



AFS NONFERROUS FOUNDRY BULLETIN

Upcoming AFS Institute Courses of Interest to Nonferrous Foundries

With the arrival of autumn, the AFS Institute has announced a new series of live online courses via Zoom, taught by highly respected experts. These courses have the most current curriculum and will provide your employees with skills needed to produce optimal quality castings efficiently and effectively.

Gating and Riser Design 201
August 26 – 28 | Live Online via Zoom

Introduction to Metalcasting
September 10 – 12
Live Online via Zoom

Gating and Riser Design 101
October 1 – 3 | Live Online via Zoom

Green Sand Molding 101
October 9 – 10 | Live Online via Zoom

Casting Design
October 29 – 30 | Live Online via Zoom

**Introduction to
Supervisor Development**
November 5 – 7 | Live Online via Zoom

Aluminum Metallurgy 201
November 12 – 13
Live Online via Zoom

Aluminum Melting 201
December 3 – 5 | Live Online via Zoom

Green Sand Molding 201
December 9 – 11 | Live Online via Zoom

Check out all the AFS Institute's upcoming courses online at www.afsinc.org/courses. Discounts for groups of 3 or more are available. We are also offering a buy 3, get 2 free registration offer. To see which offer may work for you, call **customer service** at **800-537-4237**.

Additionally, there are seven nonferrous courses available in the Institute catalog. View it at afsinc.org/training.

Special note: All AFS Institute courses can be presented on an In-Plant basis in your foundry. Corporate Members receive a 10 percent price advantage. Contact **Jen Christian** at jchristian@afsinc.org to explore these options.

AFS Provides Pivotal Environmental, Health and Safety Support to Foundries

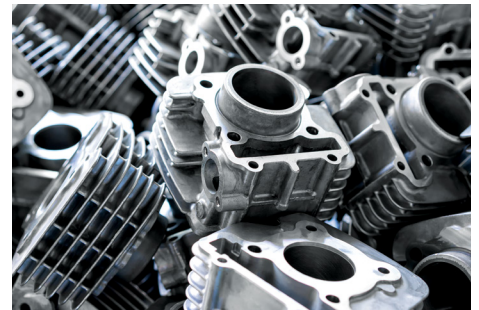
AFS members are better because of the EHS support they rely upon from AFS. Three timely examples:

1. AFS has provided several EHS-related Members Only Webinars this year. They can be accessed in the archived, on-demand webinar section of the website. These are complimentary for members.
2. AFS members with questions have access to a full-time Technical Director specializing in EHS matters, engineer Greg Kramer, and an environmental advocate with regulatory expertise in Washington, attorney Jeff Hannapel, at no cost.
3. The AFS Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Conference returns for its 36th year as the premier event for foundry industry EHS professionals. Taking place October 1-3, 2024, at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the conference brings together leading experts and peers to discuss the latest developments, innovations, and best practices in foundry EHS. From foundry case studies to updates from Washington D.C. to networking with other professionals, this event has what you need to enhance your knowledge, EHS programs, and performance. Register at the AFS website, afsinc.org or call Customer Service at **1-800-537-4237**.

Aluminum Conference to Focus on Molding, Melt Prep, Process Controls

Imagine learning from a dozen of the world's top aluminum casting experts in one setting over two days! The AFS Aluminum Specialty Conference will feature expert speakers in molding, alloy development and characterization, melt prep, hydrogen control modeling, casting process controls, Internet of Things architecture and post-casting processes as well as automotive industry applications to arm engineering, operators, and plant managers for success.

The event will take place just outside of Pittsburgh in Mars, Pennsylvania, October 15-16. Information and registration can be found at afsinc.org. It is organized by the AFS Aluminum Committee and AFS Vice President Brian Began, one of the nation's top experts on aluminum metalcasting. All are welcome. Speakers will include Kevin Anderson and Adam Kopper (Mercury Marine), Gordon Peters (Linamar Fruitport), Alan Luo (OSU), David Weiss (Vision Materials), Andrew Halonen (Mayflower Consulting), Yohan Tremblay (Foundry Solutions & Metal Services), Dan Hoefert (Eck



Industries), Roy Stevenson (MAGMA), Ted Schorn (ENKEI), former AFS Vice President Tom Prucha plus many other experts.

The conference registration also includes a tour of AFS corporate member company Harmony Castings (limited capacity). "This informative aluminum casting event is usually held once every two years. AFS members and non-members alike are welcomed and encouraged to attend," noted AFS CEO Doug Kurkul.



Adam Kopper
Mercury Marine



Gordon Peters
Linamar Fruitport
Operation



Dan Hoefert
Eck Industries



David Weiss
Vision Materials

Copper Founders Enjoy Breakfast, Present Scholarship

At the recent Metalcasting Congress in Milwaukee, dozens of copper metalcasters got together for a lively and enjoyable breakfast program. The main speaker was Jim Valentine (Neptune Technologies), the outgoing Chair of the AFS Copper Committee.

AFS also presented the Ducharme Scholarship during breakfast. The recipient this year is Victoria Koch from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The Copper Alloy Division Stephen Ducharme Student Scholarship is intended to encourage and support college and university students engaged in metalcasting-related

studies to consider the metalcasting industry as a potential field for post-graduation employment or career development. There is a form available at the AFS website (afsinc.org) for students who wish to apply for this scholarship. The scholarship is named for Stephen Ducharme, who served as a member of the American Foundry Society for many years and was a leading copper metallurgist known throughout the U.S. for his contributions to the copper metalcasting industry.

All copper metalcasters as well as OEMs and industry suppliers with an interest in copper,

are encouraged to participate in the Copper Alloy Division in order to discuss industry trends and casting best practices, plus help plan AFS research endeavors. Meetings are both remote and in person, sometimes coupled with plant tours. To join the committee, please contact **Kim Perna** at kperna@afsinc.org.

The Copper Alloy Division is composed of the Research Task Group, Education Task Group, Gating & Rising Task Group, Technology Transfer Task Group, Awards Committee and Executive Committee.

Corporate Memberships Help Drive Casting Sales

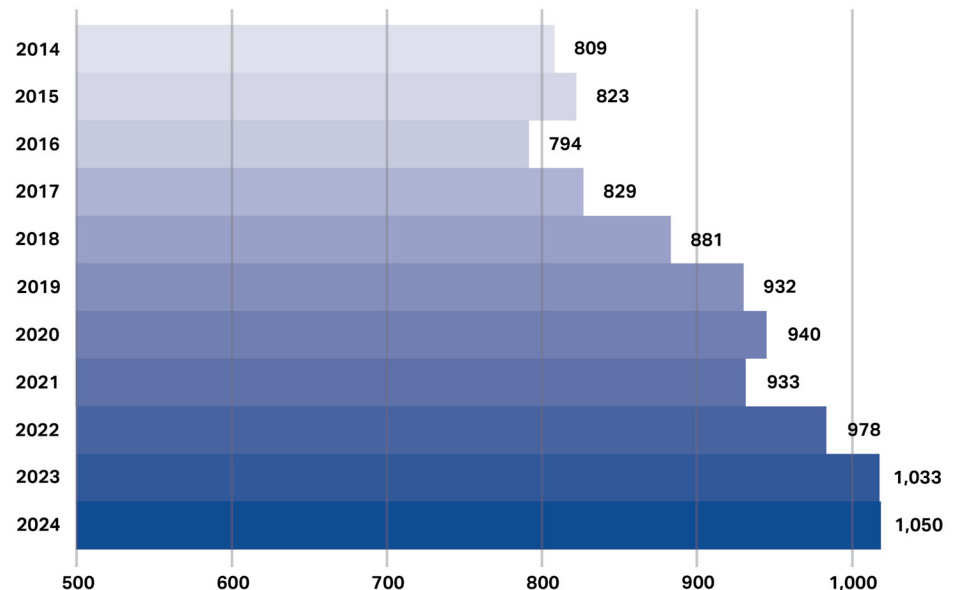
Casting sales were so brisk in 2022 and much of 2023 that many foundries had little need to attract new customers. They were busy fulfilling back orders and trying to hire new employees to meet the demand for their castings.

Metalcasting is a cyclical industry and the most recent AFS Quarterly Metalcasters Outlook Survey confirms what many foundry leaders have told us, which is that sales are soft at many facilities. AFS is projecting just a 1.3% growth in casting sales for 2024, though sales are projected to begin increasing at a healthier level in the out years.

If your foundry welcomes new orders from new customers, be sure that you are a Corporate Member of AFS. You will then be announced as a new Corporate Member, you will appear in the online and print Casting Source Directory, and you will be eligible for referrals when AFS receives inquiries.

AFS corporate membership rates are based on sales and most foundries find the first new order more than covers the cost of the membership. Moreover, the Corporate Membership includes a certain number of Individual Memberships and brings full access to AFS technical, safety and environmental compliance experts, the monthly Employment Law Update to prevent you from being blind-sided

2014 - 2024 AFS Corporate Memberships



AFS Corporate Member growth from 2014 to 2024.

by changing labor laws and rules, and two Metalcasting Forecast & Trends reports per year to help with your business planning.

The number of Corporate Members has risen from 794 in 2016 to more than 1,050 today – evidence of the tremendous value that

accompanies Corporate Membership. Contact **Ben Yates** at byates@afsinc.org or **847-803-5278** to learn more and explore joining AFS as a Corporate Member.

How AFS Was Chosen for \$4 Million for Aluminum Metalcasting Research

Earlier this year, President Biden signed into law a bill that includes a \$4 million appropriation for aluminum research. This research will help American industry design and produce the highest-quality castings needed for national defense and warfighting for years to come.

The story started when military leaders approached AFS Vice President Brian Began about the need for further research into aluminum casting topics. AFS was approached because the Society has a decades-long history of coordinating effective aluminum research projects, coupled with an Aluminum Division with many dozens of key figures from

aluminum metalcasting facilities. Currently, AFS is working to finalize project documentation. The research projects will be executed with key academic and private-sector partners in the coming months.

If you would like to learn more about the specific projects that AFS will be executing or would like to join the AFS Aluminum Committee so you can be the first to learn about new developments concerning aluminum casting, please contact **Brian Began** at bbegan@afsinc.org or **847-803-5018**.

Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee Meeting Regularly

The AFS AI Subcommittee, chaired by Zach Meadows (EC&S) meets approximately once every six weeks via Zoom. The discussions feature various AI experts and foundry leaders describing the early impacts of AI on their operations and future considerations. A recent AFS survey showed that many foundries have keen interest in AI.

The only requirement to join these meetings is a Zoom account and membership in AFS. Contact **Kim Perna** at kperna@afsinc.org if you would like to be invited.

Human Performance Safety Expert, Aluminum Founders to Speak at Leadership Summit

Nonferrous foundry leaders are encouraged to attend the Foundry Leadership Summit 2024, September 22-24 at the beautiful Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs. There will be an all-star array of speakers including Dr. Todd Conklin who is an advisor to Las Alamos National Lab, organized labor and many companies. Recommended by the AFS Environment, Health & Safety Division, Conklin will address "Safety & the Principles of Human Performance."

Also on the speakers and panelists list will be:

- Dr. Gus Faucher (PNC Financial) on the 2025 economic outlook

- Amy Cooke (East X West Partners) on energy trends
- Attorney Dennis Unkovic on supply chain challenges and China's next moves
- Kiley Eck Hayon (Eck Industries) on human resources challenges
- Michelle Szymik (Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry) on human resources challenges
- Reg Zeller (CaneKast) on opportunities and challenges for foundries

- 3 experts on making your foundry best in class for P&C insurance
- And many others

The popular optional golf tournament will occur on the afternoon of September 22. It will be chaired by Mark Didion (Didion International).

More than 150 leaders from across the industry will attend, making for outstanding business networking in a delightful setting. To learn more or register, visit afsinc.org/2024FLS or phone **AFS Customer Service at 1-800-537-4237**.



Amanda Torkelson and Oscar Munoz from Alu-Bra with AFS CEO Doug Kurkul at the 2023 Foundry Leadership Summit.



Sachin Shivaram (Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry) with author Dan Burris at the 2021 Foundry Leadership Summit.



The popular optional golf tournament is the perfect opportunity for foundry leader networking.

Extensive Nonferrous Foundry Expertise on AFS Board and Committees

Throughout the AFS Board of Directors, Research Board and committee structure, there are many dozens of nonferrous foundry leaders advising the Society and representing their companies.

For example, the AFS Board of Directors includes Kiley Eck Hayon (Eck Industries), Alan

Brink (Spring City Electrical), Amanda Torkelson (Alu-Bra Foundry), and Bob Braun (ex-Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry). Similarly, the Government Affairs Committee includes Sachin Shivaram (Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry), Andy Renkey (Harmony Castings), and Chris Norch (Denison Industries). The officers of the AFS Aluminum & Light Metals Division are Luke Schimmel

(Fairbanks Morse Engine) and Tony Lindert (Oshkosh Corporation). The chair of the Technical Council is Adam Kopper (Mercury Marine). The current officers of the Copper Alloy Division are Jacob Johnson (Foseco) and Gerald Richard (MAGMA Foundry Technologies).

World's Largest Digital Metalcasting Library Receives Tremendous Usage

AFS members are deepening their understanding of casting quality thanks to AFS's Peters-Robison Metalcasting Library. More than 17,000 searchable articles are available to AFS members at no charge.

In FY 2024 which concluded on June 30, a total of 29,553 articles were downloaded by 500 AFS members!

Articles include:

- 529 articles referencing copper
- 227 articles referencing brass
- 252 articles referencing bronze
- More than 1,000 articles referencing aluminum
- 401 articles referencing investment casting

The Library is named for Butch Peters, who was formerly the CEO of Brillion Iron Works, and Steve Robison, who was a longtime nonferrous foundry employee in California before joining the AFS staff for more than 20 years. Both men were tremendously dedicated to the library. The Peters-Robison Library is very easy to use, but for assistance, contact **Bo Wallace** at bwallace@afsinc.org.

Meet Your AFS Metalcasting Technical Staff

This issue of AFS Nonferrous Foundry Bulletin, we highlight the Technical Services team at AFS.

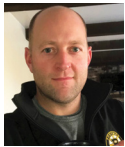


Brian Began
Vice President of Metalcasting Technical Services

One of the top aluminum metalcasting experts in North America, Brian joined the AFS staff in 2021. As Vice President, Metalcasting Technical Services, he heads up the Technical Services programs, conferences, and research projects at AFS.

Like all of the staff at AFS, Brian is committed to providing superior member service. He is liaison to the Aluminum & Light Metals Division and the Copper Alloy Division, and oversees AFS research. He works and travels from Cleveland.

Brian brings experience in key roles at ASM International and Foseco. He has a bachelor's degree in Materials Science & Engineering from Case Western Reserve University and an MBA from Ashland University. Brian advises the U.S. military on casting needs. Contact: bbegan@afsinc.org or **847-824-0181 ext. 228**.



Greg Kramer
Technical Director, Environmental, Health & Safety

Greg brings tremendous expertise in foundry environmental health and safety, drawing on previous experience at ME Global and his master's degree in Environmental, Health & Safety from University of Minnesota-Duluth. He works and travels from Minnesota. Greg is liaison to the Environmental, Health & Safety Division, among other divisions. Contact: gkramer@afsinc.org or **847-824-0181 ext. 224**.



Travis Frush
Technical Director of Metalcasting Services

The newest member of the AFS Technical Services team is Travis, who brings extensive expertise from his previous work at University of Northern Iowa, HyPro, John Deere, and Benton Foundry. Among his areas of specialized knowledge is 3D printing. Travis, who works and travels from Iowa, is liaison to the Additive Manufacturing Division as well as other AFS divisions. Contact: tfrush@afsinc.org or **847-824-0181 ext. 242**.



Sue Thomas
Senior Technical Editor

Sue is the Technical Editor at AFS. A trained engineer, her contributions are seen in the wide variety of AFS technical publications available to metalcasters. Sue combines technical metalcasting knowledge with a meticulous attention to detail, and represents AFS at events such as the annual Metalcasting Congress. She earned a degree in Materials Engineering/Metallurgy from University of Illinois-Chicago. Sue works and travels from the Chicago area. Contact: stthomas@afsinc.org and **847-824-0181 ext. 231**.



Bo Wallace
Senior Technical Associate

Bo joined the AFS team in 2017 as Course Coordinator and has advanced to his current position of Senior Technical Associate. He joined AFS after five years as Foundry Assistant at UNI,

where he earned his B.S. in Manufacturing Technology with a Metalcasting emphasis. Bo plays a key role in the AFS Peters-Robison Technical Library, Members-Only Webinars, Lost Foam Division, and research projects. Bo is liaison to the 46 AFS college student chapters and coordinates the IJMC-FEF Student Research Competition. Like all of the AFS staff, Bo is dedicated to superior member service. Bo works and travels from the Chicago area. Contact: bwallace@afsinc.org or **847-824-0181 ext. 249**.



Kimberly Perna
Senior Technical Coordinator

Kim regularly amazes AFS members with her superb coordination of AFS technical programs, committees, and conferences. She has been an indispensable member of the AFS team since 2018, and following several promotions, she is now the Senior Technical Coordinator. Kim works and travels from the Chicago area. Contact: kperna@afsinc.org or **847-824-0181 ext. 246**.



Thomas Prucha
IJMC Editor

An AFS Gold Medal winner, Tom retired from full-time work with AFS in 2016 and since then has continued to edit the *International Journal of Metalcasting* while working as President of MetalMorphosis. Tom's career included previous work at InterMet, Hayes Lemmerz International, CMI International, and Northern Malleable. He works and travels from the Detroit area. Contact: tprucha@sbcglobal.net.

Corporate Memberships Offer Enhanced Business, Technical Benefits

Since 2017, the number of Corporate Members at AFS has grown from 829 to more than 1,050. This growth reflects the greatly enhanced member benefits for foundries as well as the Society's commitment to superior member service.

Corporate memberships provide foundries with:

- 1.) Resources to **optimize casting quality** including access to AFS technical experts, Technical Library and Members-Only Webinars.
- 2.) You're the **first to receive summaries of groundbreaking AFS research**.
- 3.) **Metalcasting forecasts** and wage/salary reports that enhance your successful business planning.
- 4.) **New business leads** through three listings in the digital and printed **Casting Source Directory**, which AFS delivers to nearly 12,000 design engineers and casting buyers!
- 5.) **Deepest discounts** on the AFS Job Board, exhibiting at AFS trade shows, attending AFS conferences, metalcasting

publications, Institute courses, and in-plant training.

- 6.) **Join other foundries** in helping AFS fight for the metalcasting industry in Washington, perform casting research, and partner with FEF and our 45 student chapters to prepare the next generation of foundry workers.

To explore **Corporate Membership**, contact **Doug Kurkul (202-294-1479)**, **Ben Yates (847-824-0181 ext. 205)** or **Kim Farrugia (734-308-1171)**. Or email us at CustomerService@afsinc.org.

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If Hiring and Retaining Workers is a Challenge...Then AFS Can Help!

- The **Wage & Salary Guide** can help you benchmark the right wages and benefits to offer. Find it at afsinc.org/store.
- The **AFS Talent Development Division** (formerly HR Division) is now open to all AFS members with an interest in employee recruitment, compensation, training, and retention. Join the Division and learn from your colleagues! Contact **Cathy Potts** at cpotts@afsinc.org to join.
- Employees who receive training are more likely to stay and thrive at your foundry. Explore the skills-development training options at the AFS Institute at afsinc.org/training.