

PERA's 80th Annual Convention
2026 Program Registration &
Highlights



DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton

Springfield, MO

September 23 - September 25

PERA's address:

3931 Kelsey Ct.

Grapevine, TX 76051-6414

Joe: 817.243.2646

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Scan your completed
form and email it to:
joepolich@pera.org or
aaron@pera.org

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton – Springfield, Missouri

Making Your Hotel Reservation

Your hotel reservation is just a click or phone call away. Click on or cut and paste the following link into your search engine to reach PERA's the DoubleTree's reservation page.

Click this link to [PERA 2026](#)

Although it's best to use the above link, you can always call to make your reservation. Call 417.831.3131 and be sure to use our **group name, PERA 2026.**

The guaranteed rate of \$169.00 will be honored until 5:00pm on Monday, **September 2nd or until our block is full.** After that, the PERA rate will no longer be available. This rate **IS** available three (3) days before and three (3) days after our program **based on availability** so get your reservation in early! **If you desire to come in early or stay late, call** to make your reservation.

Room availability is based on a first come, first served basis. Once the PERA room block is filled, additional rooms will be subject to availability, but the guaranteed rate will apply only if the reservation is made prior to **September 2nd** and rooms are available in our block.

Free self-parking is available. There is no valet service.

Airport shuttle

An airport shuttle is available. From the airport, call the DoubleTree when you are ready to be picked up. They can usually pick you up within ½ hour.

For your return trip to the airport, you must make a reservation at the front desk.

Wednesday, September 23rd

- 7:30am Buffet breakfast
- 8:00-8:10am Working breakfast –
Welcome President Juan Luis Bernal
- Welcome by Program Planning Committee
Chairman Casey Calouette
- 8:15am Keynote Address: Creating a Successful Transition
As Chairman and CEO, Jack Stack has helped grow the diverse SRC Holdings family of ten businesses into a leading brand in the automotive and off-highway markets with annual sales nearing \$1 billion and a workforce of over 2,000 employee-owners.
- SRC’s journey began in 1983 when Jack led an employee buyout of a single factory from International Harvester. From its start, SRC embraced a new system for running a business. Jack details that journey and the “open-book management” practices SRC adopted in his acclaimed books, *The Great Game of Business* and *A Stake in the Outcome*, which he co-authored with Bo Burlingham. Jack also wrote a third book, *Change The Game: Saving the American Dream by Closing the Gap Between The Haves And The Have-Nots* with Darren Dahl.
- 9:30am Where Are We With Right-To-Repair
Sara Kaderly, Director of Remanufacturing Excellence with MEMA makes a return to update us on the current status of Right-To-Repair laws.
- 10:00am Break
- 10:30am Modern Timing Systems
Cody Smith, Technical Product Director for Cloyes Gear & Products, Inc. explores modern timing drive systems, including key category drivers, variable valve timing (VVT) operation, and the component technologies that influence system performance and durability. Through real-world case studies and diagnostic examples, the presentation will include how to identify root causes of timing system failures, perform accurate repairs, and avoid costly comebacks and warranty issues.
- 11:14am How Volatile are Today’s Markets and Economy?
Carl Viard, Senior Vice President, Institutional Consulting Director for Graystone Consulting, returns to update us about what we can expect during the upcoming year and how governmental policies have influenced their direction.

Wednesday, September 23rd (continued)

- 12:00noon Lunch **hosted by AER Manufacturing**
- 1:00pm Connect With JASPER®
Mark Balsmeyer, Manager of Continuous Improvement at Jasper Engines and Transmissions will talk about this innovative internship opportunity offered by Jasper that is unlike a typical internship. This unique partnership encourages students to be creative and collaborative to gain the most from their experience!
- 2:00pm Break
- 2:30pm Air Filtration for Industrial Manufacturing
Tony Galvin is a Business Development professional with Camfil Air Pollution Control, bringing more than 30 years of experience in industrial manufacturing and air pollution control. He focuses on helping customers navigate complex operational challenges by developing practical, engineered solutions that support safety, regulatory compliance, and efficient operations across the metal, mining, pharmaceutical, and broader process industries.
- 3:30pm Advances In Testing Engines
Matt Meyer and Matt Napolitano of RMC Engine Rebuilding Equipment, Inc. are going to discuss the advances that have been made in their engine test stand to accommodate current engine configurations. They’ll also talk about what future modules will have to be added to insure you are sending out the best product possible.
- 4:15pm When the Part No Longer Exists: Keeping Your Production Moving
When a critical part is obsolete, backordered, or simply no longer made, production stops. The Missouri Protoplex, a new 117,000 sq ft advanced manufacturing hub at Missouri S&T, exists to solve exactly that. Dr. Richard Billo will show how additive manufacturing, advanced metallurgy, reverse engineering, and hands-on workforce training tackle real production challenges, closing with a case study on the Protoplex's work with SRC Holdings.
- 4:45pm Session ends
- 6:00-7:30pm **Opening Reception**
Hosted by AER Manufacturing
DoubleTree lobby
(Dress is business casual)

Thursday, September 24th

- 7:30am Buffet Breakfast
- 8:00am Working breakfast & welcome back
Elections & Awards
- 8:30am *Crankshaft Polishing – all you need to know*
Ken Barton of QPAC is one of the leading authorities on crankshaft polishing. In this presentation Ken will cover the history and evolution of crankshaft bearing surface finishing. It includes an overview of various finishing methods such as superfinishing, Micropolishing, Microfinishing, and other related processes.
- 9:00am *Modern Crankshaft Manufacturing: From Rough Machining to Final Finishing in High Volume Production*
Kennametal's Jacob Carpenter is Kennametal's North American Automotive Technical Specialist, supporting OEMs and Tier suppliers across North America with machining solutions for engine components and high-volume production applications. You will gain insight into modern crankshaft machining operations, tooling technologies, process optimizations strategies, and common manufacturing challenges faced by automotive OEMs and Tier suppliers. Jacob will also tie this back to how OEM and Tier suppliers' operations may impact your remanufacturing.
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am *Exploring the Science Behind the Colors of Rust*
Charl Franks of Armor Protective Packaging will discuss what the colors of rust reveal about corrosion and the critical role desiccants play in controlling moisture, preventing rust, and keeping your metal parts dry and corrosion-free.
- 11:00am *From Crisis Response to Strategic Opportunity*
Ted Hughes, Senior Director, Community Engagement & Executive Director, AWDA Auto Care Association will share how you can use the tariff crisis to develop a strategic opportunity to meet your business needs. Tariffs is an ever-changing topic and you must develop the resources to meet the challenge.
- 11:45am Lunch
- 12:45pm *Tours - NO open toe shoes!*
There will be two tours this afternoon, one to SRC Automotive and one to LKQ Remanufacturing. We will split the group in half with two buses going to SRC and one to LKQ then swapping them so everyone will go on both tours.
- 5:00pm Return to the DoubleTree for a free evening to enjoy fine dining with friends and customers.

Friday, September 25th

- 7:30am Buffet breakfast
- 8:00am Welcome back
- 8:15am *Great Game of Business*
If you were in Minneapolis you saw the overwhelming request for Steve Baker to return and expand on his presentation regarding the incredible turnaround of SRC from a bankrupt International Harvester operation to the \$750K holding company it is today.

By opening the books, setting shared goals, and giving every employee a real stake in the outcome the plant bounced back, profits soared, and their people-first system sparked a movement that has been transforming businesses for more than forty years.

Steve will tie aspects of your tour of SRC Automotive on Thursday afternoon to reinforce how this process has proven to be a winner. This will be a deeper dive on the execution side of GGOB using an execution 'workshop' (what GGOB calls MiniGames) to drive engagement and performance in as fast as 30/60/90 days.
- 10:15am Break
- 10:30am *How Do You Evaluate (and Motivate) Talent?*
Ted Hughes of AWDA and the Auto Care Association is back to talk about the constant challenge for our industry, attracting and retaining talent. How do we avoid hiring the proverbial square peg when looking for someone to fit in the round hole? Ted will talk about the mistakes many make in pursuing the "best" talent instead of the "right" talent. He will share his thought that employees generally fall into three categories when it comes to motivation: money, title, or purpose and the importance of building the right team.
- 11:00am Recognition of retiring Executive Vice President Joe Polich
- 11:15am Tour Overview - **NO open toe shoes!**

Closing
Casey Calouette & Juan Luis Bernal
- 11:30am Lunch hosted by Silver Seal & U.S. Tool & Mfg.
- 12:15pm Tours
SRC Heavy Duty and P1 Manufacturing
- 5:00pm Return to the DoubleTree
- 6:15pm BigShots Golf (see page 4 for details)

Spouse Tours

Wednesday, September 23rd

10:30am Departure

Return to the DoubleTree by 4:00pm

Fantastic Caverns

Discover the timeless beauty of Fantastic Caverns, one of the earth's rarest treasures. Here, you'll discover one of the world's most beautiful natural wonders; giant columns stretching from floor to ceiling, delicate soda straws glistening with minerals, tiny cave pearls hidden in crystal-clear water. And best of all, you'll see it close-up from the comfort of a Jeep-drawn tram but bring a jacket or sweater since the cavern is a cool 60°!

Lunch will be at Hemingway's Restaurant.

1:30pm – 3:30pm you'll be free to explore and shop at the original Bass Pro Shop in Springfield.

Thursday, September 24th

10:30am Departure

Return to the DoubleTree by 5:00pm

Today you'll enjoy a day trip to Branson where you'll have lunch at Big Whiskeys at the Branson Landing. After lunch you'll be entertained with the #1 Hits of the 60's show at the Clay Cooper Theater. This show touches on over 115 songs from the great artists of the 50's, 60's and 70's. Elvis Presley, The Beach Boys, The Supremes, The Beatles, Carole King, ABBA, The Carpenter's, The Bee Gees... the list goes on and on. Add over 100 costume changes, fun video, a talented cast of 7 and live band and you've got the recipe for the show dubbed "The Most Fun You'll Have In Branson!"

Friday, September 25th

10:30am

Free time after lunch

Be A Bad Target

Today you'll stay at the DoubleTree where Mollie McGinnis Estes, Owner - Personal Trainer – Instructor, F8 Training & Wellness Studio will give you the basics in how to stay aware and practice basic "get away" self-defense moves to stay safe and "Control your F8"!

This will be an abbreviated "Be A Bad Target" session that means being fully aware and engaged with your surroundings. It means knowing how to assess it for potential danger and what to do to evade it. It means having resiliency in times of intense stress and total confidence in your abilities, the kind that only comes with adequate training and preparation.

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. You won't be rolling around on a mat, but will be moving around.

[Ladies Program Signup on Page 5](#)

Friday Night

PERA 80th Annual Convention



BIGSHOTS
GOLF®

If you were in Greenville in 2022 and stayed over for a memorable evening at TopGolf Friday night, you're going to be just as excited this year. BigShots Golf is the same organization with all the same computer games. You DON'T have to be a golfer or have a good golf swing or score a lot of points to enjoy all it has to offer. It's all about everyone having fun.

Electronically tracked golf balls and automatically scored drives enable their system to provide a multitude of games including Quick 9, TopScore, TopShot, TopChip and TopDrive. You can select difficulty starting at beginner all the way up to expert.

But wait, there's more. The buffet for the evening will be Smokehouse BBQ with choices including sliced brisket, sliced chicken breast and pulled pork. Sides of green beans and cheddar mac & cheese along with coleslaw, pickles and slider rolls will round out the offering. All except the slider rolls are gluten free!

And of course, there will be the normal open bar.

For those who don't want to do the golf, there will be cornhole and several other games available.

Name: _____
 Badge Nick Name: _____
 Spouse Full Name: _____
 Spouse Badge Nick Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ **Mobile:** _____
 Email: _____

Registration Options:

Member (First 2 registrations) # reg _____ \$775 each _____
 Member (add'l regs. above 2) # reg _____ \$475 each _____
 Member Spouse # reg _____ \$275 each _____
 Non-Member # reg _____ \$975 each _____
 Non-Member Spouse # reg _____ \$375 each _____

(Attending Spouses Must Register)

Total _____

Payment information:

All checks should be made payable to:

Production Engine Remanufacturers Association

Email forms to joepolich@pera.org or aaron@pera.org

Credit Card Number:

Exp. Date _____ Security # _____ Card _____

Name as it Appears on the Card:

eMail to send receipt:

To pay online through our secure website, call for an invoice # then use this link:

[Invoice Payment – Production Engine Remanufacturers Association \(pera.org\)](http://pera.org)

If you have multiple people from your company using the same credit card or check, use one form to calculate all charges and Use separate forms for the other names, spouse tours.

The fields will automatically calculate when you enter the number registered.



NO Golf tournament this year.

Cully is again organizing an informal golf outing for Tuesday, September 22nd. Since this will be at a private club – thank you Grant Seifried – it will be limited to 20 golfers. Contact Cully at cully.calouette@calvalves.com by **August 1st** to be included! No exception to the total of 20!

Ladies Program Signup

Wednesday, September 23rd

Name _____ Name _____

Thursday, September 24th

Name _____ Name _____

Friday, September 25th

Name _____ Name _____

Convention Cancellation Refund Policy

Cancellations will be accepted through August 17th for a full refund. A 50% refund will be issued for cancellations received Aug. 18-Sept. 8. There will be **NO REFUNDS** for cancellations after September 8th.