



2025–2026 Member Chapter Officers

Australia New Zealand



Chair

Geoffrey Brooks, Professor, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Vic., Australia

Geoffrey Brooks is a professor of engineering at Swinburne University of Technology, where has been working since 2006. Before Swinburne, he was an associate professor at McMaster University and a senior lecturer at the University of Wollongong. His Ph.D. is from the University of Melbourne. Brooks has been active in various aspects of steelmaking, ladle metallurgy and ironmaking research for more than 20 years. He has published more than 200 papers on these topics, worked with many steel companies around the world and given training courses on steelmaking in India, China, Netherlands, Canada, Indonesia, England and Australia. He was awarded the AIST John Elliott Lectureship in 2013.



Vice Chair

Shabnam Sabah, Postdoctoral Research Engineer, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Vic., Australia

Shabnam Sabah is a postdoctoral research engineer at Swinburne University of Technology. Presently, she is working on HILT CRC projects titled “Prevention of Sticking in H₂ Fluidized Bed DRI Production” and “De-Risking of Electric Smelting Furnaces for Australian Ores.” She is also leading the project on de-risking flash reduction of Australian iron ore. She has previously worked in research projects on impact of hydrogen direct reduced iron on melting in an electric furnace and hydrogen ironmaking with fluidized bed. She has expertise in steelmaking, ironmaking and metallurgy. Sabah holds a Ph.D. from Swinburne, where she investigated splashing behavior in the basic oxygen furnace. Sabah completed her bachelor’s in mechanical engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and has prior experience working in the process industries.



Secretary-Treasurer

Len Woods, Port and Technical Marketing Manager, Taharoa Ironsands Ltd. – Taharoa, Te Kuiti, New Zealand

Len Woods is a metallurgical engineer with more than 25 years of experience in the steel industry. Woods commenced his career with BHP Steel, which later became BlueScope Steel, working in operations and technical roles in steelmaking, slab casting, strip casting, and alternative ironmaking processes. From 2012 to 2015, he was with Hatch as a supervising metallurgical engineer, working on feasibility studies and in hot commissioning roles. He joined New Zealand Steel in 2015 as a processing superintendent for the iron-sand mining operation at Taharoa. He is currently responsible for Taharoa Port Operations and technical marketing. He has been a member of AIST since 2004.

Birmingham



Chair

Chris Lyons, Area Manager, B&D Industrial Services LLC, Northport, Ala., USA

Chris Lyons began his career in the steel industry at Nucor, where he spent 14 years in various roles and divisions. During this time, he earned degrees in steelmaking technology from Arkansas Northeastern College and business administration from Columbia Southern University. In 2022, he joined United States Steel Corporation as area manager of operations at Fairfield, Ala., USA. In October 2024, he transitioned to his current role as director of business at B&D Industrial Services in Tuscaloosa, Ala., USA.



Vice Chair

Michael Wilson, Technical Sales Manager – EAF, Berry Metal Co., Harmony, Pa., USA

Michael Wilson is technical sales manager – EAF with Berry Metal Co., residing out of Mobile, Ala., USA. Wilson, a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, started his career with Berry in 2021. Prior to his time with Berry, he spent 18 years with SSAB in various roles from

meltshop – EAF operations, to Lean Six Sigma Black Belt to technical sales. He has also spent time in the heavy plate sales arena and finance sector. Wilson was born into the steel industry, with his father holding meltshop manager roles at Auburn Steel, Florida Steel and Tuscaloosa Steel. After high school, Wilson enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and was awarded the prestigious Purple Crayon Certificate upon his honorable discharge. Upon completion of his service, he joined Tuscaloosa Steel for a few years before moving to Ipsco Steel (Axis, Ala.) for the greenfield and start-up of that facility. He completed his B.S. degree in business and M.B.A. while working as a shift melting supervisor. Wilson was instrumental in the restart of the Birmingham Member Chapter in 2023.



Secretary-Treasurer

Ken Orndoff, Sales, Lincoln Manufacturing, Helena, Ala., USA

After his service in the Marine Corps, Ken Orndoff embarked on his career in the steel industry in 1989. While earning his degree in accounting, he worked in many different positions at Millcraft Industries and Millcraft SMS. From laborer to plant manager, he has experienced many different challenges that are presented in the steel industry. Orndoff also has experience in the scrap and slag industries, from helping design efficient layouts of scrap yards and metal recovery processes to serving as a superintendent to manage these processes in an organized and cost-effective manner.

Brazil



Chair

Lothar Birkhäuser, Steel Industry Senior Project Consultant, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil

Lothar Birkhäuser has more than 35 years of international experience in steel production and shaping in Brazil, Germany and Russia. He graduated as a metallurgical engineer in 1986 and finished his doctoral thesis about blast furnace coal injection in 1990 from RWTH Aachen, Germany. He began his career at Mannesmann do Brasil, Brazil, in the engineering area. He served as managing director of Hoesch Schwerter Profile GmbH in Germany; as chief operating officer (COO) of Chelpipe JSC Group in Russia; as COO of Persico Pizzamiglio S/A in Brazil; and as chief executive officer of Buderus Edelstahl GmbH. In 2013, he joined Vallourec Group in Germany, and was assigned group director of Vallourec in 2021. In 2024, he retired and is still working as a steel industry senior project consultant.



Vice Chair

Ernesto Rheinboldt, Engineer, Tallman Technologies, Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil

Ernesto Rheinboldt has been providing technical services, commissioning services and sales support for Tallman Technologies in Brazil for more than 10 years. His focus is on applications and technologies for both BOF and EAF steelmaking and secondary refining. He graduated with a degree in metallurgy in 1989 from the Faculty of Industrial Engineering at the Fundação Carlos Alberto Vanzolini – University of São Paulo, Polytechnic School. Prior to joining Tallman Technologies, Rheinboldt worked for Umicore (Degussa), Dow Corning (Camargo Corrêa Metais) and Alubar Metais e Cabos S.A., amassing more than 24 years of experience, including 14 years in the production department/smeltering of copper, silicon, and other precious metals and the production of continuous casting aluminum rods using the Properzi process.



Secretary-Treasurer

Ronaldo Santos Sampaio, Chief Executive Officer, RS Consultants Ltda., Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil

Ronaldo S. Sampaio graduated with honors in metallurgical engineering from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, in 1977. He holds advanced degrees in extractive metallurgy and engineering economics (1979), which he received from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), and M.Sc. (1985) and Ph.D. (1991) degrees in metallurgy and materials science from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa., USA. He was professor of extractive metallurgy at UFMG, has more than 46 years of professional, lecturer, consulting and management experience in the ferrous metals industry. He is a globally recognized expert in biomass utilization for metals production (pig iron, Fe-Si, Si, Fe-Ni, charcoal making). He is the chief executive officer of RS Consultants Ltda. and RSAMPA Corp. and is well known as a leader in the training of young engineers to work in the industry. He is also co-author of textbooks, patents and more than 120 published papers.

Detroit



Chair

Joseph Hunter, Plant Manager, U. S. Steel – Great Lakes Works, Ecorse, Mich., USA

Joseph Hunter is an industrial management professional with 28 years of diverse heavy manufacturing

experience in the steel and aluminum industries, as well as chemical process/clean-air technology systems in the electric power generation industry. Hunter holds a B.S. degree in business administration from West Liberty University and a Six Sigma Black Belt from ASQ. Prior to joining United States Steel Corporation, he worked at Ormet Aluminum Corp. in various leadership roles in the primary, technical and rolling mill divisions as well as plant/site manager for Powerspan Corp., a contractor for First Energy Corp. for the former R.E. Burger Generating Plant in Shadyside, Ohio, USA. In this role, Hunter led the emissions control plant and R&D facility on-site where Powerspan developed an ammonia-based flue gas scrubbing technology for the coal-fired power industry. Hunter began his career with U. S. Steel in 2012 as area manager of operations and maintenance at Fairless Works near Philadelphia, Pa., USA. Since then, he has progressed through various levels of responsibility at U. S. Steel serving as area manager of the Finishing Division at Mon Valley Works, process engineer and manufacturing excellence consultant for North American Flat Roll out of the Research and Technical Center, and as the plant manager rolling and finishing at Granite City Works in St. Louis, Mo., USA. In April 2023, Hunter moved to the Detroit area to serve as plant manager of Great Lakes Works.



Vice Chair

Karl Kessler, Plant Electrical Engineer, U. S. Steel – Great Lakes Works, Rockwood, Mich., USA

After serving his country in the United States Air Force, Kessler received his B.A. in business management with an additional major in operations management and maintenance from Siena Heights University. He started his career after the Air Force in 1997 as a journeyman electrician at Chrysler Corp., where he later left the union to join the ranks of Chrysler management. Following the downturn of the automotive industry in 2008, he began working in the steel industry at Severstal Dearborn where he helped to engineer, build, commission, and start-up the hot-dipped galvanizing line (HDGL). After gaining significant experience in steel industry working in pickling, cold/tandem, hot mill, pickling line tandem cold mill (PLTCM) and HDGL, Kessler left the industry to become a regional metals account manager and integrated power for Siemens in 2015. Gaining yet more experience working with metal manufacturers with their electrical power equipment, process upgrades, maintenance services, and project management needs, he later returned to the steel industry, which has become his passion. He recently joined U. S. Steel – Great Lakes Works. Kessler has been a member of AIST since 2008 and has been active at his local Detroit Member Chapter

meetings, several AIST Technology Committees, and has been a session chair for AISTech for the past four years.



Secretary

Roger Kalinowsky, Senior Project Manager and Manager of Environmental Engineering, Sidock Group Inc., Novi, Mich., USA

Roger Kalinowsky received his B.S. degree in environmental engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his M.S. degree in chemical engineering from Wayne State University. He spent 21 years with the Great Lakes Division of National Steel in Ecorse, Mich., USA, followed by 18 years as a consultant to the steel industry. He began his career with National Steel as an environmental engineer in 1978, and worked to become manager of environmental control in 1985. He became a manager in the engineering department in 1991 and was promoted to director of both the engineering and environmental departments at the Great Lakes Division in 1996. In 2000, he moved on to consulting, focusing on the steel industry. He is currently working for Sidock Group Inc. and serves steel, chemical and power industry clients.

Treasurer

William Sidock, President, Sidock Group Inc., Novi, Mich., USA

William Sidock received his B.S. degree in civil/structural engineering from Michigan Technological University. After graduating, he spent seven years at a southeast Michigan-based structural engineering firm working on various projects. In 1994, he joined Randers Engineering, where he expanded the company's business, adding staff and bringing in numerous industrial clients. In 2001, he purchased the company and changed the name to Sidock Group Inc.

European



Chair

José Noldin, Chief Executive Officer, GravitHy, Waterloo, Belgium

José Noldin is a mechanical engineer and holds an M.Sc. degree and a Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering from the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is a leading figure in industrial decarbonization and currently serves as chief executive officer and board member of GravitHy. Noldin is an active member of societies such as Associação Brasileira de Metalurgia, Materiais e Mineração (ABM) and AIST.

He holds several industry awards, including the prestigious ABM's Vicente Chiaverini Medal (2025), the Iron and Steel Society of the U.K.'s Thomas Medal (2017), ABM's Ironmaker of the Year (2014) and an AIST Presidential Citation (2015). He has an extensive list of publications with many best paper awards for his contributions in the fields of iron ore, ironmaking and sustainability, with greater focus in CO₂ abatement, new technologies, energy efficiency and raw-material-related challenges. He is also widely recognized for his contributions to sustainable industry and European industrial policy.



Vice Chair

Jürgen Cappel, Managing Director, CSC Cappel Stahl Consulting GmbH, Meerbusch, Germany

Jürgen Cappel holds a doctoral degree in ferrous metallurgical engineering from RWTH Aachen in Germany, where he graduated in 1983. He started his professional career in 1984 in the 3.0-mtpy blast furnace shop of an integrated steel mill in Germany. In 1994, he became manager and then general manager of a 6.0-mtpy basic oxygen furnace shop in Germany. After 22 years of working in steelmaking operations, he joined a major refractory supplier in the EU as a metallurgical consultant for their board, sales staff and customers. Since 2010 he has been an independent technical consultant serving the iron- and steelmaking industry. Cappel has 40 years of experience working in and with iron- and steelmaking facilities around the globe. In his consultancy activities, he has also developed expertise serving electric arc furnace operations, billet and bloom casting, and long product rolling for special bar quality bars and wires. He has been deeply engaged in decarbonization activities and the transformation of the steel industry into a carbon-free future for many years. Cappel has published numerous papers and presentations on international conferences and in technical magazines. He is an AIST Distinguished Member and Fellow and an AIME Honorary Member. In 2022, he was appointed an Adjunct Professor for EAF Technology at Pohang University of Science and Technology in Pohang, South Korea.



Secretary

Jernej Pretnar, Area Manager, Quaker Houghton, Trieste, TS, Italy

Jernej Pretnar graduated with a degree in analytical chemistry from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Manchester, U.K., and Trieste University, Italy. After working some years with Imperial Chemical Industries, he joined Quaker Chemical (now Quaker Houghton) in 1981 to service steel

plants in southeast Europe. With time he focused mainly on the flat products of steel rolling and coatings. He has been an AIST member for more than 30 years.

Globe-Trotters

Chair — Meltshop

Conrad Fisher, Meltshop Manager, Steel Dynamics Inc. – Flat Roll Group Butler Division, Butler, Ind., USA

Vice Chair — Meltshop

JoJo Clark, Meltshop Manager, Nucor Steel–Hertford County, Cofield, N.C., USA



Secretary/Treasurer — Meltshop

Alex England, Chief Executive Officer, Element Biocarbon, West Lafayette, Ind., USA

Alex England began his career in 2014 as an R&D engineer in the U.K. before moving to the U.S. in 2017 to transition into technical sales. He later served as regional sales manager for a leading graphite electrode manufacturer, supporting steel producers across North America with high-performance electrode solutions. In 2024, England founded Element Biocarbon to help industrial customers meet decarbonization targets. The company produces premium renewable carbon products for demanding applications, with recent success marked by the launch of its pilot plant and supply of biocarbon to industrial users and research groups.

Chair — Rolling Mill

Patrick Peek, Rolling Mill Manager, Gerdau Long Steel North America Cartersville Mill, Cartersville, Ga., USA

Vice Chair — Rolling Mill

Adam Phillips, Rolling Mill Manager, CMC Steel Arizona, Mesa, Ariz., USA



Secretary/Treasurer — Rolling Mill

Fermin De La Maza, Sales Director – North America, Russula Corp., Weston, Fla., USA

India



Chair

Rajiv Kumar Bhatnagar, Executive Director (Projects), ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd., Surat, GJ, India

Rajiv Bhatnagar has a B.Tech. degree in metallurgical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology – Kanpur. Subsequently, he completed his postgraduate degree in industrial engineering from the Indian Institution of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai. Later in his career, he completed the International Executive Program from INSEAD, France. He has 40 years of experience in the steel industry. Bhatnagar joined Essar Steel as head of technology in August 2010. He took up the role of chief executive officer of the Hazira facility in July 2011 and served in this position for four years. He rose to the position of director, Hazira complex and then as director, projects of Essar Steel. After the takeover of the company by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd., he was named its executive director for projects. Prior to his tenure with Essar Steel, Bhatnagar had served ArcelorMittal for nine years and in three different locations: Romania, Macedonia and Ukraine. Prior to that, he served Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) for 22 years starting as a junior manager in the plate mill of the Bhilai steel plant, then assistant general manager in the rail and structural mill, handling key assignments in various areas of production. While at SAIL, he was placed in a high-value human resources role for three years. He is also a fellow of the Institution of Engineers (India) and an ex-chairman of south Gujarat center of the Confederation of Indian Industry.



Vice Chair

Vinay V Mahashabde, Chief R&D and Product Technology, Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur, JH, India

Vinay V Mahashabde received his B.Tech. degree in metallurgical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology – Varanasi in 1986. Since then, he has been with Tata Steel India, where he is currently holds the position of chief R&D and product technology. He has published more than 85 papers in fields related to the manufacturing of steel and has several patents in his name. He was the recipient of the Young Metallurgist Award in 1995, the Essar Gold Medal in 2007, Steel Eighties in 2011 and the SMS Gold Medal in 2013. In 2017, he was awarded the National Metallurgist Award in recognition of his work in areas of product development, process improvement and customer development.



Secretary-Treasurer

Bimalendu N. Mukhopadhyay, New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata, WB, India

Bimalendu N. Mukhopadhyay completed his secondary education in Shree Narayan Institution and then earned a B.Tech. (honors) degree in metallurgical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology – Kharagpur. He then started his professional career at Central Engineering & Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel Ltd. (now MECON Ltd.) in 1972. He worked at MECON Ltd. for 36 years in various capacities and superannuated from there as general manager, metals (iron, steel, non-ferrous and metallurgical) in 2007. He then served as chief metallurgical advisor of MECON Ltd. for two years. Following that, he worked in Essar Engineering Services Division for one year and Gharda Scientific Research Foundation for about a year. He has to his credit about a dozen technical papers on various iron and steel technologies and is twice the recipient of the Dr. M. Visvesvaraya Gold Medal. Mukhopadhyay is a life member of Indian Institute of Metals, Institute of Engineers (India) and Computer Society of India. He has been a member of AIST since 1980. Presently, he is a Life Member of AIST and an executive member of its India Member Chapter since 2008.

Korea



Chair

Sun Cheer Sheen, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Donghae Steeltech Corp., Seoul, Korea

Sun Cheer Sheen graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from Inha University, and earned a master's degree in accounting from Korea University. He has served as a director for the Korea Importer's Association. He has also served as the first representative of Pfizer Quigley (Minteq) and Affval S.A., Korea joint venture, as the Korean partner. In addition, Sheen is doing work for a marketing and sales business for foreign suppliers to Korean steel companies and producing cored wires for the steel industry in Korea.

Mexico



Chair

Oscar Chahin, Co-Chief Executive Officer, TYASA, Ixtaczoquitlan, Ver., Mexico

Oscar Chahin received both B.S. and M.S. degrees in mechanical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa., USA, and received his M.B.A. from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He has 10 years of experience in operations in the steel industry, at multiple facilities. At TYASA, he played a key role in the start-up of the CASTRIP mill project, which led the company's flat products strategy.



Vice Chair

Monserrat Sofia López-Cornejo, Assistant Professor, Instituto Tecnológico de Morelia, Morelia, Mich., Mexico

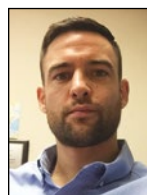
Monserrat Sofia López-Cornejo is a professor at Instituto Tecnológico de Morelia in the Materials Engineering Department and a member of Mexico's National System of Researchers. She earned a bachelor's degree in materials engineering, a master's degree in metallurgy, and a Ph.D. in sciences from the same university. In 2011, she entered the junior professional's program at Ternium México in Monterrey, N.L., Mexico. She worked for 5 years in different processes such as the HyL reactor, secondary metallurgy, steelmaking refractories and the hot strip mill. Since 2020, she has been teaching and leading research projects at Instituto Tecnológico de Morelia. In 2022, López-Cornejo was recognized by AIST with the Presidential Citation Award, the first Mexican woman to receive such recognition. From 2022 to 2025, she was a Kent D. Peaslee Junior Faculty Awardee, and since August 2025, López-Cornejo has been recognized by AIST Foundation as an AIST Steel Professor for her unequaled passion for teaching and promoting the steel industry to students.



Secretary

Leonardo Nieves, Senior Director, Ternium Mexico, San Nicolás de los Garza, N.L., Mexico

Leonardo Nieves is a mechanical engineer with over 20 years of experience in steel fabrication and executive management in a wide range of processes (hot and cold rolling) and in several countries.



Treasurer

Jorge Fernandez, Account Manager, AMI Automation, Monterrey, N.L., Mexico

Jorge Fernandez began his career 10 years ago working for AMI Automation as a level 2 systems developer, providing services for Ternium in San Nicolás de los Garza, N.L., Mexico. He joined the AMI sales team in 2009, responsible for corporate accounts in Mexico such as Grupo Techint and Grupo Simec. He also joined AIST in 2009 and since then has participated in the CONAC committee and Hot Sheet Rolling Technology Committee. He studied electronic systems engineering at Tecnológico de Monterrey and had a one-year internship at Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. In July 2018, he became part of AMI's sales team in the U.S.

Middle East North Africa



Chair and Treasurer

Karim Badr, Technical Director — Ironmaking, RHI Magnesita, Vienna, Austria

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 called 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 function is the technical director — Ironmaking at RHI Magnesita. He has had a number of published papers on iron ore reduction, refractory solutions and electric arc furnace operations.



First Vice Chair

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

Karim Alshurafa is the president of Vollmer America Inc. In his current role, 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 Steelmaking Metallurgy. In 2006, he served as a sales engineer at Heraeus Electro-Nite Co. LLC in steelmaking sensors. His steel career started in 2004 as an EAF process engineer intern at Gerdau Ameristeel Whitby in Canada, where he was hooked to the industry after seeing a scrap bucket charge in an electric arc furnace. Alshurafa has held multiple positions within AIST. He is past chair of the Pittsburgh Member Chapter and is the vice chair and co-founding member of the MENA Member Chapter. He is also a past chair of the Oxygen Steelmaking Technology Committee. Alshurafa has a B.Eng. in material science and engineering (2006) and an M.Eng. in engineering entrepreneurship and innovation (2012) from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., Canada. He is also a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces.



Second Vice Chair

Ashraf Hanna, Chief Executive Officer and Steel Industry Technical Expert, MeltTech Solutions Inc., Richmond Hill, Ont., Canada

Ashraf Hanna is a licensed metallurgical Professional Engineer from Ontario, Canada, with 38 years of experience in the steel industry. He holds an M.S. degree in metallurgical and production engineering. From 1997 until 2003, he was a senior meltshop process engineer at Al EZZ Steel Rebars Co. (EZZK) in Egypt. In 2003, he became steel plant manager for Al Rajhi Steel in Saudi Arabia. In 2009, he moved to Canada to work with RHI Magnesita with responsibility for technical market solutions for North America. He has published 18 articles and technical papers in steelmaking. He is the second vice chair and program chair for the MENA Member Chapter. He is a past chair of the Oxygen Steelmaking Technology Committee and belongs to the Electric Steelmaking Technology Committee.

Secretary

Mayar Ashmawi, Assistant Researcher, The British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt

Midwest



Chair

Sean McCann, Engineering Project Manager, U. S. Steel – Gary Works, Gary, Ind., USA

Sean McCann has over 22 years of experience in the steel industry and currently serves as the senior engineering manager for U. S. Steel – Gary Works. He joined U. S. Steel in 2014 as an engineering project manager and

has executed capital projects throughout primary and finishing operations within U. S. Steel. Prior to joining U. S. Steel, McCann began his career at Finkl Steel in Chicago, Ill., advancing from a student employee to a senior engineer. He holds B.S. degrees in aerospace and mechanical engineering and a master of engineering degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology, as well as an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. McCann is also a licensed Professional Engineer and holds a Project Management Professional certification. He has been a member of AIST since 2015 and a member of the Midwest Member Chapter board since 2021, and is also active in the AIST Project & Construction Management Technology Committee.



Vice Chair

Gregory Koszut, Senior Business Development Industry Manager Metals, Regal Rexnord Corp., West Valparaiso, Ind., USA

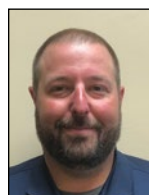
Greg Koszut started a career in steel in 1989 at LTV Steel Indiana Harbor. An 11-year career in integrated steel led to multiple positions with service provider companies in the metals industry in the areas of precision surveying and engineering. Currently Koszut serves as the lead to the global metals vertical sales team at Regal Rexnord Corp. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology from Purdue University and joined the Midwest Member Chapter board in 2021.



Secretary

Kurt Schmiegel, President, DLZ Industrial LLC, Burns Harbor, Ind., USA

Having over 32 years with DLZ in project engineering, project management and corporate leadership, Kurt Schmiegel has been engaged in the steel industry for most of this time. He is responsible for the entire industrial portfolio within DLZ comprising of metals, oil/gas, hydrogen/clean energy, and other heavy industries. Schmiegel is a registered Professional Engineer in Indiana. He is responsible for the Midwest Member Chapter vendor fair and has served the chapter for the past seven years.



Treasurer

Jason Strobel, Installation Director and Midwest General Manager, Integrated Mill Systems, Culver, Ind., USA

Jason Strobel is the installation director and Midwest general manager for Integrated Mill Systems (IMS). He has been with IMS

for 5.5 years based out of the Midwest Office in Portage, Ind., USA. He started his career in automotive before being hired at ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor. He spent 3.5 years at the Burns Harbor plant in Steelmaking at the caster and the basic oxygen furnace, holding positions both in maintenance and operations with increasing levels of responsibilities. After leaving ArcelorMittal, he worked at CET Inc. for 8.5 years as a senior project manager consulting across the steel industry. Strobel has a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. He joined the board of the AIST Midwest Member Chapter in 2018 and recently served as the chapter chair.

Northeastern Ohio



Chair

Steve Asseff, Lead Technical Category Buyer, Refractories, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Steve Asseff began his career in 1990 with LTV Steel Corp., Cleveland, Ohio, USA, as a trainee and then area supervisor at the LMF and continuous caster at Cleveland Works Steel Producing East. In 1995, he was promoted to process coordinator at the LS-E joint-venture electrogalvanizing line. He moved to purchasing at LTV in May 1997, and was promoted to supervising commodity manager in 1999. Following the LTV bankruptcy, Asseff spent three years at General Electric and Rolls-Royce before taking a position with Timken Bearing Group in 2004. He moved to the Timken Steel Group in 2006, where he worked in corporate strategy and process improvement. In 2012, he took a position with AK Steel – Butler Works in melt operations as a section manager. He then moved to United States Steel Corporation, where he served as a commodity manager for machining and fabrication for all U.S. operations. He is currently the senior buyer, refractories, for Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Asseff holds a B.S. degree in aerospace engineering from The Ohio State University and an M.B.A. from Case Western Reserve University. Asseff also serves as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve with the rank of Commander. He is a veteran of both the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.



Vice Chair

Jaime Hart, Business Development Manager, The Rudolph Libbe Companies/GEM Inc., North Ridgeville, Ohio, USA

Jaime Hart spent 17 years in the scaffolding industry as an estimator and

salesperson. With a B.S. degree in marketing and communications, she has focused on the industrial markets with a heavy concentration in the steel industry. She transitioned into the industrial construction market in 2007 working for The Rudolph Libbe Group and GEM pursuing construction and maintenance opportunities within the steel industry, as well as the automotive, chemical and electric vehicle markets. She has been an AIST member since 2008 and has served as the scholarship chair for the Northeast Ohio Member Chapter since 2016.



Secretary

Larry Marks, Director of New Business Development, Sidock Group Inc., Louisville, Ohio, USA

Larry Marks holds a bachelor's degree in management from Malone University as well as a degree in electronics from Stark State University. Marks worked for over 40 years at TimkenSteel Corp. in numerous leadership roles in maintenance, reliability, and operations there. He is a Life Member of AIST and has served as Board of Directors representative, Chapter chair (twice) and currently serves as a member of the Northeastern Ohio Member Chapter board of directors. In his current role with Sidock Group Inc., Marks helps clients in the steel, power and refining industries identify problem areas and develop engineered solutions.

Treasurer

Yvonne L. Vancamp, Project Administrator, Globex Corp., Canfield, Ohio, USA

Northern



Chair

Robert Pinelli, Business Development Manager, North Star Technical Inc., Hamilton, Ont., Canada

Robert Pinelli studied business administration at Mohawk College. He then spent two years working in I.T. at North Star Technical, where he implemented new operating control software for the company. He moved into a junior sales role for five years, then became the business development manager, overseeing new contracts and customer relations servicing various industries including pulp and paper, steel manufacturing, metal processing, water and wastewater. In 2020, he was appointed vice president of the company.



Vice Chair

Shannon Clark, Senior Specialist
— Metallurgy and Quality,
ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P.,
Hamilton, Ont., Canada

Shannon Clark began her career in the steel industry in 1999 at ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P. as a technical leader in the process automation department. Moving through a series of positions in scheduling, sales and order fulfillment, Clark is currently a senior specialist in the metallurgy, quality and world-class continuous improvement department. She holds an M.B.A. in operations management and management of innovation from McMaster University, and also completed her bachelor's degree and her Metallurgy of Iron and Steel Certificate at McMaster University. She joined AIST in 2000 and has served on the executive committee of the Northern Member Chapter since 2012. Clark received an AIST Presidential Citation in 2017.



Secretary-Treasurer

Cameron Mitchell, Engineering
Lead — Decarbonization Program,
ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P.,
Hamilton, Ont., Canada

Cameron Mitchell has 28 years of experience in the steel industry working at ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P. in Hamilton, Ont., Canada. His background is in electrical engineering and he graduated from Queen's University in 1997. He began his career in the hot strip mill working primarily in level 0/1 control systems. He also worked as project manager for numerous projects during the hot band improvement program in the late 1990s. In 2002, he was assigned as assistant general manager of Powerlasers, a tailor-welded blanking subsidiary in Ohio. Upon returning from that assignment in 2006, he assumed the role of technology manager for the hot strip mill. In 2013, he transferred to the Engineering Department and held the role of manager, capital project delivery. In late 2017, he was promoted to the position of engineering general manager. In 2022, he joined the decarbonization program as the engineering lead. Mitchell joined AIST in 2014 as the Northern Member Chapter secretary-treasurer.

Northern Pacific



Secretary-Treasurer

Adrian Deney, Development
Associate, Linde, San Ramon,
Calif., USA

Adrian Deney joined the Iron & Steel Society in 1996. He joined the AIST San

Francisco Member Chapter in 2008 and was elected to the position of secretary-treasurer in 2015. Deney has completed projects on oxygen injection for electric furnace steelmaking, participated in two projects on oxygen injection for basic oxygen furnace steelmaking and led one project on oxygen injection in ladle metallurgy. He has also worked on oxygen supply for steel mills. Deney has presented two technical papers at AIST conferences. He completed a Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering at the University of Missouri – Rolla under David Robertson, with the late Kent Peaslee as one of his advisors. Deney has a B.Sc. degree in chemical engineering from the University of Cape Town. He is also active in The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration.

Ohio Valley



Chair

Charles Droessler, Business
Development, LJB Inc., Loveland,
Ohio, USA

Charles Droessler has 15 years of experience as a services and products provider to the steel industry. He obtained his bachelor's degree in industrial studies from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Prior to LJB, he worked with an international mining company, supplying lime for the steel industry. In his current position at LJB, he partners with steel producers across North America to develop and implement engineering (safety, civil, structural and transportation) and digital (laser scanning and 3D modeling, asset and work order management systems) solutions that improve employee safety, data collection and management, reliability of safety assets, and risk management.



Vice Chair

Carl Garringer, Plant Mechanical
Engineer, Steel Dynamics Inc. –
Structural and Rail Division,
Columbia City, Ind., USA

Carl Garringer began his career with Steel Dynamics Inc. in 2008, starting in the ironmaking department with a variety of responsibilities ranging from utility positions to baghouse operation. During this time, he became a student in Purdue University's mechanical engineering technology school, graduating with his B.S. degree in 2015. The same year, he accepted the position of plant mechanical engineer at the Butler Flat Roll Division with a focus on plant utility projects. In 2019, he transferred to the Structural and Rail Division, continuing to stay in the plant engineering group as a mechanical engineer with a focus

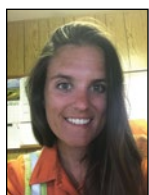
on supervision and project management. In 2016, he joined the AIST Maintenance & Reliability Technology Committee and has held several chair positions since joining.



Secretary

Jennifer Schaefer, Applications Engineer, Cleveland-Cliffs Research & Innovation Center, West Chester, Ohio, USA

Jennifer Schaefer received her B.S. degree in materials science and engineering from The Ohio State University in 2019. She began her career with Carpenter Technology Corp. as a research metallurgist under their Associate Metallurgist Program, where she assisted in characterization and development of specialty alloys. She has been with Cleveland-Cliffs as an applications engineer since 2021 with experience in both automotive and nonautomotive applications. She is currently responsible for early vendor involvement for stainless steel products as well as any products and applications related to the appliance and solar markets.



Treasurer

Talli Bertke, End User Applications Engineer, Cleveland-Cliffs Research & Innovation Center, West Chester, Ohio, USA

Talli Bertke has worked for Cleveland-Cliffs and its predecessor company since 2015. The beginning of her career was spent serving in various maintenance manager positions in the Middletown Works plant in Middletown, Ohio, USA. More recently she has moved into the end user applications engineering role out of the company's Research and Innovation Center. She holds both a bachelor's of science in mechanical engineering from Ohio University and an M.B.A. from the University of Dayton. In her current position, Bertke supports various customers with existing product support as well as new product or new customer qualifications in the end user or nonautomotive space.

Philadelphia



Chair

Andrew Palmer, Sales Manager – UCAR Electrodes, GrafTech International Ltd., New Castle, Pa., USA

Andrew Palmer graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He began his career with United States Steel Corporation in 2001 and progressed through

various commercial roles over the next 15 years. He joined GrafTech International in 2015 where he is a regional sales manager and key account manager for UCAR Electrodes. During his time with GrafTech, he has held responsibilities across the U.S. and Eastern Canada.



Vice Chair

Richard Smith, Principal Metallurgist, R&D, Carpenter Technology Corp., Reading, Pa., USA

Richard Smith graduated from Lehigh University with a bachelor's degree in materials science and engineering in 1992. He subsequently earned an M.S. degree (1994) and a Ph.D. (1998) in materials science and engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. Smith started working for National Steel in 1997 at the Technical Center in Trenton, Mich., and later at Granite City Division in Granite City, Ill., until 2003. Later that year, he joined North American Stainless as a quality control engineer. In 2006, Smith began working for Carpenter Technology Corp. in the process R&D department.

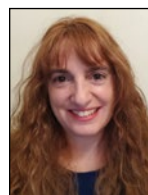


Secretary-Treasurer

Jose M. de Jesus Jr., Senior Applications Engineer, Xtek Inc., Bethlehem, Pa., USA

Jose M. de Jesus Jr. received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University and began his engineering career at Westinghouse Plant Apparatus Division, working in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion program. He joined Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point Division in 1989 as project engineer in the technical services department, assigned to the hot strip mill modernization effort. He was maintenance engineer for the Sparrows Point hot mill from 1992 through 2002. He joined CHL Systems Inc. in May 2002 as a project engineer for steel-related business, leading various mill upgrade projects. He joined Xtek Inc. in October 2010, where he is a senior engineer for applications and engineering services.

Pittsburgh



Chair

Kelly Cetin, Senior Research Engineer, U. S. Steel Research and Technology Center, Pittsburgh, Pa., USA

Kelly Cetin has almost 12 years of experience in the steel industry and 16 years of experience in the broader metals industry. She is currently

a senior research engineer at the U. S. Steel Research and Technology Center where she focuses on hot dip coatings and product development. Her extensive background in the steel industry includes roles as a process metallurgist in the flat-rolled division at Severstal N.A. Inc., and as a process engineer and quality manager in the tubular industry at PTC Alliance. She began her career in aluminum at Reynolds Metals, working as a process metallurgist for aluminum flat rolled products and later joined Alcoa (formally Aluminex) as a cast house quality assurance manager in a primary aluminum reduction facility. Cetin holds a master's degree in engineering science, and a bachelor's degree in engineering science and electrical engineering from The Pennsylvania State University.



Vice Chair

George Boy, President and Chief Executive Officer, Berry Metal Co., Harmony, Pa., USA

George Boy is currently the president and CEO of Berry Metal Co. He started his career with Berry in 2017 as the vice president of engineering. Prior to his time with Berry, Boy spent 13 years with SMS with roles in engineering, technical sales and project management. Prior to joining the steel industry, he started his career in the nuclear sector, spending five years at FirstEnergy – Beaver Valley Power Station. Boy holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering technology from Pennsylvania State University – The Behrend College, where he also minored in economics. He also holds a master's degree in manufacturing management also from Penn State University Erie.



Secretary

Claudia Leal, President and Chief Executive Officer, EAFab Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa., USA

Claudia Leal brings over 32 years of experience in the steel industry and currently serves as the president and chief executive officer of EAFab Corp., a leading provider of water-cooled component design, manufacturing, and maintenance for melt shop equipment. She holds a B.S. degree in industrial engineering from the University of Monterrey and began her career at Fuchs Systems, where she laid the foundation for her future leadership in engineering and manufacturing. Throughout her career, Leal has held previous roles as a product engineer, purchasing coordinator, production manager, and sales director, demonstrating a well-rounded trajectory of growth in the steel sector. Her industry impact has earned her recognition as a finalist for EY's Entrepreneur of the Year award, along with various other accolades and certifications in sales, manufacturing, and management. She has been an active member of the AIST since 2018, has served as

secretary of the Pittsburgh Member Chapter since 2021, and continues to contribute to the steel community.



Treasurer

Gary M. Urso, Managing Director, Tamini Transformers USA LLC, Pittsburgh, Pa., USA

Gary M. Urso has 42 years of experience in the metals manufacturing, power and utilities, and engineering services businesses. He currently serves as managing director of Tamini Transformers USA. Prior to his current position, Urso was senior director — strategic investments, capital projects and global engineering at Arconic-Alcoa Titanium and Engineered Products (formerly RTI International Metals Inc.). Previous to this role, he was general manager of the technical support areas of the business. Prior to RTI, he was vice president of TDI Group LLC, and before that regional general manager of Orbital Engineering Inc. Before joining Orbital, Urso provided senior consulting services to the steel industry at Hudson Global Resources, and served as vice president and general manager of Panelmatic Inc., Youngstown, Ohio. From 1995 to 2002, he managed the successful design and implementation of the world's first direct roll anneal and pickle line at Arcelor (J&L Specialty Steel Inc.). Urso also established and managed the first process control and automation organization at J&L. He started his career with the General Electric Co. in 1983, advancing into leadership roles serving the metals, power/energy and general industries. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering, and has been an active member serving and fulfilling director/committee-level positions for several industry and engineering associations throughout his career, including AIST, for more than 30 years.

Southeast

Chair

Matt Nicholson, Rolling Mill Maintenance Supervisor, Nucor Steel-Hertford County, Cofield, N.C., USA

Matt Nicholson is a maintenance supervisor with 28 years of maintenance experience. After earning an associate degree in machining technology, he went to work for Nucor in 2000. Started his career with Nucor with the greenfield start-up at the Hertford County plate mill as a roll grinder/machinist. In 2006, he became a rolling mill maintenance mechanic. In 2010, he moved to the build and start-up of the quench and temper line and normalizing line in 2013. He was promoted to rolling mill mechanical lead in 2017. In 2020, he was promoted to heat treat maintenance supervisor where he worked on

the build and commissioning of the blast and paint line. In the fall of 2021, he took over as mechanical maintenance supervisor in the rolling mill.



Vice Chair

Kaleb Fitch, Meltshop Manager, Nucor Steel Lexington, Lexington, N.C., USA

Kaleb Fitch is a seasoned leader in the steel industry with over two decades of experience driving operational excellence and innovation. A graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. in materials science and engineering, he joined Nucor in 2018 and currently serves as the meltshop manager at Nucor Steel Lexington.



Secretary

Michael D. Hutson, President, John Hutson Co., Kings Mountain, N.C., USA

Michael Hutson became the president of John Hutson Co. in 1994. He has a B.S. degree in business from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



Treasurer

Nick Bucci, Caster Maintenance Supervisor, Nucor Steel-Hertford County, Cofield, N.C., USA

Nick Bucci 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.

Southern California



Chair

Stephen Bunch, California Steel Industries Inc., Fontana, Calif., USA

Stephen Bunch has been a member of AIST since 1995. He is the current chair of the Southern California Member Chapter and a metallurgist at CSI-Nucor-JFE

working on supplier and product development. He was previously the assistant manager of metallurgical and quality services at CSI from 2013 to 2023. From 2003 to 2023, he was senior metallurgist for the hot trip mill and finishing department. He previously worked at AK Steel in Middletown, Ohio, USA, from 1997 to 2002 as a hot strip mill metallurgist and technical engineer in charge of quality and process improvements. He graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a B.S. degree in metallurgical engineering in 1996.



Vice Chair

Alma Heustis, Environmental and Sustainability Manager, NS BlueScope Coated Products North America, Riverside, Calif., USA

Alma Heustis holds a B.S. degree in environmental engineering from the University of California, Riverside and has over 20 years of experience in the environmental field. She spent the first 13 years of her career in consulting. In 2016, Heustis joined California Steel Industries as a senior environmental engineer, where she became a member of AIST. In 2024, she joined SoCalGas as an air quality team lead.



Secretary-Treasurer

John Marsh, Day Supervisor, Material Handling, California Steel Industries Inc., Fontana, Calif., USA

John P. Marsh started his career in the steel industry in 1997 at California Steel Industries. He has worked in the flat roll, tubular products shipping, traffic and material handling departments for the last 26 years. In 2017, he earned his bachelor's degree in organizational management from the University of La Verne. He is a second-generation steelworker; his father Denney R. Marsh retired after working 18 years at Kaiser Steel and 24 years at Calstrip Steel, City of Industry. Denney introduced John to AIST and still attends the chapter events today. John Marsh joined the Southern California Member Chapter board in 2015 and the AIST Material Handling Technology Committee in 2021.

Southwest



Chair

Tad Dunville, Partner, Safe Lifting Partners, New Orleans, La., USA

Tad Dunville has over 20 years of experience with process cranes in metalmaking, servicing and distribution. He was previously head of the U.S. arm of Omaha

Engineering as well as consulting as load cell product manager for Unique Group's Water Weights division. He is a member of ASME B30.2 and B30.16. In the past, Dunville was mods director for a well-known midwestern firm, CFO of the same firm, corporate development director for a second firm known for ladle and mill cranes, and general manager of a third firm known for high-performance below-the-hook devices used by metals makers. Dunville is a multi-year speaker at the AIST Crane Symposium including the Argentine events. He is also published in *Lift & Hoist International Magazine*, *Hoist Magazine*, *Wire Rope Exchange*, and *Material Handling Network*. Dunville is a graduate of Miami University and the University of Kansas School of Law.

Vice Chair

Renato Silva, Rolling Mill Assistant Manager, CMC Steel Texas, Seguin, Texas, USA

Renato Silva began his steel industry career in 2004 as a mechanical engineer. In 2018, he joined CMC as rolling mill manager at the California mill. Over the years, Silva has worked in five different rolling mills, starting in Brazil before moving to the United States in 2009 to join Gerdau's Florida steel mill. He later transferred to CMC Steel California, and in 2020 became part of the CMC Steel Texas team in Seguin. Silva holds a bachelor's degree in industrial mechanical engineering from CEFET-MG (Brazil), along with qualifications in automation engineering and business administration. He most recently earned his Executive M.B.A. from the University of Texas at San Antonio.



Secretary-Treasurer

Sabra 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 meltshop intern with CMC. Serino is also a member of the AIST Ladle & Secondary Refining Technology Committee. She joined CMC full time in January 2016 as a meltshop technical assistant.

St. Louis



Chair

Drew McRoy, Mechanical Engineer, Alton Steel Inc., Alton, Ill., USA

Drew McRoy first got involved in steel when he was an engineering intern for Alton Steel Inc. (ASI) during the summer of 2018. He graduated from Saint Louis University in 2019 with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering and returned to ASI as a full time engineer. McRoy earned an M.B.A. from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a specialization in project management. He is involved in all areas of the steel plant, from troubleshooting maintenance repairs, to creating new 3D CAD designs, to commissioning large capital projects. He became involved with AIST immediately after starting full time with ASI, gave a keynote presentation in 2023 to the St. Louis Member Chapter, and then became chair of the chapter in 2024.

Vice Chair

Randy Brazier, Engineer, Wieland Rolled Products, Alton, Ill., USA

Secretary-Treasurer

Corey Cato, Outside Sales, Bearing Headquarters Co., Alton, Ill., USA ♦