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CAFA's Convention is definitively our Association's most important event and the 2008 Convention outlines as a great event where business and camaraderie will join in a relaxed environment. Following the traditional program of two continued Conventions on the East Coast we will meet again on February 8th thru 11th, 2008 in the stunning resort of the **Marriot Resort, Golf Club and SPA** at Marco Island, Florida.

Many good things had been said about Marco Island and the Marriot Hotel. Its surroundings, the weather, the service and atmosphere. Last February we had a chance to enjoy this fantastic hotel along with its renovations and five star service. If you missed last year's Convention you can't miss it this year! No other event will pay off with the business opportunities you have at the **CAFA** Convention!



Visit: www.marcoislandmarriott.com

Important Note: Please be aware that December 15th, 2007 is the cut-off date to register. A late fee will apply through January 2, 2008 when the Convention registration will be definitively closed.

CAFA Website

Using our website capabilities has been of great help for Members that either do payments, update their company information or use the swapsheet page.

Members found that the **CAFA On-line Payment Center** is easy, convenient and secure. Use the Center to:

- Pay Annual Membership Dues
- Register for **CAFA** Convention (Opens Nov. 2007)
- Register for **CAFA** Trade Show (Opens Nov. 2007)
- Conference Sponsorship Program (Open now)

For our upcoming convention, most of the information (detailed agenda, times, ballrooms, etc.) will be posted on the website.

We anticipate an increase in the use of our website and new services for our Members will be available soon. We'll keep you informed and do not forget to use the **CAFA** website as your tool to get in touch with your industry colleagues.

For website suggestions or equipment /material listings please contact Lynne Henson at lynne@superiorabrasives.com

Welcome!!

CAFA keeps growing and wants to welcome our new coming Members to the Association:

- **Sun Disc Abrasives USA** - Duncan Hartley (Associate).
- **Metis S.R.L.** - Valeria Bellesia (Associate).
- **Elpa Abrasivi, S.R.L.** - Marco Taricco (Associate).
- **Contact Rubber** - Scott Schroeder (Associate).
- **Aurora Specialty Textiles Group** - Harry Vickers (Associate).

2007-2008 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is always highly enriched and guided with comments, questions and new suggestions from the Members. Should you have any, please drop us a line at:
info@cafa-info.org

Kevin Wykoff - President
Mike Faria - Vice-President
Lynne Henson - Treasurer
Scott Iding - Secretary

The Committees for this period are headed by:

- Lynne Henson in charge of the CAFA website.
- Mike Faria heads up the Membership Committee.
- Steve Burns and Jerry Casey stands for the Entertainment and Educational Committee.
- Scott Iding is responsible for the Trade Show Committee
- Jerry Casey and Ignacio Ricaud are heading the Suppliers Committee (Sponsorship Program).
- Ignacio Ricaud is heading the Communication Committee.

CAFA headquarters is located in Buffalo, New York.:

✉ **CAFA**
C/O Precision Abrasives
3176 Abbott Road
Orchard Park, New York 14127-1037
☎ 888-464-2232
🌐 info@cafa-info.org

Membership Directory

Remember to update your company's information. The new **Membership Directory** is on the CAFA's website and your changes will be recorded immediately. The updated **2007-2008 Membership Directory** is available in our website in a user-friendly printable format. For questions or comments please contact Mike Faria from E A Engineered Abrasives at mikef@eacanada.ca.

2008 Marco Island Agenda

Besides getting the full-length information from our website, following is a glimpse of the 2008 **CAFA** Convention Agenda:

Friday February 8th, 2008

7:00-8:00 PM New Members (only) reception
7:30-9:30 PM Opening Reception - indoors

Saturday February 9th, 2008

9:00-12:30 PM General Business Session
Afternoon Open for networking
6:00-7:00 PM Cocktail Reception - indoors
7:00-10:00 PM Dinner - indoors

Sunday February 10th, 2008

8:00-12:30 PM **CAFA's** Trade Show
12:30-2:00 PM Past President's Luncheon
Afternoon & evening is open for networking

Monday February 11th, 2008

7:30-12:30 AM Golf Tournament
2:00-5:00 PM Tennis Tournament
6:00-7:00 PM Cocktail reception - indoors
7:00-11:00 PM Gala Night

As in previous conventions, dress code is casual or business casual on most events and semi-formal attire is desired for the Gala Night.

The Association has arranged a limousine service that will offer discounted prices if you need ground transportation between Fort Myers Airport and the Marriot Hotel. For prices and reservations please contact **Ronald J. Dolno - Classic Transportation** at (800) 553-8294 or (239) 394-1888

classictaxi@hotmail.com

www.classicluxurytransportation.com

More information will be posted on the **CAFA** website.

Notice for Early Birds

Take advantage of the low airfares to Fort Myers, Florida that are available from many airlines when doing early reservations. Write it down in your agenda and don't wait for the last minute to make your hotel and flights reservations. Time flies!

2008 Marco Island Sponsorship Program

As a Corporate Sponsor, Associates now will have an excellent opportunity to promote their company, products and services. This program is the result of many Associate Members that expressed their interest in supporting the **CAFA** organization.

Four tiers are available for sponsorship:

Platinum – one space available

Gold – two spaces available

Silver – three spaces open

Bronze – Unlimited sponsorships.

The conference events, sponsorship details and sponsorship form has recently been sent via e-mail. Information and forms are also available on our website.

Each sponsorship is offered on a first come first serve basis.

CAFA New Logo



If you want to use it in your marketing / promotional materials, please contact Lynne Henson at lynne@superiorabrasives.com

we will have the opportunity to enjoy and learn from a national speaker and executive coach, *Gerry Murak* (murak.com). With over 30 years experience as a change agent, Gerry Murak is the author of the forthcoming business improvement book, “Enterprise Doctor – Secrets Revealed” and the leadership book “Our Fathers Who Art in Heaven...and What They Continue to Teach Us”. Gerry’s speech experience includes companies such as Ernst & Young, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, General Mills, Rotary Club, IRS, and literally dozens of other institutions, companies and associations. This time, Garry Murak’s speech will be about a grueling and challenging topic in many companies: “The Secrets of Succession”.

2009 Convention Indian Wells, California

The breath taking venue is already waiting for us. The 2009 CAFA Convention will be held from February 13th to the 17th at the **Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & SPA** in Indian Wells, California, a “desert oasis”, next door to Palm Springs.

Indian Wells is a beautiful town with great shopping, restaurants, world class golf courses, casinos for the faint of heart and very good weather.

Along with ballrooms and meeting facilities The Renaissance hotel has 500 rooms that will suit our group very well at reasonable rates.

The hotel has two very good golf courses on the premises. The “Players” course has undergone extensive renovations and will host the 2007 and 2008 LG Skins Game which is televised Thanksgiving weekend on ESPN.

For additional information and pictures please visit www.renaissanceesmeralda.com

2008 Keynote Speaker

As a result of the last convention questionnaires and the feedback from previous break out discussion groups, the **CAFA** BOD decided to locate a recognized non-abrasive-technical keynote speaker that would be a value added for attending the Annual Convention and address to all the Members during the General Session. In the presentation for the 2008 Marco Island Convention

Do you have any suggestions for our newsletter? Would you like to include an article of your interest in our next issue? Please send your comments to info@cafa-info.org or to iricaud@fandeli.com

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Nestled in the mangrove islands of southwest Florida's coast, Marco Island is indeed a world-class resort destination surrounded by miles and miles of pristine, uninhabited islands, bays, creeks, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Marco Island is the largest of Florida's Ten Thousand Islands (with 6,800-acres). It is surprisingly diverse and includes high sand hills, slash pine forests and sandy fields, in addition to quartz sand beaches and mangrove swamps.

The restaurants at Marco Island will delight your taste buds with fresh seafood and their wonderful island creations.

Explore the wilderness of the Ten Thousand Islands by land, boat or air and enjoy superb fishing and abundant wildlife! In addition, Marco Island provides opportunities for bird watching (over 200 species of birds including the American Bald Eagle are found!), shelling snorkeling, windsurfing, eco-tours and shopping.

Did you know that Marco Island has retained much of the natural beauty of its beginning when the Calusa Indians inhabited the island over 5,000 years ago?

Marco Island's Average Climate, Rainfall and Gulf Temperature in February

High	76° F
Low	52° F
Rainfall	2.0 inches
Gulf Water Temperature	66° F

Good News!

Our good friend, fellow colleague – and CAFA's President during the 2002-2004 period - Michael Loncarich from E A Engineered Abrasives is satisfactorily on the road to recovery from a surgery that put him "out of commission" for some time. It's great to have you back Mike!!

EXTRA, EXTRA!! Industry News

• Supplemented in part by
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"There are about 2,000 industrial distributors selling more than \$4 billion in abrasives according to the US Bureau of Census. Over 90% of those distributors are independent companies serving top industrial markets for wood (30%), aerospace products (18%) and foundries (11%). Details in The Abrasives Industry in Europe and North America: A Market/Technology Report."

Source: Abrasive Users News – May '07 Vol. II No 8

"Diamonds made from hair? Recently Chinese scientists used the carbon in human hair to make synthetic diamond. The result was a crystal with a rigidity slightly higher than the natural diamond."

Source: Abrasive Users News - July 27, 2007 Vol. II No 12

"The clearest and most encouraging lesson for us from this survey (MRO Purchasing Habits) is the fact that it gives further credence to our belief that the true purchasing power in most organizations lives on the plant floor, not in a corner office."

Source: MRO Today – August/September '07 Page No 9

"The United States is the world's largest importer of abrasives tallying \$117 million in 2006 according to trade statistics published by the United Nations. Second-place Germany imports slightly more than \$96 million... In exports of abrasive products, the US is ranked third shipping \$47 million in products compared with China's \$228 million and Germany's \$62 million. Source: United Nations Trade Data"

Source: Abrasive Users News - September 21, 2007 Vol. II No 15