SEPTEMBER MEETING HELD AT ALL STATE CAREER SCHOOL

On September 18, 2013 the AWS Philadelphia Section held its first meeting of the 2013-2014 program year at All State Career School in Lester, PA. The school had operated for the past 25 years as a CDL training facility. Then in 2005, School Director Robert Bubb first proposed a welding technologies training program to their board of directors. After successfully negotiating for one of the truck repair bays to convert into the welding facility, the approval was given to develop the 960 course-hour curriculum, renovations on the shop began, and in August of 2008 All State graduated their first welding class. Those students built much of the facility’s essential items such as welding booths, benches and tables, carts and more as part of their class projects, and took special pride in their role in this facility.

Miller and Lincoln provided their equipment and smoke extraction systems, and All State color-coded the booths to give equal credit to their cooperative efforts. Floors were leveled, contractors laid block where the large tractor-trailer overhead door once was, and windows were shielded to protect against the direct rays of the afternoon sun. AirGas stepped up to provide some of the essential supplies, and the program was underway.

Dave Poli, Director of Education, was proud that they had created a solid welding program at the Lester location, one of only a few that exist in the 57 schools All State owns around the country. He stated he was “really happy to be able to provide yet another area to help students develop a viable career and get them a good start in life.” The best part of his job? He couldn’t decide between the class start or graduation day.

Director Bubb started the meeting off welcoming the Board and attending AWS members, and invited students to tap into the “all the experience and expertise in this room”. And the students did just that. They listened attentively, nodding approvingly as District Director Harland Thompson spoke about the condition of bridges in the area and around the country, and the years of solid work the refurbishment of those bridges represents to welders. Section Chairman Bill Mowbray told the students that they could just “look around and see all the silver hair in the room” to understand that the track they were on could give them steady income and career advancements for years to come. He explained in his affiliation with the Boilermakers Union, it was the welders that were always working.

Student Affairs Chairman Ken Temme encouraged students to become AWS members, attend meetings, and “use the opportunity to do valuable networking that will give you a big leg up on your career.” Once the meeting was over, the students couldn’t wait to seek out the board members to ask questions and get their opinions on the quality of work samples they eagerly showed them.

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SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

The AWS Philadelphia Section now keeps its members up to the minute with our brand new Twitter account. Follow us at @AWSPhiladelphia and keep current with information available only to our members on Twitter. Sign up today!

Philadelphia Section is supporting Breast Cancer Awareness month with its first-ever contest on Facebook. Go to our page ‘American Welding Society Philadelphia Section’ and follow the simple rules to be entered to win the AWS gear below!.

Please note a typo correction to our Board Member information posted last month. 1st Vice-Chair is Sal Russomanno at applied.ent@verizon.net

Interested in becoming an AWS Scholarship sponsor or advertising to our huge regional member base and international virtual following? Our ad rates are the best anywhere ~ so for the best ad placement contact us today! marineetemme@gmail.com
SEPTEMBER MEETING (Continued)

Welding Coordinator Travis Reed took the Board Members into the facility to talk in depth about how it was constructed, the relationships with their vendors, and the accomplishments of his current and graduated students. The school, he stated, runs three separate classes in five hour shifts each day, and operates seven days per week. It is an aggressive schedule, but his instructors are extremely dedicated and proud of their immediate success. Nearly everyone in the initial class got “really good jobs”, and cited one student who was offered a great rate just to accommodate his initial transportation needs. The school provides placement assistance, including resume preparation and classes on interview techniques that are often conducted by their own board members.

Malcom Harper, a student six months into the current welding program, was initially a truck driver who decided to change his career track due to an injury. He was first exposed to welding in high school, he stated, and he really loved it back then. He opted for another career path however, and once he was injured he quickly decided to return to what he really loved – welding. He eagerly sought out one board member after another, clearly taking in everything being said about the future for a welding career and stated at the end of the night that he was “looking forward to becoming a part of the AWS and taking advantage of everything they have to offer.”

The school and the students were made aware of the brand new scholarship opportunity offered by the Philadelphia Section, and members and students walked away from the evening well fed, having exchanged emails and a promise to catch up again at the November meeting at Aker Ship at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. That meeting takes place on November 6th and is limited to the first thirty members to RSVP. Security checks and photo ID will be required, and RSVP must be received no later than October 25th to ktem120@gmail.com. Please go to our website for more information, or follow the posts on Facebook and Twitter to get registration details for the event.

SECTION BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN NYC MAKER FAIRE

Section Board Members Ken Temme and Mike Chomin joined AWS District Director Harland Thompson in New York City on September 21st and 22nd to help staff the AWS trailer at the 2013 Maker Faire. The launch of the Maker Faire in 2006 demonstrated the popularity of all kinds of ‘making’, and generated loads of interest among attendees by allowing participation in hands-on activities at the event, and encourages the learning of new skills through exhibits such as the traveling AWS trailer. Maker Faire is primarily designed to be forward-looking, showcasing makers who are exploring new forms and new technologies, and features innovation and experimentation across the spectrum of science, engineering, art, performance and craft.

The American Welding Society sponsors the interactive welding trailer at events all across the country to promote the welding trades. Inside, visitors play a virtual-reality welding game created by Lincoln Electric, AWS’s main partner for the exhibit. Players don a welding helmet with an internal monitor, where they see a welding environment such as a factory, racecar pit lane, or military base. The controller is shaped like a welding torch, and fellow visitors can see the player’s welding performance on screens at each game station. And like any good video game, players compete for high scores based on the quality of welds.

A record 100,00+ people attended the flagship Maker Faire in New York City in 2012.

AWS PHILADELPHIA WEBSITE UNDERGOING UPGRADE

The great response to our virtual expansion campaign is now extending to the official Philadelphia Section website. Members will now be able to see current articles about Section activities, photos of events and meetings, connect with local and national happenings, and link directly to companies that support the AWS in our area.

Our Facebook and Twitter are open to anyone interested in the Philadelphia Section, and we now have followers all across the U.S. and in nineteen countries around the world! But the website is for members only, and is a great resource to members for both Section and National AWS matters.

Log on to the Section at http://www.awssection.org/philadelphia/ or the AWS National site at http://www.awssection.org/.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

The first scholarship ever offered to members of the Philadelphia Section is receiving a great response. The $1000 award will be given to a student furthering his or her education in the welding trades at an accredited school. The application period will continue through February 28, 2014, and the winner will be announced at the May Section meeting.

Applications are available from Student Affairs Chairman Ken Temme at ktem120@gmail.com.