

Board Converting

Serving the North American Corrugated and Folding Carton Industries for 40 years

NEWS

50 Years: AICC Celebrates The Independent In Palm Desert, CA

BY SUSAN RILEY

The voice of the independent was loud, clear and spectacular as the solar eclipse itself which fittingly had taken place earlier in the day during AICC's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Palm Desert, California.

On the evening of April 8, 2024, as attendees were paying homage to the founding box makers and envisioning a bright, sustainable future, they were also reveling in the relationships they were building which has kept the corrugated industry solidified and strong for decades.



AICC Chairman Matt Davis, Owner of Packaging Express, speaks at the 50th Anniversary Tribute.

“What we’re really doing here is celebrating relationships,” said AICC Chairman Matt Davis, Owner of Packaging Express, to the hundreds packed in the Frank Sinatra Ballroom. “For the Emerging Leaders in this room, you will make friends here that you’ll have for life. There are no overnight success stories in the box business. It takes years of hard work. That is why we are celebrating. You come in as friends and you leave as family.”

AICC, The Independent Packaging Association, was created in 1974 in response to economic challenges they were experiencing — most significantly, a severe shortage of linerboard and medium. This had a serious impact on the independent sheet plants that were dependent on the integrated corrugators who were their main sheet suppliers.

From then to now has been a tremendous journey for AICC as well

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Registration Open For TAPPI & AICC SuperCorrExpo 2024

The organizers of SuperCorrExpo have announced that registration for SuperCorrExpo 2024, the largest event in the corrugated packaging industry, is now open. The much-anticipated event will take place September 8-12 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

Hosted jointly by TAPPI and AICC, SuperCorrExpo 2024 is the leading industry event that draws professionals, suppliers, and innovators from across the globe. Participants can look forward to a dynamic and immersive experience, exploring the latest trends, cutting-edge technologies, and insights from key industry leaders.

The theme is Time Tested, Future Forward. TAPPI and AICC invite attendees to join the generations of forward-thinking professionals and companies that have stood the test of time with the newest technology, smartest thinking, and freshest insights.

Highlights include:

- Exhibition Hall: Featuring more than 300 exhibitors showcasing working machinery, the latest technologies and solutions tailored for the corrugated packaging sector.

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CORRUGATED REPLACEMENTS, INC.

www.corrugatedparts.com

Corrugated Replacements, Inc. is a production powerhouse that manufactures high quality machine parts and replacement parts for the corrugated and paperboard converting industries. CRI can redesign, engineer, and manufacture any part while providing rapid turn-around, keeping machines running at peak performance and limiting down time.

C.U.E., INC.

www.AnvilCovers.com

Makers of single and dual-width Timesaver® Anvil Covers, the premier urethane anvil cover for corrugated die cutting. Timesaver® covers feature construction of solid steel backing and solid steel locking components to ensure a precise fit every time. C.U.E., Inc. also offers Dura-Latch and Cor-Lock anvil covers, and urethane Lead Edge Feed Wheels.

EMBA

www.embausa.com

The EMBA group supports a complete line of corrugated converting machinery for the worldwide market. EMBA's Quick Set technology enables the highest productivity across a broad range of converting equipment, from mini to super jumbo. EMBA also includes the McKinley jumbo line of flexo folder gluers and rotary die cutters as well as service, rebuilds and upgrades for both EMBA and McKinley.

EAGLEWOOD TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

www.eaglewoodtech.com

Eaglewood Technologies offers trusted cleaning technologies for the world's best printers and converters. Solutions include the award winning Sitexco+ Anilox Laser System, the Nanovis Parts Washing System, the Sitexco L10 Label System, the innovative Sanilox™ System or Alphasonics solutions. We also offer Xpress™ mobile cleaning service at your facility or ours.

ESKO

www.esko.com

ArtiosCAD and Kongsberg are the most trusted names in CAD/CAM solutions. Esko's ArtiosCAD is the most widely used CAD software in the world. Esko's Kongsberg series of tables brings you reliable, outstanding quality for sample-making and short run production.

DOMINO

www.dominodigitalprinting.com

Domino is a leading manufacturer and distributor of digital printing and product identification solutions. Celebrating its 44th year, Domino is headquartered in the UK and North America headquarters are Illinois. Domino has 25 subsidiaries, representation in over 120 countries, and over 2,900 employees worldwide.

AICC Celebrates (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

as a transformation to the modern organization it is today.

"This is about what AICC has meant over the last 50 years," Davis said. "This is about all the risk takers in this room, the entrepreneurs who have built this association into what it is."



AICC President Mike D'Angelo

Without those box makers with "fire in their belly," AICC would not exist as it does today, he said.

As visionary as the founding members were, AICC President Mike D'Angelo said he wonders if they could get their hands around what the association has become today with 518 member companies (285 box makers, 233 associates/suppliers) in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Of note, Davis said that AICC Mexico is currently the fastest growing region.

"If I was selling equipment, I would place a huge emphasis on Mexico," Davis said.

AICC leadership, however, has been slow to turn over with only three presidents since its inception in 1974: Dick Troll (30 years), Steve Young (25 years), and D'Angelo himself.



An Industry Panel Discussion. From left, are Joe Morelli (Huston Patterson), Bill Akers, Jim Akers, and Andrew Akers (Akers Packaging), Chad Wagner (Peachtree Packaging), Larry Grossbard and Richard Grossbard (President Container), and Jeff Pallini, Fosber America.

Over the years, AICC membership has become not only more diversified, but more philanthropic with \$400,000 awarded to charities, including the Foundation For Pack-

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**AICC 2024 Spring Meeting
& 50th Anniversary Party**
JW Marriott Desert Resort,
Palm Desert, California
April 8-10



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THE HAIRE GROUP

www.hairegroup.com

Haire Group is the premier provider of new machinery for the corrugated industry. From the Apstar line of flexo folder gluers and rotary die cutters, the Encore line of flexo folder gluers and rotary die cutters, and the Engico flexo folder gluer, Haire is able to pair clients with the best machinery solutions for the best value to meet their needs. Haire Group's service department helps its customers maximize uptime and profitability through superior 24/7 service and support, a pre-install training center, and over a million dollars' worth of spare parts at their offices just outside of Chicago. Haire Group has been the industry's #1 pre-owned machinery broker and plant equipment appraiser since 1976.

HARPERLOVE

www.HarperLove.com

HarperLove is the leading provider of specialty adhesives, performance additives, and wet-strength resins to corrugated packaging manufacturers. With the largest and most experienced field service and technical support team positioned throughout the U.S. and Latin America, HarperLove has a long-standing reputation for providing outstanding service and delivering demonstrable performance improvements. HarperLove's renowned services include not only innovative product development and custom product formulation, but also machine and process assessments, adhesive formula adjustments, machine tuning, detailed service reporting, and more.

KERNIC SYSTEMS

www.kernicsystems.com

Kernic Systems has been a leading global provider of recycling equipment solutions since 1978. For over 40 years, Kernic Systems has provided balers, air conveying and dust collection systems, shredders, industrial vacuums, and recycling equipment to a wide range of markets. Today, Kernic Systems serves customers with an expanded offering of standard products and custom-engineered systems through three primary business divisions: Recycling Solutions, Dust Collection and Air Pollution Control, and Material Handling.

KIWIPLAN

www.kiwiplan.com

Kiwiplan provides state-of-the-art software solutions to corrugated, folding carton, plastics and flexible packaging facilities around the globe. Kiwiplan's Total Solution delivers comprehensive, seamless real-time flow of information from sales order management to dynamic total plant scheduling and inventory control through shipping. With deep manufacturing and distribution expertise, Kiwiplan knows the specific problems customers face and provides the specialized software they need to adapt, compete, and win in today's rapidly changing world.

AICC Celebrates (CONT'D FROM PAGE 26)

aging Education, through annual golf tournaments. Additionally, AICC is a proud sponsor of the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation.

AICC's online education program offers more than 100 courses, 30 of which are in Spanish, which every member can access. D'Angelo said that AICC members have completed 18,570 online courses since April 2017.



Jeff Putt, Managing Director of Digital Services at DeLine Box & Display of Denver, Colorado, discussed AI integration and how it fits in the future of manufacturing.

"That's a tremendous achievement by everyone in this room and everyone who is back at the plants working today who want to continue to grow and be effective in their positions," he said.

AICC is also focused on educating members on artificial intelligence with the upcoming AI Xperience event set for Chicago, Illinois on May 14-16. D'Angelo said the event will feature subject matter experts and fellow member companies that are the early adopters of AI and want to share what they have learned with other members.



Caitlin Salaverria, President of the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation, shared an ICPF update.

Meanwhile, AICC's popular Breaking Down Boxes podcast is in full force with more than two dozen episodes. They also produce a bi-monthly magazine, a weekly newsletter, and a soon-to-be-released salary survey.

"We're constantly using technology to gather information," D'Angelo said.

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OHIO BLOW PIPE/ADVANCED AIRSYSTEMS

www.obpairsystems.com

For 85 years the Ohio Blow Pipe company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Advanced Airsystems, have provided the corrugated and folding carton industries with systems and products to process scrap. We engineer, fabricate, install, service, provide system audits, and offer a wide range of scrap systems, dust collection systems and products to include cyclones, under roof AIR-SCREEN™ systems, pit belt systems, CLEANAIR dust collectors, Mist-Clone™ dust control systems for vacuum feeds, material handling fans, ductwork, switch valves, airveyors, balers, shredders and dust briquetters.

OMP

www.omp.com

OMP helps companies facing complex planning challenges to excel, grow and thrive by offering the best digitized supply chain planning solution on the market. Its Unison Planning concept has a unique approach. It handles all supply chain planning challenges in a unified way, synchronizing all planning stages, horizons, functions and roles. Hundreds of customers run OMP's cloud-based solution to generate more value by making informed decisions. OMP invests one out of every three dollars earned into innovation.

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We custom design, install and service air conveyed scrap and dust collection systems. Our unique APS® is smaller, lighter, and more reliable than current cyclones. Contact us to learn how the APS® System can enhance your operation.

PROFERO SYSTEMS, INC.

www.ProferoSystems.com

Profero Systems the leader in double facer heating and traction section conversions along with other performance enhancing products. Featuring products from Contact Bars and Compensating Rolls to New Glue Machines and Double Facers.

GF PUHL

www.gfpuhl.com

GF PUHL designs, manufactures and installs air conveyed scrap & dust collection systems for the packaging and corrugated industries. With 40 years of experience, USA and International. We offer below or above roof systems featuring cyclones OR screen separators with real time pressure balancing for optimal dust control. High efficiency cyclones for sheet transfer exhaust systems eliminate water consumption and deliver dust directly to compactor or briquetter for low maintenance, long term sustainability and reliability. System audits, dust explosivity tests and dust hazard analysis (DHA's) available. Re-manufactured balers, filters, blowers and shredders available at significant savings.

AICC Celebrates (CONT'D FROM PAGE 28)

AICC will also co-host with its partner, TAPPI, the upcoming SuperCorrExpo on September 8-11 in Orlando, Florida.



Jerry Frisch, Owner of Salt Lake City, Utah based Wasatch Container was the industry speaker.

“It’s a strong partnership that will continue contractually through 2032 and hopefully beyond that,” he said.

Noticing the AICC “stars” on the footpath to the celebration, Jack Nebesky, Senior Vice President of Sales at Buckeye Corrugated and a member of AICC for 15 years, said he was indeed honored to be part of the milestone celebration.

“If you look at this Walk of Fame, they are literally some that have created such an opportunity for the future of everyone in this industry,” he said.



Cory Whitton, an Account Representative with Cascades Sonoco, an AICC member for just three years, said the 50th anniversary to him represents the strength of the industry and the strength of the independents.

“The independents are a big part of who we are as an organization and supporting them in their businesses is very valuable to us,” Whitton said.

“Just being around so many people that are entrepreneurs and business owners and family businesses, I think it’s extremely valuable and AICC really gives us the tools to network and learn more about not only the businesses,

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SAUER SYSTEM

www.sauersystem.com

Sauer provides intelligent solutions for scoring, slitting, slit-scoring, and perforating on corrugators and floor slitters; and glue tab cutting, creasing, slotting, trimming and scrap chopping on presses. New, featured offerings include FRX Adjustable Folding Rail System and G3 Scoring System: the latest proven creasing technology on the market.

STAFFORD GROUP

www.go2stafford.com

Interactive website for Stafford Corrugated Products and Stafford Cutting Dies. Featuring online ordering of replacement parts. Also, visitors can automatically calculate sheet size for most die-cut standards.

SUN AUTOMATION GROUP®

www.sunautomation.com

SUN Automation Group is the global leader in providing innovative solutions to the corrugated industry. SUN engineers and builds the SUN625 Rotary Die Cutter, provides sales, service and support in North and Central America for Latitude Machinery Corporation, manufacturer of Mini to Jumbo FFG and RDCs. Additionally, SUN is the North American, UK and Ireland sales and service provider for Para Machinery's line of equipment, and is the North American sales provider for Highcon. SUN also powers the corrugated industry's premier IIoT platform, Helios, and is the OEM source for Langston/Staley equipment parts and service.

THACKER INDUSTRIAL SERVICE COMPANY

www.thackerindustrial.com

Specializing in corrugated machinery, T.I.S.CO. offers quality-made products, support services, and more. T.I.S.CO. has a reputation of dependability, not only in the product, but in service and support. With more than 25 years' experience, T.I.S.CO. installs equipment and machinery, moves or sets up entire plants, rewires and rebuilds - all over the world.

VT GROUP

www.vtgrouponline.com

VT offers prepress services for the POP display and corrugated shipping container industry including graphic design, optimized digitally imaged printing plates and innovative pre-mounting solutions. Our large-format digital printing facility (Digital Impact) is a leading short-run manufacturer of distinctive POP displays and signage where litho-like graphics are preferred.

WPR SERVICES

www.wprservices.net

WPR Services was established in 2016. What originally started as a technical services company expanded its product offerings to include a machine center learning platform POWtalk™. Our analysis of video, audio, machine metrics, employee ergonomics, and person to person conversation provides a way to identify safety and process inefficiencies.

AICC Celebrates (CONT'D FROM PAGE 30)

but the industry and the organizations.”

The following are the founding member companies that were present at AICC's first national meeting in St. Louis, Missouri in 1974. Those in boldface are still in business under the same or similar name. Those with an asterisk are still in business but have been acquired.

Salut!

- Advance Packaging (PCA)*
- **Arvco Container**
- Bates Container (Smurfit Kappa) *
- **Blossomland Container**
- **Borders Container**
- Cameron Packaging
- **Central Container**
- Centralia Container
- Coast Packaging Materials
- Commander Packaging
- Condura Box
- **Container Service**
- Cor-Box (Sonoco) *
- Decatur Container (Akers Packaging Service) *
- Delta Container
- A. Goodenough Box
- Great Northern Packaging
- Independent Corrugated Container Corporation of North America
- **Jamestown Container**
- Krafcor (IP) *
- Lawless Container
- Mall City Containers (Hood Container) *
- Michiana Container
- Michigan Packaging Co. (Greif) *
- Mid-Atlantic Pkg. (The Royal Group) *
- Mid-Michigan Container
- Monarch Box & Paper
- Nor East Packaging
- Northern Package
- O'Grady Containers (IP) *
- Omaha Box Co. (Liberty Diversified) *
- Orchard Consolidated Industries
- Paragon Packaging Products
- Powderly Container (S.E.M.O) *
- Queen City Container (Sumter Packaging) *
- R and D Incorporated
- Select Carton Service Ltd. (Central Group) *
- Sentinel Container
- Shillington Box (The Royal Group) *
- Specialty Container (Supply One) *
- **Stand Fast Packaging Products**
- Tate Containers (IP) *
- Taylor Paper Corp. of St. Louis
- Thacker Container (PCA)*
- Triangle Container (Menasha) *
- Tri-Pack
- Western Reserve Container