



# LIFE MEMBER

## JOHN T. BOEING

**John T. Boeing** first heard of the Iron & Steel Society (ISS), a predecessor of AIST, from Professor Robert Bohl when he was a metallurgical engineering student in 1966 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Boeing became an active member of ISS in 1977 while he was the meltshop manager at Republic Steel. By the mid-1980s, he had served as the secretary, treasurer and vice chair for the Chicago Chapter of the society.

Boeing's involvement in the ISS and now AIST has been instrumental for his career growth. "Networking is the most important benefit of membership in AIST," said Boeing when he was interviewed by Iron & Steel Technology (I&ST). "Technical exchange and formal training are also very important. I see this as being even more important in the future."

Like others who have been in the industry for several decades, Boeing has seen the effects of process control technology on the iron and steel industry. "At the start of my career, I was involved mostly in melting. I am one of the few people left who melted steel in three different processes — open hearth, BOF and electric arc," Boeing said. "In those days, there was still a good deal of art in steelmaking, and the melter was 'king.' But now process control technology has taken some of the art out of the job and made it a more sustainable industry."

Boeing was happy to share some highlights from his career with I&ST:

"I have been fortunate to be involved in some major projects, including the commissioning of the Republic Q-BOP in 1977. As a melter, I tapped the first heat. Later I was part of the Geneva Steel team that moved the facility to Provo, Utah. I helped train and advise the start-up crew there.

"I directly participated in some early technology development in my Republic Q-BOP days. We did a lot of work on post-combustion and presented a paper in 1982.

"Also, in 1979 we started using a laser to measure the vessel lining. We wrote a paper describing our experiences that was presented to AISI in 1980. I still laugh when I think that what we called 'the Magic Hot Dog Wagon' has become standard throughout the industry for almost instantaneous refractory measurement.

"Installing and commissioning tundish tube changing devices was a later high point, as was helping to develop steel yield-enhancing ladle bottoms."

His involvement with AIST led Boeing to co-author and present a paper at the



Mexico Member Chapter's CONAC 2012, titled "The Technology, Benefits and Measurement of the ELBY® Ladle Bottom." His son, Eric Boeing, also received a National Merit Scholarship from AISE 1992.

As part of AIST for 37 years, Boeing feels his membership has been highly worthwhile. He wants to see more young people in the industry taking advantage of the benefits of AIST membership. "Get involved, take as much training as you can, and network," he advises.

Mr. Boeing earned a B.S. degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His first jobs after graduation included meltshop manager for LTV Steel Corp. (formerly Republic Steel), manager of steel production for Phoenix Steel Corp. and sales manager — caster division for NATCO International. From 1990 through 1994, he served as an industry consultant to both Geneva Steel and North American Refractories. In 1994, he became vice president of engineering for Concast Standard America, located in Pittsburgh, Pa. After an interim year as an industry consultant once again, Boeing was hired in 1996 as vice president and general manager for TCD America Corp., a subsidiary of Belgian Engineering Co. that was acquired by Vesuvius in 1998. From 1998 through 2000, he was product line manager for Vesuvius' TCD Systems, and he went on to serve another four years within the company's lining products area, Great Lakes region. Boeing then transitioned to account manager of the Linings Group, Chicago district, from 2004 until 2008. His last position with Vesuvius comprised four years as product manager for the ELBY (Steel Yield Enhancing Ladle Bottoms) product line. He is currently marketing and sales manager with SAMWHA America Inc. ♦

1. *The Republic Steel Q-BOP start-up group. First lining burn in March 1977.*

2. *John Boeing at Geneva Steel. First Q-BOP burn in September 1991.*

3. *Mr. Boeing with Klockner Maxhutte engineers at Geneva Steel in September 1991.*

4. *John Boeing with Geneva Steel CEO Joe Cannon at the Q-BOP in September 1991.*

5. *John and his wife, Donna, at Geneva Steel, 1991.*

6. *John, Donna and the Boeing family during Christmas, 2013.*

