

Naperville Fastener Association

The Naperville Fastener Association was casually formed in 2014 by four industry veterans over some Chicago Style Deep Dish Pizza and a couple of beers at Lou Malnatti's in none other than Naperville, Illinois. Founding members include Bob Baer/Abbott Interfast, Rich Covoto/Metric & Multistandard, Marty Nolan/RL English Co. and Eric Dudas/Fasteners Clearing House (FCH).

This year, we are proud to introduce and honor the first ever Naperville Fastener Association's "Form, Fit and Function Award" and its winner. The honor is presented to an individual from within the industry who possesses integrity, character and a deep passion for the fastener industry. The rigorous and complex selection process was conducted at Empire Burger & Brew located in, yes you guessed it, Naperville, Illinois. The selection committee was comprised of everyone in attendance at the recent April 2021 meeting but largely coordinated by regularly attending members Bob Baer, Rich Cavoto, George Hunt III/Brighton Best International, Kameron Dorsey/Beacon Fasteners and Marty Nolan. Also involved in this inaugural decision was John Radel/Solution Industries, Tom Buddenbohn/Budd Sales Company and Jim Sullivan/COB – Bass & Associates LLC. Rest assured that while there may have been liquor present during the voting process, careful attention was paid to ensure no one voted twice and that all votes were counted (after all this is a suburb of Chicago).

Membership requirements into the Naperville Fastener Association include attending at least one gathering and those times and dates are haphazardly scheduled and prone to the whim and fancy of the four founding members which includes Bob Baer, Rich Cavoto, Marty Nolan and this year's winner of the Form, Fit and Function Award – Eric Dudas of FCH.

Eric can be heard regularly on his podcast, Fully Threaded Radio, with sidekick Brian Musker, discussing "mostly fastener related" topics with some of our industry's most notable people. On occasion the topics may stray a bit, but they always come back to fasteners. Eric's passion for the industry is unmistakable and if you have not listened to any of his podcasts yet, you're in for some of the best Fastener related entertainment available anywhere.

Among Eric's many industry accomplishments is being a connector of fastener people. Through his work on Fully Threaded Radio, Eric has invited guests from all walks of fastener life and has embodied the comradery of the Naperville Fastener Association. Many Naperville Fastener Association members are competitors in some form or another and we put our competitive nature aside and commiserate about not only the industry, our customers and our suppliers, but also the highs and lows of what we see on a daily basis. We share best business practices. We share a love of fasteners. Through his work on Fully Threaded Radio and the FCH, Eric has introduced us to many characters we might not have had a chance to meet and for this we chose to recognize him. That, and the fact that he was the one founding member that actually lived in Naperville at the time the Association was formed.

Let us congratulate Eric on this achievement, or, better yet, make plans to attend the next Naperville Fastener Association meeting. We will certainly be Tweeting its arrival soon on Twitter now that things are opening up across the USA. See you at the next one!