



Robert T. Groom
AESF President

President's Corner

The Outlook is Good for Finishers in '99

AESF Week is now behind us, and many of us have returned to the frozen north and are now eagerly awaiting spring. On the finisher's calendar of events, spring brings the Aerospace/Airline Plating Forum and Exposition for that specialized segment of our support industry. The Forum and Expo will be held April 20–22 in Jacksonville, Florida. You can read the preliminary details in this issue.

The next major international event—one that Joan and I always look forward to—is SUR/FIN®. It's great to see so many of our old acquaintances, attend the various social events and go through the exhibits. As for the overall educational aspects of SUR/FIN, I think they are just tremendous. You don't need me to tell you about the technical programs; they are unsurpassed. But I will say this: There is always something of interest for everyone. When attending SUR/FIN, you always have the assurance that you will bring back at least one piece of new information that will help your business in some way.

There are some “non-technical” educational programs held at SUR/FIN that are certainly worth your attention. As a jobshop manager myself and a member of the National Association of Metal Finishers (NAMF), I have consistently attended the NAMF “Outlook” Program that has been held in conjunction with SUR/FIN for many years. These management programs are really valuable.

In years past, Outlook has often had a leading economist give financial predictions for the coming year, with the facts broken down by industry segments. This is excellent information to have—whether you are in sales, engineering or production. The programs have also covered subjects such as motivation, communications and other people skills.

If you have never attended an Outlook session, I strongly recommend that you do so this year. You won't be disappointed. While we are waiting for NAMF's program agenda, go ahead now and mark Tuesday, June 22, on your calendar. That's the day that the Outlook Program will be held during SUR/FIN '99. As soon as

we receive complete information, we'll release it so that you will have time to finalize your plans.

Social events are an important part of SUR/FIN, too. I'm pleased to announce that once again our three closely related organizations—the Metal Finishing Suppliers Association (MFSA), the NAMF and the AESF—are combining efforts for a “big party” on Wednesday evening, June 23. Many people who did not attend last year because of other commitments learned from others about what a great party they missed. They asked us to let them know about this year's jointly sponsored event as early as possible so they might plan accordingly.

Consider this advance notice on two important events that will happen during SUR/FIN '99. The “outlook” is great for an outstanding four days, so clear your calendars now and plan to be in Cincinnati, June 21–24.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert T. Groom".