

Leading Ink Industry Speakers and Positive Attendance Marks Successful 2022 NAPIM Spring Convention

Sunny St. Petersburg, Florida welcomed nearly 140 attendees for the National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers (NAPIM) 2022 Spring Convention, April 8–11. Members and non-members gathered at The Vinoy® Renaissance Resort & Golf Club to enjoy a beautiful waterfront retreat while learning about important topics concerning ink sustainability, environmental standards, regulatory and economic issues, fraud protection, and getting back to business post pandemic. Attendees also participated in golf outings, various excursions, and other activities throughout the weekend.

The convention commenced Friday, April 8 with attendees reconnecting with old friends and meeting new faces during the Presidents Reception. It was the perfect start to an unforgettable weekend, allowing attendees the opportunity to socialize and relax before diving into three days of in-depth learning.

Motivational speaker, psychologist, and comedian Billy Riggs took the stage Saturday morning for his opening keynote, “Magic of Change & Sustainability.” He encouraged the audience to be proactive, bend the circumstances of life, and that it’s OK to make mistakes. His delivery was the perfect blend of entertainment, comedy, and knowledge.

After, NAPIM held its Annual Meeting announcing the new slate of officers and reporting on the state of the industry. Important data such as COVID-19 protocols, economic concerns, sustainability, supply chain insights, employment, and profitability were presented to those in attendance.

Sunday’s program began early with must-attend business sessions. Michael Youngblood addressed U.S. economic challenges, including production of goods, unemployment, and inflation. This was followed by an informative session on how to strengthen your company’s internship program, presented by Dr. George Glisan. Attendees then heard from Timothy B. Heath on remaining innovative through accelerating rates of change.

As the third day of the convention came to a close, attendees gathered in the Grand Ballroom for NAPIM’s Annual Awards Reception and Dinner. Winners of the 2020 and 2022 Printing Ink Pioneer (PIP) Awards and Ault Award were revealed. PIP Award recipients included Dennis Sweet of Sun Chemical, Bill McPartland of Wise Technical, Larry Bykerk of Apollo Colors, Tony Ameo of Eckart America, and Dave Savastano of Ink World Magazine. The recipient of the 2022 Ault Award was Jim Leitch of Wikoff Color. NAPIM extends its sincere congratulations to all the 2020 and 2022 nominees and award winners.

Geoff Peters, John Hrdlick, and Chris Parrilli addressed the Technical Associate Members during an early morning breakfast and panel discussion on the final day of the convention. The forum provided an opportunity for members to ask questions and share their experiences on topics ranging from labor shortages, chemicals, and product innovations. It was a very insightful exchange for all involved.

Following the panel, George Fuchs presented the Industry Regulatory Update in which he covered producer price index figures, foreign trade, sustainability, certification criteria, iPCB concerns, and other regulatory issues. The final business session for the day featured speakers Rue Patel and Mike Murdock discussing supply chain challenges, trends, and data.

On the evening of the last day, all attendees were invited to NAPIM’s Fun Night overlooking views of the Vinoy® Marina. Light fare, cocktails, and more outdoor fun concluded the 2022 Spring Convention.

“After almost two years apart, it was wonderful to bring the NAPIM membership together for its 2022 Annual Convention,” said Molly Alton Mullins, NAPIM’s new Executive Director. “This event offered great education, exceptional networking opportunities, and a chance to explore the beautiful community of St. Petersburg, Florida. As NAPIM’s new management company, we look forward to building on the success of this year’s event for 2023 and beyond.”

A brief survey of attendees found the conference to be of tremendous value; 81 percent said the convention exceeded their expectations, with over 70 percent looking forward to NAPIM’s 2023 Convention in Napa, CA March 24–28 at the Silverado Resort.