On November 16th, the TC-CCAI sponsored a plant tour of BTD Manufacturing with 60 people in attendance. This tour turnout was one of the larger TC attendee events this year. BTD has four U.S. plant locations; the Nov 16th TC-CCAI tour was at the Lakeville, MN location.

BTD provides a complete source of custom metal work services to some of the world's top brands. BTD services include metal fabrication, forming, welding tool & die work, machining, powder coatings, laser cutting, robotic welding, stamping, cutting, tubing, CNC, and EDM.

Michelle Striggow, TC Board member opened the meeting with Chapter announcements and then introduced Robyn Aiken the Sr. Paint Application Engineer at BTD who was responsible for arranging the plant tour. Robyn addressed the tour group and also introduced various members of a six person BTD manufacturing leadership group who also spoke to the tour group about BTD plant operations and processes. The BTD manufacturing team also acted as tour guides for the event.
The TC tour primarily concentrated on powder coating segment of BTD. Tour attendees viewed a seven stage wash system with dry-off oven, one powder primer booth, one 14 automatic gun top coat booth. The powder system is set up to function on a 7-10 minute color change with multiple color change capability for 28 standard colors. The powder coated parts are cured in an oven with a 500 degree temperature capability. The coating system also includes an in-line Wheelabrator surface prep system and used when required.

After the plant tour there was a detailed Q & A session with contributions from the BTD manufacturing group. All in all, it was a fine tour with a large attendee number and good interaction between BTD staff and those in attendance.

At every TC-CCAI tour, a TC member name is drawn at random and if that member is present, they win monetary prize. The name of Curt Thostenson was drawn, but unfortunately Curt was not present to collect the $75.00 from this event drawing. The next TC event will have a $100 total for the member name drawing.