



MAMA

Transmission

A quarterly newsletter of the

Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association

<http://mamaonline.net>

Volume 2, Number 1

January-March 2012

In This Issue

- From the President's Desk
- 2012 Cars Under the Stars
- Upcoming Events
- Associate Memberships Available
- Welcome, New Members!
- MAMA Scholar Spotlight
- 2012 Board of Directors
- Nissan Innovation Conference

Helpful Links

[Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association \(MAMA\)](#)

[Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association \(AAMA\)](#)

[Tennessee Automotive Manufacturers Association \(TAMA\)](#)

[Automotive News](#)

[Autobeat](#)

[Mississippi Department of Employment Security](#)

[Mississippi Development Authority](#)

[Mississippi Energy Policy Institute](#)

[Mississippi Manufacturers Association](#)

[Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance](#)

©2012 Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As I write this letter, I have just returned from a trip to Japan for my company, [Unipres Southeast](#). It was a memorable visit, as I was there last year on March 11 when the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami events occurred. As you may recall, the epicenter was approximately 43 miles east of Oshika Peninsula and was a magnitude of 9 on the Richter scale. It was one of the strongest earthquakes measured in more than 100 years. Fortunately, I was able to return home quickly and safely during this catastrophic event. Because of the global nature of the automotive industry, the United States felt the effects of the 2011 earthquake with major supply chain interruptions. This effect, compounded by other economic issues in the States, created challenges for the automotive industry.

What a difference a year makes! As I just witnessed, operations and production in Japan have geared up, and that country is moving toward a strong recovery. Likewise, the automotive industry in the United States is rebounding. The economy in the automotive sector is on the upswing nationally and internationally, and that is positive news for all of us directly tied to or supporting it.

Mississippi is participating in this emerging prosperity. Since May 2003, when Nissan started manufacturing vehicles in the state, I have watched the birth of the industry through my work with Unipres. Even with bumps in the road like the economic downturn of the last year, the automotive manufacturing industry has grown in Mississippi and in the Southeastern corridor, proving its staying power. Along with three OEMs producing vehicles ([GreenTech](#) in Tunica, [Nissan](#) in Canton, and [Toyota](#) in Blue Springs), all sectors of the industry in our state are stepping up operations and increasing production, helping to propel recovery and development.

The mission of the [Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association \(MAMA\)](#) is to support the growth and development of this industry. We work with a team of board members representing economic development entities, utilities, educational institutions, OEMs, suppliers and support services to build consensus and drive prosperity. The association is now offering a non-voting associate membership. We are developing fundraising events to support more scholarships for Mississippi students studying automotive-related fields in community colleges and universities. It is all interconnected...strong industry equals strong workforce development.

Our board of directors has set priorities for the association in the coming years: MAMA will be

- a problem solver for the automotive industry
- a scholarship provider (between 2006 – 2011, \$61,000 awarded to community college and university students)
- a networking opportunity provider, and
- an economic development supporter for this new era of the Mississippi automotive-manufacturing industry.

What we need is *you*. We need your continued support and participation. And we also seek to grow our membership to help build on our past successes. [Please join us.](#)

Kevin Logan
2012 MAMA President



2012 CARS UNDER THE STARS

The 2012 Jackson Imports Presents Cars Under the Stars classic show was a huge success. The weekend event was kicked off Friday evening, March 2 with a preview party and MAMA membership meeting for sponsors, car exhibitors, special guests and MAMA members. Representatives from the Georgia Automotive Manufacturers Association, Toyota - Mississippi, and Nissan were among the guests. Lindsay Chappell of Automotive News gave a short presentation as part of the MAMA Member Meeting.



Saturday's event attracted more than 400 people. We had several car clubs represented from mid-Mississippi, and a wide variety of high-quality classics. New Nissan and Toyota vehicles, along with luxury models from Jackson Imports, were also on display.

Proceeds benefit the MAMA Scholarship Fund. Many thanks again to our sponsors:

Classic

BankPlus, GreenTech Automotive, Mississippi Development Authority, Renasant Bank, Nissan, The Yates Companies, Toyota

Restored

Greater Jackson Partnership, Outback Steakhouse

Antique

Entergy, Laurel Machine and Foundry

Media Sponsors

WLBT, Clear Channel

Special thanks to Bill Bissell, Bob Jackman, Canaan Manley, Tom Phillips, Gene Delcomyn, Dave Boyer, Don Stoegbauer, Katy Barrett, Jill Sellers, Angela Crain, Gabrielle Phillips, and employees from BankPlus for volunteering time to organize and staff the event. For more photos, visit the MAMA and Mississippi Classic Cruisers of Central Mississippi websites.





Important MAMA Information

Website

<http://mamaonline.net>

Mailing Address

Mississippi Automotive
Manufacturers Association
P.O. Box 12826
Jackson, MS 39236

Contact Information

Kathryn Rodenmeyer
Coordinator
601-982-9570
msautomanufacturers@gmail.com

To join MAMA

Please visit
<http://mamaonline.net> to fill
out the online application.

For additional information
about MAMA or becoming a
member, contact **Dave
Boyer**, MAMA Vice
President.

Newsletter

Editor

Kathryn Rodenmeyer
MAMA Coordinator

Co-Editor

Heather Wainwright
MSU CAVS

UPCOMING EVENTS

**S
A
V
E
t
h
e
D
A
T
E
T
O
G
I
F
E
A
S**

- **Friday, June 22, 2012**
Quarterly MAMA Membership Meeting
Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: **Center for Manufacturing Excellence**
The University of Mississippi
Additional details TBD

- **Friday, September 7, 2012**
Community Development Foundation
(Tupelo/Lee County Chamber of Commerce)
First Friday Forum
Sponsored by **MAMA**
Time: 7:00 am
Location: Food Court, Mall at Barnes Crossing, Tupelo, MS

- **Thursday, October 11 – Friday, October 12, 2012**
Southern Automotive Conference (SAC)
Joint AAMA, MAMA and TAMA Meeting
A joint meeting of the Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee
Automotive Associations
Location: Chattanooga, TN
Additional details TBD
Questions: Contact Karen Hunter-Lowery
khunterlowery@tennauto.org

- **Thursday, October 25, 2012**
MAMA 8th Annual Scholarship
Golf Tournament
Proceeds to benefit the **MAMA Scholarship Fund**
Location: **Lake Caroline Golf Club**, Madison, MS
Time: 7:30 am
Registration & details TBD

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

The MAMA board of directors has opened up associate membership to the organization. An associate member is a non-voting member of MAMA and is open to companies not directly affiliated with automotive manufacturing that wish to support the growth and development of the industry in the state. For membership information, visit mamaonline.net, where companies can file the application online.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Voting Members

Cannon Electromac Group
The Onin Group
McGriff, Seibels, Willams

Associate Members

Adams and Reese, LLP
H&M Company, Inc.
T.L. Wallace Construction
Wise, Carter, Child and Caraway



THE MAMA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Changing the Lives of Mississippi Students

Scholar Spotlight: Emily Pee

"I would like to thank you for awarding me this scholarship, so that I may attend college. My father had cancer this past year, which made the cost of college difficult for my family. Thanks to the gracious nature [of your organization], I am able to fulfill my dreams. I greatly appreciate your interest in helping me. I will do everything in my power to earn the academic standings required for this scholarship. Thank you for believing in me."

Emily Pee

Holmes Community College
2011-12 MAMA scholarship recipient

Each year, the Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association awards scholarships to students at Mississippi community colleges and universities who are pursuing automotive-manufacturing related studies. Since 2006, MAMA has awarded \$61,000 to deserving students.

The MAMA board of directors thanks all of the members for the support you give through your membership dues, participating in fundraising events, and donations that help students, like Emily, pursue dreams and make possible a career in automotive manufacturing in Mississippi.

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members at the March 2, 2012 meeting voted on a slate of officers and board members. Elected to Vice President on the executive committee is Dave Boyer. Board members appointed to a three-year term are Tom Cook, Jason Miller, and Skip Scaggs. A complete board list is below.

NAME	POSITION	TITLE/COMPANY
<i>Executive Committee</i>		
Kevin Logan	President	Vice President, Plant Manager Unipres Southeast USA, Inc.
Donald Stoegbauer	Past President	Director, Paint Operations Nissan North America
Dave Boyer	Vice President	Vice President, Manufacturing (retired) Nissan North America
Gene Delcomyn	Treasurer	Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Banking Officer BankPlus
<i>Board Members</i>		
Dan Bednarzyk	Director	Vice President, Manufacturing Nissan North America
Mike Blankenship	Director	Director Workforce Development Center Holmes Community College
Tom Cook	Director	Attorney, Of Counsel Copeland, Cook, Taylor & Bush, P.A.



2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CONT.)

Gina Daniels	Director	Executive Director Madison County Foundation
Marty Hopkins	Director	Group Manager, Maintenance Yates Services
Roger King, PhD, PE	Director	Director Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems Mississippi State University
Barbara McDaniel	Director	External & Governmental Affairs Toyota
Jason Miller	Director	Plant Manager Tower Automotive-Madison
Trent Mulloy	Director	President Laurel Machine & Foundry
Skip Scaggs	Director	Director Existing Business and Industry Division Mississippi Development Authority
John Turner	Director	Director of Economic Development Entergy
Kathryn Rodenmeyer, APR	Coordinator	Coordinator Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association

2012 NISSAN INNOVATION CONFERENCE



The Nissan Innovation Conference was held Feb. 22-23, 2012 at the Canton, MS plant. Suppliers from Mississippi, Alabama and Michigan among others were represented. Jeff Rouse of Stäubli gives an interested visitor information on his company's products and services. Stäubli is a member of MAMA. MAMA sponsored the event.