



# Looking Back at the Year as AGMA Chairman

I've had the privilege of serving as your Chairman for the past year and as I look back, the first thing that stands out, is how quickly the time went by. I'm sure this is a feeling shared by many of the Chairmen who've preceded me. Although much has been accomplished or started, there is always more that one would like to do. I think this is at the core of why we have decided to increase the Chairman's term to two years.

Looking back, some of the highlights during the past year include and start with the Trade Mission to Germany in April, following the Hannover Fair and AGMA's participation in the Power Transmission section of the Fair.

This was a unique experience to travel with members from the U.S., Canada and Australia. To have an opportunity to meet with the leaders of some of the top gear companies in Germany and to tour some of the most progressive manufacturing operations that many of us have seen. It was a great educational as well as an excellent networking opportunity.

In June, I had the pleasure of welcoming representatives from Aachen University's WZL Gear Research Circle as they brought their technical presentations to the US. This was hosted by Liebherr and the Sigma Pool in Saline, Michigan and was a great opportunity to hear about some of the leading research and work that is going on.

June also brought a trip to Italy to attend Eurotrans, the annual meeting of gear manufacturers from several European countries. This gave us a chance to meet with some of our counterparts and to hear first hand various reports, including a country-by-country presentation of economic conditions and forecasts.

In July, the Board met in Colorado Springs and went through a full strategic planning session. This important activity serves to set the course for the work to be done over the next few years, in order to continue to strengthen and grow the Association. The key focus is identifying the current and future needs of the members and determining the programs and activities that the Association needs to offer in order to meet them. It reaffirmed and validated many of the things that the Association offers and has been working on. At the same time key strategic needs were identified related to our Standards, Employee Education, Employee Recruitment, Career Development, Membership Communication and overall Marketing efforts.

Gear Expo took place in October, in conjunction with the Fall Technical Meeting. For many exhibitors, it was their best show ever. There

seemed to be plenty of "buzz" from the opening of the show until the end highlighted by the strong draw of the Solutions Center, the Fall Technical Meeting and several additional education programs. The change in venue to Indianapolis in 2009 along with the co-location with ASM's Heat Treating Show, should ensure even more success for Gear Expo 2009.

In between all of those activities, I had the opportunity to travel and visit many members and prospective members. I want to thank those of you who I did visit for taking the time to see Joe Franklin and myself. More importantly, getting the opportunity to talk about your needs and challenges and looking for ways that the Association can assist was extremely valuable.

One of our annual objectives, of course,



is to add more new members. We had an outstanding year in this regard, with the addition of 50 new members -- a net gain of 27: 12 Company members, 13 associate members and two academicians. Beyond the addition of new members we saw a number of more active participants in technical committees, BMEC reports and meetings, Gear Expo and the Annual Meeting. Hopefully a sign of not only the value of these events and activities, but also in the job that we are doing in communicating and marketing them.

Another key agenda item for the past year was the full review of all of our councils and committees for their relevance, value and functionality. Through this process we identified areas of opportunity ranging from consolidation, to expansion, to reorganization. I want to thank all the committee members and their companies for their valuable input and for taking the time

to step back and re-assess the individual committee's purpose and for identifying and making the necessary changes to align it with the current and future needs of the members.

One of the most significant changes this year was the retirement of Bill Bradley, Kurt Medert and Susan Fentress from our Headquarters staff. Each one was a long-time contributor to the operations and success of the Association and to the industry. With these retirements,

Joe and the staff took to carefully analyzing the individual jobs and specific tasks that everyone on staff does and presented a plan to reorganize the team to the Board, at their October meeting. The reorganization also incorporated several recommendations from the Strategic Planning Committee which we all think will give us a solid structure as we move into the next phase of AGMA's growth. Over the next month or so, you will see the changes as they are put into

place.

Looking forward, members can count on increased focus and attention to industry education and training. AGMA will continue to offer programs and classes in topics you cannot get at the local technical college. You've seen the introduction of three advanced engineering programs, taught by Ray Drago. You will see others introduced in 2008. We are also looking at ways to improve the On-Line Education available via the AGMA web site.

Finally, we will work to make more programs accessible to more members by changing the location of many meetings and by making more detailed content available on the AGMA Web site. The Board's goal is to continue making AGMA the best business resource for our industry.

In closing, I just want to say what an honor and privilege it has been to serve as Chairman of AGMA. I thank you for the opportunity. □

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2008 Dates Just Announced: June 16-17 & September 15-16

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Attend AGMA's Technical Education Seminar on Gear Failure Analysis in Big Sky, Montana and come away with a complete knowledge of gear failure - what to watch out for and how to fix it.

In this seminar, you'll examine the various types of gear failure, such as macropitting, micropitting, scuffing, tooth wear and breakage.

Possible causes of these failures will be presented along with some suggested ways to avoid them. Gear failure analysis expert Robert Erichello will use a variety of tools — lectures, slide presentations, hand-on workshops with failed gears and question & answer sessions - to give you a comprehensive understanding of the reasons for gear failure.

**To receive more information on upcoming dates, e-mail [tech@agma.org](mailto:tech@agma.org) or visit our website, [www.agma.org](http://www.agma.org).**

