

KEN METZLER - Chairman of the Board

kmetzler@lforceinc.com

Ken served as LaForce's CEO/Chairman from 2007 to 2016, and currently holds the position of Chairman of the Board. Born and raised in Green Bay, Ken attended college at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Administration. Interestingly, Joe LaForce, founder of LaForce, had much in common with Ken having both earned the same degree from the same institution. Joe hired Ken in January of 1979.

Ken has held multiple positions within the company prior. His journey at LaForce started in 1979 as an Estimator. Subsequently, he went on to manage several departments within the company including Hardware Purchasing, Specialties (section 10 products), Engineering/Project Management, and the Manufacturing Plant. In 1990, Ken was named Vice President of LaForce. In 1997, Ken was named President of LaForce and Chief Operating Officer. Ken was named CEO/Chairman in 2007 and currently holds the title of Chairman of the Board.

Ken has been active in our industry's national association, the Door and Hardware Institute (DHI), earning his Architectural Hardware Consultant (AHC) certificate in 1985. He was awarded the Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association's "Award of Excellence" in 2004. Ken went on to serve on DHI's Board of Governors from 2006 through 2012, served as President in 2010 and 2011, and was subsequently bestowed the title of "Fellow" (FDHI) in 2012 for outstanding service to the architectural openings industry. In 2015 Ken was selected to receive the "Founder's Award," DHI's highest and most prestigious award. This award recognizes an individual who has contributed significant and outstanding service to the Institute or to the architectural openings industry over an extended period of time.

Ken's abundance of door and hardware knowledge gives LaForce an edge in the industry. His decades of experience and leadership guidance continue to move the company forward.

