



News Release
For Immediate Release
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VMA Announces 2026 Award Winners and Recognizes Outgoing Board of Directors Chairman

Winners were announced at the recent Annual Meeting held in Québec City.

(September XX, 2026, Alexandria, VA) The [Valve Manufacturers Association \(VMA\)](#) members recently held its 88th Annual Meeting, the association's premier event that draws executives and leaders from member companies across North America. This year the meeting was held in Québec City, returning to Canada for the first time in many years.

At this year's event, outgoing Chairman Rob Velan, was acknowledged for his five years of leadership on the Board of Directors, the last as Chairman. VMA President Heather Rhoderick thanked Rob for his years of service and for his personal contributions to both the association and to her. "Rob has consistently challenged us to think about how we can build and grow the association – how we bring new companies into VMA, develop new sponsors and partners, and continue expanding the value and reach of the organization." She continued: "He's also pushed us internally—to improve our processes, strengthen the connection between our committees and the Board, and make sure the tremendous work happening throughout VMA connects back to the broader direction of the association." As a memento of his time as Chairman, Rhoderick presented him with a mock-up of the association's Valve Magazine featuring him on the cover and highlights of his accomplishments throughout the year.

Outgoing Board Members Celebrated

Several Board Members of both VMA and VRC completed their terms and were celebrated at the Annual Meeting. In addition to Velan, also completing their service were Kevin McKown who has served six years on the Board, with three of those on the Executive Committee, and Kelly Lovell, ex-officio member of the Board for two years. McKown received his plaque, and Lovell wasn't in attendance but will be presented with hers for her service at a later date.

From the VRC Board of Directors, Ben Davis and Jack Roubik were both recognized. Davis was in attendance and received his plaque and Roubik's will be sent to him as a thank you for their time on the VRC Board.

VMA Awards Members for Outstanding Contributions

The VMA Service Award is bestowed upon a member who has gone above and beyond their commitments to the organization. This year Ben Davis, newly named CEO of Quality Valve and

formerly of Setpoint IS and VytI Controls, was selected for the Service Award. Davis has served on the **Valve** Repair Council (VRC) Board of Directors and VMA's Marketing Committee. He's also been a tremendous resource for the Valve Forum: Conference & Exhibits, helping identify speakers, suggesting program ideas and has always been willing to provide guidance when needed. In her announcement, Rhoderick said: "When I told the VMA staff and the team at VytI that Ben was being recognized with this Award, every response was along the same lines: "Couldn't be a better person;" "Ben is so supportive and thoughtful!" "He is so deserving."

The Person of the Year award is VMA's highest honor and is given to one individual who possesses a passion for the industry and shares their knowledge to help advance VMA and the industry. This year's recipient is Scott Jackson, former CEO of FloWorks International, now part of Ferguson. In her remarks, Rhoderick shared that whenever she or someone on one of VMA's Committees reached out to Jackson, he jumped in. "Much of what he did happened behind the scenes — helping us find speakers, working through ideas and connecting VMA with people inside and outside of the industry who could help." She went on to say: "He provided significant guidance as we looked at how our distributor members could gain greater value from VMA, identified potential new members and helped make introductions. When we needed leaders willing to share their experience with the next generation at this year's Valve Forum: Conference & Exhibits, he was the first to volunteer for our leadership panel. And he did all of this while his own company was in the process of being acquired — although we didn't know that at the time!"

Jackson was unable to attend this year's Annual Meeting but sent remarks that Rhoderick shared with those in attendance. Jackson said: "I am sincerely grateful to receive this recognition. Our industry thrives through strong partnerships among suppliers, manufacturers and distributors. As a distributor our success is built on collaborating with outstanding manufacturers, so I view this award as a reflection of those partnerships and the success of VMA's manufacturing members. I'm also grateful to VMA for fostering a community where distributors, manufacturers and other stakeholders can grow and succeed together."

VMA offers our sincere thanks and congratulations to Ben Davis and Scott Jackson, as well as to our Board of Directors, Committee volunteers and everyone who helps advance the mission and strategic plan of the VMA and the valve industry. VMA members save the date for the 2027 Annual Meeting, September 22-24, 2027, Park City, Utah.

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Founded in 1938, the [Valve Manufacturers Association of America](#) is a trade association that represents the interests of nearly 100 North American manufacturers of valves, actuators, and controls. Collectively, members account for approximately 80% of the total industrial valve shipments out of U.S. facilities. VMA is headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia.

Photos:

- 1) *Picture of outgoing VMA Chairman Rob Velan with VMA President Heather Rhoderick receiving a memento of his time as Chairman.*
- 2) *Service Award Winner Ben Davis of Quality Valve with VMA President Heather Rhoderick.*

- 3) *Person of the Year Award Winner Scott Jackson on stage at this year's Valve Forum during the opening keynote leadership panel.*

