

AFS 2024

Annual Report

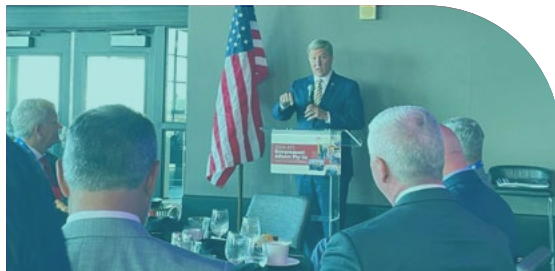


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Dear AFS Members and Friends,

Welcome to the American Foundry Society's Annual Report. The year 2024 was a dynamic year for the metalcasting industry, despite moderation in casting orders. Thanks to the involvement of members like you, AFS had a tremendous impact in many ways including:

- Presenting extensive foundry-safety programming.
- Attendance at Metalcasting Congress surged as metalcasters turned out for exhibits and session speakers including Mike Pompeo.
- Corporate and Individual Membership rose markedly as did member involvement.
- Congress awarded a \$4 million appropriation to AFS for aluminum-casting research, supplementing AFS's extensive research portfolio.
- Every month, AFS presented technical and management conferences and webinars.
- AFS announced the Digitization Initiative for technical books and laid the groundwork for bringing AI to the Technical Library.
- Casting Connection was modernized and the Technical Library was enhanced with "My Catalog."
- The Standards Process and Standard Format was introduced for technical papers.

We look forward to another exciting year in 2025, with the prospect of growing casting sales and significant potential public policy improvements in Washington. Thank you for your steadfast involvement and commitment which makes AFS's work possible.

Warm regards,

Doug Kurkul
Doug Kurkul
 CEO, American Foundry Society

AFS Officers

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| President Angela Schmeisser | Vice President David Gilson | 2nd Vice President John Lancaster | Immediate Past President Bradford Muller | CEO Doug Kurkul |
| <i>Managing Director</i> St. Marys Foundry, Inc. | <i>Sales and Marketing Director</i> SinterCast | <i>Plant Director</i> General Motors | <i>Vice President of Corporate Communications</i> Charlotte Pipe & Foundry | <i>CEO</i> American Foundry Society |

AFS Mission Statement

The mission of the American Foundry Society is to advance the success of its members and the metalcasting industry through advocacy, education, and innovation.

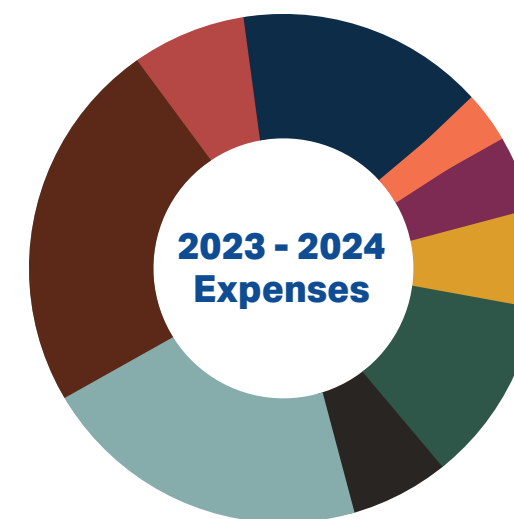
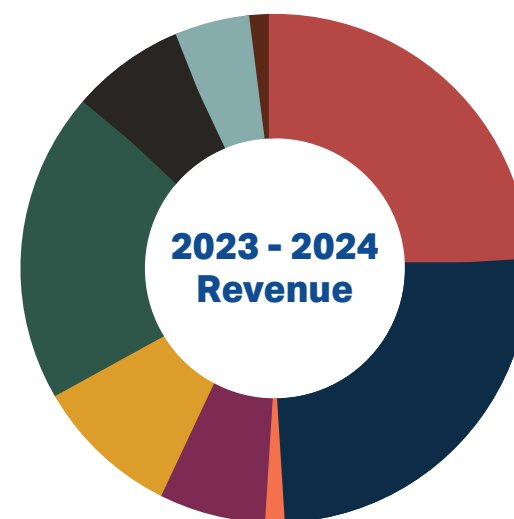
AFS Vision Statement

AFS will be recognized worldwide by industry stakeholders as the leading voice and resource on technical, management, and advocacy priorities pertaining to the metalcasting industry.

Strategic Plan Pillars



2023 - 2024 AFS and the Institute Financials



- Membership - 24.6%
- Magazines - 25.3%
- Publications - 1.2%
- Education - 7.6%
- Conferences - 8.6%

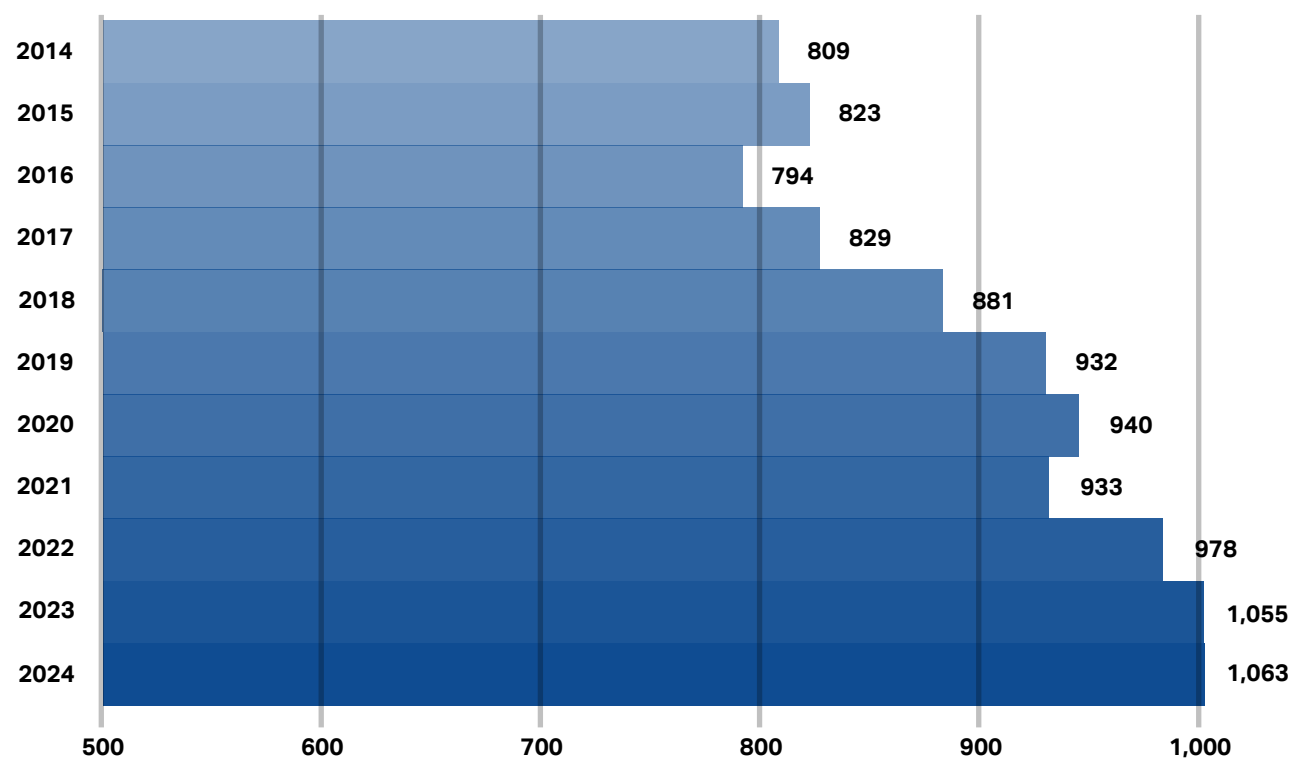
- Congress & Expositions - 19.7%
- Research - 6.6%
- Program Services - 5.5%
- Other - 0.9%

- Membership - 7.1%
- Magazines - 16.2%
- Publications - 2.8%
- Education - 4.9%
- Conferences - 6.1%

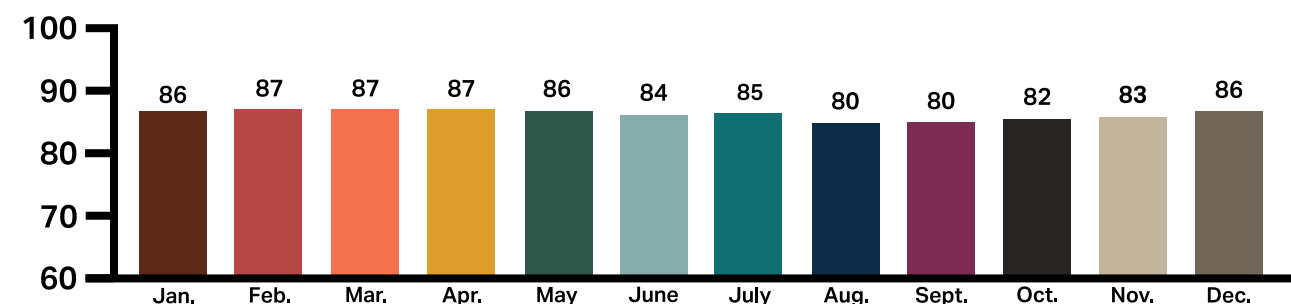
- Congress & Expositions - 11.9%
- Research - 6.2%
- Program Services - 20.4%
- Other - 24.4%

*Excludes investment performance.

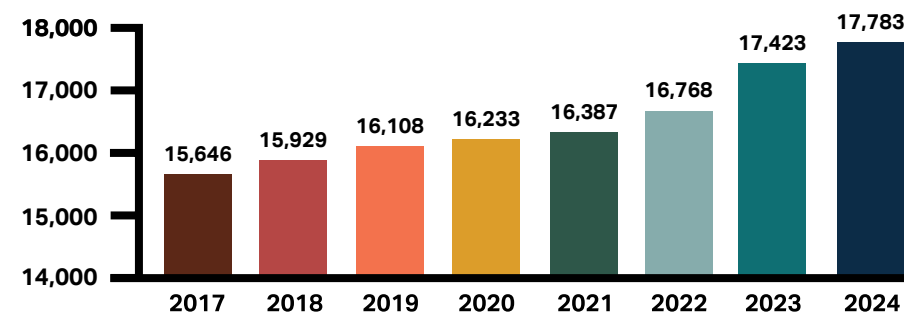
2014 - 2024 AFS Corporate Memberships



Foundry e-Learning Subscriptions by Month



Listings in AFS Peters-Robison Metalcasting Library



2023 – 2024 Officers & Board Members



President
Angela Schmeisser
Director
St. Marys Foundry, Inc.



Vice President
David Gilson
Sales and Marketing Director
SinterCast



2nd Vice President
John Lancaster
Plant Director
General Motors



Immediate Past President
Bradford Muller
Vice President of Corporate Communications
Charlotte Pipe & Foundry



CEO
Doug Kurkul
CEO
American Foundry Society

Director Class 2021 - 2025



Laura Bartlett, PhD
Wolf Associate Professor of Metallurgical Engineering
Missouri S&T



Kiley Eck Hayon
President
Eck Industries



Jay M. Morrison
Vice President of Equipment Sales
Carpenter Brothers Inc.



Liz Ulman
Director, Employee Communications & Initiatives
MacLean Power Systems

Director Class 2022 - 2026



George Boyd, Jr.
Managing Member
Goldens' Foundry & Machine Company



Alan Brink
President
Spring City Electrical



Michael Halsband
President & CEO
Roberts Sinto Corporation



Bill Nestel
Lawton Standard

Director Class 2023 - 2027



Matt Cook
Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President
Amsted Rail



Brett Fisher
President
Foundry Solutions & Design, LLC



Earl Miller
Director of Engineering and Innovation
Hiler Industries



Amanda Torkelson
Vice President
Alu-Bra Foundry, Inc.

Director Class 2024 - 2028



Susan Bear
Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
Grede Castings



Bob Braun
President-Foundry, Emeritus
Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry



Kelley Kerns
Director, New Business Development
HA International, LLC



Paul Leonard
Engineering Manager
Barron Industries

Professional Staff

Doug Kurkul
Chief Executive Officer

Accounting & Finance

Chris Oswald
Senior Director of Accounting & Finance

Valerie Stramaglia
Senior Associate Director of Accounting & Finance

Business Development

Ben Yates
Vice President of Business Development

Fabio Cavaliere
Advertising Sales Manager - West

Kimberly Farrugia
Senior Business Development Manager

Tom Lazar
Advertising Sales Manager - East

Larry Nigh
Graphic Designer

Kim Phelan
Contract Magazine Editor

Marketing

John Belmont
Senior Director of Marketing & Strategic Communications

Tyler Buchenot
Senior Creative Strategist

Bill Finn
Marketing & Communications Specialist

Aleisha Gardner
Assistant Director of Communications & Content

Human Resources & Administrative Services

Cathy Potts
Senior Director of Human Resources & Administrative Services

Government Affairs

Jeff Hannapel
The Policy Group

Stephanie Salmon
Vice President Government Affairs

Information Technology & Operations

Mike Lakas
Senior Vice President of Information Technology, Operations, & Trade Shows

Rich Fett
Senior Information Systems Manager

Katie Matticks
Senior Project Manager

Customer Service

Deana Barrueta
IT Support & Facilities Manager

Barbara Jackowski
Senior Customer Service Manager

Carmen Rodriguez
Receptionist/Customer Service

Robert Lowery
Mailroom/Warehouse Coordinator

AFS Institute

Jennifer Christian
Director of Training Solutions

Shelby Goldman
Assistant Director of Training Solutions

Technical, Research, & Library Services

Brian Began
Vice President of Metalcasting Technical Services

Travis Frush
Technical Director of Metalcasting Services

Jackson Piontek
Research Associate of Metalcasting Technical Services

Kimberly Perna
Senior Technical Coordinator

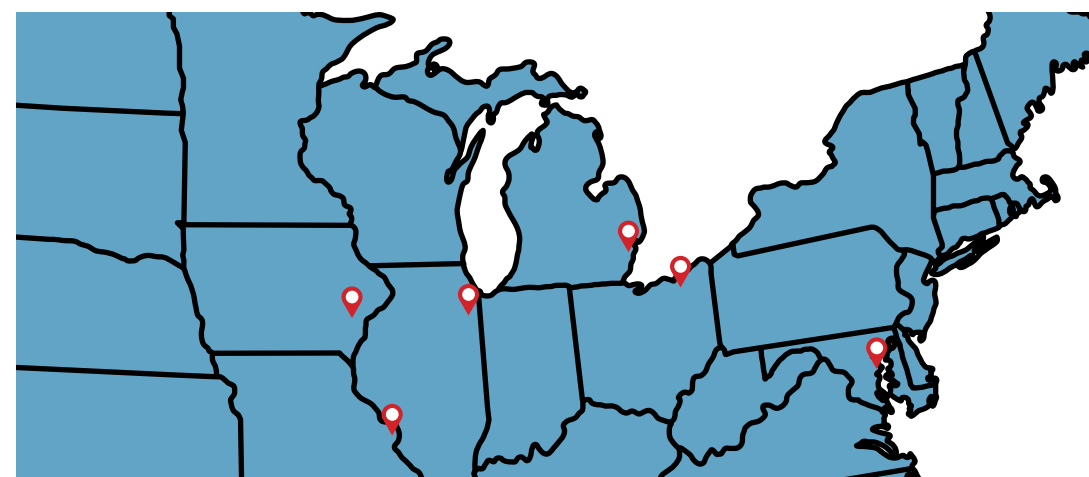
Sue Thomas
Senior Technical Editor

Bo Wallace
Assistant Technical Director of Metalcasting Services

Environmental, Health & Safety

Greg Kramer
Technical Director

AFS Staff Locations



Member Success and Sustainability

AFS will provide services, information and networking opportunities that are vital to the success of individual members, as well as Corporate Member metalcasters, suppliers, and casting purchasers.



Industry-Leading Intelligence & Insights

In 2024, AFS solidified its role as a leader in industry business intelligence by delivering essential market forecasts and workplace insights tailored to the metalcasting supply chain. These resources remain invaluable to Corporate Members for strategic business planning.

Metalcasters Quarterly Outlook Survey

This survey continues to capture the economic sentiment of the industry. By analyzing anonymized data from verified metalcasters each quarter, it provides a predictive view of industry trends and market confidence at regular intervals.

Metalcasting Forecast & Trends

Published twice a year for Corporate Members, this comprehensive report

offers an in-depth analysis of the foundry marketplace. It features key data points such as revenue figures, cost and profit benchmarks, and payroll trends, leveraging robust data from AFS surveys and government agencies.

Employment Law Update

In partnership with International labor & employment law firm Fisher Phillips, AFS delivers a monthly Employment Law Update exclusively for Corporate Members. These updates go beyond covering critical workplace issues, including safety regulations, labor laws, recordkeeping requirements, and pending employment legislation. They also help members navigate the evolving regulatory landscape providing tips and best practices.



Covers of the 2024 Forecast and Trends.



Covers of the monthly 2024 AFS-Fisher Phillips Employment Law Update.

Business Growth Programs - Operational Benefits

Access to the **Metalcasting Solutions** program is a core benefit of AFS Corporate Membership. Through partnerships with leading service providers, AFS helps streamline and enhance the operations of member businesses. In 2024, members had access to a variety of valuable programs, including the highlights below. Discover more at: www.afsinc.org/growing-your-business-afs.

Insurance and Risk Management

Offered in partnership with Cottingham & Butler, this program helps foundries find

the best possible coverage and services such as property and casualty insurance, workers' compensation, directors and officers (D&O) liability, safety and risk control strategies, and claims management, in today's challenging environment. AFS and C & B provide webinars and magazine columns to educate members.

Energy Program

Through APPI Energy, members gain access to cost-efficient energy solutions, including utility bill audits, refund opportunity identification, competitive rate evaluations, advanced procurement assistance, contract

reviews, electric conservation initiatives, and alternative energy options.

Members Only Webinars

In 2024, AFS presented 29 Members-Only Webinars on OSHA, EPA, workplace culture, machine learning, weight-reduction, carbon tracking, and numerous technical topics.

2024 Industry Conference Highlights

Metalcasting Congress 2024 Sets Modern Attendance Record

Milwaukee rolled out the red carpet as 2,700 attendees and 250 exhibitors gathered for Metalcasting Congress 2024. AFS's annual meeting showcased impactful technical and management-oriented papers and presentations and featured former U.S. Secretary of State and CIA Director Mike Pompeo, Mike Lenahan (the Hoyt Memorial Lecturer), and

Business Growth Strategist Meridith Elliott Powell. It proved to be a dynamic, influential platform for the entire industry.

CastExpo 2025 takes place in Atlanta, GA, April 12-15, with more than 6,000 expected to attend.



Secretary Mike Pompeo giving the keynote address at Metalcasting Congress 2024.



Attendees enjoying the Volunteer Leadership Luncheon at Metalcasting Congress 2024.



Attendees exploring the Metalcasting Congress 2024 show floor.

2024 Foundry Leadership Summit

Over 170 industry leaders from across the metalcasting supply chain benefited from networking and insights while engaging with world-class speakers. Guests enjoyed the Rocky Mountain backdrop at the beau-

tiful Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs for a most memorable growth experience. The 2025 Foundry Leadership Summit takes place at the Nemacon Resort in Farmington, Pennsylvania, September 22-24.



Attendees networking at the Foundry Leadership Summit Awards Banquet.



Energy policy expert, Amy Cooke, answering questions of Foundry Leadership Summit attendees.



Board of Awards Chair, Jean Bye, presenting the William J. Grede Awards at the Foundry Leadership Summit.

AFS Chapters: Strengthening Industry Connections

Our network of 35 AFS Chapters continue to thrive across North America. In 2024 there were over 160 chapter events held that included educational and training sessions, networking socials, foundry and plant tours, golf outings, community support events, scholarship fundraisers, technical presentations, and many more.

The AFS Chapters remain the best way to stay engaged with your network of industry professionals. The information and benefits of ongoing chapter connections are invaluable.

Our 47 student chapters engaged in casting competitions, research initiatives, and recruitment drives, furthering their impact on the future of metalcasting.



Dan Herner (Saginaw Valley, GM), Vira Maruli (Central Ohio, Liberty Casting), and Pat Schneider (Saginaw Valley, GM) at the 2024 Chapter Officer Conference at AFS Headquarters.



In December, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter hosted the AFS Institute course, "Casting Defects Analysis".



Full map of all AFS Regional Chapters.

Technical Innovation

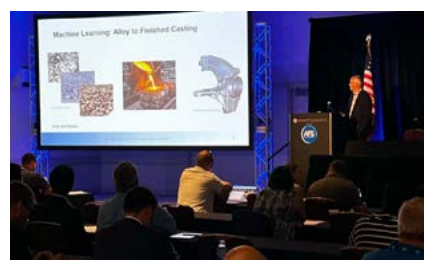
AFS will exercise technical leadership in the areas of technology transfer, scholarly publication, cutting-edge research, and technical assistance to drive innovation in the metalcasting industry.



Technical Conferences - Advancing Knowledge and Connections

AFS presented 7 technical conferences with timely, research-driven content in convenient, accessible locations. These conferences provided not only worldclass learning but opportunities to network, share and engage with industry peers driving innovation and success across the metalcasting community.

- **Safety 101 Seminar**
March 18-20, 33 attendees
- **Advanced Waste Seminar**
May 15-16, 23 attendees
- **Foundry 4.0 Conference**
July 30-31, 100 attendees
- **Cupola Workshop**
September 10-11, 31 attendees
- **36th Environmental, Health & Safety Conference**
October 1-3, 118 attendees
- **Aluminum Specialty Conference**
October 15-16, 50 attendees
- **Melting Conference**
November 6-7, 124 attendees



Attendees listening to a presentation at the Foundry 4.0 Conference.

AFS Selected for \$4 million in Defense-Related Research

In March, AFS was selected to receive a \$4 million federal appropriation to conduct essential aluminum-casting performance research. The funding is part of the package

approved by Congress and signed into law by the President. AFS will partner with foundries, expert consultants, FEF universities, and other organizations in executing

the programs. The Society was selected due to its proven record in executing research as well as its expansive Aluminum Division volunteer base.

Digitization Initiative Underway

February saw the launch of AFS's Digitization Project, an ambitious initiative that will transform the way foundry professionals' access and use industry resources. This project aims to enhance the digital availability and functionality of AFS's vast collection of metalcasting materials, offering unparalleled access to knowledge, data, and tools critical to the foundry industry. The AFS Digitization Project includes several components:

- **Virtual Knowledge Transfer Platforms (VKTP):** In collaboration with the Defense Logistics Agency, AFS is developing VKTP to streamline the distribution of critical industry knowledge through digital channels. This platform will ensure that important developments are readily shared with foundry professionals.
- **AFS Library Enhancements:** Using generative AI technology, the Peters-Robison AFS Metalcasting Library's search capabilities are being upgraded to include natural language processing, enabling users to find information more easily.
- **Electronic Access to Books and Charts:** AFS is digitizing its extensive collection of metalcasting books and wall charts, offering them on a user-friendly electronic platform.

- **Casting Alloy Database Selector (CADS) Updates:** The CADS tool is receiving major updates, including new datasets, to the over 400 existing datasets. This improvement is part of AFS's commitment to providing comprehensive data to support informed casting design decisions.

The AFS Digitization Project is co-sponsored by AFS and AMC. This American Metalcasting Consortium (AMC) project is sponsored by the Defense Logistics Agency Information Operations, J68, Research & Development, Ft. Belvoir, VA and the Defense Logistics Agency – Troop Support, Philadelphia, PA.

New Digital Storefront Sets the Stage for Resource Digitization

AFS launched a new store experience in December 2024. Visitors notice a new and improved, more mobile-friendly design with larger images, improved readability, more items per page, clearer pricing based

on AFS membership status, updated categorization, and better search functionality.

The AFS store remains the best source for official AFS technical publications, training

volumes, e-learning tools, reports and research, along with AFS branded clothing and gifts. Many products are also available for immediate download.

Casting Connections Introduced Improved Usage Surges

A new and much improved "Casting Connection" was launched in late 2024 to foster collaboration among committee members and facilitate asking and answering technical questions. In the first 3 months follow-

ing the launch, Casting Connection usage increased sharply. Members benefit from an enhanced, modernized look and feel, easier navigation, and easier access to popular content and features like publications, sur-

veys, committee updates, and training. The discussion board remains a popular feature as members continue to share insights and answer one another's technical questions.

AFS Standards Process and AFS Standard Format Introduced

In April, AFS announced the release of its new **AFS Standards Process** and **AFS Standard Format** by its Standards and Common Languages Committee. These developments mark a proactive step toward formalizing foundry best practices, solidifying AFS's

commitment to clear guidelines and protocols for industry-wide adherence.

As part of the AFS Engineering and Smart Manufacturing Division, the Standards and Common Languages Committee plays

a crucial role in upholding quality and consistency within the foundry sector. By establishing robust standards and formats, the committee aims to enhance operational efficiency in foundry practices.

Library App Makes Downloads More Convenient

The Peters-Robison AFS Metalcasting Library app, which is available for free to all members, continued to be a popular feature in 2024. A total of 20,439 resources were downloaded from the library and 450 from the app. The app, called Liberty Link, allows

members to search, reserve, borrow, and return library resources directly on their phones. Find the app by searching for Liberty Link in the Apple or Android stores. To explore the library on a desktop, visit www.afsinc.org/library.

New features introduced in 2024 include the Save Your Favorites and My Catalog features to help save AFS members time by saving interested articles to an easily accessible location.

Completed AFS Research Projects in 2024

19-20#02 Effect of Ceramic Sand on Cast Iron Mechanical Properties

Principal Investigator:

Dr. Scott Giese
University of Northern Iowa

Steering Committee Chair:

Brandon Reneau
Caterpillar

Purpose: To evaluate the effect of ceramic sand/media on the mechanical properties for Class 30 iron and 80-55-06 ductile iron.

Library Paper Number: Coming Fall 2025

22-23#04 Bio-based Polymer Foam Pattern for Lost Foam Casting

Principal Investigator:

Jacob Belke
Mercury Marine

Steering Committee Chair:

Marshall Miller
3D Systems

Purpose: To identify an environmentally sustainable biopolymer(s) that can become an alternative to the current petroleum-derived polystyrene.

Library Paper Number: Coming Fall 2025

19-20#07 LFC Molds Produced Using Additive Manufacturing

Principal Investigator:

Marshall Miller
Tesseract4D

Steering Committee Chair:

Jeff Prickett
Metals Alloys & Refractories

Tooling constructed of T6061-T6 is considered expensive and requires special software and skilled programmers.

Purpose: To determine the applicable metal additive manufacturing method and materi-

Completed AFS Research Projects in 2024

al for medium and high-volume production considering material durability, material costs, cycle time, equipment costs, and skill level required for production as compared to conventional methods.

Library Paper Number: 24-011

19-20#08 LFC Molds Produced Using Polymer FDM & SLA Additive Manufacturing

Principal Investigator:

Marshall Miller
Tesseract4D

Steering Committee Chair:

Jeff Prickett
Metals Alloys & Refractories

Purpose: To determine the applicable FDM (fused deposition modeling) polymer additive manufacturing and SLA (stereo-lithographic additive) method and material

for low- and medium-volume production considering material durability, material costs, cycle time, equipment costs, and skill level required for production as compared to conventional methods.

Library Paper Number: 24-011

22-23#03 Effects of Si in High-Cr White Cast Irons

Principal Investigators:

Richard Gundlach
Gundlach Consulting Services; "With help from John Tartaglia, Element Materials Technology."

Steering Committee Chair:

Brian Bendig
Penticton Foundry, Ltd.

Purpose: To study the effects of different types of inoculants on the austenite grain size and mechanical properties of the differ-

ently inoculated cast irons. Heterogeneous nucleation to refine austenite in cast irons was also explored.

Library Paper Number: 24-088

20-21#06 Machinability of Solution Strengthened Ferritic Ductile Iron

Principal Investigators:

Dave Labyak and Paul Sanders
Michigan Technological University

Steering Committee Chair:

Mark Osborne
Wabtec

Purpose: To understand the machinability of SSFDI grades compared to conventional grades to help expand the market for SSFDI grades.

Library Paper Number: Coming Fall 2025

Talent Development

AFS and the Institute will lead talent development initiatives and provide innovative education programs that meet customer needs and increase the skill levels of metalcasting industry workers.



AFS Institute Trains the Industry

For those new to the industry or seeking essential skills, the Institute provides flexible opportunities to expand expertise on a wide range of topics and sharpen skills in the evolving metalcasting field.

From in-person workshops and online courses to customized training programs, the AFS Institute ensures availability and

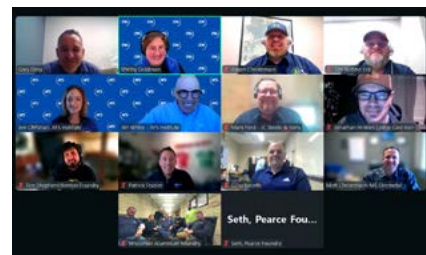
accessibility are key to providing members with the best in industry learning. The 2024 numbers prove the industry's demand for flexible learning experiences is strong:

- 90+% student survey satisfaction rate for classroom, online, and in-plant training courses.

- 623 students trained in the classroom and online from 155 unique companies.
- 5,496 Foundry e-Learning module engagements.



Partial class photo of the July "Casting Defect Analysis" course at AFS Headquarters.



Students meeting digitally for the "Introduction to Supervisor Development" course in December.



AFS Institute held two in-plant training courses, "Aluminum Metalcasting 101" and "Casting Material Properties", at G&W Electric.

Women in Metalcasting

Women in Metalcasting (WIM), an AFS founded shared interest group, provides a platform for networking, mentorship, and idea-sharing among women in the industry through webinars, group events, and a quarterly member newsletter.

In 2024, the Women in Metalcasting Award of Excellence was presented at the WIM breakfast to Svetlana Dodik-Pelja of HA International. Outreach to young women in the industry continues to illustrate how metalcasting provides a robust and extremely viable opportunity for women to soar to new career heights. In 2025 WIM will present its first-ever dinner during CastExpo.



Lizeth Medina-Balliet (Neevah Foundry) speaking at the Women in Metalcasting Breakfast during the 2024 Metalcasting Congress.



The 2024 Women in Metalcasting Award for Excellence winner was Svetlana Dodik-Pelja (HA International). Pictured is Dodik-Pelja (in blue) with her team from HA International.

AFS Young Professionals

This shared interest group, formerly called Future Leaders, continues to support industry employees ages 20 to 45 aspiring to, or currently in, managerial roles within their

organizations. AFS presented the annual AFS YP Annual Meeting in Charlotte which included a tour of AFS Corporate Member Charlotte Pipe and Foundry. This

immersive event also featured manufacturing engagement and educational sessions, networking events, and timely discussion forums for 50 attendees.

Youth Metalcasting Competition Takes Center Stage at Metalcasting Congress

The skill and creativity of young metalcasters was on display at **Metalcasting Congress 2024** as part of the first-ever Casting Dreams competition.

Hosted by the **Steel Founders' Society of America**, this exciting initiative invites

teens to bring their visions to tangible reality through metalcasting. The competition aims to celebrate the fusion of artistry and craftsmanship by encouraging participants to create their "dream" metal casting. Casting Dreams is a platform for budding talents to shine, receive informed critiques

from professionals, and gain recognition within the wider metalcasting community.

Sinto-AFS Young Professionals Educational Scholarship

Noah Brack, (Georgia Southern University), received the 2024 Sinto-AFS Young Professionals Educational Scholarship made possible by a generous donation from AFS Corporate Member Sinto, supports the education of metalcasting students and emerging industry leaders.



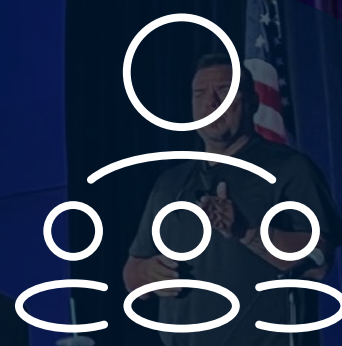
Noah Brack, winner of the 3rd Sinto-AFS Scholarship, and Michael Halsband (Sinto) at the 2024 Young Professionals Meeting.



Keynote speaker, Lisa Ryan, speaking with the attendees of the 2024 Young Professionals Meeting.

Industry Stewardship

AFS will lead outreach activities to enhance the image of the metalcasting industry with target audiences.



Global Reach Through WFO & IJMC

As a member of the World Foundry Organization (WFO), AFS works closely with foundry associations worldwide to enhance the quality and sustainability of metal castings. The *International Journal of Metalcasting*, AFS's award-winning, peer-reviewed publication, serves as the official research

journal of the WFO. Furthermore, in 2025, AFS and the World Foundry Technical Forum will join forces with CastExpo 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia. This collaboration between WFO and AFS will unite global metalcasting industry leaders at the premier event of the industry in April.

Brad Muller (Charlotte Pipe and Foundry) is the AFS representative to the WFO Executive Committee. Doug Kurkul (AFS) is the representative to the WFO General Assembly.

Advancing Industry Excellence

AFS celebrates outstanding achievements in metalcasting through a diverse range of industry awards. These accolades highlight excellence in areas such as health and safety, service, management, and technical innovation. Beyond the metalcasting community,

this commitment to recognizing excellence extends to the broader manufacturing sector and the local communities where these honorees make an impact.

AFS remains dedicated to showcasing and honoring these remarkable accomplishments. Explore the highlights of 2024's award winners throughout this Annual Report or visit www.afsinc.org/history to discover past and present honorees!

Workplace Safety

Workplace safety continues to be an issue of major industry importance and AFS continues to bring safety to the forefront. Focusing on relevant topics and fostering conversations, AFS provided a number of educational opportunities and event speakers with timely insights. A key highlight included the Foundry Leadership Summit keynote speaker and safety expert Dr. Todd Conklin (*Senior Advisor for the Los Alamos National Advisory, and Human & Organization Performance Consultant*) who shared his presentation, "Safety and the Principles of Human Performance."

A highlight at the annual EHS Conference in October included the custom presentation, *What Top Gun Pilots Know that EHS Professionals Need to Know* by Timothy "Hoolie" Reynolds a former top gun pilot turned consultant. It was a fascinating look at the four tenets that drive elite success and organizational safety: 1) Complexity requires group success. 2) High-perfor-

mance teams are built on trust. 3) Move from academic to actionable. 4) Adaptive capacity equals mission success.

A safety webinar scheduled for January 2025 was planned and promoted to all industry association at no cost to emphasize the importance of safety and optimize participation. Additionally, two safety workshops were held.



Some of the attendees of the 2024 Melting Conference listening to presentations.



Attendees discussing workplace safety at the Safety 101 Seminar at AFS Headquarters in March.



Attendees of the Foundry Industry 4.0 Conference listening to presentations on the current and future technologies of metalcasting.

Policy Advocacy

AFS will proactively advocate for public policies that benefit U.S. metalcasters, encourage a strong U.S. industrial base, and support national defense.

AFS Provides Foundries with New Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Detection Tool

2024 saw AFS's Air Quality Committee release a new tool to help metalcasters navigate greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting to help measure and reduce carbon emissions.

The "AFS Guidance on Estimating Scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions" is free to AFS members and can be accessed via the AFS digital online library.

Policy Advocacy in 2024

- **AFS-Supported Water Infrastructure Bill Approved by Congress**

Bipartisan legislation to improve the nation's ports and harbors, inland waterway navigation, flood and storm protection, and other aspects of the nation's water resources infrastructure, the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA) was approved by both chambers before the end of the session. The package authorizes new projects for ports, dams, levees, and inland waterways. AFS has been a strong supporter of legislation that makes continued investments in our nation's water and maritime infrastructure. The measure clears the way for appropriators to fund these important projects, many of which will require extensive use of castings. The bill was signed into law.

- **Cyber Reporting Mandate**

AFS provided comments on a joint coalition letter this last summer to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) highlighting concerns over the cyber reporting proposed rule, set to take effect in 2025, which significantly expands the cyber agency's authority. The Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act of 2022 (CIRCA) requires "covered entities" with a "reasonable belief" that they experienced a "covered cyber

incident" to submit a notification to CISA within 72 hours or if a ransomware demand is paid within 24 hours. It also mandated that any ransomware payments be reported within just 24 hours. The letter provides several recommendations to CISA including a) reconsider the scope and number of incidents that have to be reported, b) streamline reporting, c) provide technical support to smaller entities, d) clarify definitions; and d) flexibility.

- **Electricity Needs in an Era of Data Center Growth**

In November, AFS submitted comments to the DOC National Telecommunications and Information Administration in response to a request from comment on the challenges facing data center growth. Data center load growth has tripled over the past decade and is projected to double or triple again by 2028 alone. As an energy-intensive industry, foundries need a stable electric grid and affordable energy sources to produce critical castings and expand their operations. AFS told the agency that federal policies should streamline the U.S. permitting system including expediting judicial review, accelerating the permit process for needed energy infrastructure, including more transmission lines, pipelines and access to critical minerals; and

should ensure access to all forms of electricity generation.

Government Affairs Fly-In: Metalcasters Press 5 Priorities

The Fly-In took place in June with over 75 industry leaders descending on Washington D.C. to engage, educate and activate lawmakers. The 5 key issues that metalcasters pressed in meetings with lawmakers were:

- **The Regulatory Onslaught**

EPA and OSHA have been developing far-reaching regulations at a breakneck pace. AFS members explained how these expansive rules would dampen reshoring, reduce U.S. manufacturing competitiveness, and thwart job-creation.

- **Fighting Trade Cheats**

Foreign parties are circumventing trade laws and treaties to tilt the playing field to their unfair advantage. AFS is urging Congress to enact the "Fighting Trade Cheats Act" which would raise penalties and improve enforcement for fraudulent and grossly negligent violations of U.S. customs laws. By increasing the maximum civil penalty for a fraudulent violation to three times the domestic value of the

merchandise and instituting a five-year import ban for violators, the measures would reduce the impact of trade cheating.

- Pro-Growth Tax Policy**
 AFS strongly supports the tax package that recently passed the House and urges the Senate to adopt those policies promptly. This needs to be re-worded because all of the unpassed 2024 bills have to be reintroduced so as to encourage investment in the U.S. and offer business decision-makers predictability.
- Addressing the Workforce Shortage**
 AFS surveys continuously show that the workforce shortage is a leading challenge facing most foundries. AFS members lobbied for bills to expand the use of 529 tax-advantaged Education Savings Account funds to include postsecondary training and

credentialing, such as nongovernmental certifications; expand Pell Grants to include short-term career training programs that are 8 and 14 weeks; and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and include funding to support skills-based training and programs at community colleges.

- Permitting Reform**
 Finally, Fly-In attendees provided lawmakers with a persuasive case that federal and state permitting policies must be streamlined to allow energy, manufacturing, mining and critical infrastructure projects to proceed expeditiously in an environmentally responsible way. The “Revising and Enhancing Project Authorizations Impacted Review (REPAIR) Act is one such example.

In addition to scheduled meetings with lawmakers, educational sessions were

offered to complement and underscore the importance of these efforts. Speakers included Former Senior Adviser and Deputy Chief of Staff for President George W. Bush Karl Rove, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL-3), and Chief Economist of Economic Policy Division at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Chris Dubay. Metalcasting Industry Congressional Champion Awards were presented to: Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN), Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D. (R-IA-01) for their leadership in pro-metalcasting issues.



Rep. Scott DesJarlais and Mike Noble (Lodge Mfg. Co.) speaking about metalcasting in America.



Former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove speaking with Andrew Renkey (Harmony Castings, LLC).



Rep. Mike Rogers speaking to the attendees of the 2024 Government Affairs Fly-In.



Darren Howard (American Colloid Co.) meeting with Senator John Barrasso.

Foundries Hosting Elected Officials

Many member foundries hosted lawmakers in their area to meet with staff, tour facilities and learn firsthand how policy regulations affect operations. Meetings with local lawmakers are critical in educating and advocating for pro metalcasting policies. AFS can help foundries connect with their local members of congress through D.C. representative, Stephanie Salmon.



AFS Corporate Member BCI Solutions, Inc. hosted Senator Mike Braun (R-IN) at its facility in Bremen, Indiana.



Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX) touring Oil City Iron Works with Colbey Solis (Oil City Iron Works).



Highlights at 2024 Metalcasting Congress

At Metalcasting Congress 2024, AFS presented the Casting Designers & Buyers Track and the Cast in North America (CINA) exhibits pavilion. The track featured educational presentations highlighting the benefits of metal castings and helping cast-

ing buyers make well-informed decisions. Meanwhile, the CINA exhibits showcased North American foundries, enabling casting designers and buyers to understand the value of partnering with these foundries for

their parts requirements. Together, these initiatives equipped attendees with insights into the tangible benefits of working with North American foundries, empowering them to make confident purchasing decisions.

Casting Source

Casting Source, AFS’s magazine tailored for casting buyers and designers, is published six times per year in addition to its highly popular “Casting Source Directory” and “Metalcaster Prospectus.” This distinctive magazine serves as a valuable resource, providing essential insights into customer/foundry relationships, cost competitiveness, casting conversions, real-world casting applications, and more. Casting Source is the best advertising option for foundries looking for more business.



A sample of covers of “Casting Source” magazine in 2024

Casting of the Year Award

The AFS/Casting Source Casting of the Year Award is more than just a badge of honor—it celebrates the remarkable potential of castings. This prestigious annual award draws global attention from parts buyers and OEMs, enhancing the industry’s reputation for delivering quality and innovative manufacturing solutions. The 2024 recipients once again showed the range of talent, precision and workmanship throughout the industry.



CASTING OF THE YEAR
St. Marys Foundry, Ltd.
 Location: St. Marys, Ohio, USA

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



Meridian Lightweight Technologies
Location: Strathroy, Ontario, Canada

BEST IN CLASS



Linamar Structures
Location: Fruitport, Michigan, USA

HONORABLE MENTION



Lee Brass Acquisitions LLC.
Location: Anniston, Alabama, USA

BEST EXAMPLE OF A CONVERSION



Lethbridge Iron Works Company Ltd.
Location: Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada

BEST IN CLASS



Matthews International
Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

HONORABLE MENTION



Watry Industries LLC
Location: Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



Amsted Rail - Granite City
Location: Granite City, Illinois, USA

HONORABLE MENTION



Impro Industries
Location: Diamond Bar, California, USA

Metalcaster of the Year

The Metalcaster of the Year is an honor bestowed by the editorial team at *Modern Casting* along with AFS leadership. It's announced every June with a cover story in *Modern Casting*. The 2024 recipient was MTI based on their ability to produce North America's first carbon neutral castings. MTI developed a formula with which to estimate the carbon footprint of every job and then optimizes its processes from there.

The Metalcaster of the Year is selected based on the relevance of new and innovative techniques, and best practices and processes to advance the industry.



BY THE NUMBERS

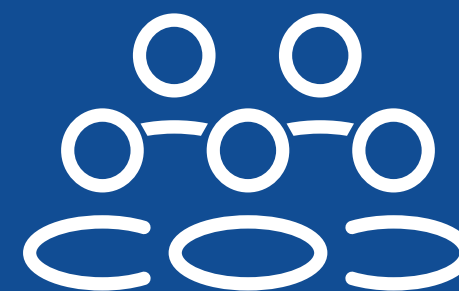
82
AFS Regional
- & -
Student Chapters



31 live
webinars
presented
in 2024



5,736
Individual
Members



1,063
Corporate
Members

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AFS
Divisions

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AFS
Committees

16
Task
Groups

2
Shared
Interest
Groups

42
courses
offered by the
AFS Institute



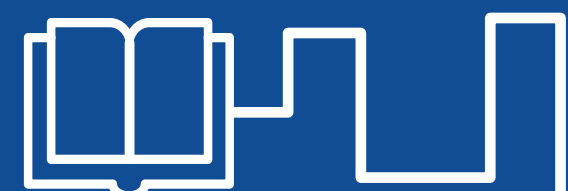
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exhibitors at
Metalcasting
Congress 2024

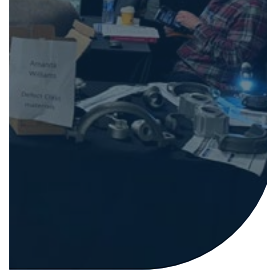
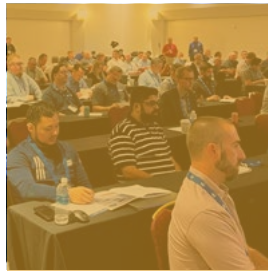
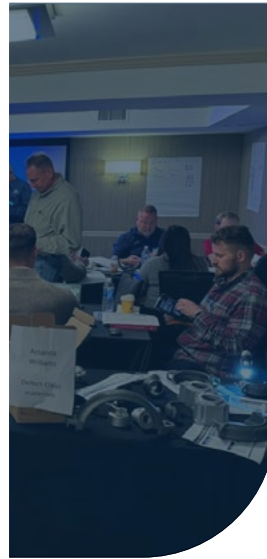
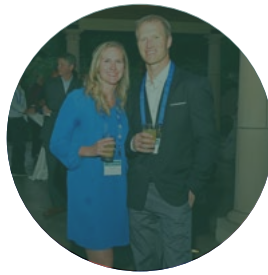
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