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DECO NEWS

Published by The Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorated Products



SocietyNews

Deco '26 a Success

More than 100 attendees visited Deco '26 in Pittsburgh for two days of exhibits, networking, and presentations. The business session featured speakers on incorporating AI into your manufacturing/decorating operation and untangling the complexities of shipping and logistics. Technical speakers presented on digital printing, coatings, quality control, and more. Several new exhibitors and speakers were featured this year. Plan now to attend Deco '27 April 27-29 in Columbus, Ohio. Visit www.sgcd.org for details.

Stanton Receives Child Award



Past President David Stanton (1998-99 and 2016-17) was presented the Society's annual Frank S. Child Award at Deco '26 in Pittsburgh. Stanton spent nearly half of his career in service to the Society and is the only individual to have served two terms on the Board. Stanton reminisced about his decades of involvement, stating he actually knew Frank Child, the Executive Secretary for whom the award is named.

He continued by discussing the many changes the Society has endured, noting the organization is still going

strong. Joining David for the Presentation were his wife Wendy and daughter Emily. Stanton acknowledged the support he received from his family during his many years of service.

New Officers Elected

New Officers were elected at the Society's annual meeting held April 15th during Deco '26.

Officers for the coming year include:

- **Wes King**, *Fusion Ceramics*, President
- **Cam Simmons**, *Stanpac*, Vice President
- **Jonathan Weiner**, *Maryland China*, Treasurer
- **Nathan Ruetz**, *Custom Deco*, Secretary
- **Ryan Reed**, *byQuest*, Director
- **Ryan Burgoon**, *Sahm Glass*, Director

Bylaw changes were also approved during the meeting. Revised bylaws are posted on the SGCDpro website.

Deco '27 Returns to Columbus

Deco '27 will be held April 27-29 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, in the heart of the city's famed Arena District. The area will be abuzz with sports and entertainment, having just hosted the NCAA Women's Final 4. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, sponsoring a networking event, or exhibiting, contact Myra Warne at (740) 588-0828.

Directory Changes Due

The 2026-27 Membership Directory will be published online in June. Changes and corrections for the new edition are due by May 26th. Changes can still be made after that date once the directory is published. Email changes to info@sgcd.org.

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IndustryNews

Distilling Institute Releases Reports

The American Distilling Institute has released information on the state of craft distilling worldwide with specific reports on the status of craft distillers in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia/New Zealand. Visit www.distilling.com for details.

Coca Cola to Invest in Bottling

Coca Cola Consolidated announced plans to add a glass bottling line to its facility in Indianapolis, investing \$35 million and adding approximately 20 full time jobs. The facility has been in operation since 1968 and includes 4 PET lines.

Baltimore Spirits to Change Strategy

Baltimore Spirits has indicated the company will back away from wholesale distribution, focusing instead on sales within the company's facility. Founded in 2015, the company boasted nationwide distribution. The focus will now be on the distillery's tasting room experience.

President's Perspective

Dear Members and Friends:

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as SGCDpro President for the coming year. Having just wrapped up DECO '26 a few weeks ago, it is appropriate to reflect back on recent events while also looking ahead in anticipation. As individuals, and as members of a Society, we continue to face numerous challenges: increasing costs and regulatory complexity, supply chain disruptions and rapid technological shifts, economic and policy uncertainty. In such an environment, staying informed and working together is crucial to success. SGCDpro exists solely for the benefit of our Members, and we are here to help you navigate these turbulent waters.



For example, the whiplash actions surrounding new tariffs: their rapid initial imposition, the legal challenge responses, a recent Supreme Court decision to overturn them, the imposition of new Tariffs 2.0 with accompanying new lawsuits, and the launch of a complicated refund system. To determine whether you are entitled to a refund from Tariffs 1.0, and complete the application, please see the link in this newsletter in the article titled "Tariff Refunds Issued."

The conflict with Iran has unleashed chaos in the Strait of Hormuz, impacting jet fuel, gasoline and diesel prices, and adding cost to supply chains and shipping. As of this writing, there is little to suggest that a resolution will be reached in the near term. SGCDpro will continue to monitor the situation in the Middle East and the resulting impacts on our industry.

Despite these and other economic headwinds, our industry continues to grow and innovate. If you attended DECO '26 in Pittsburgh, you were exposed to a variety of interesting and relevant presentations, including a number of new speakers. Topics included strategies for utilizing AI in the manufacturing environment, tips for navigating complicated shipping and logistics platforms, and new technologies related to quality control, digital printing, and laser marking.

The Board is already working on the Program for DECO '27, which will be held mid-week at the Hyatt Regency in Downtown Columbus, OH (April 27-29). If you wish to present, exhibit, or sponsor a networking event, please contact Myra Warne at (750) 588-9882. The annual DECO event is the highlight of the year for SGCDpro, it remains the best way for our Members to network and stay informed, and your participation is vital to our collective success. We encourage everyone to attend next year's Exposition in Columbus!

If the Society can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to serve you and to support the broader interests of our industry segments.

Sincerely,
Wes King
President, 2026-27

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2026-2027 Board of Directors and Officers:

President - Wes King, *Fusion Ceramics, Inc.*
Vice President - Cam Simmons, *Stanpac Incorporated*
Treasurer - Jonathan Weiner, *Maryland China Company*
Secretary - Nathan Ruetz, *Custom Deco*
Past President - Paul Bolduc, *Koenig & Bauer Kammann*

Directors:

Ryan Reed, *By Quest LLC*
Ryan Burgoon, *Sahm Glass*

Executive Director: Myra Warne, Zanesville, OH

Legislative Liaison: Walt Sanders, Washington, DC

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IndustryNews (continued)

Distillers Meet in Miami

The American Distilling Institute's Craft Spirits Conference and Expo will be held August 18-19, 2026, at the Miami Beach Convention Center in Miami, FL. Workshops, educational sessions, and exhibits will be featured. Click on this link to register:

[ADI2026 - Tickets - American Distilling Institute](#)

Ceramic Manufacturing Show a Success

The annual Ceramics Expo returned to Cleveland May 5-6 for two days of exhibits, networking events, and technical sessions. With a focus on advanced manufacturing, attendees were exposed to the latest cutting-edge applications. The event is co-located with the Thermal Management Expo. The 2027 event will be held April 20-21.

GPI Accepting Clear Choice Entries

The Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) is accepting submissions for the 2027 Clear Choice Awards, honoring glass packaging designs introduced during 2025-26. Founded in 1989, the awards celebrate glass packaging as an element of brand elevation. A panel of judges will evaluate entries based on innovation, design, shelf impact, and brand inspiration. Visit www.gpi.org for more information.

Brandstatter Named GPI Chair

Brian Brandstatter, President and CEO of Ardagh Glass Packaging-North America, has been named Chair of the GPI Board of Directors. Brandstatter brings decades of experience and a commitment to sustainable packaging to the position. Through his leadership, GPI will continue to advocate for a strong recycling infrastructure and long-term industry growth.

Rail Hub Opens in Georgia

An inland rail hub opened May 4th in Georgia that will reportedly take 26,000 loads off of roads annually. *FreightWaves* (5/6/2026) reports Norfolk Southern will provide service five (5) days a week between the hub and the Port of Savannah. Once complete, the \$134 million Blue Ridge Connector, located in Gainesville, GA will have the capacity to handle 200,000 containers annually.

UPS to Close More Facilities

FreightWaves (4/29/26) reports United Parcel Service (UPS) will close an additional 27 facilities to boost profitability. The company previously announced the closure of 24 facilities (23 of which have completed) in response to declining volume. The company reduced its Amazon volume to 500,000 units per day. Amazon currently represents 8.8% of its volume, down from 13% last year.

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IndustryNews *(continued)*

O-I Reports Quarterly Results

O-I Glass reported first quarter financial results on April 29th. First quarter earnings fell short of expectations, especially in the European market. The company revised its full year forecast due, primarily, to energy costs. The company reported net sales of \$1.54 billion and shipments declined 8%, for a net loss of 0.48 per share. Profit in the Americas remained stable at \$142 million on net sales of \$841 million.

Legislation and Policy

SCOTUS Rules Against Freight Broker

On May 14, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued a unanimous decision in favor of a man severely injured in an accident involving an over the road truck. Plaintiff Shawn Montgomery sued C.H. Robinson, the nation's largest freight broker, for injuries he received when a truck driven by Alexander Delgado of BLF Engerprises, a supposed "chameleon" carrier, formed when the owner's previous company was deemed unsafe. C.H. Robinson faces similar lawsuits from other accidents involving chameleon carriers.

Inflation Soars as Iran Conflict Persists

Inflation saw its biggest jump in 3 years as the consumer price

index (CPI) rose 3.8% from April of last year. Gasoline and diesel prices, fueled by the Iran conflict and disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, with gas prices rising more than 5% for an average price in excess of \$4.50 per gallon.

Tariff Refunds Issued

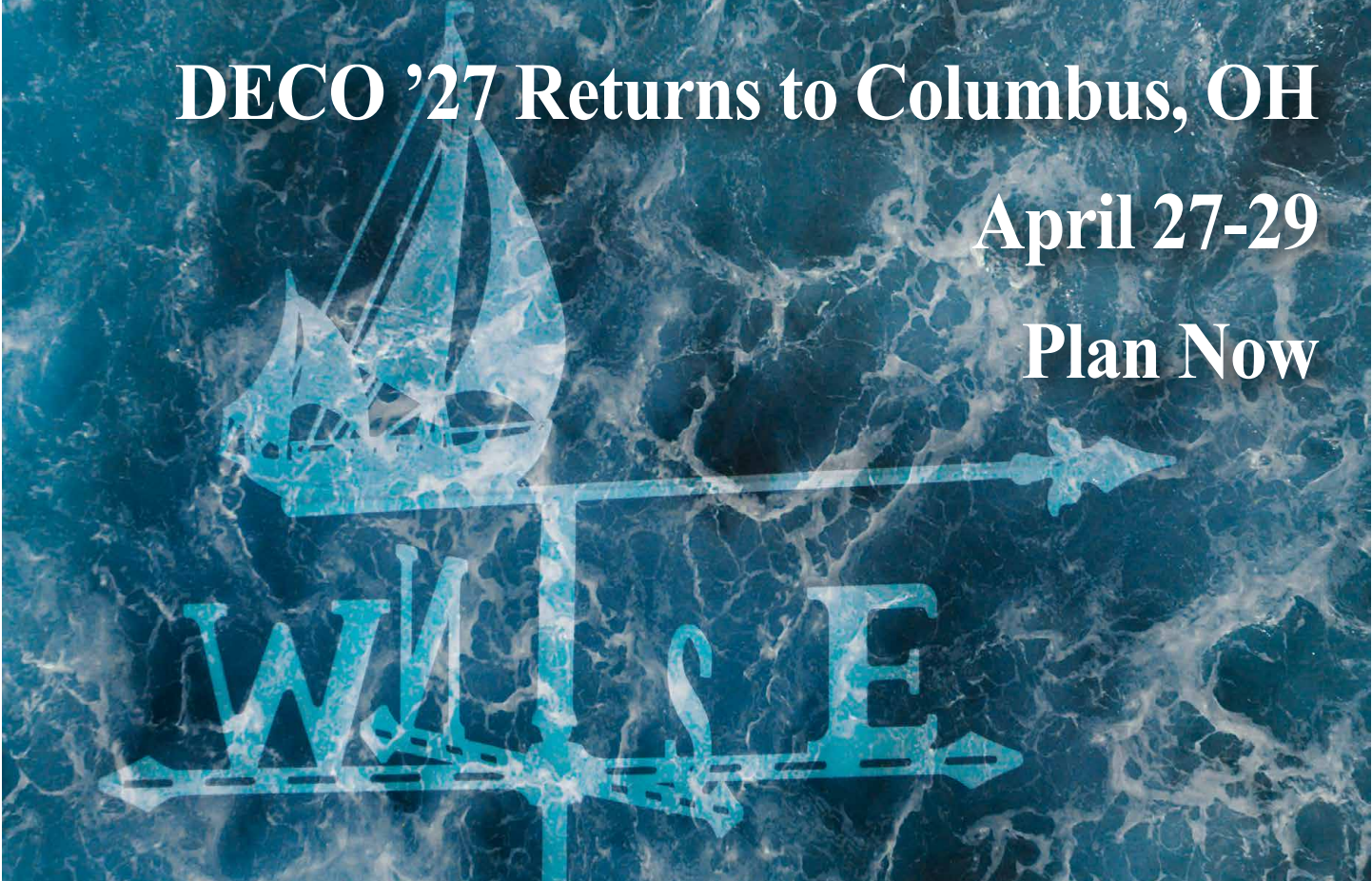
According to *The Hill* (5/5/26), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will begin issuing tariff refunds to eligible businesses on May 12. Refunds are in response to a recent Supreme Court ruling deeming the tariffs illegal. For complete details on initiating a claim, visit the CBP website page. A link follows: [International Emergency Economic Powers Act \(IEEPA\) Duty Refunds | U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#)

USPS Cuts Losses

The United States Postal Service (USPS) cut operating losses by 24% compared to the second quarter last year. Operating revenue increased by over 2% while expenses declined. Nevertheless, USPS quarterly losses were \$2 billion.

Strait of Hormuz Disruptions Create Uncertainty

Economic uncertainty caused by disruption in the Strait of Hormuz is expected to continue to impact global markets, especially in the energy sector. As gas prices surge in the United States, the closure is expected to impact global trade. Experts predict it could take months for oil markets to stabilize even after the Strait opens.



DECO '27 Returns to Columbus, OH

April 27-29

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