



Highlights from a Great Year for the Gear Industry

Two AGMA events took place that proved, by all measures, to be extremely successful. The Fall Technical meeting was, as usual, an outstanding lineup of presentations, time for questions and discussions and opportunities for fact-to-face networking. Thanks to the TDEC (Technical Division Executive Committee) by setting such a high bar, then achieving it, AGMA makes a positive contribution to the industry's knowledge base. In addition to the TDEC, of course, we need to thank all the presenters, for the work and research they have done and for sharing this with all the attendees. Two of the papers are included in this issue of the AGMA Business Journal. Of course, all are available from the AGMA website.

The FTM is just one of the many continuing ways that AGMA works to provide our members and the industry, with the education and information that keeps us all advancing forward. As we know, the technical activities of the Association are some of its most important elements. Its success is directly tied to the on-going involvement of the best and brightest people working within the industry, and we thank you for the contribution of your time and knowledge.

As part of the FTM, the TDEC took time to recognize several individuals for their long-term contributions. TDEC Chairman, Phil Terry (Lufkin Industries) presented Chairman's Awards to John Lisiecki (Rexnord), Robert Wasilewski (Arrow Gear), Glenn Pokrandt (Falk/Rexnord, retired) for their leadership in bringing new standards to publication.

He presented TDEC Awards for "outstanding contributions to the art of Gear Design and Utilization" to Jack Mertz (Rexnord) and to Jon Mancuso (Kop-Flex Inc., a division of Emerson Power Transmission Corp.) Sadly, Mr. Mancuso passed away before receiving this award. His wife, Rose, attended the Awards luncheon and accepted the TDEC Award in his honor. (See page XX for more information.)

GEAR EXPO 2007 was held with the FTM, and if success is measured by the positive responses and the amount of business that we heard was being done every day, then this may have been the most successful show ever! Even Sunday was more than just exhibitors visiting with exhibitors. Here are just a few of the statistics from the show.

Just over 3,000 individuals attended GEAR EXPO from 43 states, 28 countries and six continents; attendance increased about 20% over the 2005 Show.

One of the highlights of the show was a new feature in 2005, the Solutions Center. The Solutions Center included presentations from 29 exhibitors attended by 866 visitors, more than double the 2005 level.

Overall, the show was quite successful with most all exhibitors enjoying heavy booth traffic, numerous leads and active sales. The 2009 event will be in Indianapolis where we will be co-located with the ASM's Heat Treating Society. Mark your calendar now for September 14-17, 2009.

It's been a very busy, active year, with continued growth in membership, expansion of our educational offerings, a strategic review of our councils and committees and completion of a full strategic planning session.

As 2007 comes to a close, I believe we will look back at it as a year of continuing change – for our industry, our businesses and the Association. Business conditions, across many industries, continued to be robust, and as a result, we saw the continuation of strong investment in new machinery and equipment, strong hiring demand along with the continuing challenge of attracting and training qualified employees. Much of this is the result of the strength of the global economy, which, as an industry, we enjoy participating in. Many of you, therefore, have been focused on changing who you are as a company, an employer, and as a supplier. You have been changing what you do and how you do it, which I believe is laying the foundation for a stronger, more modern, more flexible, more globally focused and, therefore, viable industry as we look toward the future.

From an Association standpoint and specifically from the headquarters staff standpoint, this year will be marked as one in which we saw the retirement of three key individuals. These are people who have served the Association, the industry, and most important, the membership in a positive and selfless manner. Bill, Kurt and Susan have been substantial contributors to the growth and development of the Association, from its worldwide technical reputation, to the programs and activities that form the key services and resources available to all of our members. We owe all three of them a heart-felt thank you for their years of service and for their friendship. They will be greatly missed.

With change comes the opportunity to review what you do and how you do it. That will be no different with the changes in personnel at headquarters. In anticipation of Kurt's and Susan's retirement, Joe and his team have been working together to review staffing and identify opportunities to realign duties and responsibilities. They have developed a plan that, I believe, the staff will find not only exciting, but one that will serve the Association and our members well. □