



MORNING SESSION @ FSTNR Week '25

7:45 AM – 8:30 AM

Complimentary Buffet Breakfast

Begin your morning networking with fellow attendees over breakfast, courtesy of the Industrial Fasteners Institute.

8:35 AM – 9:45 AM

Welcome Remarks & Keynote

Capitol Connections – How the Fastener Industry Found Its Voice in Washington D.C.

Speaker: Laurin Baker, Founder, The Laurin Baker Group

Introduced by Sebastian Janas, Chairman of IFI's Industrial Product Division (Sems & Specials)

Laurin Baker has spent five decades navigating Washington, D.C., and for over 25 years has been the voice of the Industrial Fasteners Institute (IFI) on Capitol Hill. In this compelling keynote, Laurin will share how the fastener industry, once largely invisible to policymakers, organized in response to a major legislative threat and transformed that challenge into long-term political influence.

You'll hear behind-the-scenes stories, learn how IFI built its successful government affairs program, and gain valuable insights into today's policy landscape and how it may impact your business.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Why IFI re-entered the Washington policy arena in response to the original Fastener Quality Act;
- Key wins and lessons from IFI's advocacy efforts;
- Strategies for maximizing influence with limited resources;
- Emerging trends and potential legislation affecting the fastener industry;
- Why IFI's Government Affairs Program remains a vital member benefit.

Whether you're a manufacturer, distributor, or industry stakeholder, this session provides a rare inside look at how advocacy works—and why it matters.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Market Outlook

Economic Trends from the Federal Reserve

Speaker: Thomas Walstrum, Principal Business Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Following the keynote, we'll welcome Thomas Walstrum, a leading economist with the Chicago Fed. Walstrum oversees the Seventh District's contributions to the Beige Book, leads the Chicago Fed Survey of Economic Conditions, and briefs the Fed president on regional economic trends. He also contributes regularly to the Chicago Fed Insights series.

With a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago and deep expertise in labor, urban, and regional economics, Walstrum will provide an up-to-date look at market conditions impacting manufacturing, distribution, and the broader fastener supply chain.



August 26th, 2025

Marriott Lincolnshire Resort
10 Marriott Drive
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

**Scan the QR Code to
register your attendance
for this FREE EVENT**



For questions contact Francesca Lewis by Tel: 847-438-8338 or Email mwfa@mwfa.net

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