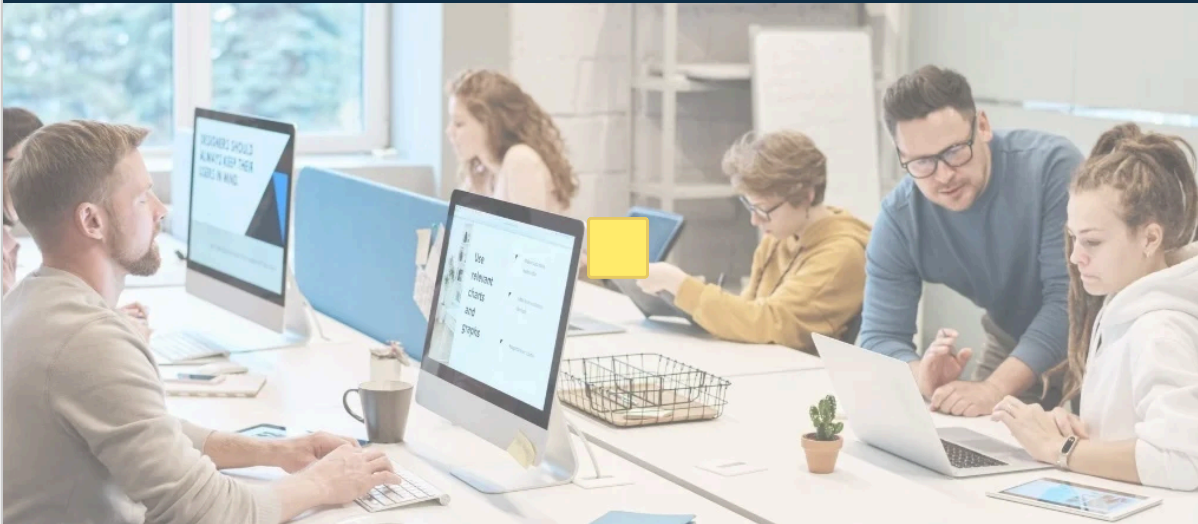




# THE NAVIGATOR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2026



## Lean Isn't Just for the Shop Floor

Many manufacturers have invested in Lean on the production floor. But some of the most stubborn inefficiencies live upstream, in quoting, order entry, scheduling, and purchasing. When those processes are slow or inconsistent, the effects show up as missed due dates, expedited shipments, and firefighting that never seems to end.

**Office Lean applies the same principles you already use on your shop floor to the administrative work that feeds production.** The result is faster response times for customers, cleaner schedules for your team, and fewer surprises for everyone.

If any of these sound familiar, this article is worth a read:

- Quoting cycles that slow your responsiveness to customers
- Order entry errors that create downstream rework and confusion
- Scheduling bottlenecks caused by incomplete or late information

- Key process knowledge concentrated within a few team members, creating risk when they leave

[Read the full article on OMEP's Insights Blog to learn more about how Office Lean principles can make a difference in your business.](#)

**OMEP's Lean Office experts are ready to help you assess how Lean principles can help streamline your front office operation. Reach out today!**

**Request Your No-Cost Lean Office Assessment**

## Upcoming Industry Events in Oregon



### **OMIC R&D Additive Showcase Event | Scappoose | April 8**

OMIC R&D is hosting their next in-person panel event showcasing additive manufacturing research and solutions from their Additive Innovation Center. Local small and mid-sized manufacturers are invited to join OMIC R&D at their headquarters in Scappoose, Oregon and connect with the people and ideas driving innovation in our region.

There is no cost to join the event, [click here for a detailed agenda and to register.](#)

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### **Women in Manufacturing 9Wood Plant Tour | Springfield | April 14**

The WiM Oregon Chapter is hosting a plant tour at 9Wood in Springfield, Oregon. Join women manufacturing professionals for a look inside one of Oregon's most distinctive wood product manufacturers, along with networking time with peers from across the industry.

[9Wood Plant Tour, Kata, & Networking April 14](#)

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## Sandler Sales Boot Camp | Portland | April 23 & 24

Join our Sandler-trained consultants for two days of intensive, in-person sales training built on the proven Sandler Selling Methodology. Designed for salespeople, managers, and business owners ready to lead more confident, buyer-focused conversations. Includes a DISC assessment, lunch both days, and a complimentary one-hour coaching session with an OMEP Sandler Sales trainer. Register today to reserve your spot!

[Sandler Sales Boot Camp: Portland, Oregon: April 23 & 24](#)

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## Kata Training A Standard Method for Improvement | Portland | May 14

Toyota Kata is a structured, scientific approach to continuous improvement that builds problem-solving habits into your team's daily work. This Portland event, hosted by OMEP's own Kata experts, is a great opportunity to learn the method and explore how Kata coaching can create a more adaptive, improvement-focused culture in your operation. Save your seat today in this fun, immersive workshop.

[Kata Training: A Standard Method for Improvement May 14](#)

## Introducing the Pit Crew Challenge



What does it take to perform as one unified team under pressure? In a race car pit stop, every person knows their role, trusts their teammates, and executes with precision when it counts. There is no room for miscommunication and no time for silos.

**OMEP is bringing this same energy to a new team-based learning experience: The Pit Crew Challenge.** This hands-on, immersive event puts participants inside a fast-paced pit crew simulation where coordination,

communication, and shared purpose are put to the test in real time. Then teams connect what they experienced directly to how they lead and work together every day.

**No slides. No passive listening. Just hands-on learning that sticks.**

Whether you want to send a few employees or create a team-building experience for your entire team, OMEP offers hosted Pit Crew events as well as on-site event delivery to fit your needs.

**Bring The Pit Crew Challenge to your next team building event!**



[Learn More About The Challenge](#)

## Stuck in Operational Firefighting?



**Is your team spending more time reacting than improving?** OMEP's experienced operations consultants are ready to work with you to build smoother, more reliable systems, so work gets done on time, quality improves, and your team stops feeling overwhelmed.

We offer complimentary, no-cost assessments to identify your greatest opportunities for improvement. Whether the challenges are on the floor or in the office, we tailor our approach to your unique business challenges.

**Schedule time with our OMEP consultants and get a clear picture of where your biggest gains are hiding and how to unlock them.**

Schedule Your No-Cost Assessment



in

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