

## Hardwood Federation Update

*By Dana Lee Cole*

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For students of politics, 2018 is turning out to be a fascinating year. And if you are one of the many members of the hardwood community that would like to grow your involvement with the Hardwood Federation's advocacy efforts, the time is now!

The Hardwood Federation's (HF) **2018 Fall Fly-In** will be held September 11-13. It's our biggest, most anticipated and most important event of the year as members of the hardwood industry gather in Washington D.C. to walk...and sometimes run...the halls and tunnels of Congressional office buildings to meet with Representatives, Senators and staffs from their - and other important - states.

The goal is to provide personal and professional perspectives on the most important issues affecting the industry; how our businesses are being impacted by those issues....and what Congress can do about it. When members hear from **you**, their constituents, employers in their district, and community leaders, our message takes on a special significance and impact.

### On the Agenda in September

This year we will be highlighting the future of the Hardwood industry by issuing special invitations to the next generation of leaders in your companies. The **Hardwood Manufacturers Association** - along with the National Wood Flooring Association, is hosting their emerging leaders for special meetings and events in D.C. All are welcome to participate in the following:

- **Welcome Reception** (September 11): Throughout the day, participants gather to meet and network with colleagues, old and new.
- **Breakfast Briefing** (September 12): HF will provide information on navigating the Congressional office buildings, a detailed briefing on issues to be covered during meetings on the Hill, plus what to expect during your meetings.
- **Capitol Hill Visits** (September 12): To demonstrate the depth and variety of our industry, small groups of participants will meet with elected representatives, via prearranged meetings coordinated by HF staff.
- **HF Political Action Committee (HFPAC) Events** (September 12 & 13): Additional opportunities to speak directly with and acknowledge the support of the members - the evening of September 12 will include a reception with Republican members of Congress, a dinner on Capitol Hill, and a tour of D.C. iconic monuments. The next morning, a breakfast reception with Democrats will conclude the Fly-In.

### Join us in Washington

The bottom line is that we need every voice possible to keep our issues on the front burner. And with HMA members spread throughout the country, this is your opportunity to directly share your experience, insight and ideas with those who write the laws and legislation impacting your businesses and employees. Join us in Washington. We will make every effort to sufficiently prepare and brief you.

All of the Fly-In details - registration, hotel, meeting agenda - are available at [www.hardwoodfederation.com](http://www.hardwoodfederation.com). Please contact me, [dana.cole@hardwoodfederation.com](mailto:dana.cole@hardwoodfederation.com), should you need further information.