



25TH ANNUAL FALL FORUM

DASMA HITS IT OUT OF THE BALLPARK

By Vicki Jones, Editor

On Sept. 23-25, the Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) hosted its 25th Fall Forum at the Aloft Cleveland Downtown. 50 attendees representing 35 different DASMA member companies attended the event, and many participants expressed high praise for the location.

CLEVELAND: A HOT CORNER

69% of attendees who completed the post-event survey said that Cleveland was a “great location” for the Fall Forum. One person said, “The location was nice, and there was an abundance of good restaurants in close proximity to the hotel.” Another remarked, “I was pleasantly surprised with downtown Cleveland.”

Other survey respondents appreciated the Fall Forum switching locations from year to year — a conscious direction by DASMA staff. Prior locations include Dallas, Denver, and Nashville, in 2022, 2023, and 2024, respectively.

GRAND SLAM AGENDA

The 2025 Fall Forum included multiple DASMA committee and division meetings, 11 top-notch presentations from 10 different speakers, several group meals, and the highlight group event this year: the Cleveland Guardians versus the Detroit Tigers Major League Baseball game.



“The ball game, of course, was fantastic!”
Based on the survey results, attendees felt that the baseball game, as well as the forum’s loaded three-day agenda, hit it out of the ballpark.

Other comments focused on the curriculum and quality of the overall event. “It was very well put together and organized. We covered a lot of content in those few days with little downtime, which is very much appreciated!”

The forum served as an excellent platform for members to network and collaborate. The first two days featured meetings of the following DASMA groups: Rolling Door Division Training & Education Committee, Rolling Door Division Research Committee, Motor Operated Rolling Grille Task Group, Joint Technical Group, Rolling Door Division Codes & Standards Committee, the Commercial & Residential Garage Door Technical Committee, and Thermal Performance Verification Program Certification Committee.

“INFORMATIVE PRESENTATIONS”

The high-caliber presentations provided by industry experts were the core of the forum’s schedule and arguably the most valuable part of the event. The presentations covered a comprehensive list of relevant and wide-ranging industry topics from a list of highly educated, decorated, and experienced speakers.



One survey respondent said, “The speakers were informative and kept my attention.” Another said, “I think this meeting was definitely in the top two of the last several years, as far as the way that it flowed.”

Forum presentations began with Derek Guffey, vice president of sales of the manufacturer segment of Construct-Connect and registered architect in Indiana for 12 years. The “Design process: Tactically improving a building product

manufacturers (BPMs) outreach” seminar addressed the evolving landscape of project delivery methods and strategies to engage with both architects and contractors.



Guffey also offered BPMs practical strategies to improve their connection with architects and construction managers, ultimately enhancing their market presence and effectiveness.



OPERATIONAL WIND RESEARCH

Next, Trevor Errington, P.E., design engineering manager at Clopay, and Ray Ouyang, director of engineering at Overhead Door, discussed operational wind load research — highlighting how DASMA’s Rolling Door Division Research Committee is leading an effort to develop a standard test method for operating vehicle-access doors during wind load.

Errington and Ouyang provided an overview of the research project and the status of the test method development. They explained that the initial focus of the project is rolling doors; however, the resulting test method may potentially apply to all DASMA-member-produced doors.

“I think Trevor and Ray did an outstanding job,” said one survey respondent. “The functional door testing during a wind event was interesting, and I was surprised to hear that this may work to become a DASMA TDS or even an official DASMA Standard.”

THE WAYS DASMA WORKS FOR YOU

DASMA Technical Director Dave Monsour provided the third presentation, challenging the group to consider “How can DASMA work better for you?” Monsour said that his time and energy are at their disposal and presented a unique behind-the-scenes glimpse into a “day in the life” as technical director, the organizations that DASMA groups work with, and how these activities provide value for members.

One attendee said that Monsour’s presentation offered a “much-needed review of the challenges we face today, as well as considerations for the future.”

HOME INSPECTIONS FROM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS

Owner of the Home Inspector Training Academy Hollis Brown has trained thousands of home inspectors



nationwide and has conducted more than 6,000 home inspections since 1997. In his presentation, Brown shared key insights from his 40-year career in home construction and inspection. Thanks to his summary of the DASMA Technical Data Sheet 167, one attendee discovered that “even those conducting inspections can benefit from DASMA.”

A “GOOD LAB”

Greg Matias, director of validation and compliance at Genie, kicked off day two of the forum by outlining “IEC 17025 and the elements of a good testing laboratory.” Matias’ overview detailed what level of assurance a “good lab” provides. He also shared the lab-related subjects of external quality control, how testing should be performed, and reasonable expectations when working with an outside lab.



POWER OF COLLABORATION

Tony Bouquot, general manager of the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) since 2018, provided a presentation on “The power of industry collaboration.” With over 25 years of experience in operations, project management, and product development in the construction industry, Bouquot shared success stories born out of the combined efforts of the industry and driven by competitors pursuing common interests.



DASMA acknowledges Josh Harter

During the Fall Forum, the group surprised Joshua Harter with a special tribute, acknowledging the former chair of the DASMA High Performance Door Division (HPDD) and longtime DASMA contributor with an official statement of recognition.

HPDD Meeting Chair Milt Prosperi thanked Harter for his many years of voluntary service to DASMA and for his countless hours, energy, and efforts given to the HPDD. Prosperi said, “Your willingness to serve with such consistency has made a real difference in making this division significant and productive. It’s not just the time and work you’ve done, but also the spirit in which you have done it. Your selfless contributions have helped strengthen our mission.” Harter said that it was a moment he’ll never forget.



“Moments like this remind me why industry associations matter — the collaboration, the shared purpose, and the progress we make together.”

— Joshua Harter

VALUE OF CERTIFICATION

Joe Zgrabik discussed his years of experience serving various trade associations, including the American Association of Automatic Door Manufacturers (AAADM), The Transformer Association, and the American Ladder Institute. His presentation, “How the automatic door industry has thrived with certification,” emphasized how the AAADM certification program can broaden our vision of how related industries deal with important issues.

A DEALER’S PERSPECTIVE

Then, Owner of The Total Garage Store and current IDEA President Bill Earnest gave “The IDEA and dealer report.” Earnest updated the group on the trends and initiatives affecting the industry last year from a dealer’s perspective. One attendee said that Earnest’s presentation offered a “good perspective from outside of the manufacturing world.”

DESIGN WIND PRESSURE: A PEEK UNDER THE HOOD

Dave Monsour laid the foundation for day three with a presentation on “Design wind pressure in American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 7: Principles and Practice.” He reviewed the organization and content of the wind provisions of ASCE 7-22 with a special focus on step-by-step design wind pressure calculation. Monsour provided a refresher of important ASCE

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7 concepts as a prelude to the more detailed discussion of ASCE 7-28 by Dr. W. Lee Shoemaker.

Shoemaker followed, updating the group on "ASCE 7-28 and the winds of change."

Many of the critical code requirements for vehicle access doors are based on the design standard published by the ASCE known as "ASCE 7, Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures." Shoemaker

presented the latest research and analysis by ASCE and detailed how it could affect the standard.

Shoemaker earned a Ph.D. in civil engineering at Duke University and has worked as an assistant professor at Auburn University for seven years. Since 1994, he has served as director of research and engineering for the MBMA and was inducted into the Metal Construction Hall of Fame in 2015.

YOU'VE BEEN WARNED

The presentations concluded with DASMA Legal Counsel and Owner of Pannos Law, LLC, Christina Pannos, who spoke about "The peril of the printed word (and pixels): Navigating

warning label and installation instruction liability."

Pannos explained that manufacturers need to clearly understand their legal duty to warn and provide adequate instructions for their products. She provided details on how the legal implications of digital versus printed content have changed over time. She also identified key jurisdictional differences in warning and instruction requirements and helped the group develop best practices for creating and disseminating effective and legally compliant warnings and instructions.

Pannos' interactive format won over the audience. One person said, "These types of presentations always spark group interaction. Fun."

HOME RUN HITTERS

Overall feedback for the presenters and the event was extremely positive. "The presentations were relevant and on point to current issues," said one respondent. "It was nice to see some presentations from our own members and the DASMA technical director," noted another.



"Most of the speakers and the subject matter shared centered around the industry well. There were a variety of topics that speak to matters of interest today and for the future," one respondent stated.

Attendees also found the informal get-togethers — like the group meals and outside activities — valuable, noting "It was nice to go the baseball game as a group."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Forum incorporates meetings and technical presentations that are geared to address both existing and emerging technical activities relevant to DASMA members. The event also provides professional engineers with an opportunity to obtain Professional Development Hours, which are required for license renewal.

The 2026 Fall Forum is scheduled for Sept. 22 to 24; the location will be announced in the coming months. DASMA members are encouraged to attend and benefit from the expertise of the featured speakers and the opportunity to network with industry peers and technical experts. ■

DASMA 2026 Fall Forum
September 22-24, 2026
Location: TBD



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