

INDA NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE NONWOVEN FABRICS INDUSTRY

FALL, 2000

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Message From The Chairman

INDA In Great Shape: Global Efforts and Future Planning Top Association's 2001 Agenda

I am pleased to report that our organization continues to be in excellent shape, both financially as well as in making significant progress toward our strategic plan.



Our global involvement (a key priority identified by our members) has increased significantly over the past three years and we are actively participating with other nonwoven organizations in Europe, Asia Pacific and Mexico.

We must continue this work and extend our involvement and support to other regions, in particular South America. Our excellent financial position has allowed us to initiate a number of programs identified as critical by our members and to strengthen our highly professional staff.

With an ongoing planning process, a good system to seek input from all member companies and the financial

strength to support programs, it is critical that we, as member companies, continue to provide quality input to the organization and effectively inform others within our companies of these programs in order to take full advantage of what our organization has to offer.

We had the best participation ever at this year's Annual Meeting, but we still have work to do to bring more member companies to this vital meeting.

The organization is in good hands with an excellent Staff, Board of Directors, Executive Committee and with a high degree of participation by our members in various committees. I appreciate the support you have given us and I am pleased to tell you that my job continues to be rewarding, fulfilling and fun.

— Leo Cancio
President, Clopay Plastic Products
INDA Chairman

Time To Recognize Some Goods IDEAS

INDA has partnered with *Nonwovens Industry* magazine to offer the IDEA 2001 Achievement Awards. The Awards will recognize achievement within the nonwovens industry since IDEA 98.

For details on the Awards — and how to nominate a company or individual — see page 6.

Technical Update

BACK TO SCHOOL

On August 16 the entire INDA staff went back to school for Nonwovens 101. The staff visited the Nonwovens Cooperative Research Center's laboratory at North Carolina State University for hands-on experience in making and testing nonwoven fabrics.

The staff produced webs by carding, air-laying and wet-laying. These webs were then bonded by needlepunching, hydroentangling, calendering and through-air bonding. After the fabrics were produced they were tested for air permeability, burst strength, tensile strength and tear strength.

Tours of the spinning, weaving and knitting labs were also included to allow everyone to see how traditional textiles are produced. This also illustrated how many processing steps are eliminated in nonwoven manufacturing and how slow the knitting and weaving operations are relative to nonwoven production.

TEST METHOD UPDATE

AAMI: Assn. for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation ... INDA attended the August meeting of the AAMI PB 70 committee, Barrier Performance Standard and Classification for Protective Apparel and Drapes in Health Care Facilities.

The committee continues to modify the standard. A major modification occurred at this meeting. The classification levels were reduced from three to two levels. The method will be rewritten with the changes and distributed to members for voting and discussion at the next meeting. As it stands now, to be classified in the highest level of protection gown fabrics must pass ASTM F1671, Resistance to Blood Borne Pathogens and drape fabrics must pass ASTM F1670, Resistance to Blood Penetration. To be classified in the next (lower) level of protection the fabrics,

both gown and drape, must have a hydrostatic head greater than 20 cm (AATCC 127) and a spray impact resistance less than 0.3 grams (AATCC 42). Fabrics not meeting the criteria of either level will be considered non-protective.

All of this could change again at the next meeting, scheduled for November 1 and 2.

ISO ... INDA attended the meeting of the U.S. delegation to ISO Technical Committee 172, Subcommittee 9 (Lasers and Laser Related Equipment), Working Group 4 (Laser Systems for Medical Applications) in Washington, DC. This group is working on a method for testing drapes and protective covers used in laser surgery.

INDA distributed copies of the two methods that were being considered for re-submission to ISO, one with secondary ignition and one without, and to the INDA Healthcare Committee for comments. The members supported the method that did not include secondary ignition. INDA voted the members' preference at the meeting and its vote was instrumental in assuring that the method without secondary ignition will be the one re-submitted.

This method will be re-submitted to ISO and five primary ISO mem-

bers must vote to support and assign an expert to the method for it to become active. If five positive votes are not received the method will not go forward. If support is received, the next meeting of this ISO committee will be in late June, 2001 in Boulder, Colorado.

INDA COMMITTEE DAY

On July 19 INDA held Committee Day at the Radisson Governor's Inn in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The meeting was held the day before the INDA Board of Directors meeting to allow board members to attend. The purpose of the meeting was to allow members to spend one day and hear about the activities of the INDA committees from the committee chairmen and to decide with which committees their companies should become involved.

A total of 63 people representing 44 companies attended the meeting. The response of the attendees was very positive and it was suggested that this event be continued on a periodic basis. Several of the attendees signed up on the spot to participate on new committees. *(See the box below for a list of the presentations that were made.)*

INDA Committee Day Presentations

Who is INDA ... Ted Wirtz, INDA
Healthcare Committee ... Jon Behm, Allegiance Healthcare Corp.
IDEA Committee ... Rob Johnson, Smith, Johnson & Associates
Industry Stats Committee ... Lee Sullivan, Freudenberg Nonwovens, N.A.
Needlepunch Committee ... Klaus Maitre, Dilo System Group
Technical Advisory Board ... Bill Haile, Eastman Chemical Co.
Standard Test Methods Committee ... Carl Palenske, Kimberly-Clark Corp.
ISO Representation ... Alan Meierhoefer, Dexter Nonwovens
Wipes Committee ... Ralph Solarski, Kimberly-Clark Corp.
Automotive Committee ... Chuck Allen, INDA
Filtration Committee ... Chuck Allen, INDA
Home Furnishings Committee ... Chuck Allen, INDA
Nonwovens Cooperative Research Center ... Behnam Pourdeyhimi, NC State Univ.

Filtration 2000 Is Growing So Much We Had To Expand

November 28-30, 2000, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

All filtration companies must make plans to attend the biggest Filtration Exposition in the world! Filtration 2000 conference topics include new trends and technologies, materials and design, indoor air quality, and innovative products.

Be sure to come by and see the "Car of the Future," during Filtration 2000, presented by R.P. Fedder of the U.S. and Scandfilter of Sweden. This state-of-the-art car features a new cabin air filtration system.

Don't miss this phenomenal opportunity to do business with the world's filtration leaders.

Reserve your booth space now. Call or fax Marilyn Bellinger or Tracey Barefoot at 919-233-1210; Fax: 919-233-1282; or mbellinger@inda.org or tbarefoot@inda.org.

Look for Daily Filter Again at Filtration 2000

Since the initial *Daily Filter* newspaper was such a big hit at last year's Filtration 1999 Conference and Exposition, INDA will once again publish its daily newspaper during the two days of Filtration 2000, November 28-30 in Philadelphia, PA.

The *Daily Filter*, dubbed "The Pore Man's Guide to Filtration 2000," is published to inform attendees of breaking news at the show and the latest new products on display. It will also review many of the speeches and presentations made during the Conference.



"Our exhibitors and attendees last year told us they appreciated having an informational tool to keep them apprised of what was happening at what is now the largest filtration industry gathering in the world," said Ted Wirtz, INDA President. "It is important to provide this information and to have a vehicle to report on the event."

INDA is offering exclusive sponsorships of each of the two issues of the *Daily Filter* to exhibitors only. Sponsorships include logo placement, news and new product coverage, pre-show publicity and participation as a destination in the Exposition's raffle. Contact Misty Ayers at mayers@inda.org for sponsorship opportunities.

Any exhibiting company with news to be published in the *Daily Filter* should contact Michael Jacobsen, INDA Director of Publications Develop-

Welcome To Our Newest Member Companies

INDA is extremely pleased to welcome our newest member companies. INDA now has 218 general member companies and 39 associate members, for a total of 257!

Aramid, Ltd.
Bioshield Technologies
Crane & Company, Inc.
Internet, Inc.
Kafus Bio-Composites
Lantor USA
LaSolucion Corp.

Luwa Bahnson, Inc.
Micrex Corporation
Nonwovens Technology Development Center
of Textile Industry
Soltex International, Inc.
Tencel, Inc.
Vliesstoffwerk Christian Heinrich Sandler

If you know of any companies that would benefit from membership in INDA, Phone, Fax or email Marilyn Bellinger or Tracey Barefoot at 919-233-1210; Fax: 919-233-1210; mbellinger@inda.org or tbarefoot@inda.org

Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming INDA Meetings

FILTRATION 2000

The world's largest Filtration Conference will highlight trends and media and include an industry forecast along with new market information. Scheduled for November 28-30, 2000 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Filtration 2000 is growing each year, setting new records each time. Don't miss it!

NEEDLEPUNCH PRODUCTION BASICS

It's back by demand! The Needlepunch Production Basics Course will be offered once this fall in Columbus, Mississippi on November 2. Information about this problem-solving course can be found on INDA's website at www.inda.org.

CONVERTERS

If your job requires you to cut, slice, slit or stamp non-woven fabrics during the course of business, the Converters course is for you. John Riedel, formerly of 3M, will teach this one-day course — October 12 in Greensboro, North Carolina — that will focus on the before and after of the converting process. Registration info is on-line at www.inda.org.

NONWOVENS TRAINING COURSE

The Nonwovens Training Course that set the industry standard is back! Taught by Colin White of MCW Technologies, it will be held October 30-November 1 in McLean, Virginia. You can register by calling INDA at 919-233-1210 or by visiting INDA's website at www.inda.org.

IDEA 2001 ... GET YOUR BOOTH SPACE TODAY!

MARCH 27-28-29, 2001, MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, USA

IDEA 2001 is getting larger by the day! More than 85% of booth space has already been sold with six months still to go before the ribbon is cut opening the show on March 27 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach, Florida! Many first-time exhibitors will be joining us to make IDEA 2001 an even bigger success. We strongly advise that you take the time immediately to sign your company up and join the best nonwoven companies in the world! Don't miss this opportunity to exhibit with the industry's leaders in nonwovens!



Exhibit with the best nonwoven companies in the world!

IF YOU HAVE NOT RESERVED YOUR IDEA 2001 SPACE, SEND IN YOUR BOOTH SIZE REQUIREMENTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE! PHONE, FAX OR EMAIL:

MARILYN BELLINGER or TRACEY BAREFOOT: 919-233-1210; FAX: 919-233-1282
mbellinger@inda.org or tbarefoot@inda.org

Government Relations Update

California Tampon Bill Dies in Committee

In the closing days of its 2000 Legislative Session, the California General Assembly allowed a bill to die that would have authorized a study of health and safety issues associated with the use of tampons and other feminine hygiene products. The bill — AB 2820 — had been approved by the California General Assembly, as well as the Senate Health Committee, but could not pass the Senate's Appropriations Committee due to a price tag of \$500,000-\$750,000 needed to fund the research.

INDA testified against the bill while it was being considered in the General Assembly on the grounds that tampon safety is already ensured through U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations, and that women would be unnecessarily alarmed while the study was underway.

In other feminine hygiene-related news, INDA organized a Dioxin Workshop in late August with FDA officials and members of our Feminine Hygiene Task Force. The workshop offered an opportunity for the nonwovens industry to present information to FDA researchers, scientists, and other officials on fiber processing techniques and related topics. INDA members and FDA attendees were pleased with the workshop, and unanimously agreed that it was an important educational event.

CPSC To Revive Furniture Flammability Issue

After a delay of nearly two years, INDA has learned that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

(CPSC) expects to resume action on the development of a national furniture flammability standard. National standards were originally requested in a petition by the National Fire Protection Association some five years ago and, in response, CPSC staff drafted a proposed flammability test method that has come under intense criticism from certain sectors within both the furniture and fabric manufacturing industries. So much so that Congress intervened in 1998 by requiring that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) conduct a study of potential health repercussions that could result from using fire-resistant chemicals to backcoat furniture fabrics (which would likely be required to pass the CPSC's proposed test method).

The NAS review is now complete, and INDA has learned that CPSC staff intend to move on the proposed standard by early October.

INDA has consistently stressed the benefits of nonwoven interlinings as a means of making furniture more fire resistant, and will continue to press for a standard that would allow use of interlinings as an alternative to backcoating fabric.

INDA Comments On Mattress Flammability Proposal

INDA joined forces with the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, the Sleep Products Safety Council and other groups last summer in asking the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to postpone action on a series of mattress flammability petitions. The petitions, which were submitted to CPSC by a consumer organization

earlier this year, call for national mattress flammability standards, uniform mattress labeling requirements and permanent tags to identify the manufacturer of a mattress after a fire. In formal comments to the Agency, INDA urged CPSC not to take action until the National Institute of Science and Technology is able to finish its ongoing mattress flammability study.

China Vote Expected During September

According to recent reports, the United States Senate is expected to vote soon on legislation that would grant permanent "Normal Trade Relations" status to China. The vote, which would pave the way for China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), has been held up by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) for more than three months in an effort to extract budget concessions from the Clinton Administration on unrelated issues.

While the bill — HR 4444 — was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives by a wide margin earlier this year — and is strongly supported by organized business interests and the Clinton Administration — Sen. Lott has kept it from the Senate Floor. As of late August, however, the National Association of Manufacturers and others were reporting that Sen. Lott has indicated he will allow a vote on the bill by mid-September. China's entry into the WTO will result in lower Chinese tariffs, as well as a number of other steps intended to facilitate trade. Once it reaches the Senate Floor, HR 4444 is expected to pass easily.

INDA Unveils IDEA 01 Achievement Awards

With the goal of recognizing excellence within the global nonwoven community as well as the efforts of IDEA 01 exhibitors, INDA has teamed with *Nonwovens Industry* magazine to present the inaugural IDEA Achievement Awards at IDEA 01 in Miami Beach, Florida next March.

The IDEA Achievement Awards will recognize outstanding effort, new products, innovation and lifetime achievement within the nonwovens industry. "One of the mandates of INDA is to promote innovation and recognize outstanding achievement within the worldwide nonwovens community, especially during the IDEA show," said Ted Wirtz, president of INDA, Cary, NC, the organizer of the triennial IDEA Nonwovens Exhibition. "We are excited about getting together with our friends at *Nonwovens Industry* magazine in this effort."

Rod Zilenziger, Jr., publisher of *Nonwovens Industry*, feels the magazine and the association form an ideal partnership to recognize outstanding achievement within the nonwovens industry and that IDEA is an equally ideal venue. "We have been intimately involved in the nonwovens business for more than 30 years, and this partnership with INDA allows us to recognize the individuals and companies that have made the industry what it is today," Zilenziger said.

The IDEA Achievement Awards will be presented in seven categories:

- IDEA Equipment Achievement Award ... Given to the company with the best equipment new product introduction since IDEA 98.
- IDEA Roll Goods Achievement Award ... Given to the

company with the best roll goods new product introduction since IDEA 98.

- IDEA Raw Material Achievement Award ... Given to the company with the best fiber/raw material new product introduction since IDEA 98.
- IDEA Short-Life Product Achievement Award ... Presented for the best new disposable product utilizing nonwovens since IDEA 98.
- IDEA Long-Life Product Achievement Award ... Presented for the best new durable product utilizing nonwovens since IDEA 98.

In addition, two special awards will be presented:

- The IDEA Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to the individual or company that has contributed to the advancement of the nonwovens industry for at least 20 years.
- The IDEA Entrepreneur Achievement Award, for the company founded since IDEA 98 that has made a significant impact on the nonwovens industry.

The entire nonwovens industry will have the opportunity to nominate companies for each of these awards. INDA's Technical Advisory Board and Board of Directors will then select three finalists in each category, which will be announced in a future issue of *Nonwovens Industry*. The winners will be revealed at IDEA 01 in Miami Beach.

Anyone wishing to submit a nomination in any of the seven categories can do so at www.nonwovens-industry.com or at www.inda.org or by contacting Michael Jacobsen at 201-612-6601; mike@jacorpub.com.

Fall 2000 *International Nonwovens Journal* Off Press This Month

Volume 9, No. 3 of the International Nonwovens Journal is available to the nonwovens technical community this month. The INJ is available at no charge to INDA members. Among the features this issue:

- Comparison of Electrostatic Charging At Different Locations In The Melt Blowing Process
- Improving Properties And Processing Performance of Melt-Spun Fibers
- Strength Loss In Thermally Bonded Polypropylene Fibers
- Multipass Beta Filtration Testing For the 21st Century
- Director's Corner ... Emerging Technology ... Researcher's Toolbox ... Nonwovens Patents ... Worldwide Nonwoven Abstracts ... University of Tennessee-Knoxville/TANDEC Feature

INDA to Undergo Satisfaction Survey

As part of INDA's ongoing efforts to increase the value of our organization to our members and to the entire global nonwovens industry, we will be conducting a membership satisfaction survey this Fall. The goal is to obtain independent verification of INDA's performance in multiple key strategic areas.

This information will provide a platform from which we will drive our strategic planning process for the future. The same survey was conducted in 1998 and was instrumental in outlining specific areas of growth opportunity and improvement. Specifically, INDA has made tremendous strides in three key areas as a result of this feedback: membership development, INDA's global presence and the Internet.

INDA has engaged the Martec Group to assist in this process. Martec brings expertise in satisfaction analyses and an understanding of INDA. The INDA Staff thanks you for your ongoing support of INDA and INDA's activities.

INDA is Hot On The Web

INDA's website — www.inda.org — has grown significantly since its development in late 1998. Today INDA's average number of hits per business day is 6,000 and projected to increase to 10,000 hits a day by the end of the 2000. What are people logging on to look at? Lets take a look at the benefits of this website to the nonwovens industry.

- Member Links – All member companies are allowed to have a complementary link to the INDA website.
- Bibliography Search – INDA has added a new research tool to its website. This search tool has over 900 abstracts designed to help users find information on particular topics.
- End-Uses – A new addition concentrates on the end-uses of nonwovens. Current end uses are Automotive, Healthcare, and Wipes. Check out the "nonwovens car," a must-see.
- Publications – Visit this section to see what publications are available at INDA and view the table of contents for each.
- Events – The events section includes programs and registration forms for conferences, expositions, and training courses .

The following portions of the website are for members only and require a member password. Please contact Ann Pleasants at apleasants@inda.org for password information or call her at 919-233-1210 ext. 120.

- *International Nonwovens Journal* – This on-line journal is available free of charge to member companies.
- *Small Business e-Report* – Get tips on running a Small Business by logging onto the Members Only Section of INDA's website.
- Committee Information – Get a listing and description of

INTC: An Historic Event Taking Place In Dallas This Month

The inaugural International Nonwovens Technical Conference in Dallas, Texas on September 26-28, 2000 — the first joint technical conference sponsored by INDA and TAPPI — will focus on the most recent advancements in nonwoven fabrics technology. The conference is expected to draw nearly 500 industry researchers to the Inter-Continental Hotel. Featured speaker is Karl-Michael Schumann, Director of New Platform Technologies at Procter & Gamble, Inc., who will discuss the business of nonwovens and current and future products and technologies.

For more information, visit INDA's website at www.inda.org or call INDA at 919-233-1210.

current INDA committees, view minutes from meetings, and see dates of future meetings.

- Government Relations – Read Capitol Comments, by Peter Mayberry, INDA's Director of Government Affairs.

BANNER ADVERTISING NOW AVAILABLE

Banner advertising is now available on INDA's website, so you have a chance to advertise your company's services or products to the entire industry. Space is limited, so contact Cindy Garcia at cgarcia@inda.org to place your advertisement.

PUBLICATIONS

• On-Line International Nonwovens Directory ... INDA's On-Line International Nonwovens Directory, the most complete nonwovens directory in the world, is now available. Purchase your one-year subscription and get:

- * Contact information for 2,200 companies worldwide
- * Sort by more than 500 Product/Services Listings
- * Find Contacts by Country
- * Download Information

As an added bonus to the On-Line International Nonwovens Directory, you can search our database for contact information; more than 40,000 listings are available.

Visit www.inda.org/onlinedir/index.html to view a presentation on the directory. If you would like to have a demonstration of the On-Line Directory please contact Cindy Garcia at cgarcia@inda.org (919-233-1210 ext. 111) or Ann Pleasants at apleasants@inda.org (919-233-1210 ext. 120).

INDA Board

Executive Committee
Leo Cancio, *Chairman*
President, Clopay Plastic Products

Tom West, *Past Chairman*
Global Business Director,
DuPont Nonwovens

Lee Sullivan, *Vice Chairman-Planning*
GM, Freudenberg Nonwovens

Dennis Tavernetti, *Vice Chairman/Finance*
President, BBA Nonwovens

Walter Jones, CO-CEO & President,
Precision Fabrics Group, Inc.

Michael J. Hudson, President, Converters/Custom Sterile, Allegiance Healthcare

David Whitley, Business Manager,
Wellman, Inc.

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Bruce Brazelle, Senior Vice President-Marketing, Leigh Fibers

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3M Nonwovens Technology Center

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Buckeye Technologies

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Kappler Protective Apparel Fabrics

David L. Lunceford, President,
HDK industries, Inc.

Klaus G. Maitre, Executive Vice President,
Dilo System Group

Duncan Middleton, President,
Dexter Nonwovens

Marvin Mitchell, Vice President & GM,
Johns Manville Corporation

Todd Piper, Market Manager,
Dow Chemical USA

Salvador Rojas, General Director,
Milyon S.A. de CV

Basil "Sonny" B. Walker, Vice President
Sales & Marketing, DuPont/Akra

Jeffrey N. White, Director of Logistics,
PGI Nonwovens

C.K. Wong, President, CEO,
U.S. Pacific Procurement Co.

INDA Staff
Theodore R. Wirtz
President, INDA

Wayne Black
INDA Legal Counsel, Keller & Heckman

Check Out These Monthly e-Mail Publications From INDA

• **INDA Small Business e-Report**
Focusing on the unique aspects of operating a small nonwovens company in the 21st Century, with advice from small business experts and news items that impact how you need to do business these days. Also, a monthly look at a small INDA member that is "Doing It Big."

• **INDA e-Filter Newsletter**
Sent monthly to subscribers from the global filtration industry, this e-mail newsletter covers all aspects of filtration, from raw material and equipment suppliers to end product manufacturers to government and association news. Annual subscription: \$99. To subscribe: Ann Pleasants at apleasants@inda.org.

Meetings Calendar

Sep. 26-28. **International Technical Nonwovens Conference - Co-sponsored by INDA & TAPPI.** Hotel Inter-Continental, Dallas, TX. Deanna Lovell, INDA, P.O. Box 1288, Cary, NC 27512; 919-233-1210 ext. 119; dlovell@inda.org; TAPPI, Charles Bohanan; 770-209-7276; cbohanan@tappi.org

Oct. 12: **Nonwovens Converters Course.** Greensboro, NC. INDA, www.inda.org.

Oct. 30-Nov. 1: **Nonwovens Training Course.** McLean, VA. INDA, www.inda.org

Nov. 2: **Needlepunch Production Basics,** Columbus, MS. INDA, www.inda.org.

Nov. 28-30. **Filtration 2000.** Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. INDA, www.inda.org

March 27-29, 2001. **IDEA 01.** Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach, Florida. INDA, www.inda.org

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