

'Spark Success' at Metalcasting Congress

With cutting-edge presentations, expert speakers, and an unbeatable lineup of exhibitors, Metalcasting Congress 2023 is shaping up to be a must-attend event for anyone looking to stay ahead of the game.

Registration is underway for this major industry event, which comprises more than 210 exhibits from industry suppliers and North American metalcasters, technical and management sessions, classes, keynote speeches, awards presentations, and networking opportunities. This year's theme is, appropriately, "Spark Success."

"Metalcasting Congress is marked on the calendars of nearly everyone who works in the metalcasting supply chain – and for good reason," said AFS

METALCASTING CONGRESS 2023

When: April 25-27, 2023

Where: Huntington Convention Center, Cleveland, OH

Register: MetalcastingCongress.org



Close to many metalcasters and suppliers, Cleveland, Ohio, is ideally located for Metalcasting Congress 2023. This is the first time since 1974 that the event has come to Cleveland.

CEO Doug Kurkul. "It combines a show floor packed with exhibits, exciting new research and technical advancements, management insights from industry leaders, and social gatherings where business gets done. Metalcasting Congress is truly an all-inclusive event for

our industry."

This is the first time since 1974 that Cleveland has hosted Metalcasting Congress. The city is an easy drive or short flight from many foundries and industry

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AFS to honor industry veterans with Whiting, McFadden Gold Medals

Two distinguished industry veterans, Gregory Miskinis and Thomas Slavin, will be presented with AFS's highest honors at the Annual Banquet at Metalcasting Congress 2023.

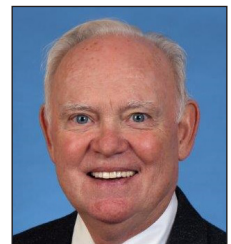
Miskinis, who retired from Waupaca Foundry (Waupaca, Wisconsin) as Director of Research and Process Develop-

ment, will receive the John H. Whiting Gold Medal for "significant contributions to the advancement of the cast iron industry as a dedicated and selfless leader, advocate, educator, innovator, motivator, and metallurgist."

Slavin will receive the William H. McFadden Gold Medal for "outstanding



Gregory Miskinis



Thomas Slavin

contributions to environmental, health and safety education and sharing of

Please see Gold Medals on Page 5



Ask a technical question, answer a question with
Casting Connection



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The AFS Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2027

At its recent Winter Board Meeting, the AFS Board of Directors adopted the Society's Strategic Plan for the next five years. AFS President Adam San Solo (Neenah Foundry) guided the process, drawing upon months of analysis of member survey data, staff presentations, and a discussion in summer 2022 facilitated by past AFS President Peter Reich (LaempeReich).

The Plan is an extension – with certain updates – of the 2018-2022 Plan adopted during the presidency of Patricio Gil, which has served AFS well.

Over the past five years, AFS has modernized many of its program offerings, significantly grown its corporate membership count, achieved numerous public policy victories, maintained all technical services during the pandemic, and acted to strengthen its long-term financial health by terminating the frozen defined-benefit pension plan, which bolstered the balance sheet and provided plan beneficiaries with greater control of their retirement security.

The 2023-2027 strategic pillars are:

- **Member Success and Sustainability**

AFS will provide services, information and networking opportunities that are vital to the success of individual members, as well as Corporate Member metalcasters, suppliers, and casting purchasers.

- **Industry Stewardship**

AFS will lead outreach activities to enhance the image of the metalcasting industry with target audiences.

- **Policy Advocacy**

AFS will proactively advocate for public policies that benefit U.S. metalcasters, encourage a strong U.S. industrial base, and support national defense.

Throughout the past five years and again going forward, the Strategic Plan will guide the organization's priorities and serve as the foundation for employees' goals and performance evaluations.

- **Promotion of Castings**

AFS will advocate for the increased use of castings through the development of new parts and materials, conversions, exports, and reshoring, and will offer resources helping casting purchasers to make wise purchasing decisions.

- **Talent Development**

AFS and the Institute will lead talent development initiatives and

provide innovative education programs that meet customer needs and increase the skill levels of metalcasting industry workers.

- **Technical Innovation**

AFS will exercise technical leadership in the areas of technology transfer, scholarly publication, cutting-edge research, and technical assistance to drive innovation in the metalcasting industry.

Throughout the past five years and again going forward, the Strategic Plan will guide the organization's priorities and serve as the foundation for employees' goals and performance evaluations.

AFS President Adam San Solo thanks all the Board members and staff members for their involvement in this endeavor. Special thanks to the "pillar captains," Mike Lenahan (Badger Mining), Peter Reich (LaempeReich), Brad Muller (Charlotte Pipe & Foundry), Jay Morrison (Carpenter Brothers), Liz Ulman (Dotson Iron Foundry), and Pete Satre (Allied Minerals).

We thank you and our more than 7,200 Corporate and Individual Members, and our nearly 1,000 volunteers, for your involvement in our Society. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time at dkurkul@afsinc.org with comments, questions and suggestions regarding the Strategic Plan.



Additive vs. casting vs. forging: Congress to debate 'best' process

It's the ultimate question in manufacturing: Which process is best when it comes to making metal components? AFS is bringing together experts from the casting, forging, and additive realms to try to settle this argument once and for all.

Coming to Metalcasting Congress 2023 in Cleveland on April 27, "The Great Debate: Additive Manufacturing vs. Castings vs. Forgings" will explore the advantages and disadvantages of these three manufacturing processes. Part informative presentation, part debate, part lighthearted roast, each process will be represented by two experts who will speak on behalf of their respective industries, highlighting their merits (and their opponents' demerits) to determine the best of the best.

Representing additive manufacturing will be Brandon Ribic (America Makes - National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institution) and Richard Huff (ASTM



International).

Casting will be represented by Randy Oehrlein (Carley Foundry Inc.) and Charles Monroe (University of Alabama).

Forging will be represented by Bud Kinney (retired, IMT Corporation) and Pat Burke (Whitcraft Group).

The moderator will be Vasko Popovski (Ransom & Randolph).

This event should prove entertaining and illuminating, while perhaps establishing the definitive argument for the metallic part assembly community! It follows

'THE GREAT DEBATE'

When: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 27

Where: Huntington Convention Center, Cleveland, OH

Admission: [MetalcastingCongress.org](https://www.metalcastingcongress.org)

2022's debate at CastExpo in Columbus, where aluminum and iron went head-to-head in a hugely popular contest. In response to last year's standing-room-only debate, this year's event has been moved to the main stage, where it will be presented as a keynote presentation open to all attendees.

Metalcasting Congress 2023 is April 25-27 at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, Ohio. "The Great Debate: Additive Manufacturing v. Castings v. Forgings" is at 10:30 a.m. ET on Thursday, April 27.

More Congress Keynotes

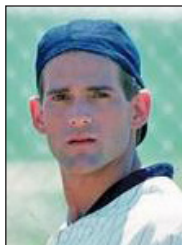
Admission to all keynotes is included with Exhibits-Only and full conference Education passes.

"Fathers, Baseball, and Field of Dreams"

Dwier Brown, Field of Dreams actor and author

10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 25

Ready for some inspiration? Dwier Brown appeared in one of the most popular movies of all time, Academy Awards nominee *Field of Dreams*, as the father of Kevin Costner's character. Although he has appeared in scores of films, television shows, and stage productions, including *The Thorn Birds*, *ER*, *Ally McBeal*, and *Murder: She Wrote*, Dwier is still best



Dwier Brown

known for his inspirational "Wanna Have a Catch?" scene as Ray Kinsella in that film. Poignant stories from viewers about how the movie changed their own lives, and their relationships with their own fathers, led Dwier to write the moving memoir, *Build It and They Will Come: Fathers, Fate and Field of Dreams*. He also co-owns the Baseball Hall of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa, not far from where the film was shot. Join us for this uplifting presentation.

Hoyt Lecture: "Innovate or Die"

John R. "Chip" Keough, Chairman of LightSpeed Concepts Inc. & President of Keotech Inc.

10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 26

When all inputs are included, energy is over half of the cost of manufactured goods. All metal components start as castings. Metalcasting is the lowest energy, most direct manufacturing line from metallic ores to metal products. The metalcasting industry is the largest

recycling body on the planet. However, the metalcasting industry is slow to develop and deploy new products and methods. With Industry 4.0 upon us, we must "Innovate or Die."

A pioneering metalcasting entrepreneur and dedicated mentor, Hoyt Lecturer John "Chip" Keough is chairman of LightSpeed Concepts Inc. and president of Keotech Inc. (Albion, Michigan), and former adjunct professor to University of Michigan's Materials Science and Engineering Department. He received the 2005 AFS Award of Scientific Merit and the 2014 Foundry Educational Foundation E. J. Walsh Award. In 2018, he received the AFS Pangborn Gold Medal, the society's highest honor.

Presented annually since 1938, the Hoyt Lecture is one of the industry's most prestigious addresses.



John Keough

Metalcasting Congress 2023 surpasses 210 exhibitors, more than 20 first-timers

Cast in North America, showcasing North American foundries, is sold out

North America's premier foundry event will feature many new faces when it comes to Cleveland on April 25-27. Over 210 exhibitors already have reserved their spots at Metalcasting Congress 2023, including more than 20 companies exhibiting for the first time. Exhibit sales are ongoing, so both numbers will rise.

"The industry's positive response to the networking and marketing opportunities at Metalcasting Congress 2023 has been very strong," said AFS Senior VP Mike Lakas. "We're seeing robust exhibit sales



and expanded our show floor to accommodate more exhibits. We're also excited to welcome so many first-time exhibitors. Our attendees will certainly enjoy discovering what our new and longtime exhibitors have to offer."

Suppliers, reserve your exhibit ASAP

Only a few exhibit spaces remain for Metalcasting Congress 2023, and once they're sold, the floorplan cannot be expanded any further. To reserve an exhibit before the show floor sells out, visit metalcastingcongress.org or email exhibits@metalcastingcongress.org. Sorry, *Cast in North America* is full.

Metalcasting Congress exhibitors range from equipment dealers and raw materials suppliers to robotics experts and additive manufacturing service providers who network with thousands of decisionmakers from across the entire metalcasting supply chain.

Student work to be highlighted at Metalcasting Congress

The annual awards presentation for the Steel Founders Society's "Cast in Steel" program will be held at 8:30 a.m. on April 25, the first day of Metalcasting Congress 2023 in Cleveland.

This popular program helps to get young people excited about metalcasting and raises funds for our partners at FEF, while presenting prizes for winners. AFS

encourages students to participate in Cast in Steel.

Another important educational event is the IJMC-FEF Student Research Competition awards program, which is on April 26 at 11:45 a.m. A total of 11 teams from seven research universities have entered: Georgia Southern University, Missouri University of Science & Technology, Ohio

State University, Texas State University, Virginia Tech, Western Michigan University, University of Northern Iowa, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The board of judges from the AFS Technical Council, Research Board and *International Journal of Metalcasting* Editor Tom Prucha will determine the finalists, who will present during the awards program. Winning research will be published in IJMC and recognized with cash awards.

As always, AFS welcomes all student chapter members and key professors to Metalcasting Congress at no charge.

Congress continued from Page 1

suppliers, making it an ideal location for the event.

Exhibits, presentations, and featured events at Metalcasting Congress incorporate every major alloy, process, and related foundry and manufacturing topic. The event attracts people at all stages of their careers, ranging from executives and managers to technicians, engineers, sales staff, researchers, and educators.

To take part in everything Metalcasting Congress has to offer, including every technical and management session, all Institute courses, keynotes, the Hoyt Memorial Lecture, and the exhibit floor, opt for the knowledge-sharing Education Pass. To view exhibits plus keynotes and the Hoyt Memorial Lecture only, the Exhibits Pass is right for you.

Registration and more information are available at www.metalcastingcongress.org.

For Designers & Buyers

Casting designers and buyers can network with metalcasters in the sold-out Cast in North America pavilion. But did you know Metalcasting Congress even has a custom slate of expert-led educational sessions? The Designers & Buyers Track is offered directly on the show floor and is included with the basic Exhibits-Only Pass. Learn more at metalcastingcongress.org.

AFS announces papers award recipients, Hoyt lecturer

2023 Taylor, Witt and Applied Research winners named, Mike Lenahan will deliver Hoyt address in 2024

AFS will honor the authors of some of the industry's most significant papers with a series of awards presented at Metalcasting Congress 2023.

Receiving the 2023 Howard F. Taylor Award are three representatives of Missouri University of Science & Technology: Suyash Pawaskar, Dr. Laura Bartlett, and Dr. Simon Lekakh. They are the authors of "Mutual B, Ti N Effects on Phase Transformations in Cast Iron: Thermodynamic Consideration and Experimental Verification."

The Taylor Award recognizes the authors of a paper having the greatest long-range technical significance in the field of cast metals technology. The award-winning paper documents research about the detrimental effects, permissible levels, and mitigation techniques for dealing with boron in the var-

ious grades of class iron – a developing concern for industry as the proliferation of boron present in typical charge scrap streams is increasing.

Ted Schorn (Enkei America) is the winner of the 2023 Ray Witt Award for his presentation at CastExpo 2022, "Executive Safety Responsibility," in which Schorn provided a thorough review of the executive's role, responsibility, and potential contribution to plant safety performance.

The Witt Award was established to honor work related to marketing cast metal components and management of metalcasting facilities. The intent is to recognize work that is likely to result in both immediate and lasting benefits for the cast metals industry.

The 2023 AFS Applied Research Award will be presented to the researchers who led "Turbulent Gating Effect on C89833," an AFS project sponsored by the AFS Copper Division. Andy Shea (AY McDonald) was the principal investigator, along with co-investigators Paul Clements (Sloan Valve Co.), Gerald Richard (Magma Foundry Technologies Inc.), Andrew Iannettoni (Ford Meter Box Company Inc.), and Jacob Johnson and Jeremy Fischer (both of Foseco).

This research focused on applying new non-turbulent gating systems and assessing the relative impact gating can have on the more problematic lead-free copper alloys which are replacing the lead-containing copper alloys more prominently used in the past.

The recipients of the Taylor and Witt awards, as well as the Applied Research Award, will be recognized during an awards ceremony at Metalcasting Congress 2023, April 25-27 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mike Lenahan (Badger Mining) also was among the honorees recently chosen for distinction by the AFS Honorary Lectures & Programs Committee. Lenahan, Senior Industrial Sales at Badger and currently the Immediate Past President of AFS, will present the 2024 Hoyt Memorial Lecture at Metalcasting Congress in Milwaukee.

Established in 1938, the Charles Edgar Hoyt Memorial Lecture is one of metalcasting's most important and influential annual addresses. Over the years, many of the industry's most celebrated leaders, thinkers, and visionaries have delivered the lecture, presenting their unique insights into metalcasting's past, present, and future.

Gold Medals continued from Page 1

knowledge within the metalcasting industry and the American Foundry Society to improve the health and safety of metalcasting workers." Slavin is President of Slavin OSH Group LLC, (Chicago, Illinois).

"AFS has been presenting Gold Medals to distinguished industry leaders since 1924," said AFS CEO Doug Kurkul. "Greg Miskinis and Tom Slavin have earned the respect of their peers through their tremendous accomplishments and by freely sharing of their vast knowledge, contributing to a culture of quality and safety that reverberates throughout the entire metalcasting industry. They exemplify the spirit of AFS Gold Medals."

Miskinis earned bachelor's and master's degrees in metallurgical engineering from the University of Wisconsin.

"[Miskinis and Slavin] exemplify the spirit of AFS Gold Medals."

He started his career at Madison Kipp and Brillion Iron Works before joining Waupaca Foundry in 1989. Miskinis was a contributing author to AFS's *Casting Defects Handbook* and *Principles of Metalcasting – Cleaning and Inspection* and a frequent presenter at industry events. A member of AFS since the early 1980s, he chaired the AFS Research Board, among other society activities.

Slavin's 40-year career has included extensive experience in the areas of safety, industrial hygiene, fire prevention, and safety management. Some of his specialties include silica, PPE, and regulatory and consensus standards. A member of AFS since 1982, Slavin is a past recipient of the Childress-Loebler Environmental Health and Safety Lifetime Achievement Award, the Keating Founders Freedom Award, and the Best Paper Award, all from AFS. He is a widely published author on health and safety topics.

Gold Medals will be presented to Miskinis and Slavin at Metalcasting Congress 2023, April 25-27 in Cleveland, Ohio. AFS members wishing to attend the awards ceremony may do so by registering for the Annual Banquet on Tuesday, April 25.

New tech director supports research, committees

Travis Frush has three decades of experience in the industry

When Travis Frush started his job as AFS Technical Director in January, he wasn't exactly the new man on campus. Frush, formerly of the University of Northern Iowa's Additive Manufacturing Center, joined the staff having had extensive experience as an AFS member and committee volunteer. He even chaired the Additive Manufacturing Division from 2019-2021 and served as an officer for the Hawkeye Chapter.

"In all my varied experiences in the industry, from process and quality engineering to manufacturing operations, it all started with a working understanding

of the process fundamentals and basics and building a network of trusted resources," Frush said. "My engagement and investment as a volunteer in AFS, as well as other technical societies, was an integral part of my growth in understanding and being able to execute effectively in whatever opportunity I was presented."

In his new role, Frush serves AFS by coordinating certain metalcasting research projects and working as a liaison to four AFS technical divisions – Cast Iron, Melting Methods, Molding Methods, and Additive Manufacturing. He brings with him three decades of experience in the industry, with applied process knowledge in ar-



Travis Frush

eas ranging from additive manufacturing, sand casting, and investment casting, to melting and cast iron machining.

Frush's other work experience includes serving as plant manager for HyPro and Benton Foundry, and working in quality and engineering roles at John Deere. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from UNI and is a Certified Quality Engineer and Six Sigma Greenbelt.

"Travis' vast professional and committee knowledge make him a great addition to our technical services team," said Brian Began, AFS VP of Metalcasting Technical Services. "He brings with him the expertise our members appreciate – hands-on experience with the technologies and processes they use every single day."

Frush was hired following a nationwide search. He will work and travel out of his home in Iowa and can be reached at tfrush@afsinc.org.

AFS Institute Upcoming Courses

The AFS Institute offers introductory and career-advancing courses both in-person and Live Online via Zoom. Get the tools and knowledge you need from the AFS Institute.

23

March 2023
Noon - 4 p.m. | Live Online

Problem Solving and Process Improvement

This course provides foundry personnel with disciplined problem solving techniques, and emphasizes tools to better understand process data and performance.

04-06

April 2023
Noon - 4 p.m. | Live Online

Nobake Molding & Coremaking 201*

This course is the second in the nobake series, providing participants with the next level of knowledge related to the nobake molding and coremaking processes used within a foundry.

12-13

April 2023
Schaumburg, IL

Gating & Riser Design 201*

This course is a continuation of Gating & Riser Design 101 with an emphasis on application of sands, chill, sleeves, and other thermal control properties, fluid flow principles and filtration, and your facilities' process parameter ranges.

07-08

June 2023
Schaumburg, IL

Improving the Effectiveness of Visual Inspection

This course provides you with the information needed to understand the factors of influence on the human task of visual inspection, permitting true quality engineering of this critical operation.

Check out all the AFS Institute's upcoming courses online at www.afsinc.org/courses.

Questions?
Contact **Jen Christian, Director of Training Solutions**, at jchristian@afsinc.org.

*No prerequisites required.



AFS METALCASTING CONGRESS

April 25-27, 2023
Cleveland, OH

Spark Success.

The North American metalcasting industry's premier gathering, **Metalcasting Congress**, is coming to **Cleveland in 2023**.

With cutting-edge technical research, insightful management presentations, world-class industry suppliers, and the continent's best metalcasters, Metalcasting Congress is where the full foundry supply chain will meet to grow their businesses, capabilities, and careers.

Learn more today at:

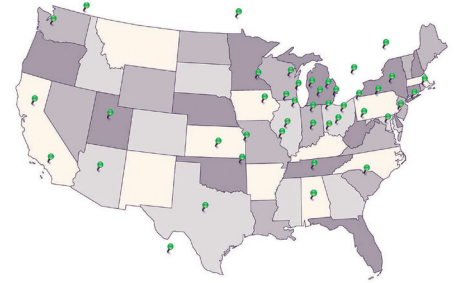
www.metalcastingcongress.org

April 25-27, 2023 | Cleveland, OH

AFS Chapter Directory and Updates

AFS provides the means for you to network with metalcasters in your area. Chapters are planning meetings across the country. To see the full calendar, find chapter contact details, or for more information, visit www.AFSinc.org/chapter-events or email Ben Yates at byates@afsinc.org.

Include your chapter's meetings in the AFS Chapter Calendar! Email your event invitation to membership@afsinc.org and we'll take it from there.



MIDWEST

CAC-Ohio

(Cleveland/Akron/Canton, Ohio region)

<http://cacohioafs.org>

The Cleveland-Akron-Canton (CAC) Chapter hosted a dinner meeting on Jan. 12 in Akron, Ohio, with topic "Automation and Robotics in the Industry." On Feb. 9, they met in Akron to hear from speaker Pete Satre (Allied Mineral).

Central Illinois

Central Indiana

<https://afscic.org>

Central Michigan

<https://www.facebook.com/afscentralmi>

Central Ohio

<http://www.afscentralohio.org>

Chicago

<https://www.chicagoafs.org>

The Chicago Chapter held a virtual meeting on Jan. 17. Brian Began (AFS) talked about research and metalcasting technical services. The chapter will meet in person at Chandler's Chophouse in Schaumburg, Illinois, on March 16. The speaker will be Jiten Shah (PDA LLC), who will discuss "Adoption of the 4th Industrial Revolution in North America's Metalcasting Industry."

Detroit/Windsor

<https://afsdetroit.square.site>

Hawkeye

(Iowa region)

<http://afshawkeye.wixsite.com/afshawkeye>

The Hawkeye Chapter hosted a dinner meeting on Jan. 17 in Waterloo, Iowa, where Matt Burjorian (Foseco) presented "Effects of Filter Print Design Changes." They met with the University of Northern Iowa Student Chapter on Feb. 21 at UNI. On March 12 in Waterloo, Iowa, the chapter will welcome Jeff Krause (HA International), who will discuss the Inflation Reduction Act and

the Green New Deal.

Mo-Kan

(Missouri/Kansas region)

<http://www.afs-mokan.org>

Northeastern Wisconsin

<http://www.afsnew.org>

The Northeastern Wisconsin Chapter held a dinner meeting in Neenah, Wisconsin, on Jan. 9. James Lively (TDJ Group) presented "Stabilization of Baghouse Dust." The chapter also cohosted the 85th Wisconsin Regional on Feb. 15-17. They will host a dinner and HR panel on March 6, also in Neenah.

Northern Indiana

<http://www.afsnin.org>

The Northern Indiana Chapter met Jan. 9 in Wabash, Indiana, with technical speaker Bill Plummer (Fort Wayne Foundry, retired). On Feb. 13 in Plymouth, Indiana, Jim Wenson (Sinto) delivered a technical presentation, "Transitioning your Maintenance Team from Reactive to Proactive." They will host a technical meeting and dinner on March 13 in Plymouth, Indiana. Sessions will focus on gating, molding, and metal flow.

Plains States

(Great Plains region)

The Plains States Chapter's Annual Christmas Bash was Dec. 3 in Tonkawa, OK. On Feb. 9, the chapter held a dinner meeting in Haysville, Kansas, featuring Marshall Miller (3D Systems), who presented "3D Printed Pattern Equipment: Half the Cost and Half the Time."

Saginaw Valley

<http://www.saginawvalleyafs.org>

The Saginaw Valley Chapter met on Feb. 2 to hear from speaker Kai Spande, who discussed the latest activities at GM's Corvette plant. The chapter will welcome Fred Bauer (Bicycle Village) to discuss electric bicycles during their dinner meeting on March 2 in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Southwestern Ohio

St. Louis

<http://afsstl.org>

Stateline

(Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin region)

The Stateline Chapter held a dinner meeting on Jan. 10 in Beloit, Wisconsin. The topic was "Practical Industry 4.0," presented by Drew Phillips and Alex Velez (MxD). The chapter also cohosted the 85th Wisconsin Regional on Feb. 15-17.

Toledo

Tri-State

(Oklahoma/Kansas/Arkansas region)

Twin Cities

(Minnesota region)

<http://afstwincities.org>

Western Michigan

<http://westmichiganafs.com>

On Jan. 10, the Western Michigan Chapter met in Norton Shores, Michigan. Speaker Kim Farrugia (AFS) discussed initiatives and opportunities for members during her presentation, "AFS in 2023: The Year Ahead." The chapter hosted its Teacher Appreciation Night on Feb. 15.

Wisconsin

<https://www.wisconsinafs.org>

The Wisconsin Chapter hosted the 85th Wisconsin Regional in Milwaukee on Feb. 15-17. In January, the chapter met in Delafield, Wisconsin, and heard a presentation from AFS Immediate Past President Mike Lenahan (Badger Mining). The chapter's next meeting will be March 20 in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Speaker Patrick Bussie (Fairbanks Morse Defense) will give the presentation, "The Building of the USS Beloit."

EAST

Central New York

Mid-Atlantic

<https://midatlantic.afschaptersites.com>

85TH WISCONSIN REGIONAL



AFS President Adam San Solo (Neenah Enterprises) delivers the opening remarks at the 85th Wisconsin Regional, Feb. 15-17 in Milwaukee. His presentation was "Portraits in Leadership." The Regional, cohosted by the Wisconsin, Northeastern Wisconsin, and Stateline chapters, was the 85th annual event and attracted suppliers and metalcasters from throughout the region. Coming up, the 90th Southeastern Regional is March 22-24 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Eastern Michigan University establishes 45th AFS Student Chapter

Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti, Michigan) is home to the newest AFS Student Chapter.

The AFS Board of Directors approved the FEF-affiliated school's application in late February.

The chapter's faculty advisor is Dr.

Erik Lokensgard. EMU is the 45th college or university to host a student chapter on campus.



AFS to host digital meet-up for Student Chapter leaders

Student leaders and professors from AFS Student Chapters are invited to a virtual Zoom meet-up at 5 p.m. CT on March 21. Topics will include Metalcasting Congress 2023, scholarship opportunities, chapter meeting ideas, and a brief presentation from the AFS Technical Services team. Links will be delivered via email. For questions, or to request a link, email Katelyn Stanek at kstanek@afsinc.org.

New England

<http://www.newenglandafs.com>

The New England Chapter's holiday celebration was Nov. 19 in Windsor, Vermont. In February, they attended a Providence Bruins hockey game in Providence, Rhode Island.

Northwestern Pennsylvania

<http://www.nwpaafs.org/index.html>

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter heard presentations from Penn State Behrend students Kolden Cook, Chase Schultz, and David Konkol during a meeting on Jan. 17 in Erie, Pennsylvania. The chapter's Feb. 21 meeting in Erie featured a presentation from Ronny Simon (Foseco), "Aluminum Rotary Degassing and Intelligent Process Control."

Pittsburgh

<https://www.facebook.com/AFSPITT>

The Pittsburgh Chapter had a planning/Board of Directors meeting in Irwin, Pennsylvania, on Jan. 23. They hosted a virtual meeting on Feb. 13, featuring a presentation from the Edison Welding Institute, "Foundry Automation - Robotic Grinding."

SOUTH

Birmingham District

(Alabama region)

<https://www.afsbirmingham.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/afsbham>

The Birmingham Chapter hosted a new event, Cooking With Cast Iron, on Dec. 5 at Publix Aprons Cooking School at Tattersall Park. On Feb. 16 in Talladega, Alabama, the chapter had a get-together that included target shooting, lunch, and a technical session with presenter Roy Stevenson (MAGMA Foundry Technologies).

Piedmont

(Southeast U.S. region)

<http://afspiedmont.org>

Tennessee

<http://www.afs-tn.org>

The Tennessee Chapter held a technical meeting on Jan. 9 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, featuring speaker Gordon Reed (UT CIS). On Feb. 6, the chapter met at Tennessee Tech University. On March 22-24, they'll host the 90th Southeastern Regional in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Texas

<http://www.afstexas.org>

The Texas Chapter held a Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 10 in Houston.

WEST

Northern California

<http://www.afsnorcal.org>

Southern California

<http://www.afssocal.org>

The Southern California Chapter's Education Night is March 8 at Cal Poly Pomona. It will highlight students interested in the foundry sector with scholarships, dinner, and a casting contest. The chapter's 2023 Vendors Night follows on March 9 in Downey, California.

Utah

Washington

MEXICO

North Mexico

CANADA

British Columbia

<http://afsbcc.ca>

Detroit/Windsor

<https://afsdetroit.square.site>

Eastern Canada

<http://www.afsestcanada.org>

Ontario

<http://afsontario.ca>

The Ontario Chapter hosted a virtual technical talk on Feb. 23. Speaker Yohan Tremblay (Solutions Fonderie) presented "Thermal Analysis for Quality Castings."

Kellyanne Conway to headline Government Affairs Fly-In

Issues on Capitol Hill have millions of dollars of implications for your company, including taxation, Buy America, trade enforcement, workforce policies, EPA rulemaking, and OSHA regulations. Each year, AFS members from across the entire supply chain gather to advocate for the metalcasting industry, grow the metalcasting economy, and get an inside look at policies that affect the industry.

Join with fellow metalcasters and suppliers in supporting and defending the foundry industry in Washington, D.C., at the 2023 AFS Government Affairs Fly-In on June 20-21. The host hotel will be the conveniently located and fully refurbished Hotel Washington, one block from

Pennsylvania Avenue NW. This is our chance to stand together as one!

The luncheon speaker will be Kellyanne Conway, best known as the campaign manager of the come-from-behind victory of Trump-Pence 2016, making her the first woman in U.S. history to successfully helm a presidential campaign. For nearly four years, Kellyanne served as Assistant to the President and Senior Counselor to the President at the White House, working on a range of issues af-



Kellyanne Conway

fecting domestic and global policy. She is the Founder and former President of The Polling Company, Inc./WomanTrend a privately-held, woman-owned corporation she operated from 1995-2021.

AFS will be presenting the Congressional Champion Award to several lawmakers (to be announced soon) at a gala reception at the Capitol Hill Club on the night of June 20.

On June 21, we will meet with lawmakers and their key staffers to increase their understanding of metalcasting and advocate for our agenda. To register, visit AFSinc.org/conferences. For questions, contact Stephanie Salmon (ssalmon@afsinc.org) or Doug Kurkul (dkurkul@afsinc.org).

AFS pushing back on EPA NAAQS revisions

The AFS Air Quality Committee is drafting comments to the EPA on behalf of metalcasters about a proposal to revise

the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter. The proposal could lead to lowering the primary (health-based) annual PM_{2.5} standard from its current level of 12.0 µg/m³ to within the range of 9.0 to 10.0 µg/m³. Comments are due March 28.

Individual foundries and personnel are encouraged to submit comments of their own to show greater industry concern

by visiting www.regulations.gov and entering "EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072" in the search box. Click the box that says "Only show documents open for comment" to go to the page where you can submit comments. Members also are welcome to contribute comments to the Air Quality Committee's submission by emailing them to AFS Technical Director Greg Kramer at gkramer@afsinc.org.

AFS presses DC on copper supply security

AFS is urging the U.S. Department of the Interior to formally recognize

copper as a critical mineral, citing its importance to national security and infrastructure.

In a letter delivered to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland in early February, AFS joined with more than 20 associations, unions, and businesses to insist copper be designated an official USGS Critical Mineral immediately, rather than waiting

three years for the next update. Designating it a critical mineral would protect the domestic copper supply, which is increasingly vulnerable to disruption.

"By recognizing copper as a critical mineral, the United States' federal government can more effectively ensure a secure and reliable supply of domestic copper resources in the years to come," the letter reads.

AFS to Congress: Push SEC to fix climate disclosure proposal

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) should make its proposed climate disclosures rule more

workable for manufacturers. This was the message AFS delivered to the House Financial

Services and Senate Banking Committees in a letter to Capitol Hill in late January.

With new congressional leadership



in place, AFS joined with a coalition of over 50 manufacturing groups urging lawmakers to rethink the SEC's proposed climate reporting regime, which would impose impractical regulations on publicly traded companies, including requiring companies to disclose emissions associated with their consumers and suppliers.

Late last year, AFS delivered a similar message to the previous congress. The SEC expects to issue its climate disclosure regulations by April.

EHS Division to host introductory seminar in March

Environmental compliance is essential to running a metalcasting facility, and many compliance requirements are tricky to fully understand and manage. The AFS EHS Division is putting together a series of seminars on compliance requirements, beginning with Introduction to Foundry Environmental Compliance.

This two-day seminar on March 21-22

at AFS HQ in Schaumburg, Illinois, lays the foundation with a thorough overview of all environmental requirements, including pollution control, permitting, compliance monitoring, and recordkeeping.

This seminar is designed for people who are new to the field, and it's a recommended prerequisite for AFS's more advanced environmental seminars.

INTRODUCTION TO FOUNDRY ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

When: March 21 – 22, 2023

Where: Schaumburg, IL

Registration: [AFSinc.org /conferences](https://AFSinc.org/conferences)

Stream GHG accounting webinars

A two-part series of webinars explaining greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting for the foundry industry are available for AFS members to stream at any time.

"Greenhouse Gas Accounting for Foundry - Part 1: Intro, Methodology & Reduction" and "Greenhouse Gas Accounting for Foundries - Part 2: Calculation Procedures" were broadcast live in late January and early February, but are now posted to AFS OnLive, a portal for watching AFS Members-Only Webinars and other media.

Presented by Albert Chung and Wesley Fleming, both of KERAMIDA Inc., the se-

ries begins with an introduction to GHG accounting terminology and methodology before covering more detailed topics, including GHG reduction and decarbonization strategies at metalcasting facilities, Scope 1, 2, and 3 GHG calculation procedures, and demonstration of available calculation tools.

To stream these or any AFS webinars, log in with your membership credentials at onlive.afsinc.org.

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Metalcasters cautiously optimistic about 2023

Despite concerns about a recession, 79% of respondents have a positive business outlook

America's metalcasters are cautiously optimistic about business conditions for 2023, according to the "Quarterly Metalcasters Outlook Survey" released by the American Foundry Society.

Although 91% of respondents expect the U.S. economy to enter a recession, only 5% expect the recession to have a major negative impact on casting sales. In the survey, 79% said they had a positive business outlook for the year ahead.

In another positive sign, metalcasters are continuing to make significant investments in their foundries. Fully 79% of responding foundries are planning capital investments of at least \$100,000 and four of every 10 foundries are investing more than \$1 million in 2023. The categories identified most often for 2023 investments include:

- Grinding Equipment 39%
- Robotics 35%
- Conveyors 35%
- Lab Equipment 31%
- Cranes & Hoists 29%
- Molding Equipment 27%
- Environmental Controls 25%
- Inspection & Testing Equipment 24%
- Melting Equipment 22%
- Air Compressors 22%
- Machine Tools 20%
- Blast Cleaning Equipment 20%
- Core-making Machines 18%

Metalcasters continue to identify a

shortage of workers and inflation as the two most nettlesome challenges. On the worker availability front, 39% have seen an improvement over the past six months, but 19% say the problem has gotten worse over the same period.

"Metalcasters directly and indirectly contribute \$100.5 billion per year to the U.S. economy," said Doug Kurkul, CEO of AFS. "The metalcasting industry accounts for over 490,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs and \$32.1 billion in wages. AFS and its members work throughout the year to promote sound public policies that keep this vital and vibrant industry viable."

AFS also announced that the annual Government Affairs Fly-In in Washington, D.C. will be held on June 20-21 and encouraged all metalcasters and industry suppliers to mark their calendars to participate in the event. Registration for the Fly-In is open at AFSinc.org/conferences.

Forecast projects 4.3% increase in casting sales

Despite challenges from inflation, labor shortages, and supply chain constraints, the metalcasting sector remains strong.

These are the conclusions of the 2023 Metalcasting Forecast & Trends, published by AFS in January. Other major

findings of the Forecast include a projected 4.3% increase in casting sales in 2023; overall foundry profitability growing as material costs and operational expenses recede; and an increase in plant productivity.

Metalcasting Forecast & Trends uses government and industry data to measure economic indicators for the foundry industry. AFS Corporate Members receive this twice-yearly report as a complimentary member benefit. Non-members may purchase it at AFSinc.org/store.



AFS INSTITUTE

Foundry problem solving class debuts in March

When a problem arises in the foundry production process, it's important to understand what caused it and how to fix it.

A new course from the AFS Institute, Problem Solving and Process Improve-

ment, will train metalcasters in the basics of root cause analysis so they can quickly and effectively address production problems. Taught by quality expert Ted Schorn (Enkei America), this course covers problem-solving approaches, pro-

cess thinking, collecting and analyzing data, developing solutions and countermeasures, and methods for sustaining improvement.

Problem Solving and Process Improvement: Live Online debuts on Zoom on March 23. Learn more or register at AFSinc.org/training.

Technical Council announces new leaders

Nelson, Rachwitz and Soderhjelm will begin terms in April

Congratulations to Eric Nelson (Dotson Iron Castings), Brian Rachwitz (EJ), and Carl Soderhjelm (University of California, Irvine), who have been selected as new leaders for the AFS Technical Council.

Nelson will serve as the council's Secretary-Elect, while Rachwitz and Soderhjelm will be Members At-Large. Additionally, Adam Kopper (Mercury Marine) will assume the role of Technical Council Chair, Tim Hoyt (Allied Minerals) will rotate in as Vice Chair, and Mark Osborne

(Wabtec) will become the new Secretary. Their terms begin in April.

Thanks also to Dave Weiss (retired, Eck Industries), Dr. Laura Bartlett (Missouri S&T), and Earl Miller (Hiler Industries). Weiss is the council's Chair and will rotate into a Past Chair's role, while Bartlett and Miller are Members At-Large whose terms will end in April.

The Technical Council oversees divisional activities while fulfilling the roles of the Honorary Lectures & Paper Committee, among other activities.

Pictured at right, top row, from left: Eric Nelson, Brian Rachwitz, and Carl Soderhjelm. Middle row: Dr. Laura Bartlett, Earl Miller, and David Weiss. Back row: Adam Kopper, Tim Hoyt, and Mark Osborne.



AFS Talent Division offers new opportunities

Do you have a strong personal interest in metalcasting industry talent development?

Would you like to benefit your own company by interacting with factory-floor managers and human resources specialists from other foundries?

If so, the AFS Talent Development Division, led by Chair Phil Eatherton (Waupaca Foundry) and Vice Chair Amanda Groves (Lodge MFG) welcomes you to join this newly expanded and rebranded division.

AFS quarterly surveys show that staffing and skills-related challenges are con-

sistently among the greatest priorities for North American foundries. By joining this Division, you will help AFS and its members identify best practices, solutions and programming.

To join others on the Division, please email Cathy Potts at cpotts@afsinc.org and indicate your greatest interests including: a) Planning AFS programming; b) employee training and development; c) employee attraction, compensation and retention; or d) other. We welcome your involvement!

RESEARCH

Special irons research progresses with AFS funding

New research into silicon in high-chromium irons is progressing after the AFS Research Board approved funding for the project in December.

Led by principal investigator Richard

Gundlach (Gundlach Consulting Services), researchers will study and define the various influences that silicon has on the microstructure and heat treatment response and behavior of high-Cr white cast irons.

"Effects of Si in High-Cr White Cast Irons" is sponsored by the Special Irons Committee of the Cast Iron Division. Brian Bendig (Penticton Foundry) is the steering committee chair.

Research Board approves funding for lost foam sustainability project

New research into sustainable biobased polymers for lost foam patterns was approved for funding by the AFS Research Board in February.

The research, led by Jacob Belke (Mercury Marine) and Tedd Sheets (Betz Industries), will help to identify a polymer(s) derived from biological

sources as an alternative to polystyrene, boosting the metalcasting industry's environmental stewardship goals.

"Biobased Polymer Foam Pattern for Lost Foam Casting" is sponsored by the Lost Foam Division. Marshall Miller (3D Systems) is the steering committee chair for this project.

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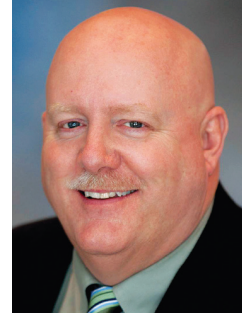


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AFS WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

Through Feb. 21, 2023



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AFS EVENTS

Introduction to Foundry Environmental Compliance | March 21–22 | Schaumburg, IL

Metalcasting Congress 2023 | April 25–27 | Cleveland, OH

2023 Advanced Air Seminar | May 9–10 | Schaumburg, IL

2023 Government Affairs Fly-In | June 20–21 | Washington, D.C.

Management Training and Development Summit | July 12–15 | Schaumburg, IL

2023 Virtual Chapter Officers Conference | Aug. 15 | Remote

INSTITUTE COURSES

Green Sand Molding 101: Live Online | March 6–7 | Zoom

Aluminum Melting 201: Live Online | March 14–16 | Zoom

Aluminum Metalcasting 101: Live Online | March 20–21 | Zoom

Problem Solving and Process Improvement: Live Online | March 23 | Zoom

Nobake Molding and Coremaking 201: Live Online | April 4–6 | Zoom

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Member Connections is a newsletter for all current **AFS members**. Send all inquiries to Katelyn Stanek at kstanek@afsinc.org or 847-824-0181 ext. 286.

INTRODUCTION TO FOUNDRY ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

March 21 – 22, 2023
AFS Headquarters
Schaumburg, IL

Learn the essentials of foundry environmental compliance with this seminar for people who are new to the environmental and/or metalcasting fields. This seminar will cover routine issues encountered in a metalcasting facility, with practical instruction on:

- Regulatory requirements
- Routine compliance activities
- Permitting
- Reporting
- Recordkeeping Testing
- Pollution control
- Environmental management systems

Register today at:

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