THE 2014 MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and safe Holiday Season.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with a diverse and interesting meeting schedule, and anticipate steady growth and participation through all of 2014. Looking back, we had an outstanding year in 2013 with the formation of the first Section Scholarship program, the rapid success of our web and social media presence, and the steady growth in meeting attendance with our outreach efforts and new venues. We know that momentum will continue through this year as we expand our programs and presentations.

The value of the skilled welder has not taken a back seat to the continued improvement of welding equipment and materials. Welders are in increasing demand around the region, the country, and even the globe, and their skill and expertise touches many areas of our lives. We strive to assist and increase the knowledge of these individuals who are so important to our economy and growth, starting from the student all the way up to the most seasoned industry professional.

We are also committed to supporting our businesses and companies that play such a vital role in our industry. From supplying the material on the job to providing employment and training to our workers of all skill levels, we recognize their importance and look forward to being of service to them as well throughout the upcoming year. It is this full-circle relationship that we believe will enhance our Section and all of its membership, and we are excited about the year ahead.

Thank you all for your continued support of our membership and our hard-working Section Board. We hope to see even more participation in 2014, and welcome the members and their guests to come out to our Section Nights and upcoming events. Here’s to a safe, healthy and prosperous new year!

William Mowbray
Chairman

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Joining the steadily growing list of new AWS Philadelphia Section 2014 Advertising Program Sponsors are:
Olympus NDT -- GOLD
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Remember to spread the word about the Philadelphia Section Scholarship that will be awarded this spring. Applications are available on our website www.awssection.org/philadelphia under the tab 'Links & Downloads'.

Follow us at @AWSPhiladelphia and keep current with information available only to our members on Twitter. Sign up today!

Interested in becoming a Philadelphia Section Student Chapter? Contact Student Affairs Chairman Ken Temme at ktem120@gmail.com for details on all the benefits of participating in this great AWS program.

Join us on Facebook each week for our brand new series “Training Tuesdays”. Videos and articles on some of the latest technology as well as longstanding welding processes will be posted – and maybe even a contest or two...!

AWS CONFERENCE COMING TO PHILADELPHIA

The American Welding Society has developed a unique and long-awaited conference on the topic of Stainless Steel Welding. This conference will bring together some of the industry’s most outstanding experts to discuss the welding of austenitic, duplex, and other grades of stainless steel. A wide range of popular topics will include dissimilar metal welds between stainless and steel, repair welding, cladding, cleaning, and the pitfalls involved in stress corrosion cracking.

The two-day conference is being held at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel at 1200 Market Street, Philadelphia on March 25 and 26th, and discounted early registration ends February 28th. Early registration rate for members is $575, and $705 for non-members. Starting March 1st, members rate is $675 and non-members will be $805. For registration and full conference information, please go the AWS website at http://www.aws.org/conferences/2014stainlessConf.html.
The American Welding Society offers a wide array of valuable benefits with membership, and many of those benefits are virtually unknown to most members. While the industry-related ones – like discounts on conferences, certification and education programs, and welding equipment and tools of the trade – are familiar to most members, other significant benefits are available that can make a real difference in your bottom line. Did you know that through the AWS you have access to low-cost dental insurance that can provide routine dental care such as exams, x-rays, and cleaning for little or no cost, up through 50-70% discounts on major procedures? That a prescription discount plan is available for free (just print out your card) and – if you are without or in between a prescription coverage – you may qualify for an assistance plan where your much-needed medicines are at little to no cost? The same with vision – deep discounts also are available to AWS members. If you are in-between jobs or have no health care, there are also options for short-term medical coverage as well as specialized coverage such as travel and international insurances. Have a furry friend you love? You guessed it – health care insurance is available for them too using the AWS discount provided!

Beyond discounts in the medical areas, a membership with the AWS also affords many other valuable discounts on items such as Lifelock identity theft protection, FedEx shipping rates, Legal Care Direct, TechGuardianUSA hardware and software support, and there are even high-performing CD and money market accounts through the AWS which rank among the best nationwide and outperform most programs anywhere. You can also save on other services such as T-Mobile and Hertz Car Rental – so if you took advantage of only some of the fantastic benefits that are yours just by being an AWS member (and that’s on top of all the industry-related ones), your membership will have paid for itself time and time again. See how the AWS is really here to help you by going to the main web page today at http://worldclassbenefits.com/aws/.

PHILADELPHIA SECTION UPDATED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2014 RELEASED

The Philadelphia Section has locked down meeting dates and locations for the first half of 2014. Details on several are still being firmed up, but will be made available for each month through the Section website, and on Facebook and Twitter.

- February 12th – Boilermakers Local 13, 2300 New Falls Road, Newportville PA - Common arc welding test procedures
- March 12th – Miller Electric (new facility address TBA), Vineland, NJ – Facility tour and equipment demonstrations
- April 9th – Team Industrial Services, 4 Killdeer Ct., Swedesboro, NJ -- Tour, demonstrations, open house & more
- May 1st – AWS/ASNT Joint Meeting and Scholarship Award Dinner – Philadelphia Seaport Museum

2014 SECTION NIGHTS KICK OFF AT SOUTH JERSEY WELDING SUPPLY

The first Section Night of 2014 marked the beginning of what promises to be an exciting growth year with a very large turnout for the presentations, fantastic pizza, and a great door prize. Hosted by South Jersey Welding Supply in Vineland, NJ, attendees saw presentations by Miller Electric representatives Charlie Minnick and Tim Stott on small welding machines suitable for home or garage use, and got to learn a great deal about those welding processes as well as have a lengthy Q&A session afterwards. Miller, in conjunction with the AWS Philadelphia Section, also donated the door prize basket, which included a Titanium 9400 welding helmet and a large assortment of accessory items that was won at the end of the night by Bart Przelomiec of Cumberland County Technical School’s Adult Education Welding Class.

Chairman Bill Mowbray welcomed the large number of members, students and guests and gave a certificate of Appreciation to Bob Thornton of South Jersey Welding Supply for hosting the evening. Afterwards, Charlie Minnick kicked off the program with a demonstration and talk on the Miller Electric Diversion 180, a high-performing machine suitable for the hobbyist or for home applications. Weighing in at a mere 50 pounds, it allows the user to connect to common 115 or 230V power receptacles without the use of any tools, and provides a consistent welding arc compared to older transformer-based TIG machines.

Tim Stott then took over to demonstrate how the new auto-set systems work on user-entered specifications on material thickness and wire diameter. Once the specs are entered, the machine sets itself automatically, while still allowing the user to fine tune the settings for any small adjustments necessary. A number of questions were asked by students about a wide range of possible uses or settings, especially steel/aluminum applications. During the entire evening, Jessica Mendoza from Camden County College served as an ASL interpreter for a welding student – showing the increasing support provided by our schools to students in this growing trade.

As evidenced by the ‘unlikely student winning this evening’s door prize, welding is becoming increasingly popular to adult students as well. Bart spent seventeen years working for Sony Music, only to find himself taking on a new career direction by going backwards – as in back to something he did and loved when he was “much younger”. A student at Cumberland County Technical School, he first enrolled to take their Level I program and now is in the Level II phase with several other adult students. “I just love it”, he stated, “and it’s great to have classes available for us as well as the young guys.” He, as well as all those ‘young guys’ are sure to have a great future ahead in our industry. Congratulations Bart, and many thanks to our host and presenters for this great night.
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