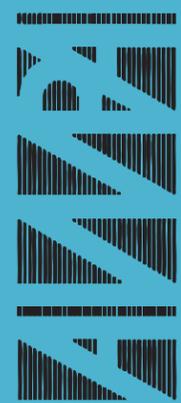


American Wire Producers Association

'09



American Wire Producers Association
801 North Fairfax Street, Suite 211
Alexandria, VA 22314-1757

**'09 GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS**

CONFERENCE

Hyatt Regency
Washington Capitol Hill
Washington, DC
September 16-18, 2009

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From

Joe Downes, Leggett & Platt

AWPA Government Relations Chair

We hope you will join us in our nation's capital for the 2009 American Wire Producers Association (AWPA) Government Affairs Conference being held September 16-18. This two-day program will provide valuable time with colleagues and opportunities to continue and strengthen your relationships with your Congressional Representatives.

It's been a difficult year in our industry and for manufacturing concerns everywhere. This is an important time to gauge how your company is doing, as you talk with others in the industry and gain knowledge of where we are in our country's economic recovery.

With a new President and administration, our annual congressional visits allow all of us an important opportunity to meet with our legislators to discuss the issues that face our companies and the industry, in these challenging times. These visits are vitally important to the mission of AWPA. Participants will be fully briefed on the issues on our Government Relations agenda.

On Thursday evening following the visits, we will hold a reception on Capitol Hill. We urge you to extend a personal invitation to all of your legislators to attend. The AWPA will be sending an electronic invite which you can forward to your contacts in your Congressional offices; however, your phone call will have the greatest impact.

Don't miss this important opportunity to have your voice heard in the halls of Congress.

Preliminary Schedule of Events

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

2:00pm-5:30pm	Registration
2:30pm-5:30pm	Executive Committee Meeting
4:30pm-5:30pm	Membership Committee Meeting
5:30pm-7:00pm	Opening Reception
7:00pm	Dinner on Your Own

Thursday, September 17, 2009

8:00am	Registration
Breakfast	Meetings on Your Own
9:00am-12:00pm	General Session
12:00pm-1:15pm	Lunch
1:45pm-5:00pm	Congressional Visits
5:00pm-6:00pm	Capitol Hill Reception
6:00pm	Dinner on Your Own

Friday, September 18, 2009

8:00am-9:30am	Buffet Breakfast & Hill Visits Debriefing
9:30am-11:00am	PC Strand Committee Meeting
9:30am-11:00am	Stainless Committee Meeting
11:00am-1:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting/Lunch

*Schedule is subject to change.
Please check the AWPA website for updates.*

Save the Date

2010 Government Affairs Conference
September 15-17, 2010
Hyatt Regency Washington Capitol Hill
Washington, DC

PROGRAM INFORMATION

General Session & Meetings

China remains at the forefront of AWPAs Government Affairs agenda. Efforts are still underway by AWPAs leadership to encourage the Chinese to eliminate the border tax measures, which tax wire rod exports and provide a tax rebate for wire products exports. These policies create trade distortions that directly and adversely impact the US wire and wire products industry and our wire rod suppliers.

One result of AWPAs efforts on this issue has been the establishment of a joint effort with a number of other Associations representing wire rod users, including the Cold Finished Bar Institute, Domestic Committee for Steel Wire Rope and Specialty Cable, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, International Fasteners Institute, Spring Manufacturers Institute, Wire Fabricators Association and the Wire Reinforcement Institute. We have invited representatives from these organizations to the Government Affairs Conference to participate in a panel discussion. Panelists will provide a unique look at the complete supply chain from Scrap to Finished Wire Products.

Complementing the panel will be an official from the US Trade Representative's (USTR) Office to update attendees on what USTR is doing to move China along in complying with their WTO obligations. What assistance can AWPAs member companies expect from USTR as we work towards a solution to this trade problem? Finally, Congress is also involved in the China issue. A bill has been introduced in the Senate to require China to fix its currency valuation practices. Come hear from the bill's sponsor, Senator Debbie Stabenow (Invited) from Michigan, who will discuss her bill, its intent and the prospects for passage.

Following the General Session, attendees will meet with their legislators on Capitol Hill to further discuss the China trade problems and state of the domestic wire and wire products industry. These visits will be followed by a reception on Capitol Hill, which we have invited legislators and their staffers to stop by for informal conversation about your issues. Please extend a personal invitation to your legislators to come and participate in this informal venue. You will receive an e-mail invitation that can be forwarded on to all of your legislators along with a personal note from you!

AWPA will once again compile statistical information on the wire, wire products and rod industry. The results of this survey will be unveiled during the General Session and will be used to inform your Congressional representatives about the importance of the US wire industry and to highlight the devastation of industry jobs during the recession.

Of course, no AWPAs event would be complete without time dedicated to meeting old friends and making valuable industry contacts, and this year is no exception. The conference will open with a reception on Wednesday evening, allowing attendees to mix and mingle.

Committee meetings for Stainless Wire and PC Strand manufacturers will take place on Friday morning. The AWPAs Membership Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday afternoon. The Government Affairs Conference will conclude with a Board of Directors meeting and lunch on Friday.



Congressional Visits

Congressional Visits are, as always, very important to your company and to the AWPAs. Legislators need to hear from you - their constituents - on how important the domestic wire industry is to their district and state. You will be armed with the current results of the Industry Identification project to illustrate to your legislators how much your company, and the industry as a whole, means to their district, state and the nation. This year, the data will include a 'before and after' look at the affect of the recession on industry jobs.

The Congressional Visits will be scheduled from 1:45 pm until 5:00 pm on Thursday, September 17, followed by a Capitol Hill reception. These pre-arranged visits will allow you to meet your legislators and their staff to discuss the issues on the AWPAs legislative and trade agenda. Many of you already have established good working relationships with your elected officials, so if there is someone in particular you would like to see, please send an e-mail to AWPAs. If not, the AWPAs staff will match association members with legislators from their state and/or district.

There will be detailed briefings to prepare you for your afternoon of visits on Capitol Hill. You will have the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the issues you will be discussing with your legislators. Informational packets about the AWPAs and our positions will be prepared and provided to your Congressional Representatives prior to your visit and you will receive materials by e-mail prior to the Conference, to prepare yourselves, as well.

MEETING REGISTRATION

It is very important for attendees to register early for the conference this year, especially if you are planning Capitol Hill visits. Washington has been incredibly busy and Congress will be in recess in August, giving us little time to set up your visits. Early registration will be much appreciated and will help make sure your visits go smoothly. The registration fee covers all business and social functions sponsored by the Association, including the scheduling of Congressional visits. Spouses are invited, at no charge, to attend as guests of the AWPAs and are welcome at all functions.

Registration is available online at www.awpa.org.

To register for the conference you will need to login with the e-mail address we have on file for you and your personal password. If you have not logged onto the AWPAs Members Site before, your password is your last name in lowercase letters. Upon login, you will be asked to personalize your password for future use. If you have ever attended an AWPAs meeting, or receive regular e-mails from AWPAs, you already have a record in the database. Please do not create a new record. If you have trouble accessing your record, please call for assistance.

Please complete one registration form for each attendee. Our recession rates are a great buy - \$65 less than the 2008 rates. The early bird registration fee is \$440 per attendee, for registrations received by Friday, August 31, 2009. If you use the online credit card payment option, your early bird registration fee is discounted even further, and is only \$410. After August 31, late registration is \$460 online. The AWPAs website offers you an instant list of AWPAs registrants, so come back to Upcoming Events, at anytime to see who else has registered for the meeting.

Spouse/guest registration is listed in the Sessions and is complimentary. Please make sure his/her name is listed in the 'Manage Special Requests and Guest Information' section, and the 'Spouse or Guest Registration' Session is checked.

FEES & DATES

Early Bird Registration - On or before Aug. 31, 2009

Online Credit Card Payment	\$410
Check Payment or Fax Registration	\$440

Late Registration - After August 31, 2009

Online Credit Card Payment	\$460
Check Payment or Fax Registration	\$490

Cancellations: Meeting Registrations cancelled in writing by Monday, August 31, 2009 are entitled to a full refund. Registrations, cancelled after September 1, are non-refundable. Hotel Reservations may be cancelled up to forty-eight hours prior to arrival after which one night's stay will be charged to your credit card.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Hyatt Regency Washington is a premier hotel located in the heart of Capitol Hill. This ideal location will allow you to maximize your time while in Washington. Strategically located, the Hyatt provides easy access to all the attractions of our nation's capitol, Congress, and Reagan National Airport.

Dining

A restaurant guide to area dining is available on the AWPAs website, in the Event Information Section, for you to use when making arrangements for dinner following the AWPAs receptions on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The website www.Opentable.com is another great resource for dining options.

Transportation

The hotel is conveniently located 3 blocks from Union Station which is served by both Metro and Amtrak. Convenient airports are Reagan National-DCA (10 minutes), Dulles International-IAD (40-60 minutes) and Baltimore Washington International-BWI (1 hour). Taxis to and from the hotel are available, but can be costly. Taxis from Reagan are \$15-\$22 depending on traffic, while Super Shuttle service is available for \$14 per person one way. Reservations for Super Shuttle are available at www.supershuttle.com but are not required. Super Shuttle also serves Dulles Airport for \$29 and BWI for \$37; prices are per person, one way, to downtown DC. Taxi fares from Dulles and BWI range between \$50 and \$85, depending on traffic.

Hotel Reservations

AWPAs members are responsible for making their own hotel reservations by calling the hotel reservations department directly at 202.737.1234 or 800.233.1234 or by making your reservation at <http://washingtonregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/wasrw2009awpa> online. Identify yourself as an AWPAs Government Affairs Conference attendee to receive the special group rate of \$229.00/night plus taxes for single or double occupancy. The group rate is available two days prior and two days after the meeting dates, based on availability.

All rooms must be guaranteed by credit card at the time of reservation. Reservations must be made on or before Thursday, August 20, 2009, to ensure these special rates and room availability. September is a particularly busy time in the nation's capitol and hotel rooms are at a premium. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in making your reservations early.