



Bluegrass Discusses QS9000 & ISO9000

The Bluegrass Branch held its third meeting of the year at Cliff Hagan's Ribeye, Lexington, KY, on November 12, with 21 people in attendance. Joe Leonhardt of the Cincinnati Branch informed the members about the upcoming AESF SUR/FIN® to be held in Cincinnati this June.

The speaker was Winston Dotson of Lexington Community College, who addressed the group on "Preparation for QS9000/ISO9000."

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for February 11 ("User-friendly Hoist Programs") and March 11 ("Nickel Recovery") at Cliff Hagan's.

—Jim Gullett

Cincinnati & Dayton Hold Luncheon Meeting With IAMS
The October 26 joint meeting of the Cincinnati and Dayton Branches of the AESF was held at the Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Sciences, Inc. (IAMS) in Cincinnati. It was a luncheon held in conjunction with the Metals Collaborative of IAMS. Traci Spencer of IAMS introduced Cincinnati President Joe Leonhardt, who conducted the meeting for the 33 members and guests.

Among the announcements was that exhibit space is still available for SUR/FIN® '99, to be held in Cincinnati June 21–24. He also stated that the Cincinnati and Dayton Branches will again be co-sponsoring the fourth annual Electroplaters Environmental Workshop '99 on March 22. The event will be held in conjunction with the IAMS at their location in Cincinnati. If you would like to present a paper or exhibit, please contact Dan Leonhardt (513/242-1410) or Traci Spencer (513/948-2053).

The speaker for the evening was Chris Cotton, who is an inspector with

the Ohio EPA's Division of Hazardous Waste Management in the Southwest District Office in Dayton, OH. He said that regulators are not being more proactive in their work, and emphasized that pollution *prevention* is not pollution *control*—it is just another way of saying "efficiency." He showed an EPA video titled "Ounce of Prevention: The Advantages of Reducing Waste," which was produced through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund, with videography services provided by the Ohio Department of Health's Media Center. The video focused on five different Ohio companies and their various methods to reduce waste.

Represented were a printing company, a machine shop, an automobile body shop and two metal finishing companies (Highland Precision Plating, Hillsboro, OH, and Leonhardt Plating Company, Cincinnati). Through interviews with company officials, the video helped explain how these companies were able to reduce waste by eliminating processes, changing procedures, purchasing new equipment and educating employees. Copies of the video are available by contacting Chris Cotton at the Ohio EPA (937/285-6357).

A question-and-answer session ended the meeting.

—Dan Leonhardt

Grand Rapids Reviews Heat Treating & Metal Finishing
The October 8 meeting of the Grand Rapids Branch was held at Duba's Restaurant, Grand Rapids. The 31 members and guests listened to Jeffrey Recker of Heatbath/Park Metallurgical Corp., Detroit, MI, explain the relationship of the heat-treater and the plater. Heat treating changes the properties and structure of the metal surface and/or the



Branch Officers—
Have you been looking for a way to honor

your long-time and hard-working members? Your AESF Bookstore has the answer: Present them with an official AESF membership pin ... or a 50-year pin ... or one designated for Branch Presidents. All are available through the AESF Bookstore. Call headquarters at 407/281-6441 for more information or to place an order.

underlining metal. There are several types of heat treating:

- Normalizing for grain refinement
- Tempering for stress relief
- Carbonizing for surface hardening & salt bath.

Some of the newer methods include laser, microwave and boron (usually in a vacuum).

The surface condition before and after heat treating must be free of materials that might etch or change the surface. The quality of the quenching oils is directly related to minimizing uneven treating and surface changes. Salt bath treating needs clean, hot water for quenching. Many problems for the plater and the heat treater are prevented by removing oils, drawing compounds and rust inhibitors prior to heat treating. Use a cleaner that does not change the surface, and make sure it is rinsed free afterward. Customers expect the treater and the plater to solve their mutual problems and be responsible for the final product and its warranted life.

—Ken Gatchel

Hartford Hears About High-performance Seals
The Hartford Branch meeting was held on October 27 at the Cabin Restaurant, Meriden, CT (new venue for meetings). President C. Heath Riewe opened the meeting by welcoming the members and guests.

Educational Advisor Claudia Bechard introduced the guest speaker, Greg More, head of engineering at Advanced Products Co. in North Haven, CT. His topic was "Seals for Extreme Environments." The company was founded in 1954, and its first products were metal O-rings for aircraft engines—a business that continues today. In the late 1950s, the company became very active with major nuclear prime contractors in defining the critical reactor pressure vessel closure-head technology for the pressurized water and boiling water reactors then being used for commercial power generation.

Today, Advanced Products supplies more than 200 nuclear plants worldwide, as well as nuclear-powered naval fleets, using both the original, well-proven metal O-ring technology and the newer, high-performance spring-energized seals. The product line has also been extended to include space applications for both U.S. and European markets.

A variety of plated coatings are applied (in-house) to almost all of the seals the company manufactures. Coatings include copper, gold, indium, lead, nickel and silver, as well as a Teflon® spray-on coating. Approximately 80 percent of the seals are plated with silver, five percent with copper and one percent with gold. The remainder are plated with the other coatings. Base metals include super alloys and a variety of stainless steel alloys.

The plated coatings provide the following:

- A malleable interface between mating surfaces
- Level asperities and fill scratches in the mating surfaces
- Prevent hydrogen from penetrating the interstices of the base materials
- Protect the base metals from extreme operating environments.

Following a question-and-answer session, Mr. More was given a


Memphis-Midsouth Branch

Great Debate of 1999

"Interacting with News Media
During Chemical Situations"

March 12, 1999
11 a.m.-5 p.m.

East Memphis Hilton • Memphis, TN



The AESF Memphis-Midsouth Branch sees a great need to educate the media and others outside the chemical world on "proper" handling of chemical situations—not all chemicals warrant emergency reaction. Representatives from local television stations and newspapers are being invited, as well as NBC national coverage. The desire of this panel is to hear questions and concerns, then debate and educate, so as to lend promise of a mutually beneficial understanding of the chemical world.

Currently, panel members include Shelby County HAZMAT officials, corporate chemical CEOs, EPA consultants, general managers of chemical companies and representatives of local news media.

Please contact Bill Trial, branch president, if you are interested in attending or participating in this event (901/327-5995 ext. 246; FAX: 901/327-9541). Watch for registration information in upcoming issues of *P&SF*.

presentation folder embossed with the branch name as a token of appreciation.

—Frank Brindisi, Jr.

Changes in Environmental Criminal Liability
Explained at Indianapolis
Scott Newman, the Marion County (Indiana) prosecutor, spoke to the September meeting of the Indianapolis Branch. His topic was "Criminal



Blair Vandivier, CEF (left), thanks Scott Newman for speaking at the September branch meeting.

Liability with Environmental Crimes," and he explained how these types of cases are prosecuted.

The reasons for pursuit of these crimes included:

- A campaign commitment by the administration to toughen environmental laws

- Changing of some environmental crimes from misdemeanors to felonies
- Civil lawsuits by third-party environmental groups

The 1990s have produced a new era for dealing with violators of environmental regulations. Most prosecutors and other public officials have chosen to work with the companies involved to improve the initial problem, rather than prosecute an individual. Today, only the willful violators and habitual criminals are prosecuted for environmental crimes.

Prosecutors typically will not pursue an individual unless the following specific criteria are met:

1. Knowing and intentional misconduct or act of defiance (*e.g.*, tampering with sample)
2. Guilty mind of the individual (which can include conscious ignorance)
3. Actual effect on the environment
4. History of the individual as an environmental violator
5. The violation should be explainable to a 12-person jury in 60 seconds

Newman said that long, ongoing negotiations are not good cases to effectively prosecute.

—Jerry Phillips

Annual Outreach Meeting Held in Milwaukee

The Milwaukee Branch held its annual northern members outreach meeting in November at the Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI. The outreach meeting is an attempt each year by the branch to better serve its members who reside outside the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

Approximately 50 members and guests participated in the early evening meeting, which featured Frank Altmayer, CEF, AESF's technical director, as the education session speaker. He explained how many of the Society's courses have been digitized onto interactive CD format. After his demonstration of a few of the basic electroplating courses on his PC, he opened the floor to questions. Attendees joined in a lively discussion on a variety of subjects, ranging from government relations and congressional representation to specific plating applications, such as the use of tin plating as an adjunct to copper-nickel-chrome plating in antique restoration processes.

Several members inquired about the availability of the electroplating course in Spanish. Although the CD versions are not yet set up in other languages, the possibility is being explored. A short business meeting followed dinner.

—Rick Lang

Environmental Specialist Addresses Orlando Group

The Orlando Branch held its November 10 meeting at Pebbles Restaurant in Winter Park, FL. Guest speaker for the evening was Jennifer Hobbs, environmental specialist with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Hazardous Waste Program, who has seven years'



From left: Jennifer Hobbs, guest speaker; Gene Calvert, educational chairman; and Richard Burns at the Orlando Branch meeting in November.

experience in the field of hazardous waste treatment. She spoke to the 22 members and guests on "What Does the FDEP Look For?"

During the business portion of the meeting, Gene Calvert, educational chairman, announced speakers for upcoming meetings (January 12, Eric Olander of EPI Inc.; February 9, Rod Ruppel of Clariant Corp.).

Branch President Mike Faulman led a discussion on how to get more plating shop owners to attend meetings. It was decided that a telephone committee—consisting of Will Askew, Mike Faulman, Jim Boyer, Brenda Gross and Paula Chase—would be formed to encourage attendance at meetings.

Before the meeting adjourned, members voted to contribute \$250 to the AESF Research Program and \$500 to the Government Relations Program.

—Brenda Gross

Tips for Good Solution Agitation Shared at Orange County Metro The Orange County Metropolitan Branch welcomed 20 members and guests to its November meeting. Gene Burman, branch secretary/treasurer, advised the membership that, thanks to the success of the recent golf tournament, the branch was now solvent. He also reported that the Golden West Regional, held November 5 and 6 at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, NV, was very successful in every respect: Registration, exhibitor participation and technical content. All of the Golden West branches were represented in the list of 120 attendees. The AESF Board of Directors was also well-represented at the Regional: Ted Witt, CEF, AESF executive director; President Bob Groom and his wife, Joan; and Gene Burman, board member.

Branch President Bill Ormsby announced topics for upcoming meetings. Because of the popularity of his presentations, Frank Altmayer, CEF, AESF's technical director, has been invited for the third consecutive year to speak at the January meeting.

During the technical portion of the meeting, David Glick, SERFILCO Ltd., gave a very informative talk about the positive effects obtained through improved solution agitation via the use of properly sized and placed eductors. Whatever the plating



At the October meeting in Philadelphia, Educational Chairman John Deitzel (left) thanks Thomas Gratz, guest speaker.



Above left, Fred Pearlstein, CEF, who received the AESF Fellow distinction at SUR/FIN® in absentia, was awarded his Fellow pin by Dr. Sam Heiman, AESF Fellow (center) and James Abbott of the Philadelphia Branch.

solution, reduced heating costs, less brightener usage, higher current densities and improved quality can lower plating costs by 25 percent or more.

—John Donaldson

History of Powder Coating Presented at Philadelphia

The October meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. at Villari's Milmarian Restaurant, Palmyra, NJ, with 24 members and guests in attendance. The guest speaker was Thomas Gratz of TigerLac Inc., who gave a very informative and interesting presentation on powder coating. He discussed the history of powder coating and methods of application. Thickness of the coatings and colors, plus textures that are available, were discussed. Following a question-and-answer session, Gratz received the branch's Certificate of Appreciation.

During the business meeting, Branch Treasurer John Cogan gave a financial report that was approved by a member vote. President Mike Horton honored Fred Pearlstein, CEF, with the able assistance of AESF Honorary Member and Past President, Dr. Sam Heiman, AESF Fellow. Fred had been unable to attend SUR/FIN® '98 last June, where he was honored with the title of AESF Fellow.

President Horton announced that the branch meetings would again be

held at Michael's Restaurant in Bensalem, PA.

—Ed Budman

Government Dignitaries

Speak to Providence-Attleboro

An enthusiastic and appreciative crowd of 49 members and guests attended the October 19 meeting of the Providence-Attleboro Branch, held for the first time at the Providence Marriott (the venue for all future meetings). Branch President Steve Scales and Bob McIntyre did the honors of introducing the evening's guest speakers, U.S. Sen. Jack Reed and Providence Mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci.

Sen. Reed first addressed the audience, giving an overview of the general state of the economy, both nationally and locally. He reviewed the factors that have had an impact on the U.S. economy, such as the Asian economic crisis, and what government is doing to address those factors. He spoke of programs being implemented locally to improve the economic outlook for the state, including the development of Quonset Point as a deep-water port. Of interest to those in the jewelry trade is the legislation that Sen. Reed is working on with a Senate task force to pass legislation that would require foreign jewelry to have an indelible stamp of the country of origin, so that consumers will know where items were produced.

Mayor Vincent Cianci then addressed the audience, reviewing the progress that has been made in the city over the past years to make it attractive to business, industry and tourism. He reviewed the status of current projects and outlined some that are targeted for the next year to make the city a viable convention site. He then focused on the challenges for the 21st century, such as education reform. He is challenging city officials to think regionally, not just within city limits.

In all, the evening proved very enlightening.

—Tracy Montour, CEF

As Seen in Branch Newsletters Sent to AESF Headquarters ...

Boston—The Boston Branch Technical Conference, "Process Control & Efficiency '98: Reducing Processing Costs," was a smashing success. The varied program session speakers were

dynamic, informative and relevant, and there were more than 20 vendor and sponsor displays for the 80+ attendees to visit.

Cleveland—Lester Gress of Cleveland Fluid Systems spoke at the October branch meeting. His insightful discussion of rinsewater reuse and recycling was educational, and the slide presentation and handouts were appreciated by attendees.

Colonial Virginia—The October 20 meeting featured Pat Deland, corporate technical services, LeaRonal Inc., who gave a presentation on "Electroless Nickel/Immersion Gold" as it is used in the printed circuit industry.

Merrimack—The third annual AESF/EPA Metal Finishing Workshop was held on October 1 in Portsmouth, NH, and focused on compliance and beyond-compliance initiatives that will move the industry forward in the area of environmental protection. In addition to the guest speakers and invaluable workshops, several metal finishing vendors displayed new equipment and technologies to keep the industry on track.

Midwest Florida—The October 21 branch meeting welcomed Brian Manty of Concurrent Technologies, who gave a hands-on tour of the Internet and different websites.

The September 16 meeting featured a presentation by Jay North and Jerry Nelligan of Suncoast MTC, a Florida manufacturing technology center. They explained the mission plan of the center, and noted that they are trained to help small businesses identify barriers to productivity and then help implement solutions.

Palmetto—The October "Drop-In" was hosted by Ron and Robin Meuldijk at the new Hendor PE facility. They guided members and guests through their new building, stocked with rectifiers, filters and pumps, and then offered attendees plenty of good food to eat.

The Piedmont Regional was a huge success, with 31 vendor displays and approximately 150 attendees.

Rockford—The September branch meeting was held at Lino's Restaurant, with 50 members and guests in attendance. Paul Hancharick of Atotech USA spoke on "Zinc Plating Trends Around the World."

Toronto—Attendance was up at the October meeting, and it was great to see Roan Clark, a 50-year member, in attendance. Michael Uetz of Enthone-OMI gave an informative presentation, including "real-life" experiences and simple statistical techniques to reduce repairs and improve quality performance in finishing shops. P&SF

Why Did You Join the AESF?

The following letter is reprinted with permission from the Garden State Branch newsletter.

I would like all of you reading this letter to ask yourselves a few questions. *Why did I join the AESF? Have I ever been to a regular monthly meeting? If not, why not?* When I first joined the AESF, I only wanted to receive *Plating and Surface Finishing*. I didn't attend any meetings—I didn't want to take the time away from my family after working all day. I just wasn't interested. Then one day I saw an interesting topic scheduled for a regular monthly meeting, and decided to go. I didn't go for the dinner portion, but came in during dessert. Steve Rudy, then branch president, got up and greeted me. It turned out the topic had been changed that night, and I didn't get to hear the speaker I came

for. But I came to a few more meetings anyway, and decided to continue attending on a regular basis. Why? It was only one night a month, and I began to get to know the members who regularly attended the meetings.

Eventually I enrolled in the Plating School and learned many things about plating that my work would never expose me to. (I highly recommend any of you who haven't taken this course to seriously consider it.) Cy LaManna, director, asked me to join the Educational Committee, and I was then asked to fill the vacant sergeant-at-arms position. Over the years, I have held each of the officer positions and now have been elected branch president. Without question, I have found my time in the AESF to be very beneficial.

—Jerry Smith
President, Garden State Branch