

RWMA Annual Meeting Hits the Right Notes in Nashville

RWMA held its Annual Meeting in the home of country music – Nashville, Tennessee. The spectacular Opryland Hotel, featuring nine acres of majestic atrium gardens, indoor winding pathways and beautiful scenery, was a wonderful location for the meeting. The 35 RWMA delegates participated in numerous productive committee meetings and discussed plans to move association initiatives ahead. Delegates also gave high marks to speaker Antjie Engler from Trumpf, who gave the educational, in-depth report on laser welding.

As always, networking at the meeting was a major benefit for delegates and guests. Attendees also took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of America’s Music City. A highlight of the meeting was an evening at the Grand Ole Opry, where members tapped their toes and clapped their hands during the three hour concert and live radio show.



For a complete report from RWMA Committee meetings, see page 4.
For more photos from the RWMA Annual Meeting, see pages 5 and 6.



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Message from the President

On behalf of the Resistance Welder Manufacturers' Association Board of Directors, I am writing to inform you that the RWMA has signed a non-binding Letter of Intent to merge with the American Welding Society. The RWMA Board has been deliberating the future of the RWMA for over two years. We have examined various options ranging from merger to growth. The status quo was not an option for the RWMA. With the weak economy and the long term transformation of our industry impacting our members, an action plan needed to be put in place. We took the needed time to view and discuss all options prior to this decision.

The Board and Strategic Planning Committee solicited input from numerous members during this time that included a cross section of member divisions and past leaders. I chaired a Merger Task Force, which directed the RWMA Officers to meet face to face with the AWS to explore what RWMA would look like under the AWS umbrella. The RWMA Board voted at its September 28th meeting to approve in principle a merger with AWS.

Both organizations are working toward a June 1, 2005 deadline to finalize details. The proposed merger will strengthen our organization and allow our members to continue to promote the resistance welding process for years to come, but also to open new doors of opportunity and relationships.

There will be time for all RWMA Members to share his or her thoughts, concerns and ideas on this proposed merger and we welcome those. Change can be difficult and there will be several changes for our Regular and Associate Members, however, I commend those involved in this merger for keeping those changes as minimal as possible.

On page 3 of this newsletter you will find an outline of the details of what will take place and how RWMA will be transformed over the next seven months.

Please feel free to contact me at (217) 446-9500 or any member of the Board of Directors to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Larry Moss

President

2005 Spring Weld School

Nashville, Tennessee will be the location of the 2005 Spring Weld School, March 15-16, 2005. Highlights of this educational event will include the RWMA Member Table Top Exhibit Program. Last year with everyone's help RWMA had 47 students participate in this vital industry educational program. We will need your help in recruiting students. Applications for the 2005 Spring Weld School will be mailed to RWMA members in December. For hotel reservations, contact Sheraton Music City, 777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214, Phone: 615-885-2200.



RWMA to Merge with AWS

The RWMA Board of Directors approved a Letter of Intent to merge with the American Welding Society by June 1, 2005. The AWS Board approved the Letter of Intent at its meeting in October. A letter from RWMA President Larry Moss was sent to all members detailing the merger. Here are the highlights:

RWMA to become an AWS Standing Committee – RWMA will become a standing committee within AWS and the Committee will report directly to the AWS Board of Directors.

Branding – The equity of the RWMA name and trademarked logo will be maintained.

Committees – The following committees will exist within the RWMA standing committee: Executive, Education, Marketing, Membership, and Technical. The AWS staff and volunteers will support these committees, and others created through the approved actions of the standing committee. RWMA will have access to AWS's electronic meeting infrastructure.

Technical Activities – While subject to consideration and approval of the AWS Technical Activities Committee, the desire is that a new equipment standards committee will be created.

Membership – *Regular Membership* – RWMA membership will be open to corporate members only. Three new membership categories will be added to the existing membership categories (Machinery, Electrodes and Components): a. *Sales and Marketing*, b. *Consultants* and c. *Suppliers*. *Associate Membership* - AWS is a society which has individual membership. Associate Members can join AWS for \$75. Since all RWMA meetings will be open to all AWS Members, Associate Members will still receive the benefit of RWMA programs.

Dues – Regular RWMA Members must have a minimum of a \$375 AWS Supporting membership plus \$400 RWMA totaling \$775. The types of RWMA members and additional rights and benefits of membership will be determined by RWMA. There will be no RWMA Membership dues for 2005. Members joining the new RWMA will pay joint RWMA-AWS dues after June 1, 2005.

RWMA Assets and Finances – RWMA assets, including publication inventory and financial reserves, will be transferred to AWS subject to the requirements of the IRS in transferring such assets between 501(c) 6 and 501(c) 3 organizations and the current designation of the assets. The monies transferred will be designated for the use of the new standing committee. The AWS will not charge RWMA an annual management fee. RWMA will participate in AWS's 2005 Fiscal Year budget process starting in fall 2004.

Directory – RWMA will produce its own annual Membership Directory for 2005. RWMA Members will receive one membership category listing in the RWMA Directory. RWMA Members can be listed, under additional membership category headings, in the RWMA Directory for \$400 each.

Scholarship – RWMA plans to work with the membership to establish two perpetual \$50,000 scholarships under the umbrella of the AWS Foundation. Each fund will grant one \$2,500 scholarship a year. RWMA will continue to determine the selection criteria for its perpetual scholarships; however the function of the Scholarship Subcommittee will be transferred to the AWS Foundation.

Literature – AWS will advertise, promote and fulfill orders for RWMA's Manuals, videos and other publications.

Weld School – RWMA will hold its Spring Weld School in Nashville, Tennessee on March 15-16, 2005. RWMA will continue to hold weld schools with the support of AWS.

Meetings – RWMA will hold its Spring Meeting in Chicago, Illinois as scheduled in April 2005. RWMA will continue to hold separate Spring and Annual Meetings as defined by the RWMA Executive Committee.

Elihu Thomson Award – RWMA will designate funds to continue to perpetuate the Elihu Thomson Award.

Report from RWMA Committee Meetings – October, 2004:

Marketing Committee

Mark Gramelspacher was approved as the Marketing Committee Vice Chair.

The committee will continue to seek out opportunities for free promotion in trade publications for literature reviews. Space will be provided in AWS literature publications.

A new FAQ section will be added to the website. Space will be provided in the AWS Literature publications.

The RWMA Manual is available on both *barnesandnoble.com* and *amazon.com*. The Manual is promoted via a full page ad in the Welding Journal.

The committee will use questions from the FAQ section

Technical Committee

Bulletin 1 has been approved by the task group and sent to document approval.

A document approval meeting has been scheduled for Bulletin 16.

The Bulletin 14 section on water chillers will be submitted to the Document Approval Subcommittee.

Publication plans are underway for the Quick Reference Manual.

The Document Style Manual was distributed to committee members for comments.

Work on Bulletin 5 continues, though there was no meeting on this bulletin.

A preliminary outline was developed for Bulletin 2.

tion to create resistance welding articles for trade publications. Article ideas include: What's New in Resistance Welding and Comparison Between Resistance Welding and Laser Welding.

RWMA will pursue a new booth which can be used as a booth or table top display. RWMA will have a booth at the AWS Show in Dallas.

Starting in 2005, the RWMA Newsletter will be named the RWMA Hot Spot. Date for publication is April 1, 2005.

A page will be added to the 2005 Membership Directory listing all member companies who offer consulting and training services. There will also be pages to promote the Manual and two Weld Schools.

The Update Alloy Classification System work group has been re-activated. Their task is to review what could be done to update and add new materials and specs involving existing bulletins.

Dave Beneteau submitted to AWS A2 Resistance welding terms and definitions.

Welcome New Members

On behalf of the Resistance Welder Manufacturers' Association please welcome the following new member:

Marken Manufacturing (Machinery)



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The opinions expressed in any articles by outside consultants are their own views and not necessarily those of the RWMA.

Annual Meeting Highlights

2005 Calendar of Events

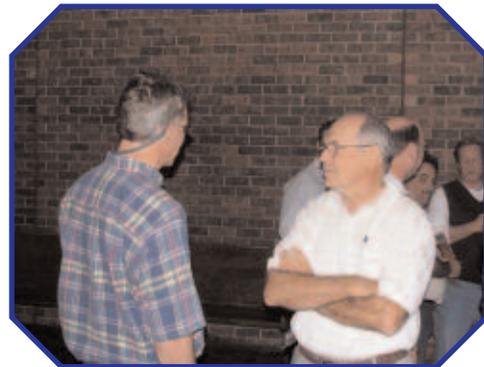
April 26-28
AWS Show –
Dallas Texas
Dallas Convention
Center

March 15-16
RWMA Spring
Welding School
Sheraton Music
City
Nashville,
Tennessee

Spring
RWMA Spring
Meeting
Dates and
Location TBD

Fall
RWMA Annual
Meeting
Dates and
Location TBD

November 13-16,
FABTECH
International
McCormick Place
Chicago, Illinois



Check Us Out On-Line!

Visit www.rwma.org for up-to-date information on all association programs and services. Remember, you can now order RWMA Literature on-line at the website. This is a fast, efficient and safe way to access the RWMA's valuable resources. Visit www.rwma.org today!

Annual Meeting Highlights

