



The AME 2019 International Conference in Chicago is the largest lean conference in the world. With outstanding **keynotes**, **daily practitioner presentations**, must-see **benchmarking tours**, and **pre-conference workshops**, the learning experience is like no other. World-class, highly successful continuous improvement practitioners provide a source of knowledge that you can rely on to confidently make the changes needed to accelerate growth. AME is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization. Our sole purpose is to provide a practical and reliable source of continuous improvement learning.

This is your opportunity to connect with key industry leaders in manufacturing, healthcare, and other industries and network with manufacturing executives, senior operations managers and others who are on the journey toward enterprise excellence.



JOIN US

"I have personally sent almost 300 people to AME conferences over the past 10 years, and I can honestly say that we easily exceeded 20X the investment in business results. If your lean or CI journey is plateaued or backsliding, or it just isn't advancing as fast as your strategy requires, make the investment..."

- **Greg Williams**, AME member and volunteer



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Leading on the Edge to World-Class Excellence

Leading ON THE Edge

The AME Chicago 2019 conference theme **Leading on the Edge** represents leading on the forefront and leading people with outside-the-box thinking. It also represents breaking away from old ways of managing and a shift toward collaboration and fostering a culture of advancement, development and respect for people.



Keynotes

Here are some of the keynotes you'll hear from in Chicago:

Tours

Here are some of the tours you'll see in Chicago:

Workshops

AME Chicago 2019 will offer half-day deep-dive workshops on Monday for those looking to maximize learning on select topics. There is an additional charge for workshops, and advance registration is required. Here is just a sampling of the workshops offered at AME Chicago 2019.

Sessions

AME Chicago 2019 will offer sessions on Tuesday through Thursday. Here is just a sampling of sessions:



Tom Peters

In 1982, with the publication of *In Search of Excellence: Lessons from America's Best-Run Companies*, Tom Peters and Bob Waterman effectively introduced the world of business to the notion of excellence as a state of mind. The book was honored by NPR as one of the "Top Three Business Books of the Century." In his latest book, *The Excellence Dividend*, Peters discusses his concern re the impending impact of technology (both innovating and automating) on jobs over the next 10 years and beyond. He is as convinced as ever that excellence remains the greatest differentiator.



Richard Sheridan

Joy, Inc. author Richard Sheridan is also the CEO, Chief Storyteller and co-founder of Menlo Innovations. When Sheridan decided to start his own company, he and his partners decided that the company's purpose would be to bring joy to the world through software and to teach this method to others. Sheridan was featured on the cover of *Forbes* magazine in 2003, sharing his "hire yourself" story with the world.



John Sweeney

John Sweeney has captured the imagination of some of the most respected companies in the world. Sweeney's success is a result of how deeply and effectively his improvisational speaking and training programs have resonated with a broad spectrum of forward-thinking leaders. Whether helping companies achieve greater innovation, improve teamwork and productivity, sell better, embrace change, personalize customer service or renew workplace enthusiasm, John Sweeney is undeniable in his ability to spark laughter, deliver messages, provoke thought and initiate change.



Grace Wakulchik

Grace Wakulchik, President of Akron Children's Hospital since 2017, is a transformational leader. She is the third president in the hospital's history and first woman in that role. Since joining Akron Children's Hospital, Wakulchik has held various nursing and hospital leadership roles focused on skill development, team-building, operational excellence and encouraging clinical staff to pursue management roles. Wakulchik was named one of the 2018 Notable Women in Healthcare by *Crain's Cleveland Business*.



Accuride Rockford



Acme Alliance



Emerson



Hyatt Regency Chicago



S&C Electric Company



UChicago Medicine



AME Excellence Award Recipient

All AME tour sites are evaluated by AME volunteers who are seasoned continuous improvement practitioners. Tour sites are evaluated using criteria from the AME Lean Sensei and are only selected if there are meaningful examples of continuous improvement best practices in place. There is no additional charge for tours, and all attendees have the opportunity to register for a tour. Here is a sampling of the tour sites for AME Chicago 2019.



Basadur Applied Creativity

Collaborative team problem - solving for innovative solutions and efficiency

Problems facing organizations today are much more complex than ever before. They require new problem-solving skills and collaboration across different disciplines for innovative solutions. In this highly interactive workshop, you will experience a proven cognitive problem-solving process that achieves tangible results and enables collaborative innovation across silos. You will use your own real-world problems and learn how to ask the right questions and facilitate others to develop innovative answers with consensus and commitment.

Katrina Appell Consulting

Designing your future

Improvement efforts too frequently rework things that should have been designed differently in the first place. In this session, you will take the first steps toward making this the reality in your organization through Lean Product-Process Development (LPPD). A model for LPPD with examples will be discussed along with approaches for transforming your development system.

McFalls Tech

Mixed model assembly - Solutions for high mix environments

Toyota has a special secret: the way it mixes the production line. Toyota calls it the Heijunka Sequence Plan. Gain a thorough understanding of Toyota's Heijunka Sequencing methodology in this workshop. You'll use an algorithm developed to mimic the Toyota Production System and discover a method to understand how Toyota embraces variation to create flow.

Norbert Majerus Consulting

Lean project management - Driving projects with lean principles

This workshop teaches how lean principles can help project execution, and it describes lean startup principles that help organizations transition new ideas into successful products. In addition to the process, the workshop also covers the appropriate way to manage people and lead project teams.

One System One Voice

Customer Back Model® - Integrating customers in everyone's activities

Too often training focuses on the application of tools rather than teaching people how to think. In this workshop, you'll explore the operating model used years ago to develop the current thinking that Toyota uses daily. You will learn how the model enables people to think and understand how their role impacts customer outcomes, and the relationships of value chains, standards and problem solving.

Osterling Consulting

Value stream mapping across the organization

In this interactive, hands-on workshop, and using a case study, you will broaden your understanding of how to harness the true power of value stream mapping (VSM) as an effective management practice and extend its application throughout your organization. Learn how VSM is intended to be used as much more than just a mapping technique. Learn how properly managed VSM results in an aligned, engaged and knowledgeable leadership team.

Front-line team members transform the organization

Presenter: **Anne Musitano**, RPh, PharmD, MBOE, LSSBB, Operational Excellence Administrative Director, *Akron Children's Hospital*

Learn how multiple strategies to empower front-line teams can transform the organization. Involving front-line caregivers, food service employees, laboratory technologists, medical assistants and providers in any improvement is critical to success and sustainability. See how huddle processes, redesigns of areas and front-line-led projects can create engines of improvement in every pocket of the organization.

Bringing joy back into the workplace

Presenter: **Richard Sheridan**, CEO, *Menlo Innovations*

You'll want to hear more after listening to Richard Sheridan's keynote. Join us for a deep dive session and learn why, every year, thousands of visitors come from around the world to visit Menlo Innovations. Discover a radically different approach to company culture. Sheridan, author of the book *Joy Inc.* and the soon-to-be-released *Chief Joy Officer*, removed the fear and ambiguity that typically make a workplace miserable. With joy as the explicit goal, he and his team changed everything about how Menlo Innovations was run. The results blew away all expectations. Menlo has won numerous growth awards and was named an *Inc. Magazine* "audacious small company."

Making the difficult decisions: Addressing sustainability and the triple bottom line

Presenter: **Dale Crownover**, CEO, *Texas Nameplate Company*

Companies that lead on the edge cannot be afraid to do what they believe to be important on behalf of stakeholders. Sometimes the company CEO needs to commit to ideas that do not necessarily appear at first to be bottom-line driven. For example, some environmental issues do not appear initially to save money or be bottom-line driven. But consider the ultimate question: Where do materials go if NOT used in the final product? What if you could be pleasantly surprised by your ROI in addressing the impact of such by-product issues while, at the same time, developing a sense of pride in knowing that you can have a positive impact on society for generations to come? Texas Nameplate Company made this decision, and the positive impact on its "triple bottom line" far exceeded anything the company expected.

Implementing over 35,000 ideas through employee ownership and engagement

Presenters: **Fontana Coy**, CI Transformation Coach, *Duha*
Rod Smith, Director of Organizational Development, *Duha*

Hear how Duha created its continuous improvement culture and value stream strategy through a method referred to as the "Dynamic Value Stream Transformation." Follow Duha's 17-year CI journey to develop this five-part approach focused on individual development through gemba and kata techniques, department alignment through communication, facility strength and organizational transparency.

Change: Becoming the best in class

Presenter: **Paul Soubry**, CEO, *New Flyer Industries*

New Flyer, the U.S. subsidiary of NFI Group Inc., is the largest transit bus and motor coach manufacturer and parts distributor in North America. Presenter Paul Soubry has led the New Flyer team to the top of North America's bus manufacturing organizations. He has leveraged lean principles and his passion for engaging and challenging people to build a world-class organization. Learn from this top leader and his team about the New Flyer story, including some of the obstacles and successes. Learn about what it takes to shape a culture to be ready to lead on the edge and compete at the top.