The Association is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board consists of 29 directors, including: 10 members of the Executive Committee, the AIST Foundation president and representatives from the Association’s nine Technology Divisions, with commensurate representation from nine of the Association’s Member Chapters. Please visit AIST.org to view the AIST bylaws and all governance policies.

Executive Committee

President

**Thomas C. Toner**, Senior Advisor and Vice President Operations, and Director of Technical Development — Transformation Office, SSAB Americas, Mobile, Ala., USA

Tom Toner is vice president of Operations for SSAB Americas, a position he has held since 2017. In this role, he has leadership responsibility for all operational activities at SSAB’s North American steel plant, including safety, productivity, cost control and quality. In addition, in March 2022 he was appointed as a member of the Transformation Office team (Stockholm, Sweden). Toner joined SSAB (formerly IPSCO) in 1998 as meltshop manager at the company’s mill in Montpelier, Iowa, USA. In 2006, he was named superintendent of Primary Operations. He was given the added responsibility in 2012 of being team leader for the Northern Business Unit (NBU), accountable for the financial performance of the NBU production facilities consisting of the Montpelier, Iowa, operations, and cut-to-length line facilities in Minnesota and Ontario. He also served as general manager of the Iowa operations from 2015 through 2017.

Toner holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration (with a concentration in operations management) from the University of Delaware. He is also a graduate of the Strategic Metals Management Program, Olin Graduate School of Business, Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., USA.

First Vice President

**Al C. Behr**, Executive Vice President, Nucor Corp., Charlotte, N.C., USA

Al Behr began his career in 1996 as a design engineer at Nucor Building Systems in Waterloo, Ind., USA. In 1999, he joined the start-up of Nucor Building Systems in Terrell, Texas, and then moved to Nucor Building Systems in Swansea, S.C., in 2001. During those engagements, he worked within the technical portion of the business. In 2008, Behr was promoted to general manager of Nucor Building Systems – South Carolina. In 2011, he joined Nucor’s Vulcraft/Verco Group as general manager of Vulcraft in Florence, S.C., and was elected a vice president of Nucor in 2012. In 2014, he was promoted to president of the Vulcraft/Verco Group based out of Nucor’s headquarters. In 2017, he joined Nucor Steel–Texas as vice president and general manager. In May 2020, he returned to Nucor’s headquarters as executive vice president of plate and structural products.

A graduate of Purdue University with a B.S. degree in civil engineering, Behr is a registered Professional Engineer in several states. He also serves on the Industry Advisory Board of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University.

Second Vice President

**Traci L. Forrester**, Executive Vice President, Environmental and Sustainability, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Traci Forrester is executive vice president, environmental and sustainability of Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. She is responsible for the environmental affairs and
sustainability functions. Previously, Forrester was executive vice president, business development, whereby she was responsible for developing emerging business opportunities supporting Cleveland-Cliffs’ U.S. domestic market. She began her career at Cleveland-Cliffs in 2004 within the company’s legal department. She was vice president, deputy general counsel and assistant secretary from 2018 to 2019. She was responsible for the company’s compliance with securities laws and financial reporting, execution of strategic transactions and corporate governance matters, including working with the board of directors and its committees. She also coordinated legal services and counsel for the company.

Since joining Cliffs as corporate attorney, Forrester has served in various senior management positions within the company’s legal department. She was promoted to group counsel – Asia Pacific Operations in 2011 and oversaw and directed legal services for that business unit in Australia. She also held the role of assistant general counsel – Corporate Affairs and International Operations.

Before her tenure with Cliffs, she held an in-house legal counsel position at ABB Inc., a multi-national industrial process automation company, as a senior attorney. Forrester earned her J.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University, and her B.A. degree in philosophy from Miami University. She is a board member of the Cleveland Play House and Friends of Breakthrough Schools.

Officer-at-Large

John G. Speer, American Bureau of Shipping Chaired Professor and Director, Advanced Steel Processing and Products Research Center, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo., USA

John G. Speer is the American Bureau of Shipping Chaired Professor at Colorado School of Mines, and director of the Advanced Steel Processing and Products Research Center. He received a B.S. degree from Lehigh University in metallurgy and materials engineering, and a D.Phil. in physical metallurgy from the University of Oxford, U.K. He was affiliated with the Homer Research Laboratories of Bethlehem Steel Corp. from 1983 to 1997, where he was involved in product research, customer and operations support, and research management.

He became a professor in the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at Colorado School of Mines in 1997, where he teaches metallurgy at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and participates in research activities with the Advanced Steel Processing and Products Research Center. Speer also served as Mines’ associate vice president for research from 2008 to 2013.

He is a Distinguished Member and Fellow of AIST, member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, Fellow of ASM International, an Iron & Steel Society Professor, past chairman of the Ferrous Metals Committee of SAE, and served as AIME president in 2017–2018. His background is in physical metallurgy and solid-state phase transformations, and steel product development, including alloy design/processing response/application and performance.
Greg Brandon is vice president of the Southeast Division of CMC. In this role, he oversees operations and commercial functions for steel-making, recycling and fabrication, including Impact Metals. Brandon started his tenure at CMC in 1998 as an inside sales representative at CMC Steel South Carolina. Since then, he has held a number of roles including inside sales manager, shipping manager and works manager. He relocated to Birmingham, Ala., USA, as the director of operations for CMC Steel Alabama in 2012, before returning to South Carolina in 2018, where he became the director of rebar fabrication, before being appointed director of operations at CMC Steel South Carolina in 2021. He assumed the role of vice president, Southeast Division in April 2022.

Brandon earned a bachelor's degree in management and marketing, followed by an M.B.A. from the University of South Carolina.

Jeff Joldrichsen started in the steel industry with North Star Steel Beaumont as a management trainee. He worked as a shift meltshop maintenance supervisor and day mechanical supervisor over the electric arc furnaces at the Beaumont mill. Joldrichsen left the steel industry and worked for several years in the float glass industry as a manufacturing engineer. He rejoined the steel industry and started work at North Star BlueScope Steel (formerly known as North Star BHP Steel), where he has held multiple roles, including meltshop maintenance general foreman, caster maintenance manager, hot strip mill operations manager, a secondment as mill manager at New Zealand Steel, caster operations manager, and vice president of operations. Joldrichsen has recently joined BlueScope Coated Products as their vice president of operations over their light-gauge facilities throughout the U.S.

He received a B.S.M.E. and his M.B.A. from the University of Toledo and has completed executive leadership courses at the University of Michigan and the University of Melbourne.

Mark Fedor earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Akron. After earning his degree, he joined the team at Morgan. He added his professional engineer's license (P.E.) in 1997 and an associate's degree in electrical engineering. Fedor joined Steel Dynamics Inc. in 2001 at the Columbia City Structural and Rail greenfield site as plant mechanical engineer, involved with all aspects of construction, commissioning and reliability. In 2005, Fedor had the opportunity to purchase Morgan Engineering and return home to his roots. Now, with more than 30 years of experience in the steel industry, he uses his expertise to help Morgan’s customers solve their production pain points by adapting the latest innovations in manufacturing and automation to the harsh production environments of the steel industry.

Fedor has been a member of the AIST Cranes Technology Committee and its subcommittees for the past 25 years. He is past AISTech Conference Planning
Committee chair and past member of the Conference Steering Committee. Fedor serves on the board at the University of Mount Union, the Regional Trustee Board of Huntington National Bank, and local and regional economic development boards.

**Secretary**

**Ronald E. Ashburn**, Executive Director, Association for Iron & Steel Technology, Warrendale, Pa., USA

Ronald Ashburn is the executive director of the Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST), having served in this capacity since the organization’s founding in 2004. Ashburn is responsible for oversight of business operations and strategic planning initiatives for AIST and the AIST Foundation. He formerly was managing director for the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers (AISe) from 2002 until its merger with the Iron & Steel Society to form AIST. Prior to AISe, he was employed with the German engineering firm SMS, a global builder of steel plants, where he last served as vice president — operations for their Steelmaking and Casting Division in North America. He held previous positions with SMS and the consolidated Mannesmann Demag including vice president — casting and hot rolling as well as director of technology for steelmaking and casting.

Ashburn received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and participated in metallurgical process training at University of British Columbia and global business management training at the University of Virginia. He serves on the board of trustees for the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) and the United Engineering Foundation (UEF).

**Directors**

**AIST Foundation President**

**Terry G. Fedor II**, Executive Vice President Operations, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., West Chester, Ohio, USA

Terry Fedor was appointed executive vice president, Operations, for Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. in 2021. In this role, he has executive oversight for Cleveland-Cliffs’ steelmaking operations and direct reduction plant. Prior to this, Fedor had leadership oversight for the company’s mining and pelletizing operations as well as transportation and logistics, supply chain, and asset management. Fedor has more than 35 years of experience in industrial operations, having served as vice president and general manager — Cleveland at ArcelorMittal with responsibility for Warren, Weirton and Monessen steel operations.

Fedor earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Akron and an M.B.A. from John Carroll University. He is a registered Professional Engineer with the state of Ohio. He is a past president of AIST.

**Safety and Environment Technology Division**

**Kevin Deliman**, Business Development Manager — Industrial, Baltimore Aircoil Co., Jessup, Md., USA

Kevin Deliman has been with Baltimore Aircoil Co. (BAC) for the past 11 years and is currently business development manager for their industrial group. His responsibilities include growing the evaporative cooling business for the current industrial markets and finding opportunities in new and emerging markets.

Deliman began his career with Sutton Engineering selling straightening equipment for oil country tubular goods. When that market shifted, he joined Danieli, where he was involved with expanding their technology into the North America market. He then became a national accounts manager for Davy, focusing on automation systems for flat rolling of ferrous and non-ferrous products. Deliman then joined Voest Alpine Industries as their vice president of sales and marketing as their vice president of sales and marketing. Deliman received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from The Pennsylvania State University (1979) and an M.B.A. from Robert Morris University (1986).
He first joined AIST in 1988 and has been a member of the Environmental Technology Committee (ETC) and Project & Construction Management Technology Committee for more than eight years. Deliman is a past chair of the ETC and is the co-chair of the committee's specialty water conference.

**Cokemaking and Ironmaking Technology Division**

**Joseph H. Morey**, Consultant, Morey Industrial Consulting, Schererville, Ind., USA

Joseph Morey is a primary iron and steelmaking expert who is in the process of starting Morey Industrial Consulting after over 28 years with United States Steel Corporation. He has held various positions from shift manager to general manager as well as several internal consulting roles and as a leader of cross-functional teams.

Morey earned a chemical engineering degree from Colorado School of Mines, an M.B.A. from Indiana Wesleyan University, and a Master Black Belt Certification from Villanova University. He has represented U. S. Steel on the board of the Steel Manufacturing Simulation and Visualization Consortium with Purdue University Northwest and participates in the Indaba partnership with Carnegie Mellon University.

He serves as chair of the AIST Ironmaking Technology Committee and is an active participant in the Decarbonization Subcommittee, which includes contribution to the AIST/NIST decarbonization road map.

**Refining and Casting Technology Division**

**Chase J. Ault**, Quality Manager, Steel Dynamics Inc. – Flat Roll Group Butler Division, Butler, Ind., USA

Chase Ault earned his B.S. degree in chemical engineering and M.S. degree in leadership from Trine University. He joined Steel Dynamics Inc. (SDI) in 2009 as a process engineer in the cold mill at the Butler, Ind., USA, facility. In 2010, he transferred to SDI’s Jeffersonville, Ind., finishing facility and worked first as a process engineer and then as a metallurgist for the galvanizing and paint lines. In 2013, Ault moved back to the Butler location as LMF/caster metallurgist. He served as the LMF/caster metallurgist and supervisor of the mold and segment shop until 2023. In 2023, he assumed the role of quality manager for the Butler Flat Roll Division. Ault is a member of AIST’s Continuous Casting and Ladle & Secondary Refining Technology Committees and recently served as chair of the Ladle & Secondary Refining Technology Committee.

**Rolling and Processing Technology Division**

**Nikhil Kulkarni**, Product Metallurgist, Steel Dynamics Inc. – Flat Roll Group Jeffersonville Plant, Jeffersonville, Ind., USA

Nikhil Kulkarni earned his B.S. degree in metallurgy and materials technology in Hyderabad, India. He moved to the U.S. to pursue further studies and earned his M.S. degree in materials sciences from University of North Texas. He then joined Steel Dynamics Inc. – Flat Roll Group Columbus Division as a metallurgical engineer. He has more than 10 years of experience in galvanized, Galvalume® and color-coated steel products. He served as chair of AIST’s Galvanizing Technology Committee from 2020 to 2022. He also has served on the board of directors of the International Zinc Aluminum Association.
Bill Jones is currently the manager of primary quality assurance at U. S. Steel – Granite City works. He has worked at Granite City for over 40 years, covering all areas of the plant from coal handling through outside processing, with most of his time in primary. He has worked in quality assurance, operations, operations technology, continuous improvement and customer service over the years.

He was the first chairman of the Metallurgy — Steelmaking & Casting Technology Committee, as it evolved from the AISI committee in 2008, and chaired again in 2011 and 2022. He co-authored a 1999 I&SM publication on chemical transition reduction, co-authored a 2012 AISI Institute Medal Finalist paper on thermal mapping to reduce longitudinal face cracks, and served as a secondary steelmaking expert panelist for the AIST Italy Steel Forum (2013). Jones chaired the group that created the Inclusion Engineering and Clean Steels Commemorative Volume dedicated to Kent Peaslee in 2019, which also led to the Kent D. Peaslee Memorial Session at AISTech and the annual Kent D. Peaslee Award. He also was on the steering committee that organized the 8th International Congress on the Science & Technology of Steelmaking in 2022.

Jones is a 1982 graduate of Missouri University of Science and Technology with a B.S. degree in metallurgical engineering and completed courses for a master’s degree in information technology from the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

Over his 50-year career in the steel industry, he has held a various managerial positions, ranging from turn supervisor to general manager, in steel production, plate operations and energy management, with over a decade of experience in each area. In 2006, he was appointed manager of continuous improvement and led ArcelorMittal’s USA Energy Reduction Program. Fabina successfully initiated partnerships with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR program and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Better Plants program. Under Fabina’s leadership, ArcelorMittal USA (now Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.) secured over US$35 million in energy-related grants and incentives, achieving more than US$150 million in energy savings through their award-winning energy management program. In 2020, Fabina was recognized by the Association of Energy Engineers as International Energy Manager of the Year for outstanding accomplishments in promoting practices, principles and procedures in energy management. In 2021, he was appointed program director energy by Cleveland-Cliffs.

He is a 50-year member of AIST, where he has held numerous positions. Since 2006, Fabina has served as a member of the managing board of directors for the Northwest Indiana Forum.

Neil Tannyan is responsible for Hatch’s U.S. Iron and Steel business, including business development and has oversight of Iron and Steel project work. He has over 20 years of experience in the steel industry, having started his career at Stelco Inc.’s Hamilton, Ont., Canada, cold mill as a process metallurgist in 2001 progressing through quality and operations management roles to area manager of cold rolling and shipping. He joined Hatch in 2008 as a project manager and relocated to Ukraine then Brazil, where he worked on projects for Metinvest and Vale, respectively. He moved to Pittsburgh in 2012 and joined AIST’s Project & Construction Management Technology Committee, in which he has been heavily involved over the last 12 years, including serving as chair in 2022–2023 and developing and implementing the inaugural Project Management 101 course, which was first held in 2023 and with over 100 attendees. Some of his notable projects include the U. S. Steel – Gary Works pig cast-er, U. S. Steel – Gary Works’ hot strip mill upgrade
program, NLMK Pennsylvania’s walking beam reheat furnace, and the U. S. Steel – Granite City Works #1 caster project. He has a bachelor’s degree in applied science in materials engineering (2000) and master of applied science in materials engineering (2002) both from the University of Toronto. He has also been part of the AIST Foundation Scholarship Committee for the last three years and a presenter at AISTech since 2018.

Material Movement and Transportation Technology Division

Jesse W. DeSpain, Railroad and Scrap Leader, Nucor Steel–Texas, Jewett, Texas, USA

Jesse DeSpain started his career at Nucor in 2005. During this time, he has held various positions in the melting and casting department. His areas of expertise also include mobile equipment technology and safety. DeSpain holds a B.S. degree in business from Sam Houston State University. He has served the AIST Material Handling Technology Committee as vice chair and chair.

Midwest Member Chapter

Stephen A. Civanich Jr., Assistant Vice President, Primary Metals North America, NALCO Water, an Ecolab Company, Valparaiso, Ind., USA

Stephen Civanich graduated from Indiana University with a B.A. degree in chemistry in 1990. After serving a year as a chemist for Safety Kleen’s recycling facility, he took a sales engineer position with Nalco Water dedicated to the steel industry in 1992. In 1999, he was promoted to district manager and led Nalco’s primary metals team across the geographic Rust Belt. In 2014, Civanich became the assistant vice president for Nalco’s Primary Metals Corporate Accounts for North America. In his nearly 30-year tenure with AIST, Civanich has held multiple officer positions, including chair of the Midwest Member Chapter in 2017.

Northern Member Chapter

James G. Hoffman, Maintenance Asset Coach, ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P., Hamilton, Ont., Canada

James Hoffman graduated with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in 2012 from McMaster University, and immediately began a career in the steel industry with U. S. Steel Canada (now Stelco) – Lake Erie Works. His primary focus was in hot strip mill operation, with some exposure in blast furnace, basic oxygen furnace and continuous casting operations. Hoffman joined ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P. in 2013 in the Ironmaking Technology Department, where he worked on equipment maintenance programs for locomotives and rolling stock, blast furnace reliability and failure investigation. In 2017, Hoffman moved into maintenance as planning coach. In 2018, he returned to the Ironmaking Technology Department as the reliability coach. Through reorganization in 2020, Hoffman was named coach — asset engineering and he most recently moved into maintenance as maintenance asset coach — 2 Blast Furnace. He has led major investment projects for interim repairs at both the #2 and #4 BFs to ensure long-term reliability of these critical assets. He has been an AIST member since 2016,
quickly joining the Northern Member Chapter and serving as trade show chair, vice chair and chair.

Ohio Valley Member Chapter
Luis G. Garza Martinez, Manager Process Research, Cleveland-Cliffs Research and Innovation Center, Middletown, Ohio, USA

Luis Garza earned a B.S. degree in physics engineering from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in 1994. He was introduced to steel during an internship at the hot strip mill in Hylsa, now Ternium Mexico, in the summer of 1994. In 1995, he started working for the oil and gas industry performing pipeline inspections for the next 5 years, working North America, Europe and Asia. In 2000, Garza attended Colorado School of Mines where he obtained a M.S. degree in 2003, and a Ph.D. degree in 2006 in metallurgical and materials engineering, working with the Advanced Steel Processing & Products Research Center. In 2006, he started his career with AK Steel Research, now Cleveland-Cliffs Research and Innovation, in Middletown, Ohio, as a research engineer working in processing and product development of coated and hot-rolled products. In 2019, he was promoted to manager of metallic coatings research, now giving technical support to 14 coating lines within Cleveland-Cliffs.

Pittsburgh Member Chapter
Karim Alshurafa, President, Vollmer America Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa., USA

Karim Alshurafa is the president of Vollmer America Inc., where he is responsible for the North American operations for Vollmer gauges and control solutions. Prior to his current position, he was general manager of sales and marketing at SMS group Inc. He joined SMS group in 2013, where he held previous positions as key account manager and senior proposal engineer in the steelmaking metallurgy department. In 2006, he served as a sales engineer at Heraeus Electro-Nite Co. LLC in steelmaking sensors. His steel career all started in 2004 as an EAF process engineer intern at Gerdau Ameristeel Whitby in Canada, where he was hooked to the industry after seeing the excitement of a scrap bucket charge in an electric arc furnace.

Alshurafa has held multiple positions within AIST. Currently, he serves as chair of the Pittsburgh Member Chapter and as the vice chair and co-founding member of the MENA Member Chapter. He also served as past chair of the Oxygen Steelmaking Technology Committee. Alshurafa has a B.Eng. degree in material science and engineering (2006) and a M.Eng. degree in engineering entrepreneurship and innovation (2012) from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., Canada. Alshurafa is also a veteran of the Canadian Military.

Southeast Member Chapter
Nick Bucci, Caster Maintenance Supervisor, Nucor Steel–Hertford County, Cofield, N.C., USA

Nick Bucci is an electrical supervisor at Nucor Steel–Hertford County. He began his career with Nucor in 2000 as a caster electrical technician, where he worked for 13 years. He then joined the heat treat and normalizing team, where he became the maintenance supervisor before transferring back to the caster. Prior to his career at Nucor, he spent 12 years in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear reactor operator. Bucci has a B.S. degree in nuclear engineering technology. He has been a member of AIST since 2003, and his most recent role was the chair of the Southeast Member Chapter. He also serves on the industrial advisory board for the foundry program at Georgia Southern University.

Southwest Member Chapter
Sabra C. Serino, Caster Area Manager, CMC Steel Texas, Seguin, Texas, USA

Sabra Serino joined AIST in 2014 as an undergraduate student at Texas State University. She joined the AIST Southwest Member Chapter in 2015 and was elected to the position of chair in 2016. Her steel-making career began as the student foundry manager, researcher in the field of lightweight high-manganese and aluminum steel while at Texas State University and meltpool intern with CMC. Serino is also a member of the AIST Ladle & Secondary Refining Technology Committee. She joined CMC full-time in 2016 as a meltpool technical assistant.
Alec Glenn is a general manager at AM/NS Calvert with over 21 years of steel experience at AM/NS Calvert, thyssenkrupp and Nucor. He is currently responsible for activities that aim to improve site reliability, engineering and maintenance processes. Glenn has co-authored several technical articles, and received the 2023 AIST Farrington Award for works in the field of electrical distribution systems. He holds a nuclear engineering technology degree from Thomas Edison State University, which he began while serving in the U.S. Navy. He also holds an M.B.A. in international business from Louisiana State University, Shreveport.

Karim Badr received a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Alexandria University in Egypt in 1996, and an M.S. degree in engineering management, materials science from Sheffield Hallam University, U.K., in 2000. In 2007, he earned his Ph.D. in reduction metallurgy from University of Leoben in Austria. Badr began his professional career as a DRI operation engineer for ANSDK (now EZDK) in Egypt. In 2004, he joined the University of Leoben as a research assistant for four years, and participated in the ULCOS project. After leaving academia in 2008, he was named global marketing and sales manager for RHI AG in Austria and then Kuettner GmbH in Germany. His current role is marketing director at RHI Magnesita in the MENA Region. He has published a number of papers on iron ore reduction, refractory solutions and electric arc furnace operations. Badr serves as chair of the Middle East North Africa Member Chapter.