



2026–2027 Member Chapter Officers

Australia New Zealand



Chair

Michael Davies, Technical Manager – Steel Products, BioCarbon Pty Ltd., Newcastle, NSW, Australia

Michael Davies is a metallurgical engineer with more than 35 years of experience in the iron and steel industry. He commenced his career with BHP Steel, working in operations and technical development roles in iron- and steelmaking and continuous casting. He joined MolyCop in 2011 working in senior management roles in the production of speciality steels for rail wheels and grinding media. He has expertise in EAF steelmaking, ladle metallurgy, degassing and ingot production, billet casting, and consumables including ferrous feed, alloys and carbon. He has international experience in the U.S., Canada and New Zealand, and training presentation in Southeast Asia. Davies has a background in continuous improvement and problem solving. He joined BioCarbon in 2024 to drive the development of renewable carbon products for iron- and steelmaking and ferroalloys. He has been a member of AIST since graduating from the University of New South Wales in 1993.



Vice Chair

Shabnam Sabah, Researcher, 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 H_2 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

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.



Vice Chair

Lauren Miller, Melt and Cast Metallurgist, Nucor Steel-Decatur LLC, Trinity, Ala., USA

Lauren Miller earned her B.S. (2023) and M.S. (2024) in metallurgical engineering from The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. She joined Nucor Steel-Decatur LLC as a hot mill metallurgist in 2024. In September 2026, she moved into her current role as melt and cast metallurgist at the ladle metallurgy furnace. She also serves as an on-site first responder and as a member of the plant's Hazard Elimination/STOP team. Miller joined the AIST Pipe & Tube Technology Committee in 2025, where she has served as Young Professional chair since 2025 and vice chair since 2026.



Secretary-Treasurer

Ken Orndoff, Southern Sales, Lincoln Manufacturing and Hydraulics, 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, 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. He is chief executive officer of RS Consultants Ltda. and RSAMPA Corp. and is well known as a leader in the training of young engineers. He is also co-author of textbooks, patents and more than 120 published papers.

Detroit



Chair

Karl Kessler, Process Engineer IV, U. S. Steel – Great Lakes Works, Rockwood, Mich., USA

Karl Kessler is an industrial management professional with 29 years in heavy

manufacturing and automotive sectors. After serving his country in the U.S. Air Force, Kessler started his career in 1997 as a journeyman electrician at Chrysler Corp. While working 60 hours a week, he graduated Summa cum laude with his B.A. in business management with an additional major in operations management and maintenance from Siena Heights University, where he later left the union to join the ranks of Chrysler management in maintenance and controls engineering. Following the downturn of the automotive industry in 2008, he began working in the steel industry at Severstal Dearborn where he was hired to help engineer, build, commission, and start-up the hot-dipped galvanizing line (HDGL) and the pickling line tandem cold mill (PLTCM). After the HDGL was operational, he was the electrical manager and reliability engineer. Gaining significant experience in steel industry working in pickling, cold/tandem, hot mill, PLTCM and HDGL, Kessler left the industry to become a regional metals account manager and totally 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 as a project engineer in 2017. In 2020, he was transferred to Steelmaking as the electrical engineer for maintenance for BOF/LRF/caster. Steel has become his passion since 2008. He has worked for Severstal, AK Steel and Cleveland-Cliffs and is now at U. S. Steel – Great Lakes Works working as a process engineer IV. Kessler has been a member of AIST since 2008 and has been active in the Detroit Member Chapter, several AIST Technology Committees, and has been an AISTech session chair for the past five years.

Vice Chair

Christopher M. Hessler, Senior Project Consultant, Sidock Group Inc., Northville, Mich., USA



Secretary

Roger Kalinowsky, Senior Project Manager, 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, Paris, France

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 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, Strategic Account 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

Colter Prescott, Rolling Mill Manager, CMC Steel Alabama, Birmingham, Ala., 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, 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, 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

Juan Pablo Pedraza, Vice President R&D, Ternium Mexico, Monterrey, N.L., Mexico

Juan Pablo Pedraza is a senior executive with international experience in industrial innovation, technology strategy and advanced materials development, focusing on the steel and automotive industries. He holds a degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in advanced metallurgy from the University of Sheffield, U.K. He serves as vice president of R&D at Ternium, where he contributes to defining the technology agenda, adopting high-value-added solutions and engaging with international consortia. He brings a perspective that integrates applied science, corporate strategy and cross-sector collaboration.



Vice Chair

Roberto Arredondo, Chief Technology Officer, ArcelorMittal Mexico, Lázaro Cárdenas, Mich., Mexico

Roberto Arredondo is chief technology officer at ArcelorMittal Mexico, bringing over 14 years of leadership experience across the steel-making value chain. His career has progressed from continuous improvement to leading major industrial operations, including pelletizing, utilities and maintenance, and steelmaking, before assuming his current role. He currently leads key strategic areas including HSE, asset reliability, quality, continuous improvement, and capital projects, with a strong focus on operational excellence, transformation and sustainable industrial

performance. Arredondo holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering, graduating with honors, and a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt from Tecnológico de Monterrey.



Secretary

Pedro Molina, General Manager, IMSSYS, San Pedro Garza Garcia, N.L., Mexico

Pedro Molina is general manager of IMSSYS Mexico, a subsidiary of IMS Messsysteme GmbH. He joined IMS in 2007 as its first field service specialist in Mexico and has progressed from hands-on field service to executive management. His career combines technical expertise, industrial measurement technology, commercial development and a deep connection to Mexico's steel industry. Molina's AIST involvement began while pursuing his degree in industrial and systems engineering and working as an electrician at Acerex. He later served as a staff member at the first CONAC Congress in Mexico in 2003. Since then, he has remained actively engaged with AIST through technical collaboration, industry events and continued participation in the steel community.



Treasurer

Jorge Fernández, Regional Sales Manager, AMI Automation, Monterrey, N.L., Mexico

Jorge Fernández began his career at AMI Automation as a level 2 systems developer, providing automation services for Ternium in San Nicolás de los Garza, N.L., Mexico. He joined AMI's sales team in 2009, initially responsible for corporate accounts in Mexico, including Grupo Techint and Grupo Simec. He also joined AIST in 2009 and has since participated in the CONAC Committee and the Hot Sheet Rolling Technology Committee. He studied electronic systems engineering at Tecnológico de Monterrey and completed a one-year internship at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden. In July 2018, he became part of AMI's sales team in the U.S., expanding his experience in the steel and metals industries and working with customers across North America and internationally. He currently serves as regional sales manager for AMI Automation, with responsibility for the U.S., Canada and Asia, focusing on industrial automation, power electronics, rectifier systems, and related solutions for the metals and process industries.

Middle East North Africa



Chair and Treasurer

Karim Badr, Managing Director, Metalurs, Alexandria, Egypt

Karim Badr obtained his B.Sc. degree in mechanical engineering from Alexandria University in 1996, followed by an M.Sc. degree in engineering management and materials science from Sheffield Hallam University in 2000. In 2007, he earned his Ph.D. in reduction metallurgy from Montanuniversität Leoben. Badr began his professional career as a DRI operation engineer at Ezz Steel (formerly ANSDK) in Egypt. In 2004, he joined Montanuniversität Leoben as a research assistant for four years and became involved in the prominent EU project ULCOS, which focused on developing environmentally friendly steelmaking routes. After leaving academia in 2008, he held global marketing, sales and technical leadership positions at RHI Magnesita and Küttner. He currently serves as managing director of Metalurs Solutions. Badr is the chair of the youngest AIST Member Chapter, covering the MENA region. He also served as a member of the AIST Board of Directors from 2024 to 2026. In addition, he has authored several 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 president of Vollmer America Inc., where he leads the company's North American business providing gauge and control solutions to the metals industry. He is known for combining technical depth with commercial leadership to strengthen the operations of the industrial businesses he leads and accelerate their growth. Before joining Vollmer, he spent a decade at SMS group Inc., a global leader in metals OEM manufacturing equipment, where he held roles of increasing responsibility — including senior proposal engineer and key account manager — before being named general manager of sales and marketing, leading the company's North American sales and marketing team. Earlier in his career, he spent seven years at Heraeus Electro-Nite Co. LLC as a sales engineer providing high-temperature steelmaking sensor technologies to the metals industry. His career in steel began in 2004 as an EAF process engineer intern at Gerdau Ameristeel in Whitby, Ont., Canada, where he was hooked on the industry after witnessing a scrap bucket charge in an electric arc furnace. Alshurafa currently serves as vice chair and co-founding member of the MENA Member Chapter. He is a past member of the AIST Board of Directors, past chair of the Pittsburgh Member Chapter, and a past chair of the

Oxygen Steelmaking Technology Committee. He holds a B.Eng. in materials science and engineering (2006) and an M.Eng. in engineering entrepreneurship and innovation (2012), both from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., Canada. He is also a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces.



Second Vice Chair

Ashraf Hanna, Vice President of Steel Technical Services, MeltTech Solutions Inc., Richmond Hill, Ont., Canada

Ashraf Hanna is a licensed metallurgical Professional Engineer from Ontario, Canada, with 39 years of experience in the steel industry. He holds an M.S. degree in metallurgical and production engineering. From 1997 until 2003, he was senior meltshop process engineer at Al EZZ Steel Rebars Co. (EZDK), Egypt. In 2003, he became steel plant manager for Al Rajhi Steel, 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

Greg 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.



First Vice Chair

Shelonda Manning, Plant Engineering – Project Controls, U. S. Steel – Gary Works, Gary, Ind., USA

Shelonda Manning is a seasoned manufacturing leader with over 25 years of experience driving operational excellence, innovation and continuous improvement within complex industrial environments. Throughout her career at United States Steel Corporation, she has held various roles across multiple disciplines, contributing to areas such as engineering, operations, process improvement, workflow optimization and cost reduction. She holds an M.B.A. from Indiana Wesleyan and is an active leader in the steel industry, serving as the 2026–2027 vice chair for the AIST Midwest Member Chapter and the 2026 term secretary for the Association of Women in the Metal Industries (AWMI) Chicago Chapter. With her deep expertise and commitment to advancing manufacturing excellence, she provides valuable insight and leadership to industry and manufacturing organizations.

Second Vice Chair

Soumitra Agashe, Senior Division Manager, Cleveland-Cliffs Burns Harbor, Burns Harbor, Ind., USA



Secretary

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

Having over 33 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, Director – Industrial Engineering, DLZ Industrial LLC, Merrillville, Ind., USA

Jason Strobel is the director of industrial engineering at DLZ Industrial LLC. He joined DLZ six months ago after a career spanning the automotive, metals and industrial engineering sectors. Strobel began his career in the automotive industry before joining ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor, where he spent more than three years in Steelmaking, supporting both the caster and basic oxygen furnace operations. During that time, he held roles in maintenance and

operations with increasing levels of responsibility. After leaving ArcelorMittal, Strobel worked for more than eight years as a senior project manager at CET Inc. and later spent six years at Integrated Mill Systems (IMS), where he served as installation director and Midwest general manager. Strobel holds a B.S. in chemical engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. He joined the AIST Midwest Member Chapter board in 2018 and served as chapter chair during the 2024–2025 term.

Northeastern Ohio



Chair

Jaime Hart, 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.



Vice Chair

Stephen Murphy, Director – General Procurement, Metallus Inc., Brunswick, Ohio, USA

Stephen Murphy has been employed with Metallus (formerly TimkenSteel Corp.) for over 18 years. He is currently the director, general procurement. He is responsible for a team of commodity managers and the procurement of consumables, MRO, corporate, CapEx, energy, and plant services. In his previous role, he was the plant manager of a metal recycling facility that was owned and operated by TimkenSteel. He also held the position of unit manager of steel processing in the finishing and the rolling mill departments at TimkenSteel. He also spent four years in thermal heat as the area manager. Murphy holds an M.B.A. from the University of Ashland, and a B.A. degree Baldwin Wallace University. He has been an AIST member since 2013 and he has served on the Northeastern Ohio Member Chapter board for nine years.



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

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 General Manager, ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P., Hamilton, Ont., Canada

Cameron Mitchell has 29 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

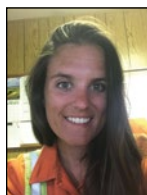


Secretary-Treasurer

Adrian Deneys, Associate Director Metals, Linde, Danville, Calif., USA

Adrian Deneys 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. Deneys 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. Deneys 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. Deneys 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

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.



Vice Chair

Carl Garringer, Business Development Manager, NALCO Water, An Ecolab Company, Fort Wayne, 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 2026, he joined NALCO Water, An Ecolab Company, as business development manager. In 2016, he joined the AIST Maintenance & Reliability Technology Committee and has held several chair positions since joining.



Secretary

Jay Broadway, Regional Sales Manager – Central USA, PRCO America Inc., Edgerton, Ohio, USA

Jay Broadway has over 21 years of experience as a sales and products provider to the steel industry. He began his career in refractory sales in 2005 and joined PRCO America in 2025. He is a member of the AIST Refractory Systems and Ladle & Secondary Refining Technology Committees.



Treasurer

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.

Philadelphia



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.



Vice Chair

Andrew Palmer, Manager – Metals Segment, Mazzella Companies, New Castle, Pa., USA

Andrew Palmer is a metals industry commercial leader whose career began with United States Steel Corporation, where he gained broad experience in sales, leadership, supply chain and sourcing. He later joined GrafTech International, managing key steel mill relationships throughout the U.S. and Canada. Today, he serves as the metals segment manager at Mazzella, helping lead the company's strategy, customer relationships and growth initiatives across the metals market. A relationship-driven and results-focused leader, he brings experience from multiple sides of the metals industry and a continued commitment to its growth and advancement. He is a past chair of the Philadelphia Member Chapter.



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

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

George Boy is currently the president and chief executive officer 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 Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, where he also minored in economics. He also holds a master's degree in manufacturing management also from Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.



First Vice Chair

Courtney Slavic, Environmental Manager, NLMK Pennsylvania, Farrell, Pa., USA

Courtney Slavic is the environmental manager at NLMK Pennsylvania and Sharon Coating. She graduated from Slippery Rock University with a bachelor's degree in environmental science in 2019. Slavic has been working in the steel industry since 2017 and has held positions at all levels including laborer, intern, environmental specialist, environmental manager, and covered a range of responsibilities during a six-month strike. Her experience has been specific to environmental compliance and leading improvement projects as they apply to air, water and waste.

Second Vice Chair

Kelly Stewart, Plant Metallurgist, Steel Dynamics Inc. – The Techs Division, Pittsburgh, Pa., USA



Secretary

Mark Giese, Manager of Metallurgy and Environmental Technologies, Tenova Inc., Coraopolis, Pa., USA

Mark Giese is the manager of metallurgy and environmental technologies at Tenova Inc., where he supports the metals industry throughout the Americas. With more than 20 years of experience in metallurgy, furnace technologies and industrial process plants, he has contributed to the development, delivery and commissioning of numerous smelting projects worldwide. Prior to relocating to the United States, Giese spent 17 years with Tenova in South Africa, who specializes in submerged arc furnace technology. Throughout his career, he has worked across a broad range of pyrometallurgical applications, combining technical expertise with project leadership in support of metals and mining clients around the world. An active member of AIST since 2022, Giese has served as scholarship chair of the Pittsburgh Member Chapter since 2025. He holds a B.S. degree in electrical engineering and is a certified Project Management Professional.



Treasurer

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

Gary M. Urso has 43 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

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 brings more than 20 years of environmental experience across the consulting, utilities and steel sectors. An AIST member since 2016, she currently serves as environmental and sustainability manager for NS BlueScope Coated Products North America.



Vice Chair

Jaewan Bae, Hot Mill Process Engineer, California Steel Industries Inc., Fontana, Calif., USA

Jaewan Bae has been a member of AIST since 2023. He started out as a metallurgist at California Steel Industries from 2023 to 2026. He graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a B.S. degree in chemical engineering and an M.S. degree in materials engineering.



Secretary-Treasurer

John Marsh, Shipping Day Supervisor, 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 multiyear 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, Works 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, Wieland Rolled Products North America, 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 in 2021. After the closure of ASI in 2026, he joined

Wieland at the former Olin Brass site. His engineering responsibilities span the initial plant production process, from scrap metal control through the casting of copper and brass slabs, and include troubleshooting maintenance issues, developing new 3D CAD designs, and managing the commissioning of 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

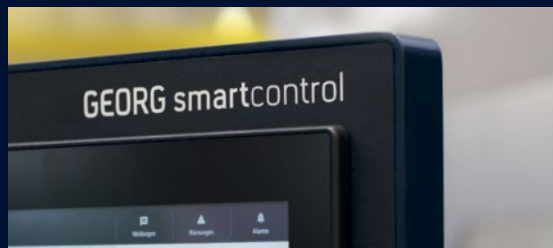
Randy Brazier, Engineer, Wieland Rolled Products North America, Alton, Ill., USA

Secretary-Treasurer

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

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