



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024



Exciting news!

The FAMA / FEMSA newsletter is now digital for enhanced accessibility.
Browse the latest news from both Associations below.



Our Call to Action

By David Gatton, GAC Senior Advisor



Change is inevitable and Washington DC is about to go through some incredible change. With the election there will be new members of Congress and new staff who will need to be oriented towards the priorities of the first responder community.

In this Congress, FAMA and FEMSA worked diligently for the passage of the reauthorization of AFG and SAFER with incredibly strong bipartisan votes. This was a major victory and we must thank the Congress for its support. But at the same time, we saw a 10% cut in FY 2024 appropriations for both programs in the midst of such strong support.

The Senate, which flipped majorities, will see new leadership, committee chairs, subcommittee chairs and staff. The new Trump Administration will appoint a new cabinet, assistant secretaries and White House personnel.

All said and done, FAMA, FEMSA and the larger Fire Coalition have its work cut out for them, or should I say, "us." It is not a given that in the midst of dramatic change, attention will be given to the importance of key but relatively small programs such as AFG and SAFER, the US Fire Administration and the Urban Search and Rescue teams.

We know these programs play an essential role to the public safety, and are an integral part of our National Response Plan. The FAMA/FEMSA GAC has worked since its inception to ensure that AFG and SAFER are funded and improved upon but we cannot assume that new members of Congress or new Administration leaders will be familiar or supportive of them.

That's where we come in. This year's Hill Day (February 12-13) will be devoted to educating the new players in Washington on the importance of these programs. Not everyone will know the intricacies of the first responder community or the role you, as businesses, play in providing essential equipment and apparatus.

We have a good story to tell, even an excellent and essential one. But we must tell it. And that means we need a strong

showing of FAMA/FEMSA members to join us this year during Hill Day. You've always responded to the FAMA/FEMSA GAC call to action. *It's time to "suit up" again.*

REGISTER NOW FOR HILL DAY!

NEW MEMBERS



GROVER PRODUCTS LLC

323-263-9981
1218 E Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018



CIRCUL AIR CORP

909-264-4875
1270 Mcconnel Rd.
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

CONDESSA33 LLC

858-222-9688
3663 Promontory St.
San Diego, CA 92109



2025 FAMA SPRING MEETING

March 1 – 4, 2025 | The Westin Rancho Mirage
Rancho Mirage, CA

IN MEMORIUM

William Arbus
Apparatus Equipment & Service, Inc.

Steve Calabrese
Father of Nathan Calabrese
Ricochet Manufacturing

David Schlett
Father of Eric Schlett
Clarion Fire & Rescue Group

Rich Teske
Trident Emergency Products, LLC

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: DR. ANIRBAN BASU



"The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly"

As an added benefit following the cancellation of the 2024 FEMSA/FAMA Fall Conference, we are pleased to offer members exclusive access to a recording of Dr. Anirban Basu's insightful presentation.

Exploring whether the Federal Reserve has successfully engineered a soft landing, Dr. Basu analyzes key economic forces shaping the year ahead, including geopolitical conflict, rising consumer debt, and interest rates.

WATCH NOW

Upcoming Fire Service Events



Florida Fire & EMS Conference
January 6-10, 2025 | Orlando, FL



FDSOA Health Safety & Apparatus Conference
January 13-16, 2025 | St. Pete Beach, FL



Long Island Metro Fire/EMS Expo
January 21-February 2, 2025 | Uniondale, NY



CFSI Symposium / FAMA/FEMSA Hill Days
February 12-13, 2025 | Washington DC

[VIEW FULL EVENTS LIST](#)

MEMBER NEWS



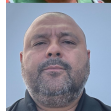
4 Guys Fire Trucks celebrated 50 years in business with a community open house and Home Day on Saturday, October 19. Hundreds of people attended, including local citizens and firefighters from as far away as Virginia and New York. Several elected officials also attended the event, presenting citations from the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the Somerset County Board of Commissioners.



CURTIS TOOLS FOR HEROES®



Curtis welcomes Jason Solak, Market Development Specialist - Rescue Tools. Jason works with the customers in the Pacific North and Pacific South territories providing sales and product awareness for our family of Rescue Tools.



In the Pacific South territory, Curtis welcomes Albert Chavez, Service Technician. Albert is the newest addition to their technical staff servicing and maintaining customers' tools and equipment after their purchase.



Elkhart Brass, FRC and ROM are excited to announce the return of Ron Truhler as a Strategic Account Manager. In his new role, Ron will be responsible for deepening the relationships at key accounts. Additionally, he will work closely with our Regional Sales Team to develop and execute plans targeting top dealerships.



Fire-Dex has filled one position and promoted three associates over the last quarter. Molly Money Penny was hired as a Quality and Compliance Manager and Wyatt Eckroth was promoted to CAD Associate, and on the Gear Wash side, Yunia Barbeira Rodriguez and Trevor Gordon were each promoted to Assistant Operations Supervisor.



Eric Valliere, the current Chair of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association, has been reappointed to a new three-year term beginning in January 2025. His reappointment reflects FDSOA's confidence in his vision and commitment to strengthening safety standards within the fire service industry.



Fort Garry Fire Trucks' CEO, Rick Suche, recently celebrated his 45th anniversary with the company. His anniversary ring was presented to him by Production Manager, Janusz Danielak, and President, Jim Peters. Brad Petrie also recently celebrated 25 years service and Daren Johnson also recently celebrated 20 years of service.

FGFT is also excited to share that recent customer Frank Assu has written a children's book, illustrated by Sareh Puetz, featuring a built wildfire tactical tender.



H.O. Bostrom Company is pleased to announce that fourth-generation family member Jared Bostrom has joined the company as a Sales and Business Development Manager. His background in developing strong customer partnerships, working with technical and industrial products and identifying innovative solutions positions him well to serve H.O. Bostrom's customers and develop new business opportunities.



As of October, two business units will be responsible for LION's Americas market: LION Safety Solutions and LION Identity and Protection Systems. LION Safety Solutions will be a new business unit dedicated solely to LION Training Products/Training Solutions and LION TotalCare product lines. The LION Identity and Protection Systems business unit will be dedicated solely to LION's PPE, PPE essentials and NFPA-certified and non-certified Elbeco uniform product lines.



Milliken & Company is pleased to announce the appointment of Marcio Manique as SVP of protective fabrics for its textile business. In this critical role, Manique will oversee the fire service, workwear, and napery businesses, in addition to managing Westex: A Milliken Brand.



Milliken is also pleased to announce Allen Jacoby as EVP and president of its textile business. Jacoby has served as the company's Chief Strategy Officer and SVP of Corporate Development and Innovation since 2021 and will succeed David Smith who is retiring.



In September, Grace Bean joined the RealWheels Corp. team as the Social Media Manager. Bean is committed to deepening her understanding of the industry and is enthusiastic about leveraging her expertise to support Realwheels Corp. in achieving its objectives and further solidifying its reputation and branding across all their industries.



Ricochet is thrilled to announce the addition of four new Territory Managers at Ricochet. Mike Natchipolsky will support the Mid-Atlantic, Brennan Norton the Southeast, Brian Dunn the South and



George Stratten the West Coast. This expansion makes their gear more accessible to first responders nationwide, ensuring access to the essential PPE resources.



Feature Your News in Our Next Issue!

Announcements and press releases about new employees, promotions, retirements, building expansions and awards make good submissions for Member News.

SUBMIT



CONTACT FEMSA OR FAMA & **LEARN MORE**



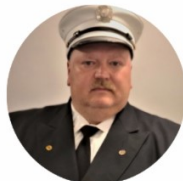
Bert McCutcheon
Bulldog Fire Apparatus, Inc.
Past President



Gary Pacillio
Fouts Bros., Inc.
President



Andrew Lingel
United Plastic Fabricating, Inc.
Vice President



Jason Witmier
Fire Research Corporation
Treasurer



Melissa Dobbs
IMMI
Secretary



Kevin Ignacio
Marion Body Works
Director at Large



Jerry Halpin
CET Fire Pump Mfg., Ltd.
Director at Large

Introducing the 2025 FAMA Board of Directors



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Past President



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AMDOR Inc.
President



Jason Witmier
Fire Research Corporation
Vice President



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Task Force Tips, Inc.
Treasurer



Melissa Dobbs
IMMI
Secretary



Kevin Ignacio
Marion Body Works
Director at Large



Gregg Geske
Waterous Company
Director at Large

FAMA extends special thanks to

Bert McCutcheon, Andrew Lingel and Jerry Halpin for their service.



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Karen Emory
Hi-Tech Fire & Safety, Inc.
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Sandy Longzarzo
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Fire & Safety, Inc.



Hayley Tincu
LION

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024 & 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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We encourage you to forward the email and share this news with your colleagues.**

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