



2021 In Review: A Year of Change

This has truly been a year of change. After 20 years, our president George Rivard has stepped down and a new wave of leadership is now at the helm. We are very excited to see what lies ahead. COVID has changed how we operate with everything and this organization is no different. Our Chapter's focus this year has been in developing and implementing a succession plan and we did make that happen. Our plan is to give everyone the opportunity to change positions within the board every two years and the Vice President will move into the President's position in two years. So, Vice President and President is a maximum of a 4-year term.

As the New Year approaches we look forward to new seminars and events, especially the opportunity to bring back the Midwest Government Contracting Symposium in September of 2022! Please stay tuned for details.

Announcing the 2022 Board of Directors

President - Ryan Bunge
Vice President - Natalie Linville-Mass
Treasurer - Janet Masamoto
Secretary - Greg Wild
Awards Director - Brittany Benson
Donations Director - Alan Kruse
Membership Director - Todd Prouty
Nominating Director - George Rivard
Programs Director - Kim White
Scholarship Director - John Masengarb
STEM Programs Director - Celia Hadden
Symposium Director - Tammy Dean
Director - Tim Bower
Director - Ernie Cychosz
Director - Joy Fleming
Director - Mark Westrom
Director - Alan Wilson

Introducing New Chapter President Ryan Bunge

Ryan Bunge leads Communication, Navigation and Guidance Solutions for Mission Systems at Collins Aerospace, a business of Raytheon Technologies. He is based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and has responsibility for Collins' broad portfolio of secure and resilient military communication and navigation solutions, actuation and



guidance for military applications, along with fuel sensing and health usage management systems (HUMS) used across military and commercial airborne platforms.

Since joining Collins Aerospace in 2006, Bunge has held various positions of increasing responsibility. Most recently, he served as vice president of Business Development for Mission Systems where he was responsible for leading the strategic business unit's marketing and sales organization.

Prior to joining the Business Development team, Bunge had other leadership positions in program management, strategy and subcontracts. This includes more than eight years of program management leadership of fixed and rotary-wing forward and retrofit programs with the U.S. Department of Defense, as well as various international customers. He also led Tactical Communications Solutions and, as general manager, was responsible for profit and loss for a global portfolio of advanced defense communications products and services for airborne, ground vehicle and fixed site applications.

Prior to his career at Collins, Bunge served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force where he held leadership positions in contracting and program management. He was deployed in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Bunge is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He earned a Master of Science degree from Central Michigan University and an Executive MBA from the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business.

Thank You George Rivard!!

After 20 years, **George Rivard** has stepped down as chapter president and he will be sorely missed.

George originally joined the NDIA board in 2002 and was with the NDIA through the last 10 years of his government career. He's loved staying engaged in national defense and maintaining the relationships he started during his career on the Island. He started on the Arsenal as a GS5 mathematical statistician and rose quickly through the ranks, even holding a spot as one of Dylan's Whiz Kids (a leading-edge team of young engineers who pushed reliability).



George has won numerous awards over the years. In fact, we are incredibly proud to announce this Fall George was recognized with the NDIA Lifetime Achievement Medal at the National level.

His proudest moment while serving as president of our chapter was formalizing the budget and making the donation criteria a formal process. He is also proud of his collaboration with the NDIA National Chapters.

He feels the benefits of NDIA membership include the opportunity to stay in the mix by maintaining friendships within Arsenal Island. There's also a lot to do with scholarships and STEM. He also likes that our local NDIA chapter is a portal to push ideas and issues to the National level.

Meet Our New Board Members

Brittany Bowers is the Director of Vista Defense Technologies and Eagle Integrated Services, both subsidiaries of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and Alaskan Native Corporation. She has worked with the Bristol Bay Native Corporation of companies since 2007. In 2004, Brittney received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Iowa and worked in the psychology field prior to joining the Bristol Bay Native Corporation family.



As part of her career at Vista, Brittney's professional achievements include successfully applying and receiving an SBA 8(a) certification for Vista Defense Technologies. Brittney facilitates the management of SBA authorized Mentor-Protégé relationship and All Small Joint Ventures (JV) for a group of Bristol Bay companies. Brittney also successfully managed \$157M worth of government contracts with the Department of Defense. Her focus within the group of companies is focused on business development and operations while enriching the native way of life for the Alaska Native Shareholders.

Brittney's home office is the Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, IL. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, running, spending time with her family, and watching the University of Iowa Football.



Tim Bower is the President of Flint Cliffs Manufacturing in Burlington, Iowa and has held this position since July of 2020. Tim recently was the President of the Nelson Company in Fairfield, Iowa and is now on the company's Board of Directors. He has held several senior-level positions in global corporations including HNI, John Deere and Siemens. He received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Iowa State University in 1984 and his Executive MBA from the University of Iowa in 1995. Tim began his career as a Project Engineer for Mason and Hanger at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant and has worked closely with defense contractors and projects his entire career. Flint Cliffs Manufacturing is a strong leader in producing products for the defense industry.

Tim was elected to the Muscatine CSD School Board in September of 2009 and was on the board until September of 2018 when he resigned to relocate to

Fairfield. He is a graduate of Fairfield High School. He was elected to the Fairfield CSD School Board in November 2019. Tim held a Director position for district 9 for the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) until September 2018, was a member of IASB's Legislative Resolutions Committee, Legal Service Fund Committee and other panels. Tim was appointed to the Governor's Southeast Iowa STEM Advisory Board for six years. Tim is an advocate of education and strives to align the needs of education to future career paths for our students. In July of 2021, Tim was one of fifteen Iowans to be appointed by the Governor of Iowa to the Governor's Economic Recovery Advisory Board which was

presented to the State in January of 2021 as the foundation of growth for Iowa. Tim was the Chair of the Education committee.

Tim and his wife Karen live in Fairfield and have three adult children (one of whom is an educator) and one grandchild. In their spare time, they visit family and attend Iowa State University events.

Ernie Cychosz is the President of Sedona Technologies Government Services, a subsidiary of Sedona Technologies. He has 20 years of Business Development and Line Management (commercial and government) experience, and over 8 years with Sedona focusing on satisfying the Information Technology (IT) requirements of their customers. During his time with Sedona Technologies, he has developed a new business line into a multimillion-dollar revenue source and has recently initiated the establishment of Sedona Technologies Government Services for the sole purpose of centralizing Sedona Technologies resources to improve our focus on expanding and supporting our government customers.



Todd Prouty is a visionary leader with 30+ years of experience directing product development and capturing new business in advanced electronics systems. He is currently the Business Development Manager for the Crystal Group in Cedar Rapids where he is responsible for new business capture and program delivery to grow military and industrial markets. He also provides mentor training for proposal technical writing and customer interface management.

Prior to his work with the Crystal Group, Prouty was with Rockwell Collins for over twenty years. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business and served as a naval engineer at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Keyport.

Greg Wild is the Product Line Director for BAE Systems' Navigation and Sensor Solutions, which is a business responsible for navigation solutions for a broad range of military applications across the globe.

Mr. Wild joined BAE Systems in August 2020 as part of BAE Systems' acquisition of the Collins Aerospace GPS business.

Prior to joining BAE Systems, Mr. Wild spent 22 years at Collins Aerospace. His Rockwell Collins career started in eBusiness where he served as the Manager of Quality and Lean Electronics. He served in that role for 4 years before moving to Program Management in Government Systems. In Government systems, Mr. Wild served in various leadership roles including Director of Weapons, Range Instrumentation and communication solutions for Fixed Site and Maritime applications.

Mr. Wild also served on the board of directors for the Rockwell Collins and Honeywell Joint Venture, the Integrated Guidance System (IGS) LLC from 2008 through 2015.



Prior to joining Rockwell Collins, Mr. Wild served as a US Submarine officer and worked as a project manager for a small technical services firm supporting the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Wild earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Weapons Systems Engineering from the United States Naval Academy and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Iowa.

Farewell To Our Departing Board Members



Mary Adams was introduced to NDIA by way of Women in Defense. When George stepped up to President, he started asking her to be more involved. She was asked to draft the financial donation policy/decision process and worked with Al Kruse to review donation requests to ensure NDIA funds were used with the IAW mission.

Her most memorable moment was when she was honored to receive the General Paul Greenberg award. Adams says, "Having witnessed several other well-deserving recipients, I could not believe I heard George correctly when he called my name. I have decided to step back to ensure I have enough time for family, especially my dear 97-year young Mother. Thank you for making a place for me at the conference table."

Michael Carton is the Director of Education and Outreach for WQPT. He was recently selected as the Quad City Engineering and Science Council's STEM Teacher of the Year for teaching thousands of primary students in the Quad Cities region how to code using the PBS KIDS Scratch Jr. app. He and his wife, Katie, have three sons.

Some of his favorite memories were made while volunteering at the annual Midwest Government Contracting Symposium. He had the opportunity to meet so many incredible people from all over the country. Carton says, "It was great to know that the event was raising thousands of dollars that were re-invested in the community by way of scholarships, STEM grants and military-related causes. NDIA is a fantastic organization!"



Chioma Ezeugwu has two daughters who are 4 and 13 years old. She has worked for the federal government since April 2011. She loves to work out, loves all things Disney and loves to travel. Serving her community has been something she has done all her life as she is the child of a pastor and a social worker. Her sister is in the military (Air Force), so the NDIA has been near and dear to her heart in that respect.



Vicky Miller has been a member of the Board of Directors for the IL/IA NDIA Chapter for many years and has served in multiple capacities to help host training and educational events to support our military, defense contractors, sub-tier suppliers, educational institutions, advanced technology institutes for manufacturing businesses and the Rock Island Arsenal's military operations. These were targeted efforts to continue to keep scientific and technological advances as part of the day-to-day operations for our regional businesses to keep America's defense operations and the sub-suppliers strong, resilient, diversified, technically advanced, relevant, safe, ready, and superior. She was one of the founders of The Annual Small Business Government Contracting Symposium that has become one of the largest events in this region. This event has been a great platform for information, networking, education, and preparedness in advanced technologies and readiness for our regional, state, and national security. She has hosted and supported this event and many other technology-advanced events in her role for many years as a small business advocate, SBDC Director, Regional Director IL PTAC, and then most recently has served many years as the Regional Director of IL Defense Industry Economic Program for Iowa and Illinois. She has loved and enjoyed serving with America's finest!



Mert Sachs started his career in Chicago working in the procurement of motor vehicles. In 1973, the office moved to the Joliet Arsenal where he continued until his office moved again to the Rock Island Arsenal. He spent most of his career in procurement for all sorts of military hardware. In Rock Island, he was in the Policy Division for 5 years and then was promoted to a Supervisory Contract Specialist in charge of the Ammunition Division in ARMCOM until his retirement in 1990. He spent 5 years with the operating contractor in the Arsenal and then spent 7 years as a private consultant. After that, he has been mostly involved in voluntary activities such as NDIA, RIA Credit Union, NARFE and over 25 years with SCORE. He has been a supporter of NDIA for many years and believes the mission is important to protect the military base in our country and also for our country's security. The organization is invaluable in educating the public and our legislators on how important the base is to our Country.

Events in 2022

Save the date for the **Virtual January 2022 Procurement Division Meeting**, to be held on **Tuesday, January 11**.

Join the NDIA Procurement Division for breakout committee teleconference calls in the morning and a webinar in the afternoon, featuring a mix of presentations from key government representatives in the community that addresses current defense industrial base issues and today's challenges facing the acquisition and procurement communities.

Like 2021 there will be webinars, a few live events, and our Symposium will be up and going again this Fall. Please stay tuned for more details.

Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Iowa/Illinois National Defense Industrial Association.



Iowa/Illinois National Defense Industrial Association



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