



# Manufacturers' Digital Whistle

August 2025 Newsletter

## Register Today for All Upcoming Events: Top Golf Networking Event



**Thursday, September 18, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. PT**  
**Location:** Top Golf 1050 N Archibald Ave. Ontario, CA91764

**Don't Miss Out – Register Now!**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)** Spaces are limited, so make sure to secure your spot today. We can't wait to see you there for a fun-filled evening of golf and networking!

### Event Pricing

**MCIE & WiM Members:** \$10

**Non-Members:** \$20

(MCIE & WiM Members: Contact [sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com](mailto:sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com) for your exclusive discount code.)

Get ready for an exciting evening hosted by the Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) and Women in Manufacturing California Chapter (WiM) at Top Golf! Whether you're an experienced golfer or it's your first time swinging a club, this event promises something for everyone.

### What's in Store:

Exclusive giveaway items

Exciting prize drawing

Friendly competition (no experience necessary!)

Networking with industry professionals

Delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks

Opportunity to build valuable connections in the manufacturing industry

Swag Sponsor



Student Impact  
Bay Sponsor



Supporting  
Sponsor



Supporting  
Sponsor



### Showcase Your Company to Industry Leaders Through Sponsorship

**Title Sponsor – \$3,000 (Exclusive – 1 available)**

2 reserved bays (12 players total) with food and drink included and more -

**Bay Sponsor – \$2,500 (Limited – 4 available)**

1 reserved bay (6 players) with food and drink included and more -

**Networking Sponsor – \$1,500**

2 complimentary event passes (non-bay) and more...

**Photo Booth Sponsor – \$1,000** Friend of the Event – \$500 For additional benefits, [click here](#) or contact Sarah at [sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com](mailto:sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com).

# Tour of Phenix Technology, Inc.

Co-Hosted with Women in Manufacturing California Chapter



**Tuesday, October 21, 2025 | 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

**Location:**

Phenix Technology, Inc.  
3453 Durahart Street Riverside, CA

**[REGISTER HERE](#) Space is limited.**

Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Phenix Technology, Inc., a globally respected manufacturer of American-made fire helmets with over 50 years of heritage and innovation. Attendees will explore the production floor where iconic products like the First Due Fire Helmet are brought to life—designed by firefighters, for firefighters.

You'll gain insight into how Phenix integrates real-world first responder experience, Lean Manufacturing principles, and a people-first culture into every stage of design and production. Discover why Phenix was named 2025 Employer of the Year and how its values of craftsmanship, inclusion, and continuous improvement shape its workplace and products.

This is more than a tour—it's a firsthand look at how tradition, innovation, and impact come together to create Better People. Better Products. Better World.

## Save the Date for Holiday Mixer

November 13th

Ontario Location to be announced later.

## Past Events

### MCIE August Meeting and Mixer

August 21, 2025, the Manufacturers' Council met for a presentation on selling your business through an ESOP (Employee Stock Option Plan) trust.

The program, presented by Mike Kouyoumdjian, CPA and managing shareholder of RP&B, CPA's, located in Riverside, provided our members with a fresh look at the many benefits of this type of sale. RP&B is considered the region's expert firm in ESOPs.



*Wally Brithinee, Mike K. and Molly Burgess*

Mike showed a case study that illustrated how the sale to an ESOP trust, compared to the sale to a third party, yielded substantial savings in taxes and increased proceeds for the owner's estate. Mike explained further that you don't need to leave your current CPA through the process.

The meeting, held in the beautiful Victoria Club of Riverside, provided ample time for snacks and networking.

To explore further, call Mike at RP&B (951) 684-7781.

[READ MORE](#)

## The Benefits of Selling Your Company to an ESOP Trust

If you have thoughts about selling your business, it is in your best interest to understand the compelling benefits of selling to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).

An ESOP leveraged buyout provides “win-win” opportunities for the seller, the company, and its employees. Here’s how each group benefits:

- The seller can sell the company at fair market value while still maintaining control of its operations and family legacy. Through Section 1042 of the Internal Revenue Code, the seller can indefinitely defer Federal capital gains tax and California ordinary income tax on the sale just like a Section 1031 real estate exchange.

[READ MORE](#)

## Ready to make a difference?

**Join the Manufacturers’ Council – Be Part of the Movement Shaping the Future of Manufacturing in the Inland Empire**

Become a Member Today at <https://mfgcouncilie.com/membership>

Save more when you pay 2 years in advance.

Since 2005, the Manufacturers’ Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) has supported a thriving manufacturing economy by securing over \$50 million in workforce training, production innovation, and industry growth.

With nearly 95,000 manufacturing jobs in our region and continued growth projected in 2025, MCIE is committed to building a skilled, sustainable workforce and shifting public perception about the importance of manufacturing in our community.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, MCIE connects manufacturers with education, workforce programs, and regional resources, while promoting career pathways for the next generation of talent. Now is the time to get involved. Become a member and help drive real impact.

[READ MORE](#)

## New Member Spotlight: Envista



Chris Miller, Principal Process Engineer at Kerr Dental, is now a new supporting member of the Manufacturers' Council. The operating companies that form Envista including Kerr, Ormco, and Nobel Biocare represent more than 125 years of dental industry excellence. These companies and the trusted brands comprising them now stand together to meet the end-to-end needs of dental professionals worldwide.

 Learn more: [www.envistaco.com](http://www.envistaco.com)

## Economy and Regulations:

- (Aug 1) – The national unemployment rate in July rose from 4.1% to 4.2% according to the Labor Department. Employers added 73,000 jobs last month. Social Assistance and Healthcare led the increase, with little change among the remaining industry sectors. (*Bureau of Labor Statistics*)
- (Jul 31) – The Federal Open Markets Committee met on July 30-31 and held rates steady, despite previous indications of a possible cut this month. Meanwhile, inflation metrics, revised upward to 2.7% have remained steady month over month. (*USA Today*)
- (Aug 15) – California's unemployment rate increased from 5.4% to 5.5%, gaining 15,000 jobs in July. Private Education and Healthcare led the gains, while Manufacturing gained a modest 300 jobs. (*California EDD*)
- (Aug 18) – Newsom and Democratic legislative leaders are now negotiating a plan with the industry to boost stagnating production in California's oil-drilling hub of Kern County — and avert a nightmare scenario for a governor with national ambitions and a party that has promised to focus on affordability. Lawmakers could pass a measure before the end of their annual session in mid-September, though the details remain unsettled and environmental groups are raising alarms. (*Cal Matters*)

- (Aug 20) – Carmaker Hyundai is stepping on the gas when it comes to expanding its real estate portfolio, recently signing one of Southern California's largest office deals of the year with a full-building lease in Irvine, California. *(Costar)*

## **Tee Off with Industry Leaders at 2026 Golf Tournaments**



### **3rd Annual Manufacturing Charity Golf Event**

Monday, June 1, 2026 | Shotgun Start 8:30 AM

Bear Valley Country Club: 13229 Spring Valley Pkwy, Victorville

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### **1st Annual Southern Inland Empire Manufacturing Golf Classic**

October 26, 2026 | 8:00 AM

Glen Ivy Golf Club: 24400 Trilogy Pkwy, Corona, CA 92883

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Have a profitable September!

Molly

Molly Burgess

Executive Director

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