

The 1998 Branch Officers Forum, held November 13–14 at the Orlando Marriott, was a great success. On Friday, the 63 attendees boarded buses for a tour of AESF Headquarters and meetings with the AESF Board of Directors, and then returned to the hotel for the “Camp Anode-Bag-Um” party, where a barbecue dinner and team-spirited games were set up at the hotel’s poolside pavillion.

Saturday’s informative presentations featured excellent speakers and topics, such as: An explanation of the Society’s GR Program (John Lindstedt); a description of the responsibilities and duties of the various offices within a branch (Mike Horton, Don Bauer, Mike Faulman, Richard Thibodeau, Ed Budman and Jim Bates); a demonstration of a sample branch web page (Sheri Barbery); and brainstorming sessions on how to achieve a healthier branch. Some of the suggestions that emerged from the roundtable discussions included:

What can the Society do for me as a metal finishing professional and for the industry?—Become a CEF or CEF-SE; new technology updates—want to know what’s going on; Internet forum to facilitate exchanges between members and branches; have a PR person at the branch level.

Increasing meeting attendance—Make meetings interesting; have a good executive committee and experienced educational chairman; bring a co-worker night; phone committee for reminders; member appreciation night—free for members and families; member-only raffle; plant tours; joint meetings with other associations; special invitational party to in-house plating corporations and large shops for a wine/cheese reception to tell them the advantages of the AESF for their employees; lower cost of dinner

Membership Recruitment/Retention—Keep in contact with members who don’t show up; invitations should go to company presidents to come to meetings; when you get a list from headquarters that people have been suspended, put a note in their meeting notice that their dues should be paid; always have membership brochures handy; when talking with others, stress the benefits and ideals of the Society; ask suppliers for shop names; note clearly on your newsletter that guests are welcome.

1998 Branch Officers Forum



(Back, l-r) Keith Anderson, Will Burbage, George Babb and Joe Baweja. (Front, l-r) Chris Bridges, Gene Calvert, Jim Bates, Cleon Babcock and Coleen Baweja.



(Back, l-r) Will Askew, John Gotshall, Chuck Erdman, Andrew Gruda, Sherry Harper, Mike Harper, Sandy Hallberg, Brian Day, Scott Dolla, Mary Hulstedt and Dan Hogan. (Front, l-r) Steve Scales, Carole Engstrom, Marlene Erdman, Kevin Helton, Dora Hodge and Bill Gross.



(Back, l-r) Chuck Reichert, Joe Leonhardt, Mike Lloyd, Allan Marsh, Kevin O’Rourke, Serge Labbe and Gerald Loh. (Front, l-r) Jerry Phillips, Monica Phillips, Olivera Radovanovic, Tracy Montour and Wally Kirijewski.



(Back, l-r) Mike Vaccarelli, Jerry Smith and Judy Smith. (Front, l-r) Gordy Seppanen, Chris Smith, James Struck, Katherine Schweich and Bill Wager.



Ken Lemke, second vice president of AESF, tried his hand at the goblet toss during the team activities at "Camp Anode-Bag-Um." At left is Joan Harrison, assistant executive director of AESF, who was keeping score.



AESF board member Gene Burman did his part for the team in the basketball shooting competition. Jim Bates, right, and AESF's Jackie Gibson, far left, officiated.



Brian Day, second from left, tries a turn at darts while team captain Skip Cassell (left), treasurer of AESF, watches. Don Bauer, right, and AESF's Kathy Schumacher, center, were official score keepers. Scott Doloa, center, served as Kathy's "desk."



Olivera Radovanovic tries her skill at the ring toss as team leader and AESF board member John Lindstedt, second from right, looks on. Mike Faulman, in hat and bowtie, officiated.



The "putt putt" contest was one of the most popular. Ken Gatchel, past president of AESF, participated for his team using a putter designed especially for the contest by Chuck Reichert, far right. AESF's Paula Chase kept the official scores.



Forum Moderator Steve Scales led a birthday tribute to Joan Dwyer, a long-time member of AESF, during "Camp Anode-Bag-Um." A birthday pie was used for the candle.



Speakers at the Branch Officers Forum included (l-r); Mike Horton, Steve Scales (moderator), Richard Thibodeau, Don Bauer, Ed Budman, Jim Bates and Mike Faulman.



One of the most popular activities at the Forum was the "chow line."



Breakout sessions gave attendees a chance to "brainstorm" for ways to hold better meetings and improve services for members.

Free Details: Circle 131 on reader service card.

Free Details: Circle 132 on reader service card.