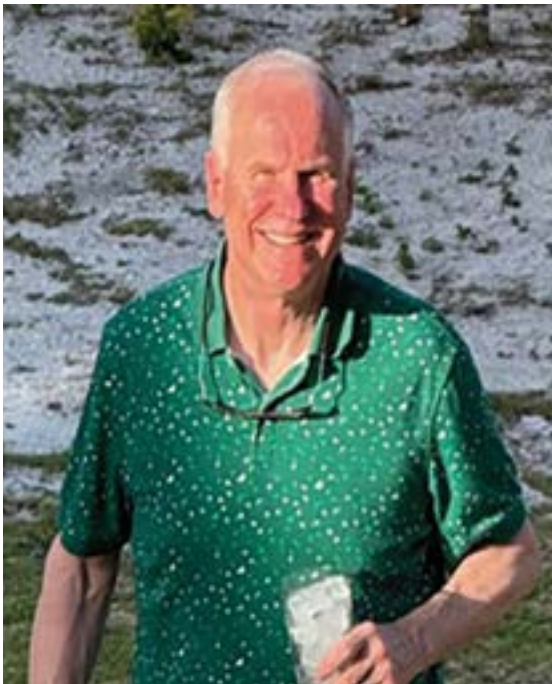


36-year life member



Reed Heine

With over 42 years of experience, Reed Heine worked for multiple companies throughout his career after graduating with his bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia. From 1982 to 1992, Heine started his career with Inland Steel Co., now Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., in operation, engineering and operating technology. From 1992 to 1997, he worked for Molten Metal Technology Inc. in operations and process improvement. Throughout his time there, he focused on commercialization of the company's patented process to recycle hazardous waste using a molten metal bath. Since 1997, Heine has worked for Messer in metals applications. There, he is responsible for sales and commercialization of application equipment within metal industries. He is also an internal industry expert for steel, iron and nonferrous. Heine has earned numerous honors including top new business sales award for application engineers in 2019 and 2022, various Linde Spirit awards for innovation and customer focus and BOC Innovation award winner for an electric arc furnace (EAF) sidewall injector in 2002. He is also a member of multiple associations including AIST, the Iron & Steel Society (ISS) and chapter president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

When did you first hear about AISE/ISS and how? Was there someone who introduced you to the association?

John Ricketts was my first supervisor and longtime mentor after graduating from college as a chemical engineer in 1981. John has the patience of a saint when it comes to teaching those interested in ironmaking. Also, very direct. He lets you know where you stand. Over the years I've always kept him in mind when training new engineers by being patient and making sure they really understand. He insisted that presenting a technical paper was a "rite of passage" as a young engineering working for Inland Steel. Presenting papers at AISE, ISS and AIST was exciting. One of my papers was on upgrading the RH-OB vacuum system to reliably produce titanium-stabilized steel. I was part of a team that started up the first RH-OB in North America. Thirty of us went to Japan for 3 weeks to train with Nippon Steel. To have so much responsibility as a young professional stretched my capabilities, and for that I'm very grateful. Later I was responsible for converting a slab reheat furnace from air fuel to 100% oxy-fuel. I was part of an AISTech panel discussing the benefits of oxy-fuel vs. regeneration burner technology. That was a lively discussion!

What was your first level of involvement in AIST? How did your involvement progress over the years?

I was an active member before AISE and ISS merged to become AIST, presenting several papers and becoming involved with the local chapter. I was on the steelmaking subcommittee for years. Over time, I presented papers related to ironmaking, vacuum degassing, sidewall injection in an EAF and converting a slab reheat furnace to 100% oxy-fuel.

How has AIST membership benefited you in your career?

For those working in the steel industry, AIST membership is a must. Great technical exchange and networking. Most of all, AISTech keeps me in touch with colleagues/friends I've known my entire career.

Talk about your career path. How did you enter the steel industry? How has the industry progressed from when you started to the present day?

I started my career as a technical assistant in ironmaking at Inland Steel. I moved to steelmaking, then to engineering back to ironmaking as section manager of operating technology. I left the industry for 5 years to work for a startup company using molten metal to recycle hazardous waste. My background in steelmaking was critical. My responsibilities include operation management and process improvement. Then I came back to the steel industry as a supplier of technology and industrial gases. I've always preferred technology over management. As a vendor, we provide the next improvement. Some of the major innovations I've contributed to within the steel industry are sidewall injectors for EAF; ladle preheating using oxy-fuel technology, converting reheat furnaces to oxy-fuel and methods to recycle EAF dust (KO-61) using oxygen.

Are there any current projects within the industry you are working on?

Several involving carbon footprint reduction and process improvements in steelmaking.

If you were to recommend AIST to a new graduate just coming into the industry, what would you tell him/her?

Joining AIST is an excellent way to develop and continue to grow technically. Participate in local chapter meetings and the annual AISTech conference. Being involved is invaluable to gain knowledge and insight. Friendships formed will last your career.

