

Your source for decorating solutions and technology.

DECO NEWS

Published by The Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorated Products



SocietyNews

New Speakers Added to Business Session

Two additional speakers have been added to the Deco '26 business solutions program on Tuesday, April 14th. *Lee Green* of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) will discuss digital workplace transformation. Lee represents NAMs Innovation Research Interchange. *Matthew Foreman* is Vice President of Offensive Security for Shield 7, a digital security organization. Matthew will discuss upgrading your company's cyber security efforts in today's ever-evolving online and digital marketplace. Look for complete information on both speakers and presentations in the weekly Deco '26 featured speaker emails.

Exhibitor Showcase Published

The Exhibitor Showcase for Deco '26 is now available online at www.sgcd.org. A copy also appears at the end of this newsletter. Exhibitors include suppliers of equipment, materials, services, and substrates to the glass and ceramic decorating industries. Exhibits will be held Tuesday, April 14th, from noon until 5 p.m. Exhibit spaces remain available and can be reserved by contacting Myra Warne at 740-588-9882, or by email at info@sgcd.org.

Annual Meeting Announcement

The annual meeting of members of the Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorated Products will be held *Wednesday, April 15th, at 8:30 a.m.* in the Admiral Room of the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh, PA. New officers will be elected and changes to the bylaws will be presented. Presentation of the Frank S.

Child Award to David Stanton will occur immediately following the meeting, just ahead of the technical session.

Membership Dues Reminder

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2026, please do so soon to avoid losing access to the member only section of the website and other benefits such as Deco News, our annual directory, and breaking news emails. If you cannot locate your invoice, contact Myra Warne at info@sgcd.org for a copy. If you have already renewed, thank you for your continued membership in SGCDpro.

Sponsorships Available for Deco '26

Sponsorships are available for networking events starting at \$500. SGCDpro thanks SDI Custom Decal and Strutz International for returning as sponsors again this year. SDI will sponsor coffee breaks and Strutz International will again sponsor the exhibit hall reception. For details on sponsorship, contact Myra Warne at info@sgcd.org.

Technical Session Features New Speakers

For the first time in several years, the Deco technical program features all new speakers. Presentations including topics like digital printing, laser marking, inspection, and coating technology will be delivered on Wednesday, April 15th. The session is preceded by the Annual Meeting of members.

IndustryNews

Glassman Italy

Glassman Italy will be held February 4-5, 2026, at the Bologna Fiere Exhi-

Vol. 66, Num. 1 | Jan./Feb. 2026

INSIDE...

<i>President's Perspective</i>	2
<i>Industry News</i>	3
<i>Legislation and Policy</i>	3

Advertiser Index

<i>Maryland China</i>	3
<i>Help Wanted</i>	4

This listing is provided by SGCDpro as a courtesy. Not responsible for omissions or errors.

bition Center in Bologna, Italy. The Italian Glass Association, Assovetro, and Sorg will provide keynote speakers for the event. Details are available at www.glassmanevents.com/italy.

IAM Settles with Libbey, USW Strike Continues

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers ended their strike against Libbey in late December by overwhelmingly agreeing to approve a contract which included an immediate wage increase of 14.25%, no increase in health insurance premiums for 2026, retention of time and a half pay for overtime, and a signing bonus of \$3000. The United Steelworkers remain on strike with local members alleging improper action by both the company and national union leaders.

O-I Issues Statement on Venezuela

O-I Glass posted the following statement in its website news section:

"We are monitoring recent developments in Venezuela, and potential implications for the Company. At this time, we are not in a position to comment beyond our prior disclosures from the Company's 2020 Form 10K regarding the sale of the

President's Perspective



Dear Members and Friends,

With the holidays behind us and a new year well underway, the countdown has officially begun for **DECO '26**, and excitement continues to build as we look ahead to April. I'm pleased to share that the conference program is complete, and the SGCDpro Board has assembled a strong lineup that reflects the innovation, challenges, and opportunities shaping our industry today. To download the DECO '26 program visit: <https://irp.cdn-website.com/1b08fc2d/files/uploaded/Deco26+Program-v16.pdf>

We've designed this year's program to offer something for everyone — drawing on the expertise of well-known industry leaders while introducing new speakers with fresh viewpoints. The result is a series of sessions that balance practical knowledge with future-focused ideas aimed at delivering real value beyond the conference.

As part of our buildup to Pittsburgh, we've launched a **Featured Speaker of the Week** series, highlighted through our **weekly email communications and on our LinkedIn page**, to give members an early look at the expertise and perspectives you can expect at DECO '26. I'm pleased to spotlight one of this year's featured presenters:

Featured Speaker of the Week:

Lee Green

Vice President & Executive Director, Innovation Research Interchange
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

Lee Green is a recognized leader in advancing innovation across the manufacturing ecosystem. With more than 15 years of experience, she helps organizations leverage artificial intelligence, change management, and cross-functional collaboration to anticipate disruption and build resilient innovation cultures.

At NAM, Lee leads initiatives focused on digitalization, machine learning, sustainability, and recruiting and retaining technical talent. She is a frequent speaker and writer on innovation leadership and culture, bringing practical insight into how manufacturers can turn innovation into a competitive advantage.

Please remember to save the date — **April 13–15, 2025**, at the **Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh**. DECO '26 continues SGCDpro's tradition of bringing together professionals from glass and ceramic decoration, packaging, and design for education, networking, and collaboration.

Exhibitor interest remains strong, and we're excited about the partners who will be joining us on the show floor. A limited number of exhibitor booths are still available, so if your company is considering exhibiting, we encourage you to reach out soon for more information.

Be sure to stay connected as we build momentum toward Pittsburgh — we'll continue sharing conference updates, speaker highlights, and conference news on LinkedIn. Visit: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/sgcdpro>

As always, none of this would be possible without the dedication of our Executive Director, our Board of Directors and the continued support of our members. Your participation, ideas, and enthusiasm are what keep SGCDpro strong and relevant in a changing industry.

I look forward to seeing everyone in April for what promises to be an outstanding event.

Warm regards,

Paul Bolduc

President, 2025-26

Deco News is published 9 times a year by the Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorated Products as a benefit to the members of SGCDpro. Newsletter subscription fee is included in SGCDpro dues. The Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorating Products is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the perpetuation and expansion of glass and ceramic decorating and to providing related, accurate, and timely information.

2025-2026 Board of Directors and Officers:

President - Paul Bolduc, *Koenig & Bauer Kammann*

Vice President - Wes King, *Fusion Ceramics, Inc.*

Treasurer - Cam Simmons, *Stanpac Incorporated*

Secretary - Ryan Reed, *By Quest LLC*

Past President - Sean Weir, *Glass Coatings and Concepts LLC*

Directors:

Jonathan Weiner, *Maryland China Company*

Nathan Ruetz, *Custom Deco*

Executive Director: Myra Warne, Zanesville, OH

Legislative Liaison: Walt Sanders, Washington, DC

Society of Glass & Ceramic Decorated Products

PO Box 2489

Zanesville, OH 43702-2489

Phone: 740-588-9882 | Fax: 740-588-0245 | www.sgcd.org

The information in this newsletter is provided to members by the Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorated Products (SGCDpro) and while we make every effort to assure that all information is correct, we make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability or availability with respect to the information, products, services, or related graphics contained herein for any purpose. Any reliance you place on this information is therefore strictly at your own risk.

In no event will SGCDpro be liable for any loss or damage including without limitation, indirect or consequential loss or damage, or any loss or damage whatsoever arising from loss of data or profits arising out of, or in connection with, the use of information provided by SGCDpro.

Keep Informed:

Visit www.sgcd.org



www.facebook.com/SGCDpro1



www.linkedin.com/company/sgcdpro

Exclusive for Members Only:

For links to join the members only **Facebook** and **LinkedIn** group pages log into the members section of www.sgcd.org.

rights, title, and interest in the amounts due from Venezuela under the ICSID arbitral award issued in favor of OI European Group B.V. to an Ireland domiciled investment fund. That disclosure can be found at: [0001558370-21-001009](https://investors.o-i.com/news/default.aspx)"

The original statement can be found by accessing this link: <https://investors.o-i.com/news/default.aspx>

Venezuelan troops, under the direction of then President, Hugo Chavez, seized two glass plants from the company in October of 2010. In 2015, an international arbitration panel awarded the Company's Dutch subsidiary (OIEG) \$455 million related to the expropriation of assets.

British Manufacturers Seek Assistance

British ceramic firms are asking for assistance to "futureproof" the manufacturing sector. The group issued a report with numerous ideas, citing the closure several firms in 2025, including Royal Stafford, Heraldic Pottery, and Moorcraft. Paul Nowak, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said the ceramics sector was a fundamental part of Britain's national identity.

Jim Beam Halts Production

Jim Beam is halting production at its main production facility for a year citing declining alcohol sales. The company will continue to operate its craft distilleries and use the down time to upgrade its main facility.

MARYLANDCHINA

Over 1200 items in stock at competitive prices

Custom manufacturing services to your specifications

Custom decorating

Sublimation coated blanks and decorating

Digital decals and printing systems



Free 80 page color catalog!

View our entire assortment and learn about our capabilities at!

www.marylandchina.com

1-800-638-3880 • info@marylandchina.com
54 Main St. • Reisterstown, MD 21136

Trump Threatens Additional Tariffs

According to *FreightWaves* (1/12/2026), global container demand increased 7.9% last year, despite a decline of nearly 4% in North America. Excluding North America, global growth increased by more than 10% led by Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Europe.

Higher Furniture Tariffs Delayed

The Trump Administration delayed increased tariffs on furniture, cabinets, and vanities until January 1, 2027. Tariffs of 25% that were imposed in late 2025 were due to increase this month. The tariffs are designed to reduce reliance on imports and stimulate US manufacturing.

Lawmakers Pass Funding Bills

Politico (1/15/26) reports the Senate cleared a 3-bill spending package for the President's signature. The vote was 82-15. The legislation funds several agencies including the departments of Justice, Interior, Commerce and Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The vast majority of programs still need to be funded ahead of the looming January 30th deadline to avoid another government shutdown.

Healthcare Subsidies Expire

According to several news reports, between 800,000 and 1.4 million fewer Americans sought care on the Affordable Care Act exchanges following the December 31st expiration of expanded subsidies that have been in place since the Covid pandemic. Washington is split as Democrats push for subsidy extension while Republican lawmakers promise healthcare reform based on the concept of health savings accounts.

Proposition 65 Notices

Proposition 65 notices for violations related to glassware and ceramic ware continue to be filed at a rapid pace. More than 20 notices have been filed since the beginning of the 4th quarter of 2025, with 3 of those filed in the new year. Several notices are for products sold by TJX and other discount chains. Most of these claims were filed by Voorhees & Bailey, LLP and all mention lead as the violative chemical.

SCOTUS Yet to Rule on Tariffs

Stakeholders on both sides of the argument anxiously await a ruling from the United States Supreme Court on the legality of tariffs imposed by the Trump Administration. Trump has used the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 (IEEPA) to levy tariffs, upending the supply chain and creating economic uncertainty for manufacturers and suppliers. At times, tariffs were levied, postponed, and revised with little notice, creating uncertainty for stakeholders.

Supplier Quality Supervisor

American Art Clay – Indianapolis, Indiana

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Ceramics, Engineering, Material Science, Industrial Technology, or related field (Associate's degree plus significant experience considered).
- 5–7+ years of supplier quality or quality engineering experience in manufacturing.
- Experience in creating and developing a Supplier Quality System.
- Proficiency with ISO 9001; familiarity with IATF 16949, AS9100, or ISO 13485 is a plus.
- Skilled in SPC and statistical tools (Minitab preferred).
- Significant experience in creating, developing, and documenting quality standards.
- Experience in converting attribute standards into numeric standards.
- Certifications such as ASQ CSQP, CQE, CQA, or Lean Six Sigma Green Belt are strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated success in supplier audits, corrective action management, and supplier development.

Key Responsibilities

- **Supplier Quality Program & Development:** Design and implement supplier quality systems, including qualification, auditing, monitoring, scorecards, and agreements. Define incoming inspection methods, ensure CTQ specifications are met, and train staff and suppliers on correct test methods.
- **Discrepancy Resolution:** Serve as the first point of contact for discrepancies. Investigate supplier-related quality issues, lead root cause analyses, implement corrective actions, and escalate process issues to the In-Process Quality Supervisor when necessary.
- **Collaboration & Supplier Partnership:** Work with production teams to address supplier issues on the line and partner with procurement and engineering to select and develop suppliers. Establish rapid-response processes to prevent production disruptions.
- **System Implementation & Improvement:** Roll out AMACO and Brent Quality System standards to suppliers, implement corrective action systems, and lead supplier-focused Kaizen and A3 activities to improve performance.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Reduction in supplier-related defects and incoming inspection failures.
- Reduced production downtime from supplier quality issues.
- Improved supplier scorecard ratings (defect rates, delivery, compliance).
- Timeliness and effectiveness of supplier corrective actions.

Contact:

Jamie Burchfield, Director of Operations
JBurchfield@amaco.com

In-Process Quality Supervisor

American Art Clay – Indianapolis, Indiana

Requirements

- Bachelor's in Ceramics, Engineering, Material Science, Industrial Technology, or equivalent (Associate's degree plus significant experience considered).
- 5–7+ years of supervisory experience in quality roles, preferably in a lab.
- Experience in creating and developing a Quality System.
- Significant experience in creating, developing, and documenting quality standards.
- Experience in converting attribute standards into numeric standards.
- Knowledge of ceramic chemistry, materials testing, and mechanical processes.
- Experience setting up and stabilizing a quality lab.
- Familiarity with Lean and Six Sigma (Green Belt preferred), SPC, and Minitab.
- ERP/QMS knowledge (NAV, Business Central or SAP).

Key Responsibilities

- **Quality Lab & Process Stabilization:** Establish and maintain a fully functional quality lab, develop/validate test methods, calibrate equipment, and train staff. Define baseline process parameters, standardize data collection, and implement training to ensure process stability across shifts.
- **Inspections & Specifications:** Ensure Critical-to-Quality (CTQ) specifications are applied using proper test methods and equipment during in-process inspections.
- **Discrepancy Resolution:** Take ownership of in-process issues identified by Supplier Quality, lead investigations and corrective actions, and partner with production for sustainable fixes.
- **Quality System Implementation:** Drive rollout of Amaco and Brent Quality System, create and implement standardized test protocols (TWI), create training matrices, ensure consistency and adherence to test procedures while making data-driven recommendations.
- **Continuous Improvement & Audits:** Perform audits, lead Kaizen/A3 activities, and report findings during Gemba walks and virtual reviews.
- **Team & Operational Leadership:** Resolve employee issues, oversee scrap/inventory accuracy, conduct safety audits, and facilitate cross-department communication on production and quality goals.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Reduction in in-process defects, scrap, and related customer complaints.
- Effective application of CTQ specifications and timely resolution of discrepancies.

Contact:

Jamie Burchfield, Director of Operations
JBurchfield@amaco.com