



# American Welding Society

## AWS District 18 Conference Lake Charles, LA April 30, 2011

### MINUTES

#### 1. Introduction

- The AWS District Eighteen Conference was held April 29-30, 2011 at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Lake Charles, LA. The Lake Charles Section graciously hosted this event with their famous annual crawfish boil at the Fisherman’s Club. John Mendoza started things out with an informative speech about the AWS and it’s dedicated members. There was a drawing for door prizes consisting of cash from \$0.00 to \$100.00, bag chairs and ice chests, a big hit as always. A great time was enjoyed by all. Twenty-six delegates attended Saturday’s business meeting which concluded with a lunch buffet held at the Holiday Inn.

District conference delegates included:

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b><u>AWS National</u></b><br>Rhenda Kenny   | <b><u>AWS Preseident</u></b><br>John Mendoza   | <b><u>Past President</u></b><br>John Bruskotter                | <b><u>District 9 Director</u></b><br>George Fairbanks  |
| <b><u>District Director</u></b><br>John Bray   | <b><u>Corpus Christi Section</u></b><br>Misty Ralls  | <b><u>San Antonio Section</u></b><br>Steve Sigler<br>Hamp Drew | <b><u>Sabine Section</u></b><br>Sudhanshu Ogale<br>Jim Stuckey<br>Morris Weeks<br>John McKeehan<br>Thomas Holt |
| <b><u>Houston Section</u></b><br>John Stoll<br>Jerry Koza, Jr.<br>Ron Theiss<br>Dennis Eck<br>John Husfeld<br>Derek Stelly | <b><u>Lake Charles Section</u></b><br>Tac Edwards<br>Drew Fontenot<br>James Bobo<br>Jay Austin | <b><u>Rio Grande Valley Section</u></b><br>Richard Salinas     | <b><u>El Paso Section</u></b><br>Jose “Pep” Gomez<br>Guadalupe De La Cruz                                      |

#### 2. Call to Order, Welcome & Appointment of Secretary

- District Director Bray called the conference to order at 8:09 a.m.
- All present joined in expressing appreciation to the Lake Charles Section, for a great time at the crawfish boil the previous night.
- All in attendance introduced themselves and John Bray introduced special guests Rhenda Kenny-AWS Director of Member Services, John Bruskotter-AWS Past President, George Fairbanks-District 9 Director and John Mendoza-AWS President.
- Jay Austin of the host Lake Charles Section was selected to serve as conference secretary. An attendance sign-up sheet was distributed and everyone registered.
- The conference agenda was reviewed with a call for new business items. No items were brought forward.

### **3. District Director's Report**

John Bray reported on the following items:

- John reported that there was a lot of activity in our District & AWS this past year. Last May the Board voted to have an 18-wheeler training unit built with Bill Rice taking charge of the project. Lincoln contributed six weld simulators and an additional donation of \$300,000.00 to jump start the project. The trailer will be taken around the country to promote welding at events, such as the Boy Scouts Jamboree and the Skills USA National Competition.
- At the November San Antonio Section Meeting, it was announced that St. Phillips College has been awarded the first Community College ATF Site of Texas.
- After approval at the District council meeting this May in Florida, we will now have another Student Chapter in our District, located in Guadalupe, Mexico.
- John, along with John Husfeld, Barney Burks Jr. and Bryan Suarez judged for two days at the Craft Training Center in Corpus Christi.
- A highlight of the year was the acceptance of starting a new welding merit badge in the Boy Scouts of America.

### **4. AWS National Activities**

Rhenda Kenny reported on the following items:

#### Performance Highlights

- With our continued growth in 2010, our revenues were up 1.5% at \$26.5 million and up 7% through March of this year.
- Our growth internationally has turned us into a "Global Society". The purchase of the Doral Headquarters gave our Society state of the art meeting rooms with professional audio/video capabilities to project a more professional global presence.
- Although still an AWS employee, John Ospina became the Executive Director responsible for managing GAWDA, an association of welding distributors and manufacturers.
- FABTECH and AWS Weldmex both remain successful with FABTECH taking the FABTECH brand to the Canadian Manufacturing Week and the AWS involved to strengthen the existing welding presence.
- Messe Essen has agreed to sponsor the AWS in the new Brazil Welding Show which will launch in October in Sao Paulo.
- D1.1 is now in a new five year cycle.

#### Membership

- AWS membership is at a record high with 67,254 members, up 8 ½ % from last year with Corporate Membership at 1,877 companies and a member retention rate of 84%.
- The Student Membership is at an all time high at nearly 11,000 students.
- All Districts are encouraged the elect a District Representative to attend the 2011 AWS Leadership Symposium and each Section can sponsor an individual to attend at their own expense.
- There is a new Welding Handbook.....Materials and Applications Part 1, Vol. 4, Ninth Edition available from the Membership Department.
- Limited Edition T-shirts are still available on the E-Store online. Contact Rhenda for Section discounts.

- The maximum number of PDH's will change from 20 to 40 after the release of the next edition of QC1, in late 2011.
- Don't forget to utilize the Section Tool Kit available on the Section page of the AWS website and check out the AWS E-Store.

#### Certification

- The SCWI/CWI program continues to grow, with a total of 30,315 CWIs and 580 SCWIs.
- The first online course is now available at American Welding Online for the Certified Welding Sales Representative.

#### Welding Shows

- The 2011 FABTECH Show is scheduled in Chicago, November 14-17, 2011.
- The upcoming WELDMEX Show is scheduled to take place in Monterrey, Mexico on May 11-13, 2011.

### **5. Section Reports**

#### Lake Charles Section

- Logan's Roadhouse remains the meeting place for the Lake Charles Section meetings with a free room and great service.
- The crawfish boil continues to be the best activity of the year while Tim Borel had the best attendance to a regular meeting with a presentation on welding management.
- Lake Charles Section meetings will be held August through April. Due to low attendance the May meeting has been cancelled.
- There has been continued involvement with FFA-FHA contests with a concern brought up about safe work practices. There was a local student that would have in first place but was disqualified, due to grinding without a face shield after being warned.
- Local sponsorship has continued to be successful.

#### Rio Grande Valley Section

- Meeting attendance has remained low.
- Gold Collar Career Day was the best activity.
- Ag Teachers Training is being set up and the FFA Student Competition was held at the facility.

#### Corpus Christi Section

- Corpus Christi had a weak year as far as student growth.
- Three local scholarships were awarded for a total of \$1,200.

#### Houston Section

- The Houston Section continues to hold educational on welding related topics as well as their regular Technical Meetings.
- Student Night had 148 attendees with an interesting topic "OxyFuel Safety" and also had 30 new Student Members.
- The weakest Section activity was the Fall Educational due to late advertisement.

- The Fall Social featuring “Mystery Dinner Theatre” turned out to be a great time for all who attended. Fund raising activities were also successful with a Spring Educational, Golf Tournament, Claybusters, Welding Mach Raffle and the Fall Educational.
- The Section awarded 4 scholarships totaling \$4,000.

Sabine Section

- The Sabine Section enjoyed a good year with meeting attendance at an average of 35-48.
- The best activities were a presentation by Doug Landry with Howell Industries and a comical evening at Ron Theiss Valentine Night.
- There was an interesting Plant tour at Gulf Coast Fab.
- The December meeting was cancelled due to low attendance. The Sabine Section also had one local scholarship of \$1,500.

San Antonio Section

- The San Antonio Section had an average attendance of 40 at the Technical meetings and was honored by having John Mendoza the President of AWS Worldwide as a speaker at the February 2011 meeting.
- St. Philips College is being recognized by the AWS as the first AWS Accredited Test Facility.
- The Section held another successful “Student Night” at St. Philips with about 80 students in attendance.
- San Antonio continues to have great attendance from their two student chapters, Floresville High School and Alamo Chapter from St. Philips College with an average attendance of 35.
- There was welding industry support with presentations from leading manufacturers Miller, Lincoln and Thermadyne.
- Had a well attended and successful hosting of the 2010 District Conference.

El Paso and Mexico Sections

- The best activity was the DACC Meeting “Orbital-Tensil Demo” had over 50 plus in attendance
- The Industry Tours have been successful with Johnson Plate & Tower and El Paso Machine & Steel.
- El Paso Section is working on doubling the Student Chapter in 2011.

**6. District Business**

- Tac Edwards was selected to be the Deputy District Director for 2011-2012 and received a badge & bag. There was also a plaque presented for the 40 year anniversary of the Lake Charles Section 142.

**7. Section, District, and National Awards**

| <b>Meritorious Award – Section Level</b> |                                |                           |                     |               |                    |                |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Corpus Christi</b>                    | <b>RGV</b>                     | <b>Houston</b>            | <b>Lake Charles</b> | <b>Sabine</b> | <b>San Antonio</b> | <b>El Paso</b> |
| Walter Barrett<br>Norman Salinas         | Fernando Garcia<br>Kenny Moore | Justin Kirby<br>Eric Vann | Chris Caldara       | Roger Dean    | Tom Settle         | Mike Jordan    |

| <b>Meritorious Award – District Level</b> |            |                                    |                     |               |                    |                |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Corpus Christi</b>                     | <b>RGV</b> | <b>Houston</b>                     | <b>Lake Charles</b> | <b>Sabine</b> | <b>San Antonio</b> | <b>El Paso</b> |
|   |            | Chris Vanderslice<br>Grant Peltier |                     |               |                    |                |

| Student Chapter Member Award |     |         |              |            |   |         |
|------------------------------|-----|---------|--------------|------------|---|---------|
| Corpus Christi               | RGV | Houston | Lake Charles | Sabine     | San Antonio                             | El Paso |
|                              |     |         |              | Ethan Tade | Jorge Villalobos<br>Louia Matthews, Jr. |         |

| Private Sector Instructor Award – Section Level |     |              |              |        |             |         |
|---|-----|--------------|--------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| Corpus Christi                                  | RGV | Houston      | Lake Charles | Sabine | San Antonio | El Paso |
| Dr. E.A. Grimm                                  |     | Justin Gordy |              |        |             |         |

| Private Sector Instructor Award – District Level |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Ron Richter – Houston<br>Morris Weeks - Sabine   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| Private Sector Instructor Award – National |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| None                                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| Educator Award – Section Level |                                |           |                              |               |                             |                  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Corpus Christi                 | RGV                            | Houston   | Lake Charles                 | Sabine        | San Antonio                 | El Paso          |
| Oscar Medina                   | Kenny Moore<br>Richard Salinas | Dan Jones | Aaron Toups<br>Rick McAnally | Jason Bingham | Clifton Rogers<br>Hamp Drew | Jose “Pep” Gomez |

| Educator Award – District Level                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Dr. Anne Matula – Corpus Christi<br>John McKeenan – Sabine |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| Howard E. Adkins Memorial Instructor Membership Award – National |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| None   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year Award – Section Level |     |                   |              |             |               |              |
|---|-----|-------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Corpus Christi  | RGV | Houston           | Lake Charles | Sabine      | San Antonio   | El Paso      |
| Pete Lopez  |     | Barney Burks, Jr. | Terry Buxton | Jim Stuckey | Howard Thomas | David Twitty |

| Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year Award – District Level |     |              |              |        |             |              |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| Corpus Christi   | RGV | Houston      | Lake Charles | Sabine | San Antonio | El Paso      |
| Rick Garcia  |     | Justin Gordy |              |        |             | David Twitty |

| Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year Award – National |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Richard Marslender – Corpus Christi                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |

8. **District Director Awards**

| District Director Awards                |  |   |              |                                |                    |           |
|---|--|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Corpus Christi                          | RGV  | Houston   | Lake Charles | Sabine                         | San Antonio        | El Paso   |
| Misty Ralls<br>Jim Miller<br>Chris Long | Hector Rhendon<br>Thomas Guitierrez<br>Kenny Moore | Barney Burks, Jr.<br>Eileen Husfeld<br>Bryan Suarez<br>Bryan Menard<br>Don Sowa | James Bobo   | John McKeenan<br>Louis Falgout | Cornelio Ontiveros | Pep Gomez |

**9. Selection of Delegates to the AWS Leadership Symposium**

- Selections for the AWS 2011 Leadership Symposium to be held in Miami, Florida:

Representative: James Bobo – Lake Charles

1<sup>st</sup> Alternate: John McKeehan - Sabine

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate: Misty Ralls – Corpus Christi

Section Sponsored: None

**10. Selection of Delegates to the AWS Instructor’s Institute**

- Selections for the 2011 AWS Instructor’s Institute to be held in Miami, Florida:

Representative: Drew Fontenot – Lake Charles

1<sup>st</sup> Alternate: Clifton Rogers – San Antonio

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate: Jason Bingham – Sabine

**11. District Scholarships**

- The Scholarship committee met Saturday morning prior to the beginning of the district conference to review applications and select candidates. The selections for the Fall 2011 AWS District 18 Scholarships are listed below.

| Scholarship Awards |                |             |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Name               | Section        | Total Award |
| Daniel Theiss      | Houston        | \$2,500.00  |
| Justin S. Zeranque | Lake Charles   | \$2,500.00  |
| Marcus Martinez    | Corpus Christi | \$2,500.00  |

Note: If any student fails to attend school the remaining funds will be distributed evenly among the other recipients.

**12. District Conference for 2012**

- The next AWS District 18 Conference be held in Houston, Texas. The dates have yet to be determined.

**13. Adjournment**

- Final expressions of gratitude were once again made to the Lake Charles Section and its officers for hosting a successful, hospitable, and enjoyable conference. John Bray thanked Rhenda Kenny for her kind assistance. With no further business, the conference adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jay N. Austin*

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