



Consolidation. That word sums up our industry at this time. Sherwin Williams has acquired Valspar making them the largest Paint Manufacturer in the world. As more consolidations occur, it makes it tougher for organizations like the CPCA to survive. The good news is that we are doing well, and have an unbelievable group of board members and activities scheduled for the immediate future. First, I want to thank everyone for the honor of being your president for the 2017-18 year. I have been a part of the Paint Industry for almost 26 years. Many of you know that I am part of a family business. My father, the founder of EMCO, taught me to support the industries that you service. By getting involved, I have been able to meet people who I now am proud to call friends. While other organizations are struggling to survive, I feel we are at an extremely good place with a lot of energy and enthusiasm moving forward.

I want to thank Christy Marcuccelli for a job well done as our outgoing President. She has done an amazing job keeping us on track and moving forward. I also want to thank Brenda Svenneke for her efforts. Without Brenda, I know I would be lost. Thanks again for helping steer this ship. Our schedule of activities is a little different from years in the past as we feel it is time to mix it up a bit, and try some different things. Our goal is to offer events for everyone throughout Chicagoland, and provide something for everyone, ranging from minor league baseball to wine tasting and a play in the winter. I am hoping you can find something that will be worth your time to attend. The events will be fun and priced affordably. Your participation is the key to the success of the organization. Some important events that I think you should all try to attend: (I would list the date first, then the description for each event.

- June 22nd- Golf Outing at The Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club. Time to dust off the clubs.
- July 21st – Baseball Outing at Schaumburg Boomers Stadium.
- August 19th - Air & Water Show on the Odyssey Fun experience if you have never been.
- August 26th - Paint a Brighter Chicago at Pui Tak Christian School in Chicago's Chinatown. This gives you an opportunity to give back to our community. Maybe even have time for some Dim Sum.
- August 31st – Wine Tasting at Valentino's Vineyard.
- October 19th -Chicago's Finest Painted Ladies and Her Court Dinner at Maggiano's. This is a great opportunity to see some beautiful homes that have been painted with our products/raw materials...
- December 14th - CPCA & CSCT Holiday Party at Venuti's. No conflicts with other Holiday Parties. So come and have a good time.

I hope to see all of you at the ACA Meeting in Indianapolis, April 2018. Please feel free to contact me regarding anything associated with the CPCA. Suggestions and comments are appreciated. Have an enjoyable and safe summer.

All the Best,
Mark Polen
EMCO Chemical Distributors