



PEMA® 2026 FALL MEETING PROGRAM
Hilton Cincinnati Netherlands Plaza Hotel ♦ Cincinnati, Ohio
September 14-15, 2026
Program as of 6-9-26

SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Optional Outing – Guided Tour of the Cincinnati Brewing Heritage Trail

Explore the social and economic past of Cincinnati with this private guided tour of the historic brewing district. We'll meet in the lobby of the Netherland Plaza Hotel, walk to Fountain Square and travel by streetcar to the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. Tour stops will include:

- Christian Moerlein Brewery structures that include the malthouse, bottling, office, and stock house
- Jackson Brewery & underground lagering cellars
- a visit to Findlay Market, the oldest operating municipal market in Ohio
- A refreshment stop at Rhinegeist Brewery
- And more!

We'll return to Fountain Square by streetcar. While not a strenuous tour, be sure to wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.

Note: a separate fee applies to this outing. Sponsored by Stedman Machine Company.

MONDAY • SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

Salon BC

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Emerging Leaders Program Session 1 (with lunch)

Caprice 2&3

This session is limited to PEMA ELP participants only.

12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Registration

4th floor registration office

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Taylor St. Germain, ITR Economics

Pavillion

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Speaker TBD

Pavillion

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Break

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Member Profile, Informa Markets Update, General Business Meeting

Pavillion

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Networking reception-style dinner, Sponsored by Informa Markets**
Continental Room

TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. **Roundtables with breakfast – See below for topics**
Caprice 1&4, 2, 3, Salon B, C & DE

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Speaker TBD**
Pavillion

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Speaker TBD**
Pavillion

12:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Emerging Leader Program – Session 2: Personality Profile**
Caprice 2&3 *This session is limited to PEMA ELP 2025-26 cohort participants.*

PEMA 2026 Roundtable Topics

Succession Planning

How do you retain key future leaders who may become impatient, especially in small/medium or family-owned companies? How do you identify high performers early, keep them engaged, and retain them through organizational changes (packages, forced reductions, retirements) so they can become future successors? Have you established succession plans for both shop and office roles? Do your succession plans address all critical “pain points” across the company (including shop-floor roles), or are they focused mainly on top-level/office positions, and what challenges have you faced in doing this?

AI - Utilization and Integration

Where have you seen measurable ROI from AI, and where has it failed or stalled? How are you using AI as a “force multiplier” for redundant or routine tasks (e.g., marketing, lead generation, presentations, research, routing/planning)? Which AI tools or platforms (and combinations of tools) have proven most effective for your key use cases, and how have they impacted productivity (e.g., sales per employee, ability to do more with the same headcount)?

AI - Cybersecurity

How are you protecting your company and data integrity when using AI across the business? (Open by design so discussion can go in several directions.) Have you started to see contract language, bid specs, or terms & conditions that limit or prohibit the use of AI (e.g., “you cannot drop this into AI” or AI use as a potential breach of confidentiality), and how are you responding to that? What security protocols or precautions have you put in place to ensure corporate data (e.g., supplier information, costing, routing and planning data) remains secure when using AI—especially when deciding between closed-loop/internal AI vs. public tools? How do NDAs, confidentiality agreements, and customer IP requirements affect your use of AI (for example, using AI on bid specs or customer documents)—and where have you decided you cannot use AI at all because of those constraints?

Profitability Under Pressure (Note antitrust guidelines forbid any direct discussion of price)

Where are you currently getting the most cost pressure: labor, materials, energy, or pricing resistance? How is it evolving? How are you adjusting pricing strategies—indexing, surcharges, shorter validity, or value-based pricing? Are customers becoming more resistant, or more understanding, of price increases?

What structural changes have you made (or need to make) to reduce costs and protect margins? What is working and what isn't working?