



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](http://AIST.org) to view the AIST bylaws and all governance policies.

## Executive Committee



### Board President

**John G. Speer**, American Bureau of Shipping Chaired Professor, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo., USA

John G. Speer is the American Bureau of Shipping Chaired Professor at Colorado School of Mines. 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.



### Board First Vice President

**Greg J. Brandon**, Director of Operations, CMC South Carolina, Cayce, S.C., USA

Greg Brandon is director of operations at CMC Steel South Carolina. In this role, he oversees operations for steelmaking in Cayce, S.C. Brandon started his tenure at CMC in 1998 as an inside sales representative at CMC 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 South Carolina in 2021. He served as the vice president of the Southeast Division from 2022 until July 2025 when he returned to CMC South Carolina as the director of operations.

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



### Board Second Vice President

**Dirk Francis**, Chief Operating Officer, Primary, Cluster Dunkerque, ArcelorMittal France, Dunkerque, France

Dirk Francis was appointed chief operating officer, primary, Cluster Dunkerque, of ArcelorMittal France in 2024. He previously served on ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P.'s executive team since April 2022. Prior to that, he served as chief operating officer, primary, ArcelorMittal Germany,

and deputy site manager of ArcelorMittal Europe Flat Products since 2018. Prior to joining ArcelorMittal Germany, he was head of blast furnaces and sinter plants at ArcelorMittal Ghent from 2015 to 2018. He joined ArcelorMittal Ghent in 1998 in cokemaking, where he held several positions as project manager, line manager and support manager. In 2008, he was appointed head of cokemaking and in 2012 his responsibilities expanded to include raw materials, the harbor, recycling and internal transport.

Francis started his career in 1995 at Philips Lighting in the Netherlands, in charge of development and assembly of energy-saving lamps. He holds a master of civil engineering degree in mechatronics from the University of Leuven, Belgium, as well as a master of industrial engineering degree in electromechanics from the Industrial High School of Ghent, Belgium.



### Past 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 and in May 2024 became executive vice president of raw materials.

Behr is a graduate of Purdue University with a B.S. degree in civil engineering.



### Officer-at-Large

**Jeff Joldrichsen**

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 in 1995 and started work at North Star BlueScope Steel (formerly known as North Star BHP Steel), where he 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 from 2009 to 2024 was the vice president of operations.

Joldrichsen joined BlueScope Coated Products in 2024 as their vice president of operations over their light-gauge facilities throughout the U.S. He most recently served as vice president and general manager role over the Cambridge, Ohio and Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., locations.

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.



### Officer-at-Large

**Daniel R. Brown**, Executive Vice President, Advanced Technology Steelmaking, United States Steel Corporation; Chief Operating Officer, Big River Steel, Osceola, Ark., USA

Dan Brown currently serves as executive vice president, advanced technology steelmaking at United States Steel Corporation and Chief Operating Officer, Big River Steel Works (BRSW). He assumed responsibility for Big River Steel in July 2021 and for Advanced Technology Steelmaking in February 2022 as Senior Vice President. In addition to BRSW operations, he oversaw the construction of Big River 2 in Osceola, Ark., which began operations in October 2024. He has been serving as the Big River Steel Chief Integration Officer since January 2021 and a member of the Big River Steel Operations Integration team since August 2020.

Brown has over 31 years of service with U. S. Steel, beginning in 1994 as a management associate at the Irvin Plant, Mon Valley Works. He held various roles in steelmaking and secondary metallurgy at Edgar Thomson plant before relocating to U. S. Steel Serbia in 2003, where he served as plant manager of both Primary Operations and later Finishing and Tin Operations.

Returning to the U.S. in 2006, he held leadership positions at Fairfield Works and Gary Works, including division manager of Ironmaking, Steelmaking, and Casting. In 2018, he advanced to plant manager – Primary Operations at Gary Works. In 2019, he was named general manager – Automotive Operations, overseeing Great Lakes Plant, Desco Coating, and Midwest Sheet facilities.

Brown earned his B.S. degree in business logistics from The Pennsylvania State University. He also earned his M.B.A. (finance) from Duquesne University.

Brown serves on the board of directors for the Mississippi County Hospital System, and the Arkansas Research Alliance.



### Officer-at-Large

**Daniel J. Keown**, Vice President and General Manager, Steel Dynamics Inc. – Flat Roll Group, Columbus, Miss., USA

Dan Keown has been vice president of Steel Dynamics Inc. and general manager of the Columbus Flat Roll Division since October 2023. He is responsible for the overall operation of the Columbus division. Prior to being named vice president, Keown served as the general manager of the Columbus Flat Roll Division since January 2021. He served as general manager, Engineered Bar Products Division from January 2017 until January 2021, and operations manager from June 2014 until January 2017, again with responsibility for the overall operation of the division. Keown served as meltshop manager, Engineered Bar Products Division from January 2008 until June 2014. Prior, he was a casting supervisor from March 2003 until January 2008, assisting in the meltshop redesign and start-up of the brownfield acquisition.

From May 1998 through March 2003, Keown held various positions within Iron Dynamics, including process engineer and shift supervisor. He was part of the team that designed, constructed, and commissioned the Iron Dynamics Division. He started his career with National Starch and Chemical in 1991 in varying roles of increasing responsibility, including process engineer, shift supervisor, byproducts department manager, and

treating and drying department manager. Keown earned a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 1991, and an M.S. degree in engineering management from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 2011.



### Officer-at-Large

**Patrick M. Bloom**, Executive Vice President, Government Relations, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Patrick Bloom is currently responsible for the Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.'s government relations and public policy initiatives at the federal, state and local levels of government. In addition, he oversees Cleveland-Cliffs' sustainability, strategic partnerships and community relations functions, including administration of The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation. Bloom joined Cleveland-Cliffs in 2008 as a government relations representative and has served in roles of increasing responsibility throughout his career. He holds a B.A. degree from Miami University, an M.A. degree in public policy and administration from Northwestern University and a graduate certificate in business management from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. Bloom serves as a trustee of The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation, chairs the American Iron and Steel Institute's Council of U.S. Producers, and volunteers in support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio. He was recognized as a member of Crain's Cleveland Business 40 Under 40 Class of 2023.



### Treasurer

**Mark L. Fedor**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Morgan Engineering, Alliance, Ohio, USA

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 Engineering. 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

**Mark R. Olson**, Vice President of Mill Operations, Pacific Steel Group, San Diego, Calif., USA

As vice president of mill operations at Pacific Steel Group, Mark Olson is leading the Mojave steel mill project in California from initial planning to full rebar production. He has more than 35 years of experience across all aspects of steel manufacturing, including operations, finance, quality, safety and environmental performance. Previously, he served as vice president of North American operations and as vice president/general manager with Gerdau North America in the U.S. and Canada.

Olson earned both his civil engineering technology degree and M.B.A. from Purdue University and is known for building and managing high-performing teams across multiple facilities.



### Safety and Environment Technology Division

**Nathan A. Berry**, Senior Director of Safety, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Nathan Berry started his career as a conservation worker for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in 1993. In 1997, he joined NorthStar BHP Steel as a raw material and meltshop team member. He transitioned from operations to maintenance supervision roles, and finally into the environment, health and safety (EHS) manager role over his tenure with the company. In 2017, he joined Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. as part of the project team to safely build the most advanced hot briquetted iron facility in North America. Currently, he is the corporate director of safety for Cleveland-Cliffs.

Berry holds a B.S. degree from the University of Findlay in environmental health and safety management and an A.A.S. degree in mechanics from Owens Community College. He is also a veteran who served 8 years in the Ohio Army National Guard.



### Cokemaking and Ironmaking Technology Division

**Scott E. Pisula**, Project and Technology Manager, U. S. Steel – Mon Valley Works, Clairton Plant, Clairton, Pa., USA

Scott Pisula received his B.S. degree in materials science and engineering degree from Carnegie Mellon University in 2001, followed by an M.S. degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010. He began his professional career at United States Steel Corporation as a summer intern in 1999 and subsequently joined the Mon Valley Works team as a quality engineer within the Edgar Thomson Plant's continuous caster operation. Transitioning into operations, he advanced through roles including shift manager and process engineer. In 2008, Pisula was appointed process coordinator for the battery preservation department at the United States Steel Corporation – Mon Valley Works. He then held multiple positions within coal and coke operations prior to joining the corporate process health team in 2015, where he supported process improvement initiatives across North American flat roll finishing operations. Between 2018 and 2026, he led the coal, coke, maintenance, and services division at the Clairton Plant.

He is the project & technology manager at the U. S. Steel – Mon Valley Works, a role he transitioned to in April 2026. He has been a dedicated member of AIST, having contributed actively for 25 years. He has been serving as chair of the AIST Cokemaking Technology Committee since 2022.



### Steelmaking Technology Division

**Kyle W. Vanover**, Product Development Metallurgist, Steel Dynamics Inc. – Flat Roll Group Butler Division, Butler, Ind., USA

Kyle Vanover is the product development metallurgist at Steel Dynamics Inc. (SDI) – Flat Roll Group Butler Division in Butler, Ind., USA. He joined SDI in 2009 as a meltshop metallurgist and has since held several key metallurgical roles within the Butler flat roll operation, including LMF/caster metallurgist, hot mill metallurgist and hot mill product metallurgist.

Throughout his tenure at SDI, Vanover has been involved in steelmaking, casting, hot rolling, product

development and quality improvement efforts across the mill. His work has focused on improving safety, optimizing process capability, supporting customer and product requirements, and developing practical metallurgical solutions across melting, casting and rolling operations.

Vanover holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Trine University and an M.S. degree in engineering from Purdue University.

He is actively involved with AIST and has served as chair of the Electric Steelmaking Technology Committee. He continues to support AIST's technical and educational efforts, including serving as a trainer at the annual AIST Modern Electric Furnace Steelmaking Training Seminar, where he helps share industry experience and mentor the next generation of steel professionals.



### Refining and Casting Technology Division

**April D. Pitts-Baggett**, Senior Quality Engineer, Nucor Business Technology, Irving, Texas, USA

April Pitts-Baggett graduated from the University of Alabama in 2004 (B.S.) and 2006 (M.S.) with degrees in metallurgical engineering. She began her career at Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Inc. in 2006, holding multiple metallurgist and supervisor positions while concurrently completing her Ph.D., also in metallurgical engineering. In 2019, she moved to Italy to serve as the chief metallurgist of Duferdofin-Nucor. She returned to the states in 2020 to serve as a process metallurgist at Nucor Steel–Decatur LLC until 2022. Pitts-Baggett is currently the senior quality engineer with Nucor Business Technology, utilizing AI tools to enhance Nucor's system solutions.

Additionally, she serves as the past chairman of the board for the University of Alabama's Metallurgical Engineering department, past chair of AIST's Ladle & Secondary Refining Technology Committee, committee member for the Annual Nucor Children's Charity Classic and serves on the AIST Women in Steel Membership Committee.



## Rolling and Processing Technology Division

**Michael A. Cooke**, Director of Technical Services, SSAB Americas, Muscatine, Iowa, USA

Michael Cooke is currently with SSAB Americas at the Muscatine, Iowa, USA, facility. He graduated in 1991 from the Colorado School of Mines with a B.S. degree in metallurgical and materials engineering, and he began his career in the steel industry later that year at Geneva Steel in Provo, Utah, USA. In 1999, he accepted a metallurgist position with Ipsco Steel at the Montpelier, Iowa, steelmaking facility, which was later acquired by SSAB in 2007. In his current position, he has been the SSAB Iowa director of technical services for 18 years and is responsible for the steel plate mill's quality system, metallurgy, and chemical and physical testing laboratories; he also oversees the quality and physical testing labs at SSAB's three cut-to-length plate facilities. He has been at the Iowa location for 25 years and employed in the steel industry for 33 years.

Cooke received his M.B.A. from St. Ambrose University in 2007. He has held the position of chair for the Plate Rolling Technology Committee and has also presented for the AIST Hot Sheet and Plate Rolling Fundamentals training seminar covering both Steckel rolling and plate finishing equipment. He was a co-author and recipient of the Gilbert Speich Award in 2008, and co-inventor for two U.S. patents.



## Metallurgy Technology Division

**Siddhartha Biswas**, Senior Plant Metallurgist, Quality and Product Development, Big River Steel – A U. S. Steel Co., Osceola, Ark., USA

Siddhartha Biswas is a senior plant metallurgist at Big River Steel – A U. S. Steel Co. and is responsible for product development and process improvement of cold-rolled coated and uncoated sheet steels. He is leading the successful development of high-strength and high-formable sheet steel with lean alloying and innovative process design specifically pertaining to thin-slab casting mini-mills. He is an integral part of a core group on developing advanced high-strength, superformable sheet steels with nano-precipitates in a single-phase ferritic matrix for automotive as well as structural applications.

He is the author and co-author of several publications in peer-reviewed journals and proceedings and is

proud recipient of AIST awards such as the Gilbert R. Speich Award (2023) and Richard R. Fruehan Award (2020).

He holds a bachelor's degree in materials and metallurgical engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and received a master's degree in materials science and engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology. Biswas obtained his Ph.D. degree in materials engineering from University of Alabama at Birmingham.



## Energy, Control and Digitalization Technology Division

**Hiranya M. Pathak**, Principal Business Developer, Primetals Technologies USA LLC, Alpharetta, Ga., USA

Hiranya Pathak has worked in the electrical and steel industries for two decades. In his current role at Primetals Technologies, he designs and develops power systems and power quality solutions for the steel producers. During last decade, he was instrumental in design and execution of power system solutions for new steel mills and development of power quality solutions for electric arc furnaces for all major steel producers in the U.S.

Over the years, he authored and co-authored several technical papers for AIST's Electrical Applications and Electric Steelmaking Technology Committees. He was the recipient of AIST's James Farrington Award in 2021 and 2022. He served as a reviewer of AIST's "Roadmap for Iron and Steel Manufacturing: Revolutionizing U.S. Global Leadership for a Sustainable Industrial Supply Chain" for the U.S. Department of Commerce and National Institute of Standards and Technology. He continues to contribute as a session chair at AISTech, and he is among the AIST members working to develop an IEEE standard for AC Electrical Arc Furnace Transformers.

Pathak holds an M.S. degree in electrical engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. from Emory University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and a Senior IEEE member.



### Plant Services and Reliability Technology Division

**Rachel S. Schmidt**, Technical Sales Manager — EAF Mill Services, Berry Metal Co., Harmony, Pa., USA

Rachel Schmidt currently serves as a technical sales manager for Berry Metal Co.'s EAF Mill Services group. Prior to entering the steel industry, she worked in commercial construction. Her career in the steel industry began with a manufacturer of water hydraulic valves and continued at Hydro Inc., where she served as sales manager for the Midwest region before joining Berry Metal in 2023. Throughout her career, Schmidt has held roles in applications engineering, sales and quality management.

Schmidt has been actively involved in AIST through Women in Steel, Young Professionals and numerous Technology Training Conferences. She currently serves on the Midwest Member Chapter board, is a member of the Women in Steel Programming Committee and serves as Roundup co-chair for the Electric Steelmaking Technology Committee. She previously served as chair of the Maintenance & Reliability Technology Committee (MRTC). In recognition of her contributions to the MRTC, Schmidt received an AIST Presidential Citation in 2023. She studied mechanical engineering at Michigan Technological University.



### Material Movement and Transportation Technology Division

**Russell Walters**, Crane Maintenance Lead, Nucor Steel Kankakee Inc., Bourbonnais, Ill., USA

Russell Walters has built a 17-year career defined by technical expertise, leadership and a strong commitment to operational excellence. Since joining the crane maintenance team in 2012, Walters has played a central role in maintaining and improving the performance, safety and reliability of the Nucor Steel Kankakee Inc.'s critical lifting systems. His hands-on knowledge of crane operations, combined with his ability to lead teams through complex troubleshooting and long-term maintenance planning, has made him a trusted resource within the organization.

In addition to his responsibilities at Nucor, he has been an active member of the AIST Cranes Technology Committee since 2012. Over the last four

years, Walters has served as both vice chair and chair of the committee, contributing to the development of industry best practices, facilitating knowledge sharing among crane professionals, and supporting efforts to advance safety and technology across the steel industry. He has also served on the Crane Symposium steering committee in those four years. Through his committee leadership, he has helped guide technical discussions and promote continuous improvement in crane design, maintenance and operational standards.



### Midwest Member Chapter

**Theodore Vrehas**, Director of Engineering, Cleveland-Cliffs Burns Harbor LLC, Burns Harbor, Ind., USA

Ted Vrehas has served as director of engineering at Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. since 2024. He leads the Construction Management Group and Capital Engineering programs for the Eastern Plate, Rail, and Specialty facilities.

He earned a B.S. degree in civil/construction engineering and management from Purdue University in 1992 and began his career in the steel facilities construction market with Eichleay Corp. as an intern in 1989. He joined Graycor Industrial Constructors in 1994 and completed numerous projects in steel facilities over the next 29 years including such as the Rockport Works continuous cold mill, rebuild of the No. 7 blast furnace at Indiana Harbor, rebuild of the Dearborn blast furnace, and the "C" coke battery installation at Clairton Works. Vrehas joined Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. in 2023 leading the construction management group to execute capital projects and outages.

He serves on the AIST Project & Construction Management Technology Committee since 2005, is a Midwest Member Chapter board member, and is a past Midwest Member Chapter chair.



### Northeastern Ohio Member Chapter

**Steven C. Asseff**, Senior Buyer, Refractories, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., Cranberry Township, Pa., 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 TimkenSteel Corp. 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 lead technical category 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.



### Northern Member Chapter

**Robert Pinelli**, Vice President,  
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, steelmaking, metal processing, water and wastewater. In 2020, he was appointed vice president of the company.



### Ohio Valley Member Chapter

**Charles B. Droessler**, Client  
Relationship Manager,  
LJB Engineering Center,  
Miamisburg, Ohio, USA

Charlie Droessler has worked with the steel industry for 17 years as a provider of both products and services. For the Ohio Valley Member Chapter, he served in leadership positions for the past four years, two years each as vice chair and then chair. He obtained his bachelor's degree

in industrial studies from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. In 2008, he joined an international mining company for nine years, supplying lime into the steel industry. He has worked in the engineering, consulting and construction services industry for 11 years.

In his current position at LJB Engineering, he partners with steel producers across North America to develop/design/furnish/install solutions that reduce the risk of falls and protect workers at heights, manage confined space entry programs, improve data collection and management, and increase the reliability of safety and infrastructure assets.

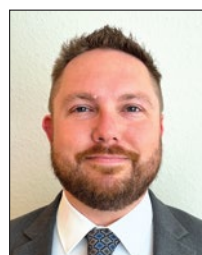


### Pittsburgh Member Chapter

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

Kelly Cetin has 11 years of experience in the steel industry and 15 years of experience in the metals industry. She is currently working as a senior research engineer at the U. S. Steel Research and Technology Center, focusing on hot-dip coatings and product development. Her past experiences in the steel industry include positions as a process metallurgist in the flat-rolled division at Severstal N.A. Inc., and as a process engineer and a quality manager in the tubular industry at PTC Alliance. She began her career in aluminum at Reynolds Metals as a process metallurgist for aluminum flat-rolled products and then joined Alcoa (formally Alumax) as a cast house quality assurance metallurgist in a primary aluminum reduction plant.

She has a master's degree in engineering science, and a bachelor's degree in engineering science and electrical engineering from The Pennsylvania State University.



### Southeast Member Chapter

**Andrew D. Seibel**, Power  
and Automation Supervisor,  
Nucor Steel-Hertford County,  
Cofield, N.C., USA

Andy Seibel is a power and automation supervisor at Nucor Steel – Hertford County, where his team is responsible for the automation and process control hardware and software at the mill. His work increasingly focuses on leveraging business intelligence and AI-driven

tools in process control and predictive maintenance to optimize uptime and production efficiency. He started his career with Nucor in 2015 as an electrical supervisor for the heat treat and rolling and finishing departments.

Prior to Nucor, he spent more than eight years at U. S. Steel – Gary Works, where he progressed through roles of increasing responsibility before serving as a maintenance area manager. Andy holds a B.S. degree in electrical and computer engineering technology from Purdue University and an M.B.A. from Indiana University. He has been a member of AIST since 2012.



### Southwest Member Chapter

**B. Tad Dunville**, Managing Director, Lifting Partners, Spanish Fort, Ala., USA

B. Tad Dunville is a member of the AIST Cranes Technology Committee as well as chair of the AIST Southwest Member Chapter. He is also a member of ASME B30.2, B30.7, and B30.16. He has held management positions in multiple crane companies that make, modify or evaluate lifting equipment in the metal-making and distributing space. Dunville is currently sales manager for the eastern U.S. at Unique Group and managing partner at Safeliftingpartners.com, an agent for high-performance crane components and parts. Dunville is a multiyear speaker at the AIST Crane Symposium. 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.



### Smaller Member Chapters

**Joseph S. Hunter**, President, PRO-TEC Coatings Co., Leipsic, Ohio, USA

Joseph S. Hunter was recently appointed to president of PRO-TEC Coatings Co., a 50/50 joint venture with United States Steel Corporation and Kobe Steel Ltd. In this role, Hunter will oversee all aspects of operations in the production of advanced high-strength, critical-exposed sheet products for the automotive industry. He also serves as chair of the AIST Detroit Member Chapter.

Before PRO-TEC, Hunter spent a long career at United States Steel Corporation advancing through

key, senior operational, technical, manufacturing excellence and plant management roles across the enterprise. He brings extensive expertise in flat-rolled steel production, spanning hot and cold rolling and hot-dip galvanizing, with a strong focus on safety, asset reliability, and disciplined execution. Prior to his assignment at PRO-TEC his leadership experience at U. S. Steel includes overseeing finishing operations at Mon Valley Works, driving technical and process improvements across North American Flat Roll, and serving as plant manager of rolling and finishing operations at Granite City Works and most recently as plant manager of Great Lakes Works.

Prior to U. S. Steel, Hunter built a strong operational foundation at Ormet Aluminum Corp., progressing through leadership roles across primary, technical and rolling mill operations. He later served as plant/site manager for Powerspan Corp. at the First Energy R.E. Burger Power Generation Facility, where he led plant operations and R&D, supporting advanced ammonia-based flue gas scrubbing and emissions-control technology. Hunter holds a B.S. degree in business administration from West Liberty University and is an ASQ Six Sigma Black Belt.



### Non-USMCA Member Chapters

**Ernesto Rheinboldt**, Engineer, Tallman Technologies, Reuning McKim Inc. and Utility Global, Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil

Ernesto Rheinboldt has been providing technical services, commissioning services and sales support for Tallman Technologies and Reuning McKim in Brazil for more than 20 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 Bronze, Rheinboldt worked for Umicore (Degussa), Dow and Alubar Metais e Cabos S.A., amassing more than 34 years of experience, including 14 years in the production department/smelted of copper, silicon, and other precious metals and the production of continuous casting aluminum rods using the Properzi process. ♦