

This column introduces you to the members of the AWS Certification Committee. The Committee's responsibility is to make recommendations regarding the organization and coordination of programs for the certification and registration of welding personnel. It conducts market surveys for future programs and generates requests to the qualifications committees for any programs deemed viable and provides oversight to the AWS Certification Department to ensure adequate performance of the verification of experience, educational, and physical requirements. Its members also oversee development and maintenance of the test banks, ensure satisfactory administration of the examinations, and, when necessary, adjudicate complaints of unauthorized practice and violations of applicable rules against welding personnel certified by AWS.

Reed Nielsen

Participating on the Certification Committee gives Chair Reed Nielsen the opportunity to give something back to an industry that's provided him with a good career, he said. Nielsen, an AWS Certified Welding Inspector, figures others can benefit from his experience just as he's learned from the people he's served with.

Nielsen got his start in welding in his father's shop during his teenage years. After completing his education, he worked for several companies then got the opportunity to join Utah State University. He served the university for 30 years as a professor, including 20 years as division head of Welding Engineering Technology. After retiring in December 2000, he joined Spectrum Manufacturing Inc. a month later as general manager.

"The company has a large machine shop, fab shop, fiberglass shop, and assembly shop," Nielsen said. "We specialize in turning out full turnkey products. These include roller coaster vehicles, mobile and stationary rock climbing walls, and go-carts."

For Spectrum, Nielsen functions as the company's welding engineer and CWI as well as overseeing all production. "The quality is a key factor, which makes a quality assurance program extremely important. I spend a great deal of time dealing with QA issues and with design issues."

In addition, for the past 28 years, Nielsen has operated a one-man company that designs and welds a variety of cryogenic space instruments.

"There are several satellites that are circling the earth that I did the welding on the instruments," Nielsen noted with pride. "Most of it is stainless or aluminum with thicknesses of 0.005 to 1.5 inches and tubing from 0.042 to 2.00 inches in diameter. Very challenging."

Nielsen has served the Certification Committee in one capacity or another for about 20 years. He has been committee chair for two years. He believes the committee's work is important because it raises the standards of the industry.

"The committee's primary func-

tion/mission is to develop certification programs that help the industry raise its standards," he explained. "The committee is working on about ten new programs that include endorsements to the CWI program. We are going to make it possible for the CWIs to get endorsements that will allow them to do more and be more valuable to the industry."

Stan Raymond

Second Vice Chair Stan Raymond jokes that he stays on the committee because "my wife's tired of hearing about welding." On a more serious note, he explained, "The Certified Welding Inspector program and the QC-7 and QC-4 documents are directly related to our industry." Raymond is a welding specialist with the International Training Institute, the instructional arm of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association. AWS QC4 is the *Standard for Accreditation of Test Facilities for AWS Certified Welder Program* and QC7 is the *Standard for AWS Certified Welders*.

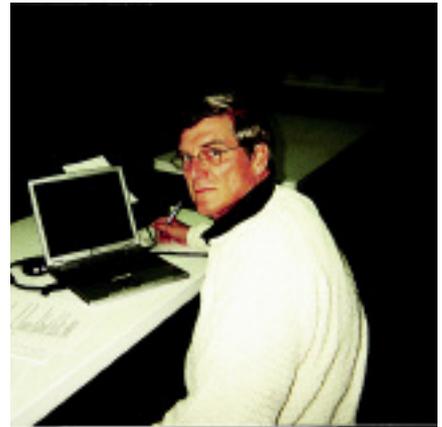
In addition, Raymond said, his committee work helps "keep me on the leading edge of industry. Plus, it's fun. I enjoy the camaraderie." After the committee's meetings end, "We're still talking welding till 9:00, 10:00 at night. Out in industry, it's hard to talk with people with that amount of knowledge."

Raymond has been a sheet metal worker for more than 32 years. He welded on three nuclear power plants and a wide variety of other sheet metal related jobs before entering the training field 20 years ago. Over the years, he also became interested in the area of weld inspection. He became a CWI 18 years ago and has also earned certifications in penetrant testing, radiographic testing, magnetic particle testing, and ultrasonic testing.

Raymond's territory for ITI includes every state east of the Mississippi River except Wisconsin and Illinois. He works with instructors at 69 schools, about half of which are AWS Accredited Test Facilities. Besides conducting training himself, he introduces the instructors to new materials and lesson plans, as well

as new training methods. Approximately half his time is also spent working with contractors regarding training, troubleshooting problems, and determining if they have any special requirements for the sheet metal workers who will be working on their jobs.

In addition to his participation on the



Stan Raymond

main Certification Committee, Raymond is a member of the subcommittee for QC1, *Standard for AWS Certification of Welding Inspectors*. Not only is it rewarding to develop a document that will help the industry, Raymond said, "but being involved makes me a better instructor when I teach a CWI class."

These days, Raymond is especially interested in developing an endorsement to the CWI program that will deal with welder performance qualification testing.

"There's never been a book published on it, no directions on how to do it. Never a checklist to go by," he said. Raymond's hope is to develop a document that will standardize how qualification tests are given. ♦

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