NEW STUDENT CHAPTERS OUTREACH EFFORT BEGUN

With snow still on the ground, it’s hard to think that summer is around the corner, but efforts are now underway to reach out to all the schools within the very large Philadelphia Section to launch the 2014 Student Membership campaign. Many schools in the Section participate in the AWS to some extent, but developing and providing support to Student Chapters is being taken on as a more focused effort by the Section as one of this year’s targeted efforts by the Section. Our goal is to add a large number of new Student Chapters for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year.

For the first time ever the Section – separate from the AWS national headquarters – is awarding a $1000 scholarship to a deserving student from the application process that ended in February. This new scholarship campaign has raised awareness for the need and demand for support to schools and instructors. The development of new Student Chapters throughout the four-state region covered by the AWSPS is now getting underway through an initial mailing, with school visits and Section meetings, student officers sponsorship, educator support and more offered to newly participating schools. High schools, technical schools, and industry trade schools all qualify for the support offered by the Philadelphia Section, and students will all have opportunities to qualify for future scholarships and seminars offered by the AWS both locally and nationally.

Additionally, the Philadelphia Section is engaged in outreach efforts for the first time to develop corporate relationships for ‘Scholarship Partners’ in the areas of Safety Education, Veterans Retraining & Employment Services, and Non-Traditional Occupations for Women. At this time the Section is in the development stage with two large national companies, and is actively seeking the involvement of many more as both Partners and ‘Scholarship Contributors’ to provide additional support to students as they move into welding careers.

If you would like to receive a school information packet, please contact either the Philadelphia Section Education Chairman Mike Chomin at mschomin@verizon.net or Student Affairs Chairman Ken Temme at ktem120@gmail.com to place your request. If you are a business looking to sponsor, co-sponsor, or contribute to the new education outreach efforts, please contact marineetemme@gmail.com to get details on the number of ways you can lend a hand to this worthy effort.

SECTION AWARDS PRESENTED AT FEBRUARY MEETING

At the Boilermakers Local 13, the AWS Philadelphia Section gave out awards to a couple Section members in recognition of their achievements in the welding industry. Steve Verbit (L) was presented CWI of the Year Award, and Bill Quinn (C) was awarded the QC Manager of the Year by Chairman Bill Mowbray. In addition, Ken Temme and Marinee Temme (R) each received the District Director’s Award for their contributions to the advancement of the Section.

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

If you’re not already a fan on Facebook, you’re missing out on our new and popular series, “Training Tuesdays”. This month’s videos feature training on pipeline welding – so come check it out every week and share it with your co-workers.

Stay tuned for our upcoming Scholarship Award announcement. We now have our first recipient of the brand new AWS Philadelphia Section Scholarship Program, and hope you will join us at the special award banquet on May 1.

A reminder of the upcoming AWS Stainless Steel Conference next week right here in Philadelphia. You can still register at www.aws.org under the education / conferences headers. Fee for this event is $675 for members and $805 for non-members.

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.
FEBRUARY SECTION NIGHT HONORS STUDENT CHAPTERS WITH AWARDS

Two very remarkable instructors, two groups of students very proud of their accomplishments. From the northernmost reaches of Philadelphia’s Section in Bucks County, to the southernmost part of the AWS Section in Salisbury, MD, these two groups got together despite snow and wintry roads to meet each other, exchange stories and social media contact info, and be interviewed for the launch of the Section’s spring campaign on welding education. The effort is being designed to engage schools all throughout the region in becoming AWS Student Chapters and promoting the value to students to become AWS student members. Little did the instructors or their students know prior to coming that later in the evening each would be surprised with an award as the District Educator and Section Educators of the Year.

The Parkside CTE from Salisbury first sees its welding program students during a classes ‘rotation’. That is when, according to instructor Biazzo (Bill) Giordano, he first gets to meet and evaluate students for their interest and aptitude in the welding trades. From there, he says, it’s a two way street to find out which students are best suited for welding and vice versa. In the Bucks County Technical High School, instructor Chuck Kochersperger has students for several years, often watching them move into long term careers in the industry. Both instructors are instrumental in developing not only their students’ welding talents, but their personal goals and direction as well. Besides welding competitions and industry-related field trips, their students are exposed to the benefits of community projects and charitable causes, rounding out their preparation for their future.

Hosted by the Boilermakers Local 13 in Newportville PA, guests were first welcomed by Section Chairman Bill Mowbray and then given a short talk by Gary Gresko, the Local’s Apprentice Instructor. The group then moved to the next building to hear about the common arc welder qualification program and see a live demonstration on the welder qualification test. Afterwards, the group returned to the main hall for pizza and beverages, and the evening’s door prize winner was selected. Eli Long, a student at BCTHS won the basket provided by Lincoln Electric and the AWSPS, containing a Lincoln welding helmet, gloves, and assortment of gear and materials. Lincoln’s representative, Daniel Hoch, was on hand to congratulate the winner, a welding/fabrication student in the 2016 graduating class.

The biggest moment of the evening came when Bill Mowbray announced that – much to their surprise – both instructors were chosen to receive the 2013-2014 awards by the Section and the District for their outstanding service as welding instructors for many years. Neither the instructors nor their students knew this was coming, but as Mowbray made the announcements and presentations to Kochersperger and Giordano, their students cheered loudly in support of their teachers and mentors. Chuck Kochersperger was awarded the District Educator of the Year, and Bill Giordano received the Section Educator of the Year. Both were well-deserved awards that both stated “meant the world” to them, especially as trades educators that often don’t get professional recognition in the same way as their academic peers. For Kochersperger, it was a particularly meaningful night as the Boilermakers Hall has a special significance to him, running his hands over a plaque commemorating his grandfather in 1966. Also two friends and former students of his who lost their lives on the job, Jeffrey Davis and John Latanzzi, were former members of Local 13. The building where the demonstrations were held was donated by Davis’ mother in his name.

For both instructors, surrounded by the students to whom they give their all, it was a very special night.

AWS PHILADELPHIA HITS NEW MARKS IN GROWTH

Social media presence for the AWS Philadelphia Section has reached another benchmark with a steady increase in numbers to now over the 200 mark. Even more notable, in addition to the local and national reach, the popular site boasts ‘fans’ from 37 countries around the world beside the US, and a 34% greater reach than normal to the largely male Facebook audience in all age brackets except teenagers. Individual posts on the site have often reached over a thousand viewers, with hundreds of post clicks per week. Besides the ever popular online presence, the AWSPS membership is also on a steady climb, now just three shy of the coveted 1000-mark. The goal of the Section is to grow steadily over the next few months to reach the #4 spot in the country in membership size. With the ongoing expansion of both the business and school base with all we now have to offer, we’re well on our way!

AWS STAINLESS CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA HOSTS WIDE ARRAY OF SPEAKERS

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25th at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel, the AWS will bring together some of the industry’s most outstanding experts to discuss the welding of austenitic, duplex, and other grades of stainless steel. Topics will include dissimilar metal welds between stainless and steel, repair welding, cladding, cleaning, and the pitfalls involved in stress corrosion cracking. Each conference day hosts eight different sessions between lunch and breaks, and provides attendees a wealth of firsthand information in this specialized field. AWS members receive a $130 discount to attend, and registration is still open at this time. You may register at http://www.aws.org/w/a/registrations/conference.html?type=CNF&id=CF40913.
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