

# 2024 DASMA ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

## Four-day event gets record attendance

By Vicki Jones, Editor

From January 22-25, 2024, DASMA and its members held the 28th Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs, Fla. The meeting saw a record number of 222 attendees representing 104 companies. The association was pleased with the strong attendance (especially considering that the meeting time overlapped with the AFA Fencetech schedule).

The Annual Meeting is a fantastic opportunity for DASMA members to network and discuss relevant technical and industry issues in a fun and collaborative environment. The 2024 event was no exception. Attendees seemed eager to pursue the ambitious four-day agenda.

### DASMA membership on the rise

DASMA represents more than 95% of the U.S. market with six divisions and over 100 member companies. As of February 2024,

there are 63 Active member companies, 40 Associate member companies, and four industry professionals that comprise the DASMA group. In 2023, and so far in 2024, eleven new companies joined DASMA, including seven Associate members and four Active members.

### Day 1: A packed schedule

The Annual Meeting was loaded with efficiently scheduled division and technical committee meetings. On Monday, the CDO Inherent Force Sensing Task Group and the Door Operator & Gate Operator Steering and Division Committees met. The groups analyzed division-specific Technical Data Sheets, discussed industry-relevant topics, and created subcommittees and task force groups as needed.

### “Fast Pitch Networking” event

The first day of meetings transitioned into the popular “Fast Pitch Networking” event (formerly “Speed Networking”). 18 Associate Member companies participated, and each had the opportunity to schedule a five-minute meet-and-greet session with any of the nine Active Member companies who participated in the event. The introductory meetings offered a great opportunity to speak with key decision makers of leading manufacturing companies.

Immediately after, the members gathered with attendees at the Welcome Reception. The evening allowed attendees to network with members and evaluate the numerous submissions for the annual Poster Contest.

### Posters galore

The DASMA Associate Member’s Poster Contest generated more than twice the number of

submissions than last year, with a total of 12 posters having been submitted. Action Industries, AkzoNobel, Arrow Tru-Line, AZZ Precoat Metals, Canimex, Continental Coatings, Elton Manufacturing, FlexiForce, IDC Spring, Iowa Spring Group, Service Spring, and Westlake Royal Building Products all submitted posters.



The quality of the posters was superb, which made the competition fierce and determining a winner challenging.

One judge said that “Arrow Tru-Line’s fun poster with cheeky headlines was a standout but the unique concept, stellar graphics, and clear messaging of Westlake Royal’s ‘Almighty Seal’ ultimately won over the judges.” Westlake Royal’s poster earned a free ad in the 2024 spring issue of Door + Access Systems for winning the Poster of the Year Contest.

The contest is a fantastic way for Associate Members to showcase their company and highlight their products to the industry. We encourage all Associate Members to create and submit posters next year.

### Day 2: New members, meetings, presentations, and a banquet

Members had the opportunity to attend relevant committee and division meetings

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## WELCOME NEW DASMA MEMBERS

The following companies joined DASMA in 2023 and/or at the beginning of 2024:

### New Associate Members

- Flack Global Metals
- Goshen Stamping
- Lorin Industries
- Repanels Group
- Sivaco Wire
- SK Pucore
- Titan Home Products

### New Active Members

- BTR Controls
- CEDES
- Central States Manufacturing
- ES Windows





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from 8:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. New members and first-time attendees joined for an overview of DASMA, and the High-Performance Door, Magazine/Marketing, and Thermal Performance committees worked together to continue to maintain momentum on a wide range of projects currently affecting the industry.

### Keynote presentation

DASMA invited Mary Uher, director of FORTIFIED Field Services for IBHS (the Insurance Institute for Building and Home Safety) to present a keynote. The IBHS recognizes the crucial role of garage door products in protecting homes from storm damage. The institute conducts full-scale wind tunnel research, supports building code improvements, and created the FORTIFIED voluntary construction and reroofing program.

Uher's presentation stressed the importance of designing products to strengthen homes and commercial buildings against high winds, hail, hurricanes, and even tornadoes. She also provided a detailed overview of IBHS

FORTIFIED and what the program means for our industry.

### Product Liability & Safety Committee presentation

Trent Spurlock, a partner at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, spoke about his experiences while working as a civil trial practice attorney defending and advising clients in various industries regarding liabilities arising from product defects, toxic exposures, consumer protection claims, professional malpractice, and more.

### Banquet dinner

On Tuesday night, DASMA held its banquet dinner and distributed awards. The ceremony began with Naomi Angel providing a touching tribute for Nathan Breen, DASMA's legal counsel. Breen unexpectedly passed away in December 2023 at 49. The event provided an ideal platform to properly honor him.

Next, DASMA President Val Sigmon welcomed the record number of attendees and asked IDA President Wesley Perry to speak. Perry provided a quick overview of IDA's

upcoming events and scholarship programs and discussed the cooperative efforts of DASMA and IDA.

### Ad of the Year announcements

Then, the finalists of the Door + Access Systems Newsmagazine's 23rd Ad of the Year (AOY) contest were announced. The top five finalists (as determined by our panel of 14 judges) were revealed, and Clopay's "Watch your business boom" advertisement was recognized as the 2023 AOY. See page 30 for additional details. Clopay's winning artwork will be featured in the fall 2024 issue of Door + Access Systems magazine for free.



### DAYS 3 and 4: Rolling along

Work continued on day three with the Joint Technical Group, Commercial & Residential Garage Door Steering committee, and door division groups convening. The day concluded with the General Membership, Board of Directors, and Rolling Door Division Research Committee meetings.

For the first time, a fourth day of meetings was scheduled to accommodate all the necessary work groups. The final day consisted of several Rolling Door Division events, including breakfast, a Codes and Standards committee meeting, and a divisional working lunch. ■



*Keynote Speaker: Mary Uher, IBHS*