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THE IMPORTANCE OF PAYING IT FORWARD FROM A 4th GENERATION FASTENER COMPANY

It's no secret in the industry that Industrial Rivet's longevity and ongoing success comes down to its foundation – and that's family. Founded in 1912 by Willie Goodman, the company is now in the hands of his grandson, Bill Goodman, President, and his great-grandchildren, Co-Vice Presidents Steven Sherman and Taryn Goodman.

Beyond helping steer their family business into its next century of growth, Steven and Taryn say they are always mindful of giving back to the industry that helped shape them. “We grew up in this business,” says Taryn. “Our first jobs were here – and now we're in a position to do whatever we can to make the fastener industry better, stronger and more inclusive.” That's why they've both chosen to volunteer their time to two of the field's most prominent organizations. Steven is Chairman of the Technical Committee for the Industrial Fasteners Institute and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee in addition to being a member of the Board. Taryn joined the Board of Women in the Fastener Industry in 2016 and, after five years as Treasurer, is today the organization's President.

Industrial Fasteners Institute (IFI)

The IFI is an engineering-oriented association focused on addressing operational concerns within the industry and setting industry standards alongside SAE and ASTM standards, as well as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). They also have a robust government affairs program that influences legislation through member participation.



Steven says he was initially drawn to the organization's technical books. “On the one hand, I am always looking to quench my thirst for knowledge,” he explains. “But with my years of experience, I felt I could also add value and play a key role in affecting positive change.” Plus, coming from a 4th generation company, Steven says the transfer of knowledge is one of the things most important to him. “The IFI brings thought leaders and engineers together to organize, collaborate and create content for future generations.” That, he adds, is the only way to keep the industry moving forward without having to reinvent the wheel.



In his role, Steven works hand-in-hand with technical leaders, IFI members and CEOs to help lay the groundwork for the Institute’s future endeavors. “I started my career using the 6th Edition, and today I’m participating in the release of the 12th Edition,” he says. “I’m so honored to carry on the tradition of the wise contributors who came before me and helped me learn.” He also says he sees it as his responsibility to add to and pass along the knowledge so that the technical activities of the discipline are never forgotten. “It’s exciting to be part of something that plays such a pivotal role in driving industry growth through collective thinking – especially within such a niche field as fasteners.”

Women In The Fastener Industry (WIFI)

The purpose of WIFI is to support and promote the advancement of women in the fastener industry. Members work together to educate, mentor, and network with one another and help women of all levels of experience develop the skill set needed to grow their careers. “Historically, there were not many women in the fastener industry,” explains Taryn. “When my aunt, Steven’s



mother, Joanne, was leading the company – she was one of just a few women at the industry trade shows.” This is one of the reasons Taryn is so committed to WIFI.

“I love that we’re able to give women a place where they belong, where they can meet and learn from women outside their own companies,” says Taryn. They do that in part by having a booth at key industry shows, including the International Fastener Expo held annually in Las Vegas, Nevada. This is supported by several scholarships, which WIFI has added to over the years. “Many educational programs can be very expensive,” she says. That’s also true of trade show registrations. “Budgets are so tight these days that companies often limit who can participate in industry-focused courses or conferences – which makes our scholarships so crucial for women who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend.”

Industrial Rivet established one of the scholarships WIFI offers to honor the contributions of Joanne Goodman Sherman (December 8, 1954 to October 10, 2016) made as a female in the industry throughout her career. The scholarship gives women who show promise in the field the opportunity to take part in a formal fastener online program. In 2023, there were two outstanding recipients.

Expanded Reach with New Technology

Steven and Taryn note they’ve seen a lot of changes in their time with each organization. “The IFI has taken its fastener standards from print-only to a digital format,” says Steven. “This was a huge undertaking, but so important for giving members easier access to the information they need.” Likewise, Taryn says that with the growth of virtual platforms, WIFI can include more and more women in their meetings. “With Zoom in particular, now we can have ongoing conversations with our members throughout the year, not just at annual trade shows.” That engagement, she says, is critical for helping women cultivate professional and personal relationships to enhance their experience in the fastener industry. 