

Conference Recap

25th Modern Electric Furnace Steelmaking – A Practical Training Seminar

Conference Details:

4–8 February 2019, Charleston, S.C., USA

No. of Attendees: 148

Conference Highlights:

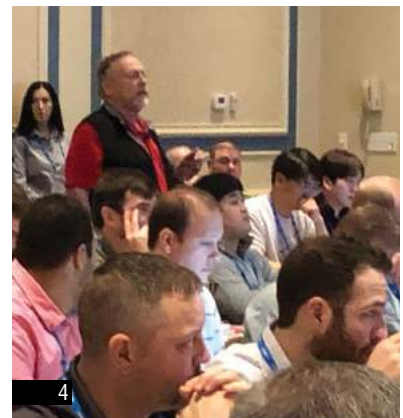
Nucor Steel–Berkeley and Showa Denko Carbon Inc. provided plant tours for this sold-out event. More than 90 producer members from 32 various EAF shops attended this seminar to learn about the latest in EAF steelmaking innovations and practices.

Two of the presenters who have instructed for all of the seminar’s 25 years were recognized by the group: **Larry Heaslip**, Interflow Techserv Inc., and **Jeremy Jones**, CIX Inc., have never missed an EAF practical training seminar since its inception. It’s important to recognize

Michael Grant of Air Liquide Global Management Services GmbH, who marked his 23rd consecutive year as a presenter. The average tenure for presenters for this second-oldest AIST Technical Training conference, behind the AIST Crane Symposium, is 8 years.

Ricky Rollins, Ricky Rollins Safety Speeches, kicked off the program with a presentation about his lifelong experiences working in an EAF meltshop. “The Day We Will Remember” touched upon the importance of safety in daily life and its impact on families.

The EAF process has seen a multitude of operational changes that have impacted domestic steel production. This seminar has adapted to the ever-changing process developments over these past 25 years to allow electric steelmaking to become the favored steel-producing method in North America. With the advent of various



1. Ricky Rollins presented “The Day We Will Remember.” 2. Jeremy Jones has been involved in the planning of the seminar since its inception in 1994. 3. A panel discussion was held during the seminar (left to right, front row): Sam Matson, Stephan Ferenczy, Jeremy Jones, Harriet Dutka and Eugene Pretorius (left to right, back row): Mike Grant, Dennis Rodal and Brett McGee. 4. Larry Heaslip, too, has been a key contributor since the beginning.



Attendee Troy Tait (left) from EVRAZ Regina presented a plaque of appreciation to Helmut Oltmann (right), casting metallurgist, Nucor Steel–Berkeley, and EAF seminar presenter.

scrap substitutes in the EAF charge, now low-residual steel grades can be produced.

The Wednesday afternoon panel discussion following the plant tours proved to be the highlight of the seminar. Moderated by **Brett McGee**, Mid-Continent Coal & Coke Co., the panelists provided the attendees with valuable insights in the EAF process. The panelists were Jeremy Jones; **Harriet Dutka**, SANGRAF International; **Eugene**

Pretorius, Nucor Corp.; **Sam Matson**, Commercial Metals Company, and **Stephan Ferenczy**, AIST Division III Board of Directors representative.

The 26th annual Modern Electric Furnace Steelmaking seminar will be held in Scottsdale, Ariz., USA, with CMC Steel Arizona serving as host plant on 3–7 February 2020.



Jonathan Ridgeway (left), CMC Steel Alabama meltshop manager and one of the founding organizers of the EAF training seminar, presented a plaque of appreciation to Jeff Pastorius (right), senior regional sales manager for Showa Denko Carbon Inc.

Historical Perspective From 25 Years Ago

Jonathan Ridgeway is the meltshop manager at CMC Steel Alabama. He was an original charter member for the AIST Electric Steelmaking Technology Committee. The following information is from a presentation Ridgeway delivered during the 25th Modern Electric Furnace Steelmaking seminar.

A decision was made in early 1992 by AISE leadership to form an Electric Steelmaking Committee. Steelmaking by electric arc furnaces was becoming more popular and information on advancements was not readily available.

Larry Maloney, AISE managing director, reached out to several major steel plants searching for key individuals to become a part of this distinguished group. **Frank Weise**, AISE staff engineer, organized and led the first meetings.

The original members of the Electric Steelmaking Division were:

- **Robert Bullard**, Georgetown Steel.
- **George Collins**, Birmingham Steel.
- **Frank M. Davis Jr.**, Carpenter Technology.
- **David DeVries**, Northwestern Steel and Wire.
- **Alex Hrechko**, SMI Steel.
- **Kenneth L. Miller**, The Timken Co.
- **Jonathan Ridgeway**, Republic Steel.
- **John Schlobohm**, Oregon Steel.
- **David R. Shidemantle**, Allegheny Ludlum.
- **Robert Siddall**, Pennsylvania Steel Technologies.
- **Dennis M. Urban**, Inland Steel Bar.
- **Kevin J. Young**, Nucor Steel.

The Mission Statement for the group was written as:

Recognizing that electric steelmaking is a major and increasing portion of the steel industry, it is imperative that the Electric Steelmaking Division strives to enhance the industry's capabilities and efficiency.

Rapidly growing and evolving technologies characterize electric steelmaking, and it is the Division's responsibility to gather, develop and disseminate information on these technologies to the industry toward the end of process optimization.

Design, construction and maintenance aspects will be the primary focus for this Division.



Several generations have passed through the training seminar, which is in its 25th year (left to right): Dennis Rodal, Jonathan Ridgeway and Sam Matson.

After two years of diligently working on a training seminar, the first seminar was held in Ypsilanti, Mich., USA, on 4–8 June 1994.

For information about joining AIST's Electric Steelmaking Technology Committee (ESTC), please contact Pat Philbin, manager — technology programs, at pphilbin@aist.org. ♦