American Welding Society Counselors

Class of 2001

John Bartley - For his 40 years of distinguished service to the welding community consistently demonstrating a high quality of leadership through various company and AWS Society affiliations, both domestically and internationally, which will continue to benefit the welding industry for many years to come.

William Berglind – In recognition of his honorable character, positive attitude and excellent leadership abilities in fostering good relations within the welding industry in business and non-business settings for more than three decades as a business communications professional.

D. Fred Bovie – For his proven leadership by using his management skills in guiding one of the largest welding manufacturing corporation in the world while also finding the time to assist the personal development of his employees and supporting their efforts in continuing education and participating in the welding community.

Donald F. Hastings – For his distinguished 40-year career in providing guidance, enthusiasm and leadership as a mentor to hundreds of individuals demonstrating through his actions that service to the industry was the "right thing to do."

Dr. Ralph E. Long - For his leadership in welding education and training through work activities and of service as a volunteer to the welding community both internationally and domestically bringing a sense of teamwork to any project he undertook.

James H. Walker – For his wise counsel and leadership activities performed throughout his long career in the weld fabricating industry and for his service to others as a volunteer in disseminating his knowledge to the welding community.

Class of 2002

Herbert E. Cable – For his integrity, leadership, and devotion in the development of welding automation/mechanization and since 1973, having established the first U.S. pavilion showcasing American made products for the European consumer by continuing to encourage American Companies to exhibit in the International Welding Exhibition in Essen, Germany.

Rickye D. Messer – In recognition of his honorable character, positive attitude and excellent leadership abilities in fostering good relations within the welding industry and through his activities as an educational instructor, Society volunteer member on both the location and national levels and dedication to the advance of welding technology.

Donald E. Powers in recognition of his guidance and expertise especially in the area of high energy density welding processes, the development of many facets of electron beam welding for

the automobile industry, his mentoring of individuals within the welding community, his long standing support of technical committees, and for his overall commitment to excellence.

Werner H. Quasebarth – In recognition of his contributions to the advancement of welding technology through the founding of the American Welding Institute and the development of computer software and expert-based systems for welding establishing a first of its kind system providing for the fully computerized design of welds in complex weldments in accordance with welding codes.

2003 Class of Counselors

Joseph Caprarola, Jr. — For demonstrating leadership in his career of more than 50 years within organizations that have made substantial contributions to the welding industry and for developing the next generation of leaders for the Society and the welding community.

Robert Geissbuhler — Representing an outstanding example of an individual dedicated to progressing welding technology and committed to students and welding programs from trade schools to engineering universities.

Dr. Karl F. Graff — In recognition of his contributions and advancements as an educator through his personal involvement as a role model and for his accomplishments in the field of high-power ultrasonics.

James Franklin Harris — For his enthusiasm for and knowledge of welding education, which, along with his experience and proactive approach towards mentoring, make him a valuable resource for the welding industry and the Society.

William H. Hobart, Jr. — For helping to create a culture where an individual could take personal satisfaction in a job well done, treating individuals with dignity, and championing for the investment in research and development to further enhance the future of the welding and cutting industry.

Milo "Mike" Kensrue — As an inventor, innovator, and one who has enhanced the image of welding throughout the world, dedicating his life as a mentor and primary leader for the welding manufacturing industry.

Robert A. "Bob" Mattoon — In recognition of his honorable character as a principled man of integrity whose opinions and recommendation are received with respect and for using his management skills in guiding others in their personal development.

Gerald D. Uttrachi — For training a generation of salesmen, end users, and distributors in a wide variety of welding processes and equipment through personal training and the development of training materials.

George O. "Bob" Wilcox, Jr. — Who has been instrumental in communicating and marketing the features and benefits of welding and cutting products through his creative ideas that consistently enhanced the image of welding.

2004 Class of Counselors

Jack R. Barckhoff — For demonstrating leadership in his career of more than 50 years by promoting welding as an engineering science, helping individuals, companies and the welding community to improve their welding quality and productivity.

Richard W. Couch, Jr. — Representing an outstanding example of an individual dedicated to progressing welding technology, especially in the areas of plasma arc cutting and welding by providing leadership in the development of many products that have benefited the welding industry and the world.

Jack Dammann — In recognition of his contributions and long history as an employer and community leader through his personal involvements promoting quality education and its positive effects on the general public and welding community.

Alfred F. Fleury — For his enthusiasm, leadership, unselfish devotion, who is a lively and incisive communicator who responds positively and actively to all challenges, and passing on to others his professional knowledge.

Rudolph Murray — As an educator who has enhanced the image of welding throughout the world, dedicating his life as a mentor, a man of conviction, and unquestionable dedication to the welding community.

Ronald C. Pierce — For tirelessly promoting the welding industry, always putting other individuals first, a true gentleman, a "walking billboard" for enthusiasm and passion in approaching all challenges with a positive attitude and friendly personality, combined with unequalled persistence in getting the job done.

F. R. "Bob" Schneider, Jr. — In recognition of his honorable character as a principled man of integrity whose opinions and recommendations are received with respect, and for using his management skills to help develop consensus, while guiding others in their personal development.

2005 Class of Counselors

Warren Alexander — For his untiring efforts and as a champion for quality standards in bridge structures, and for his counsel on fabrication, welding, metallurgy, and nondestructive testing issues. For his lifelong dedication to the welding industry to educate design engineers and fabricators in understanding the importance of their respective roles in "fracture avoidance" and through his efforts, AASHTO and AWS agreed to coauthor and publish the AASHTO/AWS D1.5-88 *Bridge Welding Code.*

Lee Kvidahl — For his more than thirty years of experience in welding engineering, he has distinguished himself in the shipbuilding industry by providing leadership for two major shipyards, serving on shipbuilding committees, and by his participation in NAVSEA working groups.

Ernest Levert — For his vision and outstanding leadership and perseverance in advancing the science and application of welding, supporting the welding industries, by mentoring and preparing the next generation of welding professionals, and for important contributions to major welding programs such as the Atlas and Centaur space boosters, Space Shuttle, International Space Station, Joint Strike Fighter (JSF-22), and various missile weapon systems.

Glenn Nally — For his fifty years of professional work experience and volunteer service, contributing to the welding community as a specialist in communications, advertising, literature, public relations, trade show, and product styling through his effective counseling and mentoring.

Nancy Porter — By providing support through her work at Edison Welding Institute and through leadership of the Ohio State University's WE Alumni Society, her multifaceted involvement has helped welding engineering students, faculty, alumni, and employers through fund raising, student recruitment, communication, and job placement assistance enhancing the image of welding engineering as a profession.

Amos Winsand — For his numerous achievements, both in design and development of systems, demonstrated his leadership ability when he contributed many innovative ideas to improve the performance of multi-spot resistance welding transformers which became key components in the automotive industry's quest to automate the resistance welding of car bodies.

2006 Class of Counselors

Dr. Boris Krantz — Is recognized for his early career in welding research and development and his significant contributions for the welding industry in sales, marketing, and product development.

L. William Myers — Is cited for his achievements as a welding engineer for more than thirty years, and as a leader in the promotion of quality education, and its positive effects on the general public and the welding community.

Walter J. Sperko — Is recognized for being a driving force in influencing international standards-writing organizations to adopt the standards developed and practiced by AWS, thus making it easier and more cost-effective for American businesses to compete with foreign manufacturers.

Chester L. Woodman Jr. — Is cited for his enthusiasm, strong leadership, sales skills, technical contributions, and for fostering companies he represented to become leaders in robotic arc welding endeavors.

2007 Class of Counselors

Wayne J. Engeron — Is recognized for his contributions to the industry for more than 45 years which began as a development welder and progressed to a successful business entrepreneur serving the industry especially the brazing and soldering community.

A. Rex Fronduti — Posthumous Recognition.
Is cited for his more than fifty years in steel fabrication, the training of technicians and welders, the building of railroad cars, the design of welding fixtures, and for his knowledge of the fabrication of bridges, which greatly contributes to the safety of the traveling public.

Jeffrey W. Post — Is recognized as a leader in the development of welding requirements for tubular structures that are now industry standards, for his significant contributions to the offshore fabrication industry and for his extensive knowledge in the art and science of flame straightening.

Fritz Saenger, Jr. — Is cited for his strong leadership, technical contributions, and the willingness to share his expertise through educational activities. Through his R&D endeavors, he was a major force in the development and implementation of new technologies contributing significantly to the growth and health of the welding industry.

Harrison S. Sayre – Posthumous Recognition
Is recognized for his sixty years of contributions to the industry having impacted the establishment and refinement of quality standards for welding materials processes. He pioneered the introduction of underwater welding in the U.S. Navy and contributed to the development of welding materials and process standards for nuclear submarines.

James J. Sekely – Is cited as the driving force for the development of standard welding procedure specifications and for his experience in heavy industrial construction specializing in welding and quality assurance.

Robert K. Wiswesser – Is recognized for his contributions to the welding industry in training and certification, and increasing the knowledge, effectiveness, efficiency, and safety of fabrication projects around the world.

2008 Class of Counselors

Charles E. Daily — Is recognized for his more than 65 years of contributions to the industry and his strong beliefs that the future of the welding industry lies with today's youth. He has made it his personal crusade to promote the welding industry by soliciting businesses to support local teaching institutions to produce qualified welding personnel.

Matthew J. Lucas Jr. - Is recognized for his more than 30 years of experience in the fields of brazing, welding, design, fabrication, and repair of components for aerospace applications; and for his willingness to share his knowledge with the brazing community.

David J. Nangle – Is cited for his leadership, ability to understand the needs of both individual members and the industry as a whole, talent for negotiating difficult problems among diverse groups of people, and ability to resolve complex business issues.

Jeffrey Scott Noruk – Is cited for being instrumental in the development of friction stir welding for automotive applications; and his technical understanding of welding processes, practical knowledge of manufacturing-floor operations, and leadership skills.

Richard Alan Patterson – Is cited for his sustained leadership in welding research, manufacturing, design, and management related to nuclear weapon programs, strategic defense initiatives, and space power applications; and for mentoring, developing, and supporting the education of welding staff and technicians.

Donald D. Rager – Is recognized for his vision related to the organization of committee work and committee structure, talent for obtaining results, and knowledge of welding for the development of codes and standards.

Kenneth E. Richter Sr. – Is cited for his significant experience with the development, marketing, and manufacture of arc welding technology, avid support for welding education, and serving as a major force in the development and implementation of new technologies.

2009 Class of Counselors

James R. "Rusty" Franklin — Is recognized for his more than 30 years of contributions to the industry, working both nationally and internationally to promote important safety-related innovation, equipment, and education.

Douglas D. Kautz - Is recognized for his work in electron beam and laser beam welding technology and for his achievements as a metallurgical engineer and organizer.

David J. Landon – Is cited for his leadership and expertise which covers a broad spectrum of the industry from construction to manufacturing to consulting on welding issues.

Kevin A. Lyttle – Is cited for making significant technical contributions to the industry in the areas of welding consumables, process development, and development of high-strength steel welding products.

Dr. Glenn Oyler – Is cited for his long and distinguished career in the welding industry serving in leadership positions and in research and development that impacted the power and pressure vessel sectors and other key industries.

2010 Class of Counselors

David M. Beneteau - Is recognized for his more than 35 years of contributions to the industry as an expert in the resistance welding field and for his distinguished organizational leadership.

David A. Fink - Is recognized for technical contributions, industry activities, standards development and the internationalization of AWS in the global welding community.

Gene L. Franke- Is recognized for his industry leadership, technical and managerial guidance and is the U.S. Navy's recognized leader in his field of expertise. He is known to be active "citizen" within the welding community and has a reputation as a knowledgeable, reliable, detail-oriented engineer with an over 35-year career with the Naval Surface Warfare Center.

Kenneth A. Kuk – Is cited for his vision and leadership in the development of the welding engineer technology program at Ferris State University resulting into the largest of its kind in the United Stated.

Richard J. Seif – Is cited for his leadership and expertise for making a positive impact on welding through innovative communications, advertising, and marketing programs all designed to enhance the image of welding as a career and industry.

Dale Stager – Is cited for his more than 51 years of developing and improving methods of manufacturing filler metals and his leadership of various successful companies has resulted in dramatic improvements in the quality and cost effectiveness of filler metals.

Mike Weller – Is cited for his enthusiasm, strong leadership, sales skills, marketing contributions, and for fostering companies he represented to become leaders in the welding community.

2011 Class of Counselors

Bruce Albrecht - Is recognized for his integrity and leadership roles in business endeavors, support of welding education initiatives, and humanitarian activities.

Edward R. Bohnart - Is cited for his deep commitment to the preparation of the next-generation of welding professions, demonstrated by his service on advisory councils, SkillsUSA, and

development of welder-training programs for community colleges and other educational institutions.

Gary LaFlamme – Is cited for his vision and leadership in the international electron beam welding communities, and for helping U.S. industries stay competitive in the areas of medical and automotive high-speed welding.

Earl C. Lipphardt – Is recognized for his leadership in the welding financial arenas for more than 50 years. His services as AWS Treasurer made a positive impact on the Society that initiated its strong financial position that continues to this day.

Dave H. Murray – Is recognized for developing one of the nation's most successful welding fabrication courses, and for his mentoring of numerous students entering into the welding industry, and services as a faculty advisor, and holding leadership positions on numerous committees.

2012 Class of Counselors

William H. Kielhorn - Is recognized for his 50-year-long career devoted to teaching and promoting welding technology, and introducing hundreds of LeTourneau University students to the world of welding.

Johnnie J. DeLoach - Is recognized for his integrity and leadership roles in serving the United States Navy as a recognized authority on welding consumables and their applications to naval ship manufacturing processes.

Victor Y. Matthews - Is cited for devoting more than 46 years to the welding industry and contributing his practical knowledge of hands-on welding, technology, Society involvement, and commitment to service and humanity in both the civic and community arenas.

John M. Stropki – Is recognized for his distinctive service to the welding community both domestically and globally, his hands-on approach to business endeavors, and Promoting the true value of the welding industry.

2013 Class of Counselors

Donald B. DeCorte – For his sustained leadership within the welding industry. He serves WEMCO, RWMA, and AWS at the national, District, and Section levels. For his support of RoMan Manufacturing Co. employees becoming involved in AWS, RWMA, and ISO activities, and for his continued excellence in training and education of welding personnel.

James Horvath - For his many years of service as a liaison between company and customers, he is known as the go-to guy to help solve complex field sales issues while championing the cause for welding excellence. He has been an advocate for introducing young men and women to the

welding field by consistently demonstrating his commitment to the industry and participating in numerous volunteer leadership roles.

William A. Komlos – For his significant role in successfully directing many large-scale welding projects including the *Space Shuttle*, Hoover Dam, and the Large-Blast Thermal Simulator; his continued contributions to training and education of welding personnel, and for his volunteer leadership roles within the Society.

Douglas R. Luciani – For his ongoing commitment to the welding industry in North America through his contributions to AWS and Canadian welding standards. For his leadership role in developing the Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) into a successful organization, acquiring the Canadian Welding Association, adding a nondestructive evaluation training organization (INTEG) component; and increasing CWB's involvement with the International Institute of Welding (IIW) and the International Standards Organization (ISO).

Lowell W. Mott – For more than 49 creative years, he contributed to the welding industry working with the Hobart Brothers Company where he rose through the ranks to serve as director of research; and for his expertise and many contributions to the electroslag, submerged arc, and small-diameter flux cored wire welding processes.

2014 Class of Counselors

Robert Paul Matteson – Is recognized for devoting nearly five decades educating professionals in resistance welding and as an expert witness in the defense of the resistance welding industry in product liability ligations. He ran co-op programs for students from various universities, offered career guidance at various schools, and mentored young engineers.

Tony Anderson – Is cited for more than 34 years has continually strived to increase his knowledge of welding and has become a leading authority on aluminum welding and fabrication. He disseminates his knowledge to others in authoring books, articles, and in person.

George D. Fairbanks Jr. – For more than 37 years, he has volunteered his time and donated his own financial resources to insure that individuals wanting to become CWIs receive the training and educational materials necessary to succeed and advance in the profession. He has always taken advantage of any opportunity that has come his way if he believed it would be advantageous to the industry.

W. Richard Polanin – Is recognized for his sustained leadership and technical expertise in the development and delivery of professional development training. He is an author of technical text books as well as conference and journal publications, and has given numerous presentations in the areas of manufacturing, robotics, welding, and manufacturing education at technical and educational venues.

Martin Prager – Is recognized for his outstanding leadership in the development of research projects that have a far-reaching impact on the application of welding in the fabrication of

pressure vessels and pipelines as well as numerous other applications. His support of the dissemination of these research results has allowed our industries codes to incorporate new materials as well as better utilize the conventional materials.

2015 Class of Counselors

John C. Bruskotter – Is recognized for devoting more than forty years to the welding industry and demonstrating expertise in all phases of oilfield construction, with extensive experience in the packaging of gas compression modules, oil and gas production modules, and oilfield-related equipment. He continuously ensures proper implementation of all operational phases within the offshore installation industry, providing management services for a number of major projects.

William F. Newell, Jr. – Is cited for his expertise in the control of corrosion and residual stresses, and development of procedures to comply with the regulatory requirements to the nuclear, fossil fuel, and hydroelectric power-generation fields, as well as the manufacturing, heavy construction, highway building, and auto racing industries. He disseminates this knowledge to others through papers, presentations, training courses, and seminars and webinars.

André Odermatt – Is recognized for serving the welding industry for more than fifty years in the European and North American markets, designing a wide range of welding equipment and participating in the design and construction of a manufacturing facility. During his career as a welding educator, he was the President of the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology. As part of the Institute, he established a museum that chronicles the history of welding in order to bring students into the welding industry. Odermatt is also a gifted author in writing a book on the History of Welding.

William A. Rice, Jr. – Is recognized for his outstanding leadership to the welding industry. He serves various roles to welding supply companies, including his own family owned business, and served as interim executive director to the American Welding Society in 2002. He continuously serves the industry as a consultant to a number of corporations with ties to the welding profession, and as a member of advisory boards for several others. He is currently Chairman of the AWS Foundation Trustees.

Carolyn K. Russell – Is recognized for devoting more than thirty years to the welding industry, developing innovative metal-processing techniques to provide manufacturing engineering support to Marshall Space Flight Center projects. She has authored more than thirty technical papers, books, and handbooks, disseminating her knowledge to others at various technical conferences.

Phillip I. Temple – Is recognized for his forty-year career devoted to the power-generation industry, consulting for clients and specializing in design of weldments, welded repairs and fabrication, codes and standards, material selection, failure analysis, and quality assurance audits. He has provided technical skills for welding nondestructive examination, material selection, coatings, corrosion, and in support of mechanical and civil engineering design for numerous publications and handbooks.

2016 Class of Counselors

Robert G. Pali - Is recognized for devoting more than fifty years of service to the welding industry, holding positions at Bethlehem Steel Corporation working in analytical chemistry and plant operations and later at J. P. Nissen Company, where he rose to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer. He's generously served the American Welding Society in various leadership roles, most recently as Treasurer from 2010 – 2015 and currently as an AWS Foundation Trustee.

Robert F. Purvis - Has served the industry in various roles including welder, business owner, instructor, inspector, and consultant. He began his career as an Ironworker, working on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Today, he shares his expertise as a vocational instructor at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for Folsom State Prison. American River College, and Sierra College. He pioneered the vocational curriculum for the Department of Corrections and wrote a complete set of Weld Procedure Specifications for Clark-Pacific Construction in Sacramento.

Kenneth R. Stockton - Is recognized for his design and development of the portable welding training facility, which has minimized the training infrastructure and allowed more efficient training and upgrading of welders. His trailer design became the model for the American Welding Society Foundation semi-trailer, outfitted with virtual welding machines to tour the United States and educate the public about welding.

George A. Young - Is recognized for his work in the area of explosion welded components and their application in various industries. Industries such as petroleum, power generation, marine, and primary metals have benefited from his indefatigable support. For forty-five years he has contributed to the American Welding Society, most notably on the Welding Handbook Committee, contributing to areas such as dissimilar metal welding and cladding and explosion welding.

2017 Class of Counselors

Joseph H. Kiefer - Has served the welding industry through a 40-year career in welding engineering with leadership, training and research contributions in welding related materials, quality assurance, nondestructive testing and corrosion control culminating in chairing the task group responsible for the Qualification Clause and prior to that the subcommittee responsible for the Inspection Clause in the D1.1 Structural Welding Code - Steel with a commendable dedication effort and commitment to quality.

Thomas J. Landon - Is recognized for forty years of outstanding organizational leadership and significant contributions in the advancement of welding technology. He was instrumental in the development of new welding equipment and processes for Chicago Bridge & Iron, and his notable projects include the Trans-Panama Pipeline, Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (a project of the National Science Foundation that proved the existence of

gravitational waves), and runway and base upgrades at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, to name a few.

Dean R. Wilson - Is recognized for seminal and sustained contributions to the advancement of the science and technology of welding, specifically to development of innovative welding technology for RF joining of PVC for laser and arc safety curtains and several innovative specialty applications, for his long-standing leadership and service to AWS, and for his prolonged contributions to the manufacture of safety products for the welding industry via corporate leadership at Wilson Industries.

2018 Class of Counselors

Mr. Jeffrey Carney – Is recognized for serving the welding industry for more than thirty years as a welding professional and AWS Member. During this time, he has played an integral role as a Professor of Welding Engineering Technology at Ferris State University and has served as long-time AWS Ferris State University Student Chapter Advisor which is a model for other student organizations across the campus.

Mr. Richard L. Holdren - Is recognized for more than forty-five years of distinguished service to AWS and the Welding Industry. He is currently an AWS Director at Large, and continues to contribute as Chair, Past Chair, and Member of, or Advisor to many AWS committees and subcommittees, including Past Chair of TAC. He served as Chair of the Columbus Section, was a founding member of the OSU Welding Engineering Alumni Society and inspired many to become Welding Engineers.

Mr. David L. McQuaid – Is recognized for his dedication to the American Welding Society and Welding Industry for over forty years. He has helped construct welded structures of outstanding quality and safety, touched the lives and careers of thousands of others in the structural welding community through both formal instruction and informal support on welding issues, and served to advance the state-of-the art and science of welding as a member of AWS Technical Committees, most notably, the AWS D1 Structural Welding Committee.

Mr. Ray W. Shook - Is recognized for more than forty-four years of distinguished service to the Welding Industry serving as President of the world's largest welding training organization, the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology and most recently, as Executive Director of the American Welding Society. Under his tireless leadership at AWS, the Society experienced significant growth in membership (surpassing 73,000 members), an increase in revenues from $15 million to more than $40 million annually, and unprecedented international business success.

Mr. Allen W. Sindel – Is recognized for his several decades of experience in the welding industry over many varied areas. His contributions to the international standards work for the society have been very significant and developed first hand through his years of work in the international welding market. He has served the American Welding Society in many capacities during his time in the welding industry, including as chair of the Technical Activities Committee and the D1 Structural Welding Code Committee.

2019 Class of Counselors

Mr. Bernard Banzhaf - Is recognized for more than forty years as a welding professional and his widely known contributions. He has served the machinery and equipment manufacturing industry with a true focus of safety first, then quality and efficiency.

Mr. Anthony Blakeney - Is recognized for his tireless dedication to academia and the American Welding Society and as a Professor at Southeastern Louisiana University serving as the catalyst for planting the seeds of a true Welding Technology program at the university.

Mr. Jean-Paul Boillot - Is recognized for his activities in the areas of technology and education & training as it relates to welding and automation for more than fifty years. He's had a significant impact on the industry and has emphasized the need for trained engineers, technicians, and operators.

Mr. John Bray - Is recognized for his tireless and continued service to the welding industry for more than fifty years. As seen in all aspects of his career, his passion for positive support of bringing people together to help promote the future leaders of the welding family is widely recognized.

Dr. Jorge Perdomo - Is recognized for his practical approach in the development and implementation of novel welding methods in industrial applications related to both new fabrication and repairs of aged pressure-and-rotating equipment via failure analysis, materials selection, and life assessment/prediction in the oil and gas, refining, petrochemical, and pulp and paper industries.

Mr. Donald Tillack - Is recognized for his significant original contributions to the American Welding Society and the global welding and metallurgical communities for more than fifty years. He was instrumental in creating new subcommittees which published guides for joining stainless and nickel-based alloys.

Mr. Leland Vetter - Is recognized for his long and distinguished service to the welding industry and Society for more than 35 years teaching at the collegiate level with specialized weld training for industry and bringing widely known welding classes and programs to the community.

2020 Class of Counselors

Mr. Richard Corbit - Is recognized for more than forty years as a welding professional and his widely known contributions. A well-respected contributor to the AWS D1 Committee on Structural Welding, his depth and breadth of technical knowledge has been a trusted source to the Committee and industry at large.

2021 Class of Counselors

Jeffrey P. Deckrow is recognized for continued contributions to the fabrication industry through distinguished corporate leadership of a large manufacturer of cutting equipment; for sustained commitment to advancing the AWS Foundation as member of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Careers in Welding Committee; and for decades of distinctive service and activities within the Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee.

Dale A. Flood is recognized for influential and sustained contributions specifically to the development of new and innovative technology for orbital robotic welding of piping systems in the nuclear power production industry. Mr. Flood is also recognized for his long-term commitment and strong leadership to AWS including significant activity at the Section level up to and including Presidency.

Viji Kuruvilla is recognized for his unique ability to collaborate and influence others in the development of codes and standards relevant to the steel construction industry. He is considered as a technical expert in fabrication processes including welding, fabrication processes, and quality management and considered by many a great mentor, coach and promoter of continuous improvement.

Teresa Melfi is recognized for nearly four decades of experience in the welding industry in many varied areas and maintaining leadership roles within AWS, ASME, and IIW for many years. She has been a leader in moving new trends in technology into the AWS and international arenas, both industrial and academic. Her contributions to technical standards have been large and important.

John Mendoza is recognized for his honorable character, positive attitude and excellent leadership skills to help develop consensus as a Society volunteer member on both the local and national levels. He strongly advocated for ethics in certification programs and increased the knowledge, effectiveness, efficiency, and safety of fabrication projects around the world.

2022 Class of Counselors

Carey Chen is recognized for sustained and significant contributions to the financial affairs of the AWS and AWS Foundation as Treasurer, member of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, and member and later Chair of the Finance & Business Development Committee; For influential corporate leadership of prominent companies in the welding and fabrication industries; and For impactful and long-term efforts as a volunteer, role model and thought leader to the AWS, corporations within the welding and fabrication industries, and non-profit associations.

Dr. David H. Phillips is recognized for his career devoted to the welding industry, initially as a welding engineer and more recently as a faculty member at the Ohio State University who is training the next generation of welding engineers. His impact on the welding engineering community in both roles has been both sustained and profound.

Sayee Ragunathan is recognized for two decades of sustained technical contributions to welding and manufacturing research, consultancy, failure studies and repair for new construction, as well as existing operational facilities, primarily in the energy sector; For leadership in reinvigorating the AWS Saudi Arabia Section through workshops and conferences; For continued dedication to STEM education and professional development of welding personnel; and for service on the AWS Board of Directors.

2023 Class of Counselors

Richard L. Arn is recognized for providing exemplary service to the welding community in the United States and internationally, including the American Welding Society. He is a recognized management and welding technical expert in the areas metal fabrication, modernization of facilities, and welding personnel qualification and certification. He has and continues to support the welding and fabrication associated industries. Within AWS he has served as an officer for several Sections and continues for his current local Section, and is on several national AWS Committees. He served as a District Director and was AWS President 2001-2002.

Shane J. Findlan is recognized for contributions to the advancement and application of welding technology. During his career, he lead welding research related to new technologies on laser welding heat exchanger tube repair, cobalt-free hardfacing, and underwater welding filler materials/methods for electric power production industry. He is active in the development of codes and standards, including leadership roles promoting improved qualification requirements for structural welding applications. Shane developed an international conference series that continues to promote the importance of welding for power plant construction, maintenance, and repair. He considers his most important accomplishment the mentorship and training of emerging welding engineers in the power industry.

Pierrette Gorman is recognized for her long career as a welding professional, proactive AWS leader and officer, mentor to welding technologists and welding engineering students, and as a forceful advocate for inclusion and diversity in the Society. Her many technical contributions and leadership at the local and district level, as well as her spearheading of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Education Scholarship Committees, are well known and well regarded throughout the welding community.

Douglas P. Rhoda is recognized for his contributions to advancement of the science and technology of welding, specifically: for a career of sustained organizational and thought leadership in continually ascending roles within several prominent welding automation organizations that produced numerous key technology advancements; for continued and effective efforts to recruit, mentor and develop talented individuals through his ‘people first’ approach across technical and business roles in the same companies; and for long-standing volunteer service in leadership and advisory board positions to AWS, universities, national laboratories, and the welding and manufacturing industries.

2024 Class of Counselors

Sean P. Moran is recognized for a lifelong ambition for welding knowledge and involvement. He began his welding career enrolling in a 720-hour weld class to obtain a welding job which transpired into a love for the welding trade. After developing into a journeyman pipe welder, he turned his efforts toward welding education and involvement with AWS. Sean's desire for welding knowledge led him through earning his Welding Engineering degree. After receiving his degree, he conducted development and pursued patents in the Arc Stud welding process and in Gas Metal Arc manufacturing technologies. Sean continues to maintain his AWS involvement through student scholarships, technical committees, leadership development and the AWS Board of Directors.

Robert W. Roth is recognized for his devotion to the American Welding Society and RoMan Manufacturing, a second-generation family business. Bob has served the Board of Directors as a Director, Vice President, President, and Past President, and he was active in the Finance Committee in the early years of Society hardship. He most recently volunteered to serve as Interim Executive Director for the American Welding Society and stepped in during a difficult time knowing full well that the assignment could last more than twelve months and put his "next chapter" retirement dreams on hold. Some of his earliest memories of the Society are with his father who has a long history of involvement with the American Welding Society. They would attend the Father/Son Tours in the late 60's and early 70's which were a regular part of the West Michigan Section annual event calendar.

Dietrich K. Roth is Posthumously recognized as a devoted American Welding Society advocate and has always been extremely dedicated to the welding industry and to the AWS organization and its activities. Dietrich was extremely active in technical committees, RWMA, and the Finance Committee. He conducted himself with the highest ethical standards, integrity, honesty and an admirable degree of professionalism and always gave back to the welding industry. What made Dietrich stand out was that not only was he one of the most respected engineers in the resistance welding industry, but his sense of fairness, honesty, and intelligence, also made him a very respected businessman.

William A. Visintainer is recognized for continued contributions to the fabrication industry through distinguished corporate and industry association leadership in the welding and gas supply markets domestically and internationally; for ongoing commitment and passionate support of the AWS Foundation mission as an active member the AWS Foundation Board of Trustees; for ongoing and active support of his local AWS Sections; and for his leadership of the Gases and Welding Distributor Association as a member of the Board of Directors and serving as President in 2016.

2025 Class of Counselors

Shanen L. Aranmór is recognized for sustained service to AWS initiatives through active and meaningful committee participation; Significant and prolonged contributions as a welding educator, trainer, mentor, and competition judge; and her enduring support as a leader, advocate, ambassador and role model in activities for AWS and the welding industry positively impacting thousands of traditional and non-traditional individuals.

Dennis Eck is posthumously recognized for serving the welding supply industry for more than 40 years with a broad background in the gas & welding supply industry; significant and extensive service and devotion to AWS most recently serving as AWS President in 2023; and for his strong passion for mentoring, leading future generations and bridging the "generation gap".

William L. Roth is recognized for more than thirty years of distinguished service to AWS and the welding industry. His contributions at the AWS national and regional levels are widely known and well respected. William's specific contributions to the AWS D10, D18, TAC, and Handbook committees are significant. His most notable contributions have been his work on the D18 Sanitary Welding Committee and the ASME Bioprocessing Equipment Committee.

Rebecca D. Tuchscherer is recognized for her distinguished career at Miller Electric and showcasing her exceptional leadership. Her financial acumen and strategic vision have driven growth in key markets, while her commitment to advancing women in welding is evident. Through the AWS Foundation and Finance Committee, she has actively supported initiatives to promote inclusivity and foster careers in welding.

2026 Class of Counselors

Karen Gilgenbach is recognized for sustained and meaningful service to AWS through impactful leadership and committee engagement, including Chair of the AWS D16 Committee on Robotic Arc Welding, Director-at-Large on the AWS Board, and member of the Growth, Development and Engagement and Scholarship Committees; for significant contributions as Co-Chair of multiple National Robotic Arc Welding Conferences and co-founder of several national scholarship endowments; and for exemplary professional leadership, mentorship, and advocacy within the welding industry.

Lynn Showalter is honored for more than four decades of distinguished service to the American Welding Society and the U.S. Navy shipbuilding industry; for visionary technical leadership, steadfast dedication, and enduring contributions that have advanced welding practice and education at every level of AWS; and for a career defined by innovation, mentorship, and integrity that continues to strengthen naval shipbuilding and exemplify the highest ideals of the welding profession.