



JOSEPH A. RUTKOWSKI JR., Executive Vice President—Business Development, Nucor Corp., Charlotte, N.C. Rutkowski joined Nucor Corp. in January 1989 as Manager—Cold Finish in Norfolk, Neb. He then became Manager—Melting and Casting at Nucor Steel in Plymouth, Utah, before becoming Vice President and General Manager of Nucor Steel in Darlington, S.C., in July 1992. In June 1998, he moved to Hertford County, N.C., as Vice President, General Manager to oversee construction of the new plate mill. Finally, in January 1999, he moved to the corporate office in Charlotte, N.C., as Executive Vice President. His current responsibilities include acquisitions, new business, Nucor Steel—Hertford County and Nucor-Yamato Steel. Mr. Rutkowski graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1976 with a B.S. degree in materials science engineering. Prior to joining Nucor Corp., Mr. Rutkowski held metallurgical and management positions with Korf Lurgi Steeltec in Charlotte, N.C.; North American Refractories; Georgetown Steel; and Bethlehem Steel.

JOSEPH A. RUTKOWSKI • *ASSOCIATION OF IRON AND STEEL ENGINEERS*

2003 AISE President's Message

First, let me say, "Thank You!" Thank you for allowing me to lead this organization in the coming year. Our job at AISE is to be a member-friendly organization dedicated to being the chief conduit through which the industry disseminates technical information, know-how and technological improvements.

We live and work in one of the most technologically open industries in the world, and AISE represents the most cost-effective means to acquire and share technical information. For an overview of our programs, check us out online at www.AISE.org, and be sure to visit SteelNews.com and SteelLibrary.com.

Our theme for 2003 might be coined as the Cha-Cha-Cha (and there is a pun intended). It's short for Challenges, Change and Chance.

The Challenges of our industry are so evident that they hardly need repeating: bankruptcies, legacy costs, worldwide excess production capacity, lack of access to capital, etc. There may be some who believe this is the hand we have been dealt and expect to play it out as long as possible. They will lose. When faced with tremendous Challenges, we must always look at the opportunities for Change.

Change can be a frightening and uncomfortable thing. It can also be enlightening and exciting. It all depends on how you view the glass—half full or half empty. We at AISE view it as half full, and we plan to adapt and Change to meet the needs of our members and the steel community to the fullest.

And sometimes Change is aided by Chance. In 2002, our president, Tom Goettge, led the new Managing Director, Ron Ashburn, and the Executive Committee of the Board into exploring potential synergies between all groups serving the basis steel industry. By Chance, Tom knew the right people at ISS (the Iron and Steel Society), which opened the door for some truly beneficial discussions. After initial meetings, we embarked

on further developing a relationship between AISE and ISS. We now are working on bringing about a merger of these two groups into a newer and more diverse technical society to better serve the needs of the industry and end the duplication of and competition for technical resources.

As your president, I will ensure that we exercise care and caution as our Executive Committee goes through this process, keeping in mind the values and goals of our organization since its founding, while looking forward to the present-day needs of our members and the industry. Please feel free to give us your input. This is your organization!

Let's work together in 2003 to maximize our opportunities for technological enhancement and improving the bottom lines of each of our companies. The AISE staff stands ready to assist in any way. Remember—Challenges, Change and Chance.

Let's Dance!

Joe Rutkowski