



THOMAS W. GOETTGE, Vice President—Tin, Tubular and Plate, U. S. Steel, Pittsburgh, Pa. Goettge began his career with U. S. Steel at the Clairton Works in 1965. At Clairton, he held a number of operating management and technical positions in the chemical refining and cokemaking areas. In 1972, he was transferred to the Gary Works as a member of the team that commissioned the Q-BOP facility. He subsequently held a series of operating management and technical positions at Gary including Assistant Superintendent—Q-BOP, Assistant Superintendent—Slab Casting, and Superintendent—Coke Production. He was transferred to the Geneva Works in 1980 and served as Div. Superintendent—Coke and Coal Chemicals, Manager—Technology for the Geneva and Pittsburgh facilities, and Manager—Primary Operations at Geneva. In 1984, he joined the U. S. Steel Engineering Dept. as Manager—Engineering at the Fairfield Works. At Fairfield, he managed several projects, including installation of the slab caster and renovation of the hot strip mill. After six years, he was appointed Project Manager for the construction of a greenfield hot dip galvanizing facility in Leipsic, Ohio, a joint venture with Kobe Steel, Ltd. After construction of the Protec Coating Co. facility was completed, he was

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appointed to General Manager—Coking Operations. He received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University in 1965.

2002 President's Message

I am honored to serve the AISE as President for 2002. The coming year promises to be one of significant challenge for the North American steel industry. It also offers the opportunity and need to rethink the manner in which our Association serves the steel industry and our members.

As this message is written in mid-November 2001, next year is shaping up as a watershed for the steel industry. We are all well aware of the financial distress of many producers and industry suppliers. The past several years have seen the bankruptcy of 25 steel companies and the closure of more than a handful of facilities. Many of the companies remaining in operation are currently profitless and have little or no access to capital. Some bear staggering burdens of unfunded obligations to retirees for pension or health care benefits. Others face substantial liabilities for employee benefits or for environmental remediation if facilities are shut down. These liabilities effectively inhibit the consolidation of companies and the closure of facilities that are not competitive in today's global markets.

While the near-term outlook is murky, the longer-term view is clearly brighter. The consumption of steel has been steadily increasing as a result of growing recognition of steel as a cornerstone material in our economy. Today's wide variety of engineered steels provide a winning combination of strength, formability and recyclability in numerous applications—attributes that cannot be matched economically by competitive materials. With the steel industry providing innovative solutions to customer needs for more customized and highly finished products with reliable just-in-time delivery, the future for a restructured industry is promising.

Since 1907, the mission of AISE has been to advance the technology of iron and steel production through dissemination of knowledge of both technical fundamentals and new advances in the field. While major changes loom for our industry, there will be a continuing need for producers to maintain state-of-the-art technology in their facilities. The mission of the AISE, on its 95th anniversary, stands relevant and vital to today's industry.

AISE is poised to meet member needs for timely and valuable technical information through electronic resources. The launch of our Virtual Library site, www.steellibrary.com, is imminent. The Virtual Library will provide easy access to AISE's vast repository of technical information. Work is also underway to expand the scope of www.steelnews.org, our web site that compiles and publishes late-breaking steel industry news from around the globe.

The relationship between the AISE's mission of service to the industry and the missions of other steel industry organizations will be an area of study in the coming year. A meeting between AISI, SMA, ISS and AISE was held recently to define the manner in which each of these four organizations seeks to advance the interests of the industry. In light of the changes taking place in the industry, it is clear that a higher degree of coordination and cooperation between these groups will best serve the industry.

Another change in AISE leadership will also take place this year. Larry Maloney, AISE Managing Director for the past ten years, has announced his intention to retire in 2002. During Larry's decade of leadership, our Association has grown in membership, and the range and quality of its services to the industry have been expanded greatly. The Executive Committee is in the process of identifying a new Managing Director who can sustain the forward momentum that Larry has imparted to the Association during his tenure.

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watershed for the AISE as well as the North American steel industry. I am pleased to be able to serve the AISE as it adapts to changes in the industry and continues to play a vital role as the leader in steel technology.

Thomas W. Goettge