



RWMA FULL MEMBER MEETING  
OCTOBER 20, 2007  
OMNI LA MANSION DEL RIO HOTEL  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**Members participating:** M. Simmons (Chair), R. Hirsch (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair), W. Burnette (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair), P. Adams, D. Beneteau, G. Chambers, J. Dally, W. DeGroot, P. Dodhia, T. Fick, D. Grisez, P. Harris, G. Herrington, E. Langhenry, Jr., M. Lara, R. Leibovitz, W. Love, D. Maatz, R. Matteson, R. Pratt, H. Radcliff, Jr., R. Rhodes, R. Scodeller, N. Scotchmer, T. Snow, Jr., D. Sorenson, R. Spoth, D. Uszynski, R. Vreeland

**Guest:** J. Mendoza (AWS Vice President & District Director)

**AWS Staff:** R. Shook, J. Weber (Secretary), S. Hopkins (RWMA Program Manager),

## Minutes

### I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair M. Simmons called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and welcomed all attendees and any new members who were present. He also affirmed that the meeting would be conducted to comply with the Committee's Antitrust Policy.

### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair M. Simmons requested everyone review the May 18, 2007, Full Member Meeting minutes from York, Pennsylvania. J. Dally moved that they be approved. Seconded by D. Sorenson. Unanimously approved.

### III. AWS HEADQUARTERS REPORT

R. Shook expressed his pleasure that RWMA is part of AWS. AWS membership exceeds 53,300, with an 84% retention rate. As a result of a survey, it was determined that welders would be interested in being AWS members; therefore AWS is going to work on obtaining more welders as members and creating a special membership benefit package for them. A member satisfaction survey has also been conducted in order to continually make improvements for our members.

International activity has grown in the area of Certification. There are over 20,000 CWI's, with 5,000 of them being international. In 2006, international business increased 128 percent. Certification in India and China has grown significantly.

In April 2007, the Indian Institute of Welding published their inaugural issue of the *Indian Welding Journal* in collaboration with the American Welding Society. This publication is published in technical association with the American Welding Society. India is AWS's third largest company in terms of membership.

A Spanish translation of the *Welding Journal* will be launched in January 2008 in coordination with the Weldmex Show. Approximately 10,000 copies will be printed. Currently there are only 250 members in Mexico. AWS feels this can be used as a platform to expand in Latin America.

AWS joined forces with FABTECH in 2005, after 53 years of holding stand-alone shows. The peak year for the AWS stand-alone show was in 1999 with 180,000 square feet of exhibit space. AWS's last stand-alone show in Dallas sold 83,000 square feet of exhibit space, therefore showing a change needed to be made. The first joint show was in Chicago 2005, with AWS selling 93,000 square feet of exhibit space. The 2006

FABTECH International and AWS Welding Show in Atlanta, Georgia, AWS sold 127,000 square feet; and in Chicago for 2007, AWS sold over 160,000 square feet of exhibit space. The 2008 Show will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 6-8 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

AWS signed a partnership arrangement for the show in Chicago, Illinois, with NAM, National Association of Manufacturers. They have a "Dream It, Do It" campaign which was created in response to assist with the shortage of skilled workers. There is an anticipated attendance of about 25,000 at the Show in Chicago.

There are about 500,000 welders in the United States with the average age in the mid 50's. By 2010, it's anticipated that there will be a shortage of 200,000 welders. AWS felt that they needed to do something about this; therefore, they hired an Executive Director for the AWS Foundation, Sam Gentry. AWS set a conservative goal of raising 5 million dollars, and an aggressive goal of 10 million dollars for workforce development. To date, the Foundation has raised 2.4 million dollars. Last year, Hobart/Miller pledged 1 million dollars to the Foundation for this purpose.

## VI. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

L. Moss reported that the consensus of the Governance Committee was that in the past RWMA has taken on too many projects at once. Priorities were agreed upon during the July 2007 Governance Committee Meeting. The top three priorities were, (1) Add value to new members at Annual & Spring meetings through targeted programs. (2) Review the Emmet A. Craig Welding School. (3) Explore meeting synergies with other organizations, such as WEMCO.

L. Moss gave the explanation of each:

For Priority #1 - Add value to new members at Annual & Spring Meetings through targeted programs it was suggested to:

1. Replace one of the two meetings with function related meeting.
2. Shorten working meeting days.
3. Combine with WEMCO and other resource organizations for improved content.

For Priority #2 - Review the Emmet A. Craig Welding School it was suggested to:

1. Find a consultant to assess the program.
2. Review content.
3. Review target market.
4. Review overall cost/content to the student.

For Priority #3 - Explore meeting synergies with other organizations such as WEMCO it was suggested that we review AWS suggestion for organization or synergies.

The Governance Committee is requesting that the Education Committee begin reviewing the target market for the Welding School and make suggestions.

The Governance Committee has requested AWS staff explore the synergy between WEMCO and RWMA and all other opportunities with AWS.

Chair M. Simmons reported that the Governance Committee voted unanimously on L. Moss as the 2009 Elihu Thomson Awardee. B. White, Sr. is the 2008 Awardee. He also requested that the members begin thinking about nominations for 2010. He noted that an ADHOC Committee was chosen to review the nomination form. This will be completed before the 2010 nominations are made.

## V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair M. Simmons reported that RWMA's Membership & Duty Statement states that the Officers are elected to a one year term, with the option of extending it to two years. The Governance Committee made the motion to renew the current slate of candidates for the second year. No additional nominees were made. J. Dally approved the motion. Seconded by P. Adams. Unanimously approved.

## VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

S. Hopkins reported that next meeting will be held April 30 through May 2, 2008, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. That meeting will consist of a tour to the Corvette Plant on the final morning at 10:00 a.m. A hotel has not yet been determined. Members will be notified as soon as the details have been finalized.

## VII. OTHER BUSINESS

**RWMA Welding Scholarship Raffle.** J. Dally reported that a new raffle will commence at the upcoming FABTECH International and AWS Welding Show in Chicago at the RWMA booth. He suggested that a Corvette jacket be the raffle prize. **UPDATE:** A raffle was held at the Show for a \$500 gift card to either Home Depot or Lowe's. E. Langhenry, Jr. purchased the winning ticket. As of 12/31/07, \$6,144 had been raised for the second scholarship fund.

**RWMA Membership Directory Advertisement.** E. Langhenry, Jr. reported that more companies are advertising in the 2008 membership directory than the 2007. So far over \$15,000 in ad space has been sold. There is still more time to request an ad space in the Directory. Contact S. Hopkins if you are interested.

## VIII. BUSINESS CONDITION EXCHANGE

Each RWMA member company in attendance discussed the business conditions. Most felt that the year had been positive.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted



Susan Hopkins  
RWMA Recording Secretary