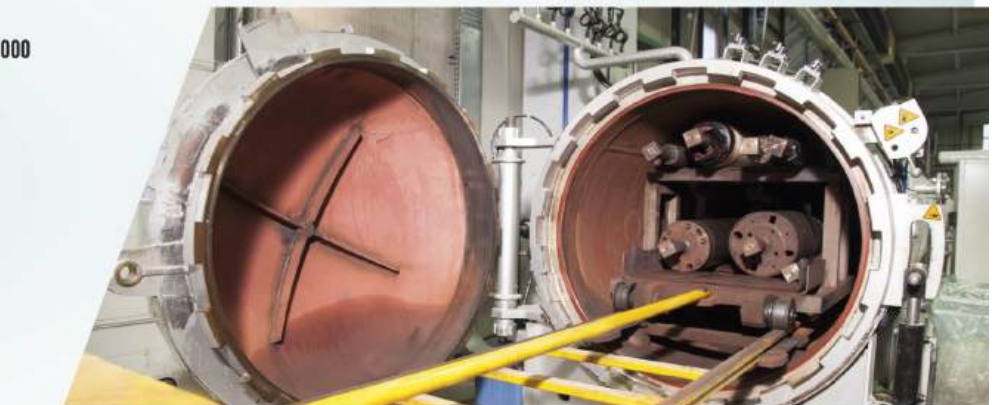
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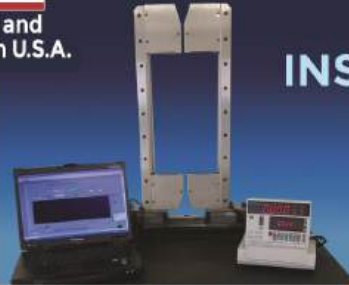
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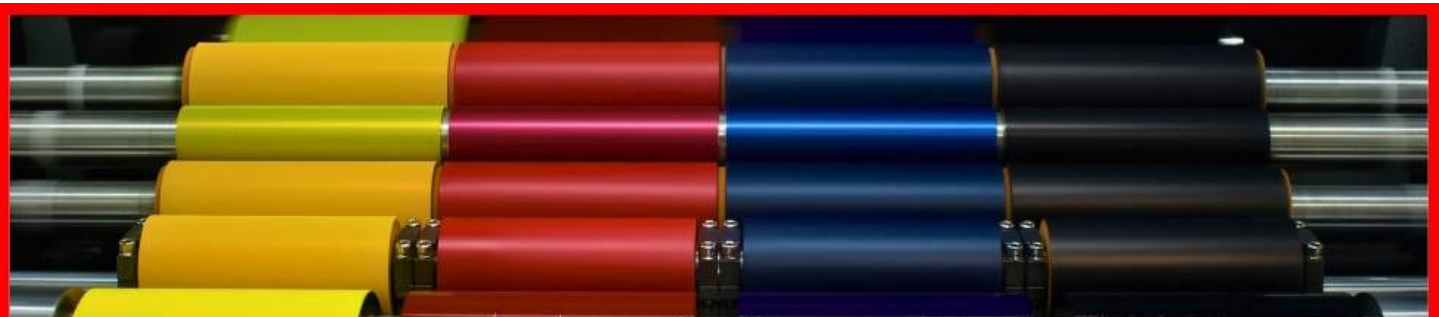
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## WESTON-NASHVILLE



**Our Annual meeting May 3, 4 and 5th is fast approaching! Mark your calendar and send your membership and registration now! You should have received your invoice via email or you can get it from the website [rubberrollergroup.com](http://rubberrollergroup.com).**

### 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 3rd, 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](mailto:contact@rubberrollergroup.com).

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