



Tuesday morning, February 28, 1978, Art Marcantonio, General Manager, Quality Control and Metallurgical Services, Republic Steel Corporation, will chair the first meeting of the Iron and Steel Society (ISS) Board of Directors as the incoming president.

President-Elect Marcantonio's office is in the Republic Building in Cleveland, Ohio. He resides with his wife June and two children, Scott 16 and Linda 13, in Hudson, Ohio. His oldest daughter, Lisa, is a freshman at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Art's career at Republic started in 1959 as Supervisor in Metallurgy at Republic, Warren in the Flat Roll Division. It follows that his contributions to ISS-AIME have been made through the Mechanical Working and Steel Processing Division of the Society. He chaired the Division Executive Committee in 1973. In 1977, he became a Director on the AIME Board and during 1978 he will serve on the AIME Executive Committee in addition to his duties as President of the Society. Prior to taking his present position at Republic, Art was General Superintendent of Metallurgical Services – Mahoning Valley District, General Superintendent Metallurgical Services, Central Alloy District, and Assistant Chief Corporate Metallurgist in the Cleveland Office. He has a B.S. in metallurgy from

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Lehigh and a MBA from Kent State University.

To establish what may be in store for Iron and Steel Society members in the forthcoming years, *I&SM* staff members visited with the incoming president to get an idea of what's to come.

I&SM: What do you see as the objectives of the Society?

MARCANTONIO: We must catalyze the advancement of technology in iron and steel related industries by offering a vehicle for effective inter-industry communications.

For example we have to establish a more constructive continuing education program such as the recent strand casting course.

We must continue to provide meaningful national conferences as each of our five divisions has been doing as a forum for the exchange of technology.

And obviously we have to continually reexamine our publications program to put more emphasis on this objective of catalyzing this advancement of technology.

Secondly we have to represent the profession in areas of advanced technical education. We have to generate interest in the related iron and steel curriculums.

Finally, we have to provide technical support to governmental, energy, and mineral activities through the AIME GEM Committee.

I&SM: The obvious question is how does the Society do this?

MARCANTONIO: In the area of Continuing Education, I think the universities do an outstanding job in providing the technical skills required for our industry. However, an educational gap exists in applying these skills to the real world of the iron and steel industry.

Most of the respective companies in the industry have their own specific training programs. Generally, they are quite effective. However, there is a need to supplement these programs with a broader cross section of interests and

input. Our short courses given to date appear well on the way to meeting this need. The course on Continuous Casting and the Agglomeration Symposium offered last February are good examples of this type of activity. We must encourage more effort by our members in this area.

These courses are valuable because they offer input from other companies, other people, and other perspectives. This different perspective, different from your own company's, is very useful and contributes much to the rounding out of both the young and experienced individuals in the industry.

I am really very high on the Continuing Education program of the Society. I really believe that this program is one of our most attractive service benefits to our members.

I think our annual conferences are quite successful and well received. They provide an excellent means of disseminating technical information and they also offer the opportunity for the very important informal exchanges of information that are so necessary.

I&SM: How can we improve our national conferences?

MARCANTONIO: I think we should consider increasing the emphasis on international participation. The 1978 International Congress is a great start toward achieving this. It becomes more and more apparent every year that the steel industry is certainly international. I think our conferences would be strengthened with more input from international representatives. From my conversations with these people, they not only feel they could contribute, they would welcome the opportunity to participate.

I personally find that although we are well versed in practices in our plants, when I attend a technical session I find different viewpoints and perspectives which are mentally stimulating.

I&SM: You mentioned the GEM



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Program, how do you see our members participating?

MARCANTONIO: Our industry offers a wealth of technical expertise which can provide a broad spectrum of guidance for our political leaders in their considerations and deliberations of energy and mineral related activities. The AIME GEM Committee is a good step toward providing a vehicle to offer this technical expertise. A strengthening of the local ISS-AIME GEM Committees will certainly reinforce this activity.

It is a difficult job to get the GEM activity organized and working. One of the difficulties centers around the questions of how much should an individual be involved and how much can he or should he say. I think if we channel our efforts toward offering technical expertise in areas that our legislators are involved in, this would be a giant step forward. Compare this with our current situation wherein our legislators don't know who to go to for this technical expertise. We have to make the political community aware of the fact that we have this expertise. We don't necessarily want to provide technical guidance that so often appears to be lacking in legislation relating to our industry.

I&SM: You spoke of representing the profession of iron and steelmaking in areas of advanced technical education.

MARCANTONIO: We must tell the steel story. This is the only way we can generate the interest of university students in our industry. I think the story is an exciting and dynamic one. Our profession offers many interesting opportunities and challenges. I don't think today's students are aware of how exciting and dynamic a career in the iron and steel industry is.

Perhaps the Iron and Steel Society can undertake this job of getting our story to the college student and, equally important, to the high school student. One suggestion might be getting the local sections to participate in career days at the local high schools. The local

sections could also provide speakers to universities in their respective areas.

Through my own children, I recently had the opportunity to participate in a career day at their high school. There were representatives from almost all of the major industries: automotive, chemical, telephone and so forth. I was very happy to participate as a representative of our industry. I found that the young people were very interested in our profession.

I have also had the opportunity to have discussions with local university faculty and students. I find that the students really don't have a good understanding of what the steel industry is all about. They form opinions, they have ideas, they read the newspapers but they really don't know what the steel industry is about.

When I have had the opportunity to tell the steel story to university students, I find the students receptive. These experiences have convinced me that we in the industry must tell our story as often as possible.

Hopefully, the Society can generate interest along these lines in the local sections. Perhaps the local sections could set up visitation committees to local high schools and universities and make someone available for affairs such as career days.

I&SM: Would you care to comment on how we can generate more participation from people in the industry?

MARCANTONIO: The Society must always seek to contribute more to a wider spectrum of members. If we expand our continuing education programs in steelmaking areas we will continue to get more participation. If we have more activities directed to a broader cross section of the Society such as activities designed to interest foremen and line supervisors, the scope of the Society will increase.

We have to recognize that the Society is serving more of a purpose than recognizing metallurgists working in the iron and steel industry. The Society's

purpose is that of serving all the people in the iron and steel industry.