

AFS research benefits members

The American Foundry Society funds research that drives the metalcasting industry forward. Past and continuing AFS-funded research helps North American metalcasters increase efficiency, improve quality, slash expenses, and enhance environmental stewardship.

Each year, AFS allocates funds specifically for critical research. Project proposals come from various AFS committees and are then reviewed by the AFS Research Board, which consists of five rotating members drawn from across the industry. Various criteria are considered, with the principal investigator expected to describe the economic significance of the project and its direct benefit to North American metalcasters.

In addition, AFS is involved in several research partnerships funded through



government and industry contributions and other means. AFS is a partner in the American Metalcasting Consortium

(AMC). AMC is funded through the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

Summary of current and recent breakthrough research

Sweeper Study

AFS-sponsored research on foundry sweepers assessed whether powered industrial sweepers contribute to employee exposure to silica. Overall, the study data

showed a 17% reduction in RCS exposures after high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtered sweeping as compared to before sweeping.

However, the data also demonstrate variability. OSHA ultimately accepted the use of HEPA filtered sweepers, considering them in the same category as vacuums. This saved many AFS members tens of thousands of dollars.

Optimization of Gray Cast Iron Strength
AFS-sponsored research has defined what manganese and sulfur concentrations produce the best properties as pertains to gray cast iron strength. The potential improvement in strength is sufficient to significantly improve the marketability of iron castings.

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Business futurist to headline Foundry Leadership Summit

How do global politics influence metalcasting? Peter Zeihan, noted geopolitical strategist, will answer

that important question during his keynote presentation at the 2019 Foundry Leadership Summit, September 22-24 in Traverse City, Michigan.

Zeihan is a global energy, demographic, and security expert. His 2014 book, "The Accidental Superpower," earned a positive review from the Wall Street Journal. It provided several accurate forecasts of

events which have influenced metalcasting markets.

In his presentation for the AFS Foundry Leadership Summit, "The Future of Global Manufacturing – Revisited," Zeihan will share his deep understanding of how global politics influence metalcasting

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CastingConnection
See page 12 for more



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American Foundry Society



Join the discussion at
Foundry and Diecaster Network



Follow us on Twitter
@AmerFoundrySoc

Technical services at AFS

Continuous improvement is an essential part of the metalcasting process. From casting defect elimination and conversions from other forms of production to perfecting melting methods to light-weighting and implementation of Industry 4.0 in the foundry, the men and women in metalcasting know that the status quo is never sufficient.

That is a big reason that some 900 companies and nearly 7,000 individuals invest in memberships in the American Foundry Society (AFS). In addition to the important work AFS does in the areas of Advocacy and Education, AFS plays a key role in fostering technical innovation. This work benefits large cross-sections of the AFS membership.

Recently, a metalcaster posted a description of a technical challenge he was experiencing in the foundry on AFS Casting Connection. Within 48 hours, he had received a handful of helpful responses that helped him solve his problem. Casting Connection is an amazing communications network that AFS offers for just that type of information exchange.

The same spirit of commitment to our industry is evident in the various AFS technical committees. There is a tremendous reservoir of expertise there, and if your foundry is committed to optimizing your technical excellence, you owe it to

yourself to ensure the right people at your company are participating in AFS technical committees and conferences. Upcoming are conferences on steel casting on July 10, copper alloys in September, environment and safety/health in October, and ferrous melting in November, with more to come in 2020.

We are pleased to report a significant rise in education session participation at our last CastExpo. Dozens of technical sessions provided considerable insight and information. We are already seeing AFS committees planning their research to present at the Metalcasting Congress on April 21-23, 2020, in Cleveland.

Speaking of research, this issue of AFS Member Connections provides a deep-dive look at research being funded by AFS. Thank you to AFS Corporate Members, as it is your membership investment that provides the bulk of the support for AFS research.

AFS provides the world's finest metal-

casting technical library, and since 2018, all articles are now free to AFS members. They are easier to download than ever before. Moreover, the AFS bookstore provides an incredible array of titles. Have you hired some promising new engineering, management or technical employees? Visit the online bookstore to get them the books that will speed up their success.

Meanwhile, if you are looking to hire, you should know that dozens of metalcasters are using the AFS Job Board as a key part of their employee-attraction strategy. Visit afs.org, mouse over "Careers," and click on "Job Board."

The AFS Technical Services experts include Steve Robison (aluminum, additive, research), Frank Headington (iron, melting methods, steel), Tom Doré (copper, engineering, molding methods), and Juliette Garesché (EHS, lost foam), and are just a phone call away. Rely on them to provide or find the answers to the thorniest technical and compliance-related questions that arise in your foundry or supply chain. They look forward to serving you as you pursue technical excellence.



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Reclamation and Reuse of Shell Ceramics

Researchers are examining the reclamation and reuse of shell ceramics in investment casting. Initial findings showcase the reclaiming potential of alumino-silicates (with alumina at 60% or greater). Although further study is planned, this is an important first step in investment casters' quest to slash expenses tied to raw-material purchases and waste disposal. Reining in such costs could save the U.S. investment casting industry millions of dollars annually.

Refining Investment Casting

AFS-sponsored research has demonstrated the importance of firing parameters on the thermo-mechanical properties of investment shells. With this knowledge

in hand, foundries are one step closer to achieving shells that provide sufficient mechanical strength with fewer layers. This could translate into a marked reduction in operating costs.

Improving Steel Casting Quality

Continuing research seeks to address costly inclusion defects that plague steel casting production by exploring how various gating designs affect filling conditions and casting quality. At present, it is estimated that scrap and rework due to inclusion defects can account for as much as 16% of the manufacturing costs associated with steel casting production. This research has the potential to slash those costs by addressing turbulent filling conditions that cause unnecessary weld repair, low mechanical properties,

and customer rejections.

Improving the Lost Foam Casting Process

Continuing AFS-sponsored research seeks to harness the power of 3D printing to expand the marketability and viability of the lost foam casting process. Lost foam tooling is, in general, prohibitively expensive, with long lead times associated with the complexity of tool designs. This research is attempting to address this by demonstrating production of tools for high-mix, low-volume-production using 3D-printed aluminum. It is expected that this research will result in halving of both costs and tooling-related lead times, allowing foundries to enter new markets.

For more information on AFS-funded research, email AFS Technical Research Assistant Ryan Davis at rdavis@afsinc.org.

AFS welcomes Peter Reich as new president

Peter Reich (LAEMPE REICH) began his one-year term this spring as president of the American Foundry Society and the Institute for 2019-2020.

"This is all about serving.
It's an honor."

Reich was welcomed as the new AFS President during a luncheon at CastExpo 2019 in Atlanta. The previous president, Jean Bye, presented Reich with the ceremonial AFS rammer during the Annual Banquet on April 28. Bye (Dotson Iron Castings) now serves as AFS Immediate Past President.

"The American Foundry Society welcomes Peter Reich as our president for the coming year," AFS CEO Doug Kurkul

said. "He brings creative insight and commitment to fulfilling the AFS mission of advocacy, education, and innovation. We also express deepest gratitude to Jean Bye for her dedication and exemplary leadership during the past year."

Reich is a strong proponent of servant leadership, and believes in leading by example.

"This is all about serving. It's an honor," Reich told Annual Banquet attendees. "We're the servants, and you're who we're serving."

Other officers elected to the AFS Board of Directors are Vice President Michael Lenahan (KB Foundry Services), and 2nd Vice President Jim Frost (AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company).

Making up the 2019-2023 Directors



New AFS President Peter Reich is presented with the AFS rammer at the Annual Banquet during CastExpo 2019 in Atlanta.

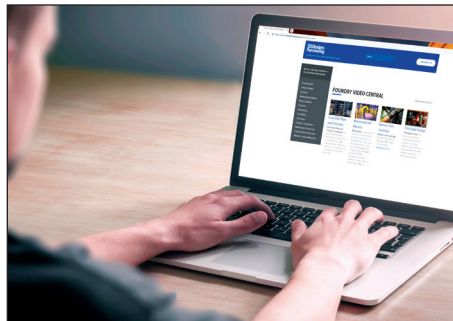
Class are Patrick Ameen (Amsted Rail), John Haas (Cadillac Castings Inc.), Angela Dine Schmeisser (St. Marys Foundry Inc.), and John Lancaster (General Motors).

Video Central: Cost-efficient, high-profile messaging for foundries and suppliers

Has your company produced a promotional video that you'd like more casting buyers and designers to see? Foundry Video Central and Supplier Video Central are new web platforms on which to share your company's capabilities and expertise with key customers and prospects. You can post your company video online and gain an important additional way for customers to engage with you.

If you have already produced videos, this is how to make sure your content is being seen by your target audience. AFS will promote these videos continuously to ensure steady traffic. You will receive periodic reports from AFS indicating the number of page views for your videos.

For a limited time, AFS is offering introductory pricing. Quantity discounts are available for multiple video placements at



Foundry Video Central and Supplier Video Central are new web platforms from AFS. Hosted by Modern Casting and MCDP, they target metalcasting audiences.

the time of purchase. Video placements are for a 12-month period.

For more information, visit www.afsinc.org, www.metalcastingdesign.com/foundry-videos, and www.moderncasting.com/supplier-videos.

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now. With a keen eye toward what will drive tomorrow's headlines, Zeihan's irreverent approach transforms topics into accessible, relevant takeaways.

Last year's event saw attendance in-

crease for the third consecutive year and attracted attendees from seven countries. Be part of a growing network of industry leaders this September in Traverse City. To register, visit www.afsinc.org/conferences/2019-foundry-leadership-summit.

Gift your customers an MCDP subscription

Metalcasters can give their customers one of the best tools for informing them about metalcasting products. It's *Metal Casting Design & Purchasing* magazine, and it's available at no cost.

MCDP is for anyone who buys metal castings. Buyers can have various titles such as commodity manager or specialist, global category manager, procurement, sourcing specialist, supply chain manager, and others. Each of these, whether they buy a few castings per year or thousands, could be receiving their own no-cost subscription to MCDP to better understand the superiority of metal castings.

Best of all, a subscription to *Metal Casting Design & Purchasing* is free to the foundry and the foundry's customers. To sign up for a subscription, visit www.metalcastingdesign.com/subscribe.

DON'T MISS AN AFS EVENT!

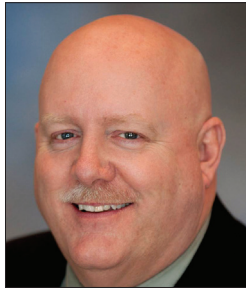
AFS has management and technical conferences tailored to your needs. See the back page of this issue or visit www.afsinc.org/conferences.

2019-2020

Officers & Board Members



President
Peter C. Reich
Co-Owner,
LAEMPE REICH



Vice President
Michael L. Lenahan
CEO,
KB Foundry Services



2nd Vice President
Jim Frost
Director Quality
Systems & Compliance,
AMERICAN Cast
Iron Pipe Company



Immediate Past
President
Jean Bye
President and CEO,
Dotson Iron Castings



CEO
Doug Kurkul
CEO,
American Foundry Society

Directors Class 2016 - 2020



Greg Loving
Senior Vice President
& General Manager,
Rochester Metal
Products Corporation



Jason McGowan
President,
D&L Foundry, Inc.



Russell Rosmait
University Professor,
Pittsburg State
University



Scott Strobl
Executive
Vice President,
Simpson Technologies
Corp.

Directors Class 2017 - 2021



Tom Christie
President,
ATEK Metal
Technologies



Michael J. Leib
CEO,
Weatherly Casting
and Machine
Company/Hazlet
Casting Company



**Christopher T.
Misiak**
Vice President of
Manufacturing &
Operations,
Victaulic Company



Brad Muller
Vice President of
Marketing,
Charlotte Pipe &
Foundry

Directors Class 2018 - 2022



Patrick Carlin
Sales Manager,
Superior Aluminum
Alloys



David Gilson
Sales and Marketing
Director,
SinterCast



Sara Joyce
Vice President of
Quality and Technical
Assurance,
Badger Mining
Corporation



Jeet Radia
Senior Vice President,
McWane, Inc.

Directors Class 2019 - 2023



Patrick T. Ameen
Vice President
Industry Relations,
Amsted Rail
Company



John P. Haas
President,
Cadillac Casting, Inc.



John Lancaster
Plant Director,
General Motors



**Angela Dine
Schmeisser**
President and CEO,
St. Marys Foundry,
Inc.

2019 Government Affairs Fly-In

June 11-12 • Washington, D.C.

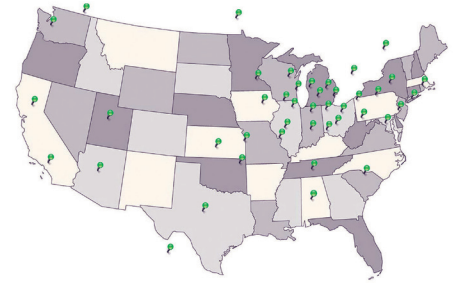


1. Karl Rove, former Deputy White House Chief of Staff, delivers the keynote speech at the AFS Government Affairs Fly-In. 2. Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) of the House Energy & Commerce Committee opens the Fly-In with a briefing on key metalcasting issues. 3. Eric Meyers (Oil City Iron Works), left, pauses for a photo with Rove, center, and AFS CEO Doug Kurkul. 4. Pictured at the Fly-In, from left, are: Bryant Esch (Waupaca Foundry); Kurkul; Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA), recipient of the AFS Metalcasting Industry Congressional Champion Award; and Erik Ellingson (Waupaca). 5. Tennessee AFS members meet with Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) about strengthening Buy-American provisions. Pictured, from left, are: Ellingson (Waupaca), Henry Lodge (Lodge Manufacturing), Blackburn, Darren Howard (American Colloid), and Stephanie Salmon (AFS). 6. From left, Patrick Ameen (Amsted Rail), Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), and Robert Cantwell (Amsted Rail) meet at the Fly-In. 7. AFS Metalcasting Industry Congressional Champion Award recipient Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK) with Sandy Linton (Tonkawa Foundry). 8. Pictured, from left, front row, are: Chuck Kurtti (AFS Past President, retired from Neenah Foundry), Robert Karrels (Neenah Foundry), and Kiley Eck Hayon (Eck Industries). Back row: Nick Bartol (Badger Mining) and Steve Lewallen (Wisconsin Cast Metals Association).

AFS Chapter Directory and Updates

AFS provides the means for you to network with metalcasters in your area. Reach out to a chapter leader to get involved today, or visit www.AFSinc.org/get-involved.

Include your chapter news in the AFS Chapter Directory! Please send chapter updates, events, meeting schedules and other news to Katelyn Stanek, AFS Marketing & Communications Specialist, at kstanek@afsinc.org.



UNITED STATES

Alabama

Birmingham District

jboyd@gfmco.com

John Boyd

The Birmingham Chapter honored their past chairmen during a meeting on May 13.

California

Northern California

detria.mixon@abifoundry.com

Detria Mixon

Southern California

jason@smccast.com

Jason Gutierrez

Connecticut

New England

emarczyszak@burndy.com

Edward Marczyszak

The New England chapter hosted its first "Table Top and Toolbox Presentation Meeting" on May 7.

Georgia

Piedmont

mstowe@advancedenergy.org

Michael Stowe

The Piedmont Chapter held a Past Chairman's Night May 16-17 in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

Illinois

Central Illinois

weaver_d_trent@cat.com

Trent Weaver

Chicago

nmerens@lilliangroupmarketing.com

Norwin Merens

The Chicago Chapter hosted a meeting on May 16 regarding workforce development.

Stateline

sean@slfcastings.com

Sean McGough

The Stateline Chapter hosted a meeting at the Butterfly Supper Club in Beloit, Wisconsin, on April 9. The chapter also hosted a golf outing on June 21.

Indiana

Central Indiana

jeffcnwhtp@gmail.com

Jeffrey Craig

The Central Indiana Chapter hosted a student night on April 9. The chapter also toured Allison Transmission on May 14.

Northern Indiana

jschutz@hilerindustries.com

Jeff Schutz

On April 13, the chapter went out to a ball game between the South Bend Cubs and the Lansing Lugnuts. Additionally, the chapter toured Plymouth Foundry on May 13, and was set to hold a golf outing on July 20.

Iowa

Hawkeye

gammillwilliamj@johndeere.com

William Gammill

The Hawkeye Chapter held meetings at Irv Warren Memorial Golf Course on April 12 and July 13.

Kansas

Plains States

ssprveill@cfmfoundry.com

Schott Sprueill

Michigan

Central Michigan

charlesprater@calhounfoundry.com

Charles Prater

The Central Michigan Chapter hosted Education Night with Western Michigan University on April 18. The chapter also hosted a golf outing on June 15.

Detroit Windsor

david.d.goettsch@gm.com

David Goettsch

Saginaw Valley

robert.5.smith@gm.com

Robert Smith

The Saginaw Valley Chapter hosted a Die Cast in a Box event on March 7.

Western Michigan

egildner@cadillaccasting.com

Eric Gildner

On April 9, the Western Michigan Chapter hosted a chapter meeting at New Holland Brewing.

Minnesota

Twin Cities

alan.jacobson@aam.com

Alan Jacobson

Missouri

Mo Kan

vbrock@canfieldjoseph.com

Vicki Brock

St. Louis

imrie@southerncast.com

Douglas Imrie

The St. Louis chapter hosted a golf outing that benefited the Robert V. Wolfe Scholarship for Missouri S&T on May 31.

New York

Central New York

john.lisi@itt.com

John Lisi

Ohio

Central Ohio

eric@keenersand.com

Eric Weiffenbach

The Central Ohio Chapter honored the past chairmen of their chapter on April 18. The chapter also toured O.S. Kelly Company on May 16.

Cleveland-Akron Canton

hseibel@refcotec.com

Harry Seibel

Southwestern Ohio

dwelsh@hillandgriffith.com

Dale Welsh

Oklahoma

Tri-State

rhall@spfoundry.com

Robert Hall

Pennsylvania

Chesapeake

garretts@inductotherm.com

Garrett Smith

The Chesapeake Chapter hosted a spring seminar about EHS issues on May 21.

Keystone

dusty@boosealum.com

Dustin Finefrock

Northwestern Pennsylvania

kwelser@clark-mckibbensafety.com

Pennsylvania chapters team up on successful seminars

When the Pennsylvania-based AFS Chesapeake Chapter wanted to shake up their meeting structure, they decided the best way forward would be to partner up with a neighbor on something new. The results speak for themselves.

"I think it gave them some awareness of some of the things they might not see every day."

Since last fall, the Chesapeake and Keystone Chapters have cooperated on several all-day seminars, moving away from the monthly meeting schedule toward something more immersive. In May, the Chesapeake Chapter held a seminar focused on EHS issues called "Is Your Facility Prepared? Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plans." In the fall, Keystone Chapter members hosted a seminar about equipment maintenance. Both chapters support one another and are invited to attend each other's events.

"We're trying this out for the first time," said Katie Childs (August Mack Environmental), who helped organize the Chesapeake seminar. "We ended up having 65 or 70 people come."



Attendees tour Donsco as part of a Chesapeake Chapter seminar held in May.

The spring seminar included presentations from EHS experts and a tour of AFS Corporate Member Donsco (Columbia, Pennsylvania), which was on its way to reopening after a fire. Donsco's vice president, Chris Buck, was the keynote speaker for the event, discussing the initial response to the fire at the facility last June. The seminar was done in conjunction with the Casting Industry Suppliers Association, whose event covered the evening portion of the day. AFS CEO Doug Kurkul served as the

keynote speaker, discussing news from AFS.

"We had a cross-section of different foundry people," Childs said. "Lots of EHS [personnel], but also lots of supervisors, plant managers, people without EHS people on staff in their foundries."

Childs said the seminar was a great way for chapter members to be informed about important EHS issues.

"I think it gave them some awareness of some of the things they might not see every day," she said.

Kelly Welser
The NWPA Chapter toured Urick Foundry on May 21.

Pittsburgh
techmgr@duraloy.com
Roman Pankiw

Tennessee
dfletcher@lodgemfg.com
David Fletcher

The Tennessee Chapter hosted a "History of Foundries" dinner in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on April 1. The chapter also hosted a meeting on May 6.

Texas
brett.j.morehead@gmail.com
Brett Morehead
The Texas Chapter hosted a family outing June 14-15.

Utah

Utah
reed@ifscorporation.com
Reed Larson

Washington
Washington
cmckeever@uniwest.us
Chuck McKeever

Wisconsin
Northeastern Wisconsin
scott.stiefvater@abpinduction.com
Scott Stiefvater
The AFS Wisconsin Regional hosted a Student Night on April 8. The chapter also toured Neenah Foundry on May 10.

Wisconsin
cchapman@unimin.com
Carey Chapman
The Wisconsin Chapter hosted an "Old Timer" dinner meeting on May 20. The chapter is also hosting a golf outing on Aug. 2.

MEXICO

North Mexico
jose.lope@sinto.mx
José Lobo

CANADA
British Columbia
cchamberlain@oclim.com
Craig Chamberlain
The British Columbia chapter hosted their annual meeting at Central City Brewers & Distillers on May 29.

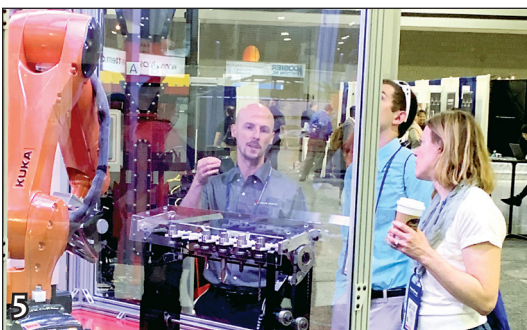
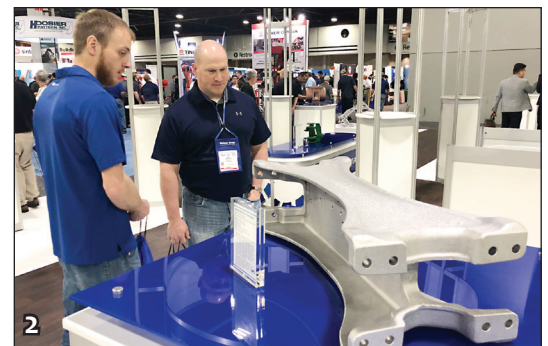
Eastern Canada
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Rejean Mailhot

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jbrooks@karrich.com
Jason Brooks

Ontario
neals.mccain@gmail.com
Neal McCain

CastExpo 2019

April 27-30, 2019 • Georgia World Congress Center • Atlanta, Georgia



1. CastExpo 2019 attendees line up to enter the show floor on April 27. CastExpo featured more than 400 exhibitors and attracted thousands of people from across the metalcasting supply chain. 2. Attendees look at a casting in the Cast in North America exhibit at the Georgia World Congress Center. CINA showcased the best in North American foundry capabilities. 3. Students take a break at The HUB during CastExpo. 4. A packed house listens to a keynote presentation from Frank Abagnale, best known as the real-life inspiration for the film "Catch Me If You Can." 5. Attendees check out an exhibitor's machinery on display on the show floor at CastExpo. 6. "Iron Man" poses for a photo with a fan on the show floor.

Corporate Members honored for exemplary service

AFS honored two Corporate Members, Carley Foundry and Elkem, with AFS Corporate Contribution Awards during CastExpo 2019, April 27-30 in Atlanta. The awards recognize each company's exemplary service to AFS.

Carley Foundry (Blaine, Minnesota) has contributed time, materials, and company resources to many AFS research projects. Its employees are active in volunteer roles, including leadership in the AFS Light Met-

als Division.

Employees of Elkem (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) have volunteered for AFS at the local and national level for almost four decades. They are especially active in sharing technical expertise for AFS educational events and publications.

"We thank Carley Foundry and Elkem for contributing so much to AFS over the years," said AFS Chief Technical Services Officer Steve Robison. "These awards are

one way for us to show our appreciation for their commitment of time, resources, and leadership in the society."

The AFS Corporate Contribution Award was created in 2015 to honor Corporate Members which consistently sponsor the involvement of their employees in AFS volunteer activities, such as the technical and management committee structure, local AFS chapters, AFS Institute, and other volunteer service.

AFS opposes proposed hike in costs to finance equipment and machinery

AFS opposes a Treasury Department proposal that would make it more expensive for manufacturers, including metalcasters, to finance the purchase of depreciable equipment by limiting interest deductions four years earlier than Congress intended.

Speaking up for the industry, AFS signed a coalition letter, organized by the National Association of Manufacturers, urging Treasury officials to reverse the proposed rule.

"In order to finance capital equipment purchases, many manufacturers borrow funds. By effectively adopting an EBIT [earnings before interest and tax] standard for manufacturers years earlier than Congress intended, the proposed rule makes it more costly to finance the investments in equipment and machinery that are needed to create additional jobs in the industry," the letter states.

The letter calls on the Treasury to implement interest limits as intended by Congress by providing an EBITDA base for the calculation of interest deductions.

Under the AFS-backed tax reform law, the simple interest-deduction rule went away.

Now, manufacturers can deduct 30 percent of EBITDA through 2021.

Starting in 2022, depreciation and amortization were to be excluded. The Treasury's proposed rule would eliminate the depreciation and amortization deduction four years ahead of schedule.

A second provision of the tax law creates incentives for manufacturers to invest in capital goods. If they buy and put into service a piece of equipment after September 27, 2017, and before the end of 2022, they can receive a "depreciation bonus" of 100 percent in the first year (up from 50 percent under the previous rules). This new provision has manufacturers purchasing new equipment – now only to find that depreciation doesn't figure into the new 30 percent Treasury rule outlined above.

"Manufacturing employment fell by 210,000 jobs from 2009 to January 2017," said Doug Kurkul, AFS CEO. "Since then, it has risen by more than 473,000 jobs. AFS urges the Treasury Department to honor the Congressional intent, and withdraw this ill-conceived proposal."



Kids make scratch molds for Manufacturing Day 2018 at AFS HQ.

Manufacturing Day returns Oct. 4

Manufacturing Day 2019 is happening Friday, Oct. 4, and your facility can join the movement to share the metalcasting message.

Manufacturing Day is when manufacturers open their doors to the public to host tours, give demonstrations, and more. It's a great way to show your community what you make, who you employ, and show students why metalcasting is a great career choice.

Last year, many AFS Corporate Members joined in the fun. If you would like to host a Manufacturing Day event but aren't sure where to begin, visit www.afsinc.org/manufacturing-day. You'll find everything you need to get started.

AFS Speakers Bureau: Add a metalcasting expert to your event

Experts from every corner of the metalcasting industry are ready to add value to your meeting, conference, or educational event. They're members of the American Foundry Society Speakers Bureau, the in-

dustry's go-to source for authorities on everything from metals and metallurgy to health and safety to workforce development and government affairs.

The more than 150 staff and volunteers who make up the AFS Speakers Bureau are experienced, knowledgeable, and eager to share their expertise. Their high-value presentations are an important part of any metalcasting gathering, including AFS chap-

ter meetings, conferences, student events, roundtables, lectures, and more.

AFS speakers are available to present on nearly any topic related to metalcasting. For a list of speakers by topic, or to book a speaker, visit www.afsinc.org/speakers-bureau.

Are you an AFS member who would like to be added to the Speakers Bureau? Please contact Kim Perna at kperna@afsinc.org.

Meet the AFS staff

A periodic feature in AFS Member Connections



Shannon Wetzel *Managing Editor, swetzel@afsinc.org*

Shannon Wetzel is the managing editor of *Modern Casting* and *Metal Casting Design & Purchasing*. She also manages the youth-focused *Melting Point* magazine and website. She has spent her 14 years at AFS visiting more than 100 metalcasting facilities, reading and editing industry papers, speaking with members of the industry, and trying to tell the story of what it means to be a successful foundry in North America. Wetzel graduated from Valparaiso University with a bachelor's degree in communications and writing. Before coming to AFS, she covered high school sports and city news for the Rochelle News-Leader.

Tom Doré *Technical Director, tdore@afsinc.org*

Tom Doré is technical director at AFS. His career includes 24 years of foundry engineering, sales, and general management, having served most recently as vice president at Alu-Bra Foundry. His prior roles were in technical sales and human resource management within manufacturing and chemical process industries. Doré is a U.S. Army veteran and earned a Bachelor of Science from Northern Illinois University. Before coming on as technical director, Doré was an active member of the AFS Copper Alloy Division for many years. In his new role, he will serve as liaison for the Copper Alloy, Molding Methods and Materials and Engineering Divisions.



John Carano *Business Development Manager, jcarano@afsinc.org*

John Carano joined AFS in May. He has extensive experience with sales and marketing in the foundry industry. He spent five years as an account manager with GE, one year with Industrial Controls, six years with Flowserve, and six years with Trinity Industries Inc. As the new business development manager, Carano focuses on attracting new AFS Corporate Members and helping existing members receive the maximum benefit from their memberships and sponsorships. Based out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Carano spends a lot of time on the road, meeting with industry partners. Carano has a Bachelor of Science in marketing from Franklin University and a Bachelor of Science in education from Youngstown State University.

Kim Perna *Technical Executive Assistant, kperna@afsinc.org*

Kim Perna joined AFS in 2017 as the technical assistant. Perna adds tremendous value to the technical department and AFS operations through managing the AFS technical committee structure, as well as scheduling and facilitating webinars, seminars, and conferences. With the retirement of Congress coordinator Pam Lassila, Perna was promoted to technical executive assistant this year. In her expanded role, Perna will manage the Metalcasting Congress program papers. Before joining AFS, Perna worked in real estate.



AFS WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS



American Foam Cast Inc.



Behrends Bronze Inc.



C.R. Onsrud Inc.



Charter Dura-Bar



Clarksville Foundry



De Pere Foundry Inc.



DeZURIK



Exochem Corp.



Harrison Steel Castings Co.



Huppert Engineering LP



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AFS Events

July 23 | **AFS HR Division Roundtable**
Milwaukee, WI

Aug. 12-13 | **Chapter Officers Conference**
AFS/Schaumburg, IL

Sept. 18-19 | **CASTING Copper Alloys Workshop**
AFS/Schaumburg, IL

Sept. 22-24 | **2019 Foundry Leadership Summit**
Traverse City, MI

Oct. 6-7 | **2019 Safety 101 Seminar**
Louisville, KY

Oct. 8-10 | **31st Environmental, Health, & Safety Conference** | *Louisville, KY*

Institute Courses

July 25 | **Training Best Practices Workshop**
AFS/Schaumburg, IL

Aug. 6-8 | **Foundry Process Improvement**
AFS/Schaumburg, IL

Aug. 21-22 | **Gating & Riser Design 201**
AFS/Schaumburg, IL

Aug. 27 | **Iron 101** | *AFS/Schaumburg, IL*

Sept. 18-19 | **Design and Optimization for 3D Sand Printing** | *Leetonia, OH*

Sept. 18-19 | **CASTING Cost Estimating**
AFS/Schaumburg, IL

Advocate. Educate. Innovate.

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