American Coatings

Celebrating 125 Years

1887 - 2012
For the past 125 years, ACA has been the leading voice of the coatings industry. We have always taken pride in supporting members in areas that are critical to industry. In years past, we have made it our focus to be a guiding force for change, and we continue to do so today. Whether it is protection of the environment, worker and consumer health and safety, product stewardship or advancements in science and technology, the association seeks to facilitate progress within the industry and educate those outside the industry. As we look ahead, I am confident that the association will remain strong and vibrant, as we continue to serve a growing and prosperous industry.

— J. Andrew Doyle, President and CEO
American Coatings Association
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ith the benefit of hindsight, we realize that influential events often had rather unassuming beginnings. In 1887, Thomas Edison patented an instrument called the Kinetoscope. That same year, Richard Sears moved to Chicago, hired watchmaker Alvah C. Roebuck, and began to sell watches by mail order. The Perkins Institution received a request from telephone pioneer Alexander Graham Bell to examine a six-year-old who lost her sight and hearing at 19 months of age. As a result of his request, Institute teacher Anne Sullivan was sent to work with Helen Keller. And, on the national front, the U.S. Senate approved the naval base lease of Pearl Harbor.

Each of the above events that took place in 1887 came to have an impact that would reach beyond the immediate event of the day. The same could be said of a meeting that was held that year on September 11. It brought about the genesis of an organization that continues to influence an industry more than 125 years later.
The Early Days

The first paint mill in America is believed to have been established in Boston in 1700 by Thomas Child. Until the 18th century, paint was made by hand in small batches. As ready-mixed paints appeared on the market following the Industrial Revolution, the demand for paint increased dramatically. This demand brought about the birth of an industry — the paint and coatings industry.

In the 1880s, paint factories were established and, within a decade, paint makers began to compete. In this period, several local paint societies were formed — initially in New England, and then in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh.

On September 11, 1887, a group of representatives from the fledgling paint industry met at the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga, NY with the goal of forming a national association. At the meeting, the group agreed on an organizational plan and decided on the name — the National Paint, Oil and Varnish Association of the United States. Thus, the organization which is known today as the American Coatings Association was begun.

In the decades following, manufacturers in the paint industry formed separate organizations, but still retained membership in the national association.

In 1891, the association initiated efforts to have U.S. President Benjamin Harrison add a Department of Commerce to his Cabinet. (This was later accomplished by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903.)

By the end of the decade, in 1899, the paint manufacturers, feeling their branch of the industry had its own particular concerns, created the Paint Grinders Association of the United States (the name changed in 1907 to the Paint Manufacturers Association).

~1900s~

In 1900, the industry’s first state government affairs program was organized. The Paint Grinders Association gave its secretary, George Baugh Heckel, $10 per state so that he, in turn, could pay local individuals to report any new paint legislation to him.

In 1902, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) established the precursor to the D-1 Committee on Paint and Related Coatings Materials.

The varnish manufacturers had been feeling a need for their own association. They banded together as the National Varnish Manufacturers Association in 1903.

Also, at the turn of the century, two significant working groups were born. First, the Paint Grinders Association established the Trade Mark Bureau; over the next 50 years it would list 30,000 names. Then, in 1904, the association created an Advertising Committee — the forerunner of the Educational Bureau, which was formed in 1908 and continued in operation for the next 25 years.

In 1905, the Paint Grinders’ Association formed the Bureau of Promotion and Development. In 1908, the bureau was renamed the Educational Bureau, and in 1909 the Scientific Section of the Educational Bureau was created, with Dr. Henry A. Gardner as its director. Gardner held this post until 1945. He moved to Washington where he and fellow scientist Dr. A.S. Cushman organized the Institute of Industrial Research, making the paint industry possibly the first to be represented in the nation’s capital with scientific laboratories aimed at raising the quality standard of its products.
Also during these early years of the 20th century, the origin of the modern spray painting machine was seen in the introduction of a simple spray gun as a practical painting implement.

By the beginning of the 1900s, promotional claims for paints were employing the terms “white lead” and “zinc” or “zinc oxide” to refer to so many things that the Paint Manufacturers Association felt it necessary to adopt a resolution in 1911 defining the use of these terms. The Educational Bureau went into action again when the paint industry was confronting a serious shortage of linseed oil. It authorized importation of 40 varieties of soya bean seed from China and launched growing tests in several states. The result was a new agricultural commodity for the United States and a new raw material for the industry.

In 1914, the Clean-Up and Paint-Up Committee was formed with Allen W. Clark, a St. Louis publisher, as chairman. Clark had conceived the idea earlier and developed it as a national campaign plan by 1912. Now it officially became a movement of the industry.

Another consumer promotion was also in the making. Ernest Trigg, director of the Publicity Section of the Educational Bureau, got approval in 1916 from the Paint Manufacturers Association to run a consumer education campaign, aimed at helping consumers better understand how paint safeguarded their properties. By 1919 he raised the necessary funding, and after the First World War, the campaign was launched with the theme “Save the Surface and You Save it All.”

During World War I, there was ample opportunity to prove this point. Trigg noted: “Practically every instrument and material indigenous to modern warfare has a useful life of less than a week, unless protected by the products of our industry... Protective coatings are essential to aircraft, inside and out.” The paint industry was one of the first to offer the free services of its leaders and experts to various departments of the government.

When the war ended, the 1920s saw a bright renaissance for the American chemical industry. During this period, the paint industry conducted research that led to the development of improved products.

The two manufacturers’ associations backed the organization of the American Tung Oil Corporation to develop an American crop, resulting in real economies for the varnish makers. Nitrocellulose lacquer became one of the big products of the industry, although the automobile, which would later provide a major market for nitrocellulose lacquer, was still just a curiosity.

In this atmosphere of innovation, groups of technical and production men banded together, first in Cleveland, Louisville, St. Louis, and later in other paint manufacturing centers. These provided the nucleus in 1922 for organization of the National Federation of Paint and Varnish Production Clubs (later to be known as FSCT).

Until about 1925, paint manufacturing was done in the same way as it had been for centuries: gums were cooked with oils to produce the vehicle to bind the pigment particles. The “varnish makers” who cooked the resin kept their recipes carefully guarded. In the 1920s, progressive companies began to add college-trained chemists to their staffs, and chemical formulas began to replace the recipe books, moving the industry from art to science.
Varnish manufacturers were now producing paint, and paint manufacturers were producing varnish. With a new common interest, the two manufacturers’ associations consolidated into one, naming the group the American Paint and Varnish Manufacturers Association in 1926.

When the National Paint, Oil and Varnish Association held its 1925 convention, it took over sponsorship of the Clean-Up and Paint-Up Bureau.

In 1927, the death of Norris B. Gregg, who had been one of the originators of the Educational Bureau and its chairman for over 20 years, led to an industry movement to create a memorial in his name. Funds were raised by member subscription to buy the property owned by Dr. Gardner on New York Avenue in Washington, D.C. The remodeled building, dedicated October 16, 1929 as the Norris B. Gregg Memorial, became the association’s official headquarters, as all of its activities became centered there.

Then, the crash of 1929 ushered in the Great Depression, and the decision to curtail association expenses brought to an end the “Save the Surface” public educational campaign.

~ 1930-1940 ~

In the 1930s, the Clean-Up and Paint-Up program provided work for many without jobs all over the country. During these years, research laboratories were working on coatings technology using the newly developed epoxy resins. These first synthetic resins, referred to then as “miracle adhesives,” ushered in a new era for coatings.

In November 1933, the original National Paint, Oil and Varnish Association and the American Paint and Varnish Manufacturers Association consolidated into the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association (NPVLA), and elected Ernest T. Trigg as its fulltime president — a post he held until November 1947.

Fair practice was the issue of the times. An association-sponsored Code of Fair Competition for the industry was developed to meet requirements of the National Recovery Act, which became law in 1933 only to be declared unconstitutional in 1935. In 1937, the “Cincinnati Agreement” was adopted by NPVLA to eliminate unfair competitive practices.

Seeking a new means of encouraging consumers to use more of the industry’s products, a Council for Paint Styling was organized to educate the public to recognize changing styles in painting. NPVLA’s Executive Committee, “recognizing the desirability of a wider dissemination of information to aid the public in the selection of suitable paints,” formally expressed the opinion that formula labeling of certain generally used products, in simple terms, should be adopted by members of the paint and coatings industry.

~ 1940-1950 ~

In 1940, the new headquarters of the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association was dedicated at 1500 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.

Speaking at the dedication, a Department of Commerce official reported there were in operation more than 1,000 paint factories, employing 31,000 persons, with a production output of $538,000,000 (contrasted with the first Census in 1849, when only four paint factories employed 22 wage earners and production was valued at $17,000).

The former headquarters building on New York Avenue had been taken over by the government for wartime needs, and now the production facilities of much of the industry were directed to finishes for airplanes, tanks, military trucks, weapon carriers, artillery, radar equipment, and other war materials. Improved camouflage paints were developed, as were new phosphorescents and fluorescents, minimum-weight finishes for resistant compounds designed to impregnate fabrics and replace scarce chlorinated rubber.

In 1947, the Clean-Up and Paint-Up program, having weathered two world wars and a serious depression, was officially titled the National Clean-Up — Paint-Up — Fix-Up Bureau. That same year, industry volume reached a billion dollars for the first time.

By the end of the 1940s, the need for linseed oil had declined with the increasing acceptance of latex paints. It became apparent that latex paints were attracting consumers because they were often easier to use than alkyd finishes. In addition, the marketing of aerosol paints and coatings that began at this time would grow in the next 25 years to annual sales of more than 300 million units in the United States alone.
The post-war housing boom of the 1950s meant an accompanying boom in paint sales, and the pent-up demand for consumer goods unavailable in the war years produced a matching market for industrial finishes.

A new phenomenon — the advent of do-it-yourself painting and home decorating — was encouraged by paints and finishes that were easier to use than ever before. The introduction of paint rollers made it possible to apply paint quickly with a professional-looking result, and the new color machines in paint stores gave customers choices from a wide range of hues.

Brushmaking also changed. In the past, brushmakers had been required to serve years of apprenticeship making tools out of natural bristle imported from Europe or China. The war disrupted this import trade, and synthetic brushes were developed as a replacement. Although natural bristle again became available after the war, new brush fill materials of nylon and polyester fibers replaced much of the natural bristle, except in those used by professional painters.

In this decade after World War II, the pace of technological development accelerated, based largely on more sophisticated polymer chemistry. There was increased emphasis on the role of research as changes in product formulations accelerated rapidly. In 1953, NPVLA issued its first Labeling Guide of association-recommended product labeling language.

In the 1960s, ecological and safety considerations became especially significant factors for the industry. During this decade, the association formed Verlan Limited, an insurance company that provided general/product liability insurance and property coverage. Also during this decade, the industry conducted serious research into the safe handling of potentially hazardous chemicals.

For the professional painter and the do-it-yourselfer, the use of latex and water-thinned trade sales paints extended even into the area of water-based stains and varnishes.

Along with these developments in consumer products, there was an expansion of products designed for industrial use. These years saw the introduction of electrodeposition, a coating method designed to protect new automobiles, appliances, and industrial products from the ravages of corrosion by depositing a water-thinned paint on metal in a process similar to electroplating. Also introduced were two-component epoxies and urethanes, vinyl wash primers, high-heat silicone coatings, moisture-cured urethanes, and acrylic lacquers.

Spray machinery became more sophisticated. Airless spray represented a major advance; electrostatic spraying another.

In the area of resin products, the first successful pigmentable polyester resins for sheet molding compounds were used to produce colored products without any need for subsequent painting.
~ 1970–1980 ~

At their 84th annual meeting on November 9, 1971, the members of the NPVLA voted to change the name to the National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA). It was believed that this new name would broaden the scope of the organization to include all coatings and to better represent the association’s dominant role in the industry’s progress.

“Information” was the byword of the 1970s — with growing demands by government, by industry, and by customers for information on paint products. A major issue of the decade was the use of white lead and lead in paint products. These products, with the exception of industrial coatings and artists’ materials, were banned by Congress in its Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act. NPCA gained invaluable experience in working with all branches of the federal government through its representation of the industry during the many years of discussion on the lead issue.

Two other major events of the decade were the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970, and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency in the same year.

A Product Safety Task Force was formed by NPCA in 1975. Its chief concerns: chromate pigments in the finished paint or coating, a proposed Toxic Substances Control Act, and proper respiratory protection during spray application of paints and coatings.

A year later, NPCA’s Executive Committee undertook a major epidemiology study on the effects of coatings products and their ingredients on the health of plant workers. The results showed that no major mortality risk was imposed by working in the production of paints and coatings.

A new passion for preservation and restoration resulted in extensive research by paint manufacturers into original Colonial, Victorian, and period colors to respond to consumer needs. The decade, however, also witnessed the end of the industry’s Clean-Up — Paint-Up — Fix-Up Bureau.

~ 1980–1990 ~

In 1980, NPCA introduced its Hazardous Materials Identification System® (HMIS®), designed to provide hazard information associated with raw materials to paint industry employees in a simple, easy-to-understand manner. Later, companies using HMIS® were determined to be in substantial compliance with OSHA’s Hazard Communication Standard, which was issued in November 1983.

Also, about 1980, NPCA created the “Picture it Painted” campaign as a way to promote paint products to consumers and to enhance the paint industry’s image. Four years later, it was estimated that the program reached 280 million newspaper/magazine readers and TV viewers. An additional 6.7 million were exposed to the “Value Added” campaign instituted on behalf of industrial coatings in 1984.

Public concern about product safety was reflected in industry research on how to more safely store flammable paint products and how to provide better protection for workers in paint plants. NPCA developed guidelines for model community “right-to-know” laws for the reporting of health and safety hazards. A user education package, “Protect Yourself — You’re Worth It,” was also produced.

In addition, NPCA broke new ground in product labeling guidelines in 1985 by recommending that a solvent toxicity warning be included on solvent-containing product labels, even though scientific evidence at the time only indicated a possible connection between solvent overexposure and certain neurological disorders. In 1987, the association introduced its Health Effects Labeling Approach, designed as a means of compliance with the new target organ effect and chronic hazard labeling requirements of OSHA’s Hazard Communication Standard.

A new phenomenon, spray paint inhalant abuse, was confronted in 1984 by NPCA funding and participation in an industry coalition to prevent this practice. Other abuses of spray paint caused some states and cities, including New York City, to pass anti-graffiti laws restricting the products’ sales by such methods as bans on sales to anyone under 18 and requirements that spray cans be kept under controlled access.

Paint company liability was also a growing concern of the 1980s. When the EPA named more than 100 paint companies as responsible to pay for clean up at various Superfund sites, a new corporation was formed with the help of NPCA to assist them in responding more efficiently and cost effectively.

As the centennial of the founding of the association approached, an extensive renovation of the national headquarters was undertaken. “1500” was to be presented, 108 years after it was built and 47 years after its dedication as NPCA headquarters, as a showcase of the decorative painting techniques that have stirred creative impulses for hundreds of years.
In 1990, NPCA strengthened its state affairs program with the formation of state-based paint councils in California and New Jersey, followed by Illinois and Massachusetts in 1991. In the coming years, the paint councils would grow into a network of 10 grassroots organizations.

1990 also brought with it concerns regarding government regulations of industry’s products with regard to air quality. Congress passed the Clean Air Act, and with it came the development of EPA regulations that would affect formulation of a host of industry products. Air quality would be dealt with on the federal and state levels, forcing industry to focus not only on advocating for regulatory levels that were reasonable and economically feasible, but also uniform. The association’s goal was to have pre-emptive language incorporated into the federal standards that prohibited states from introducing regulations that were more stringent than those established by EPA’s national rules.

In the early ’90s NPCA represented industry in regulatory negotiations, known as “reg-negs,” led by EPA. One of the reg-negs focused on developing a framework for limiting volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from architectural and industrial maintenance (AIM) coatings. While the negotiations provided industry with an opportunity to educate regulators and the environmental community on the realities of paint manufacturing, they were ultimately unsuccessful. EPA disbanded the AIM reg-neg in the mid-90s, deciding to proceed with the traditional rulemaking process; the agency did not publish the final rule until 1998. As a result, states began introducing regulatory measures to reduce VOCs from AIM products, that would help them meet the requirements of their state implementation plans. Of the individual state efforts, the California South Coast Air Quality Management District’s Rule 1113 would be the most stringent, causing industry to challenge it in court.

The Clean Air Act also triggered regulatory controls of VOCs and hazardous air pollutants that would affect other industry categories, including auto refinishing coatings; plastic parts; wood furniture; aerospace; and shipbuilding and repair. This increased activity regarding regulation of industry products would become a major focus of the association for years to come.

1991 saw the creation of a new NPCA member program — the Pollution Prevention Program. Helping to promote product stewardship, the program’s goal was the prevention of environmental pollution through effective material utilization, waste minimization, and reducing toxic releases.

In 1992, NPCA joined with associations from Europe, Mexico, Japan, and Canada, to address common issues of concern to the paint and printing ink industries. The International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), with NPCA as secretariat, was formed to ensure that the global implications of international issues were fully discussed and analyzed.

The following year, the association hired an independent consulting firm to survey various audiences regarding their perceptions of the industry and its products. The results showed that policy makers, consumers, and members of the media held many misconceptions about paint and the paint industry, specifically concerning the use of lead in paint, household hazardous waste, graffiti, and indoor air quality. As a result, NPCA created the Industry Outreach Program — a three-pronged strategy to communicate with and educate industry audiences. A media kit was developed, with publications that provided general information about the industry, as well as specific pieces about lead safety, proper disposal of post-consumer paint, paint safety for consumers, and anti-graffiti efforts. An Information Center was created to answer calls from consumers and the media. In addition, an Issue Background newsletter series was created to educate legislators and policymakers on industry’s positions on relevant topics. Over the next 15 years, the program would reach thousands of media contacts and millions of consumers with industry messages, evidenced by the change in how the industry was portrayed by the media and the appearance of industry messages in print and broadcast media.

Two years after the program was launched, NPCA established a website, www.paint.org. From the inception of the new website, much of the information provided through the Industry Outreach Program was offered electronically, in addition to a wide array of association offerings.

The industry continued the battle against graffiti vandalism in the 1990s, just as it had in the ’80s, fighting “lock up” laws that restricted access to aerosol paint in retail establishments. While efforts were successful, the association created the National Council to Prevent Delinquency (NCPD) in 1994. Because of NCPD’s extraordinary efforts, “anti-graffiti” measures that may have negatively affected the sale of spray paint were defeated in cities across the country.

In 1995, the association’s Management Information Committee oversaw development of a new industry publication — the U.S. Paint & Coatings Industry Market Analysis — which provided a comprehensive market overview of U.S. Census Bureau industry data, expert analysis of activities and trends in various coatings market sectors, and a forecast of the driving forces influencing industry in the years to come.
A long-term issue for industry was addressing the presence of old lead-based paint in older residential housing. Although the industry had discontinued its use of lead in paint manufacturing long before the 1978 law banning its use in consumer paint, NPCA remained diligent in its efforts to educate consumers about possible risks associated with such exposure. The association launched the Community Lead Education and Reduction Corps (CLEARCorps®) in 1996. The goal of the program was to demonstrate relatively simple in-place management techniques at the community level that could significantly reduce lead exposure. NPCA partnered with the University of Maryland to run the program, which recruited AmeriCorps® workers to educate families and communities in targeted cities. NPCA member companies donated products and major funding for the program, with other organizations providing additional funding and donations. By 1999, NPCA had successfully assisted in generating political support for CLEARCorps®, with the inclusion of $2.5 million earmarked for the program in the U.S. Housing and Urban Development’s 1999 fiscal year appropriations measure.

In 1997, NPCA launched Coatings Care®, a voluntary health, safety, and environmental initiative to assist member companies in eliminating confusion over...
the diverse and sometimes conflicting requirements for worker, customer, and environmental safety. Coatings Care® provided members with tools for accessing and implementing practices in four areas: Transportation and Distribution, Product Stewardship, Manufacturing Management, and Community Responsibility. Designed to be supportive of and complementary to the Chemical Manufacturer’s Association’s Responsible Care® program, the program received international acceptance from IPPIC. It would later evolve to include the facility Security Code, as well as a variety of supporting documents.

In the late 1990s, NPCA discontinued its Picture It Painted Program. By the 1990s, many paint companies were sponsoring community service projects that were garnering widespread media publicity. These efforts were achieving the goal of the Picture It Painted program to heighten awareness of industry’s products and goodwill in communities across the nation.

By 1999, a new trend of class action lawsuits were initiated against paint manufacturers, attempting to hold companies responsible for the harmful effects of lead-based paint on children living in poorly maintained housing. While industry fought back with proof that it had taken numerous measures to educate consumers, and noted the fact that paint manufacturers had discontinued the use of lead in consumer paints long before the 1978 law mandating that industry do so, such lawsuits would continue far beyond the year 2000.

and Technology Committee was formed to develop opportunities for bridging the gap between industry research and development, academia, and government initiatives. Simultaneously, NPCA joined forces with German publisher Vincentz Network to establish a new industry trade show and scientific conference. This new event — the American Coatings Show and Conference — was created as the North America counterpart to the existing European Coatings Show.

Also in 2007, the association tackled the issue of unfair product liability lawsuits pertaining to the coatings industry. It developed a system of periodic review of legal issues, filing “friend of the court” briefs in cases where such action may help prevent court decisions that establish bad precedent, and public advocacy efforts that support legal reform. NPCA established a record of successfully defending principles that support the industry.

Another initiative created in 2007 was the association’s Communications Outreach Program. The already existing program was modified with the inclusion of new materials that promoted the positive contributions of the industry.

A fourth new initiative was spearheaded that year when NPCA evaluated its grassroots efforts and decided to establish a program called Coatings Connect. The new issue advocacy program was designed to create a network of industry participants, educate those participants about pertinent legislative and regulatory issues, and provide user-friendly resources for communicating with elected officials.

In 2008, on the heels of its first successful industry trade show and conference, NPCA and the Federation of Societies for Coatings Technology (FSCT) agreed to join forces to better serve the industry. The merger of the two organizations was finalized March 30, 2009, after which FSCT headquarters was moved to Washington, DC. With a new mission and a new category of members, NPCA/FSCT officially became the American Coatings Association on January 1, 2010. The association now represents the interests of both companies and technical professionals in the industry.

As a result of the association’s expanded role, ACA focused on the best both associations had to offer, with legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of the industry remaining as the organization’s primary focus. An FSCT endeavor — the Coatings Industry Education Foundation (CIEF) — was revamped by ACA, with a new web page and new materials that showcased the foundation’s commitment to providing scholarships to students pursuing degrees in the field of coatings science.
After years of participating in PPSI’s national negotiations on paint product stewardship, it was agreed that a new, nationally-coordinated system for the management of leftover architectural paint would be developed as a pilot project. Then the program was to be introduced nationwide, through a phased-in implementation schedule. In 2009, a bill was signed into law in Oregon that allowed the creation of the first-ever paint stewardship program in the United States. That program, a non-profit organization called PaintCare, was established by the association and its members and launched in 2010.

The new millennium also brought a new phase of environmental awareness, and “sustainability” became an important buzzword. Many paint and coatings companies incorporated sustainability statements into their corporate profiles. These statements spoke primarily to manufacturing products in an environmentally conscious way, without sacrificing necessary performance characteristics or economic feasibility.

Industry research and development, market demands, and regulatory developments, led to great progress in process side emission and waste reductions. By minimizing toxins, reducing air emissions, and promoting product and environmental stewardship, the paint and coatings industry had taken steps for maximum environmental improvements. By 2009, the paint and coatings manufacturing sector accounted for less than 1 percent of hazardous waste generated nationally. According to EPA’s Toxic Release Inventory, releases by the industry had decreased 74 percent between 1995 and 2009. The industry reduced its total production waste by 52 percent from 1995 to 2009 and increased the percentage of waste recycled by almost 50 percent; total air releases decreased by 76 percent during that same time period.
Although the association was touting the message of industry’s successes on the environmental front, members made it clear that this was not the whole story with regard to the industry’s contributions to sustainability. Thus, ACA embarked on a Sustainability Awareness initiative, utilizing the association’s electronic resources to highlight the breadth of contributions that coatings make to sustainability in everything from art and architecture to our nation’s infrastructure and agriculture.

The year 2012 has brought with it a new milestone — the association’s 125th anniversary. Since its founding so many years ago, ACA has carved a role as a driving force advancing the issues, positions, and activities of the paint and coatings industry. What the next 125 years holds in store remains to be seen, but it is certain that the association will continue to focus on important goals of the industry. Moreover, the founding principles that have guided ACA through their first 125 years will surely provide the framework for continuing to meet the challenges of future generations.

Thank you for taking part in our 125th Anniversary celebration. For more information on industry and association history, check out ACA’s history timeline and video.

Click below to view ACA’s timeline videos