



WELCOME TO **CHARLOTTE**

AWRF FALL GENERAL MEETING

**OCTOBER 19-22
2025**



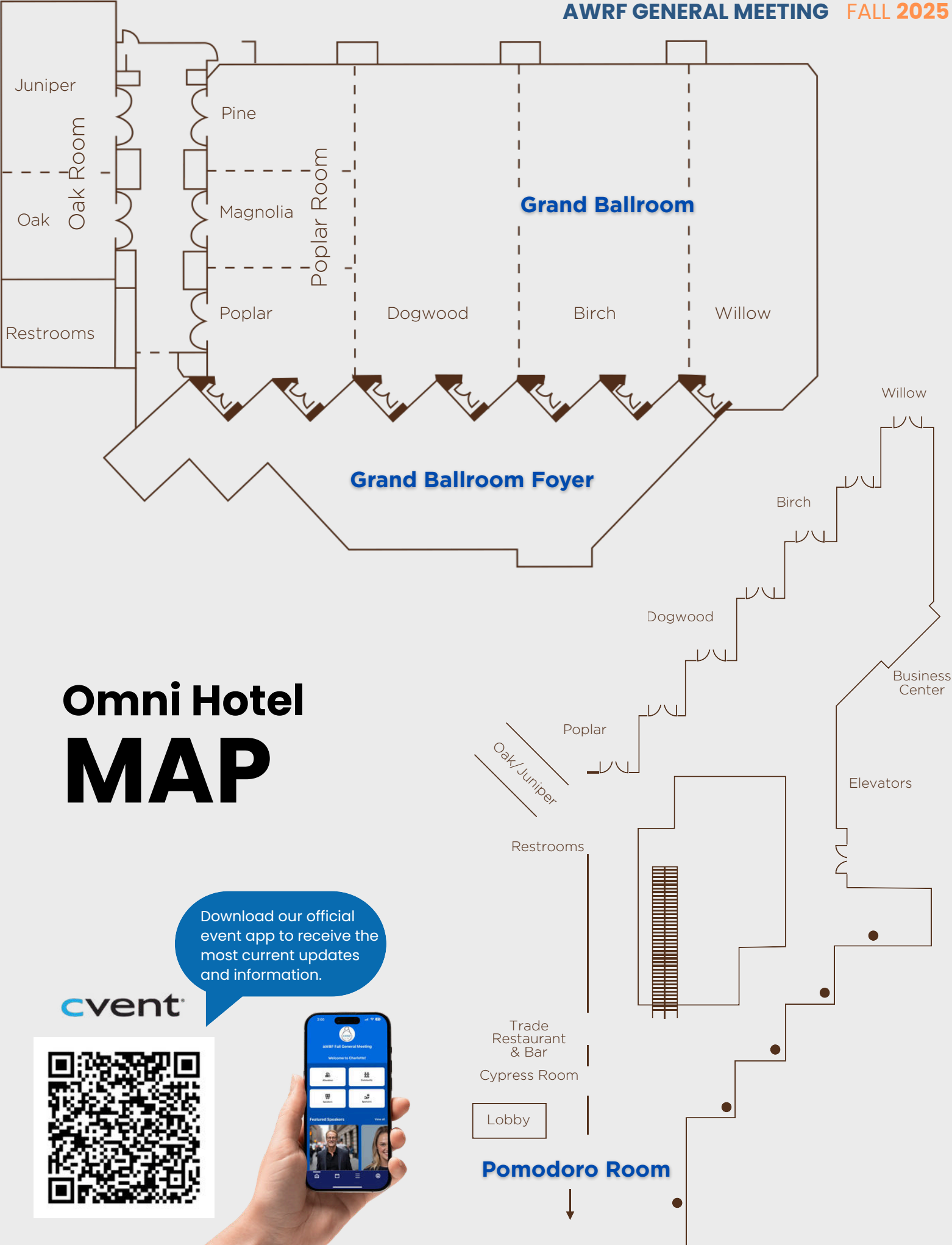
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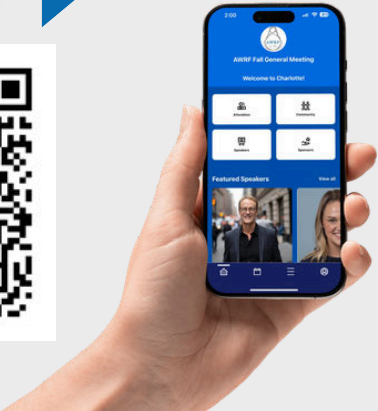
awrf@awrf.org
www.awrf.org



Omni Hotel MAP

Download our official event app to receive the most current updates and information.

cvent



Pomodoro Room



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HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE 2025

BOB CUSHMAN

Bob Cushman has been a cornerstone of the rigging and lifting industry for decades, bringing unmatched expertise, integrity, and dedication to his work at Cascade Rigging. Known for his commitment to safety, innovation, and customer service, Bob has built a reputation as both a problem-solver and a trusted partner to countless companies and colleagues. Beyond his professional accomplishments, he is celebrated for his mentorship, generosity, and the positive impact he has made on the people around him. His leadership and lifelong contributions to the industry exemplify the values of the AWRF Hall of Honor.



THANK YOU

BARRY EPPERSON

AWRF extends its deepest gratitude to Barry Epperson for his many years of dedicated service as legal counsel to our association. Barry's guidance, wisdom, and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in helping AWRF navigate challenges, protect our members' interests, and strengthen the foundation of our organization. Beyond his professional expertise, Barry has been a trusted advisor, colleague, and friend to many in our community. As he embarks on his well-earned retirement, we thank him for his invaluable contributions and wish him nothing but happiness and fulfillment in this next chapter of life.



EXPLORING CHARLOTTE

THINGS TO DO

South End: Explore boutique shops, art galleries, and vibrant nightlife.

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art: Explore mid-20th-century modern art in a striking building designed by Mario Botta.

Charlotte Nature Museum: Ideal for families, this museum offers hands-on exhibits about local wildlife and ecosystems.

Freedom Park: Stroll around a serene 7-acre lake, enjoy walking trails and sports facilities.

RESTAURANTS & BARS

Trade: Serving comfort cuisine with a modern twist, Trade Restaurant and Bar offers fresh and local flavors and ingredients. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner on-site at the Omni

Aria Tuscan Grill: Brings the best of Italy to Charlotte, capturing the flavors of Tuscany where old world comfort food is re-imagined in a modern Italian setting.

Mert's: A block away from the Omni, offering classic Southern dishes in a cozy setting.

Rooster's - Uptown: Known for its wood-fired dishes and warm, rustic atmosphere.

The Cellar at Duckworth's: Upscale speakeasy-style bar offering craft cocktails.

Rí Ra Irish Pub: Offers a wide selection of beers, classic pub fare, and live music!



Bechtler Museum of Modern Art



AWRF GENERAL MEETING FALL 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Download our official event app to receive the most current updates and information.



SUNDAY

- 8:00 – 11:00 AM Board of Directors Meeting
- 11:00 – 4:00 PM Registration/Badge Pick-up
- 5:00 – 5:30 PM First Timer’s Reception
- 5:00 – 5:30 PM Emerging Leaders Reception
- 5:30 – 7:00 PM Opening Reception

- Pomodoro Room
- Grand Ballroom Foyer
- Pomodoro Room
- Cypress Room
- Grand Ballroom Foyer

MONDAY

- 7:00 – 8:00 AM Networking Breakfast & Safety Awards
- 8:00 – 11:00 AM General Business Sessions
- 11:30 – 4:30 PM Networking Golf Tournament
Bus Pickup @ 10:15 am
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM Reception

- Grand Ballroom
- Grand Ballroom
- Tradition Golf Club
- Grand Ballroom Foyer

TUESDAY

- 7:00 – 8:00 AM Networking Breakfast & Scholarship Awards
- 8:00 – 12:00 PM General Business Sessions
- 2:00 – 4:00 PM Business Optimization
Leadership for the 21st Century
**Sponsored by Emerging Leaders*
- 6:00 – 11:00 PM Reception & AWRF Gala

- Grand Ballroom
- Grand Ballroom
- Grand Ballroom
- NASCAR Hall of Fame

WEDNESDAY

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM Emerging Leaders Brunch & Learn
- 12:00 – 3:00 PM Pickleball Tournament
Bus Pickup @ 11:15 am
- 4:30 – 6:00 PM Closing Reception

- Pomodoro Room
- Pickleball Charlotte
- Sharon Lakes Facility
- Pomodoro Room

AWRF GENERAL MEETING FALL 2025

SPEAKER SCHEDULE



MONDAY

GRAND BALLROOM

7:00 AM

Networking Breakfast & Safety Program Awards

Thank You to our Sponsor



8:00 AM

RP&G Update:
AWRF Technical Committee



8:30 AM

Billy Everett
Fagioli Inc.

SC&RA 2025 Winner:

"Moving Job of the Year"



9:00 AM

Sarah Hoyt Corrigan
US Chamber of Commerce

Tax Briefing



10:00 AM

Anton van der Zalm
AWRF Technical Committee
**Deformation of Shackles in
Overload Situations**

TUESDAY

GRAND BALLROOM

7:00 AM

Networking Breakfast & Scholarship Awards

Thank You to our Sponsor



8:00 AM

Chain Temperature Testing:
Update - AWRF Technical
Committee



9:00 AM

Yohai Baisburd
**Tariff Update as of October
& Made in the USA**



10:00 AM

Marco Elig
**Influence of the Positioning of
Plastic Sheaves and Steel
Sheaves on Rope Life and Service
Life: A Comparative Bending
Fatigue Study**



11:00 AM

Andrew Busch
**AI Unleashed: Disrupting the
Economy and Shaping the
Future**



2:00 PM

Jimmy Blackmon
**Business
Optimization:
Leadership for the
21st Century**

Thank You to our Sponsor
The Emerging Leaders

WEDNESDAY

POMODORO ROOM



9:00 - 11:00 AM

Emerging Leader's Brunch & Learn
Jimmy Blackmon
Leadership for the 21st Century

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



ANDREW BUSCH

Andrew Busch is the former 1st Chief Market Intelligence Officer for the US government and economic futurist at AndrewBusch.com. For the CFTC, he was charged with improving and enhancing the government's understanding of the markets and the economy. His job was to take all the news, information and data on the economy and markets; and filter it into condensed, easily understood research; then communicate it to the government and public.

Andy provided economic and market briefings to White House, US House, US Senate, the SEC, the Federal Reserve Board and the US Treasury staff on a wide range of issues including interest rates, inflation, China's influence on trade, and the impact of technology on the economy.

Prior to joining the CFTC, Mr. Busch was CEO and founder of a boutique financial markets and policy research firm, Bering Productions, Inc (BPI). Before BPI, he was the Global Currency and Public Policy Strategist for Bank of Montreal (BMO) in Chicago. He is author of the book "World Event Trading" covering large crises, like infectious disease outbreaks and war, and their impact on the economy and markets.

YOHAI BAISBURD

Yohai Baisburd counsels companies, trade associations and governments in a variety of international trade matters in the United States and globally. Mr. Baisburd's practice focuses on trade remedy (antidumping, subsidies, safeguards) litigation and import/export compliance and enforcement proceedings. He is recognized by Chambers and Partners for his Customs Law expertise and in The Best Lawyers in America for International Trade and Finance Law. Mr. Baisburd is on the roster of potential US panelists for NAFTA Chapter 19 panels.

Mr. Baisburd has significant experience in trade litigation before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), Mexico's Secretaría de Economía, China's Ministry of Commerce, Australia's Productivity Commission, South Africa's International Trade Administration Commission, the U.S. Court of International Trade, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) binational panels, Mexican courts and the World Trade Organization (WTO).



MARCO ELIG

Marco Elig received his Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Applied Science Kaiserslautern in 2015, followed by a Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree in the same field in 2023. He began his professional journey as the Head of Testing at the verope Service Center GmbH in 2015, where he honed his skills and expertise in the field of wire rope testing. In 2018, he transitioned to a role as a Research Engineer at KV R&D Center GmbH, further expanding his knowledge and experience.

Since 2021, Mr. Elig has been serving as the Managing Director at KV R&D Center GmbH, leading the company with his extensive expertise in wire rope engineering.

Mr. Elig's professional interests primarily focus on the estimation and monitoring of rope lifetime. His work in this area includes both theoretical research and practical applications, making significant contributions to the field of mechanical engineering, particularly in the durability and reliability of rope-based systems.



SARAH HOYT CORRIGAN

Sarah Hoyt Corrigan is tax counsel for Tax Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She serves as an adviser on tax policy related matters, including the development to tax policy positions, advocacy on tax issues, and coordination of efforts to influence tax legislation and regulations. Sarah previously worked as an assistant branch chief and attorney at the Office of Chief Counsel (Corporate) at the Internal Revenue Service, where she provided legal advice and litigation support services on corporate and consolidated return tax matters. During her time at Chief Counsel, she worked on regulatory guidance, private letter rulings, and IRS field litigation issues.

Prior to joining Chief Counsel, Sarah was a manager in PwC's Washington National Tax Services (WNTS) practice, where she specialized in corporate mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and U.S. consolidated returns. During her time at PwC, Sarah provided U.S. tax planning and consulting services on various transactions including mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, spin-offs, and internal restructurings. She also completed a one-year rotation in the PwC New York Metro practice office advising private equity clients, corporations, and privately held companies on the tax aspects of due diligence, planning, and structuring.



MEET OUR SPEAKERS



JIMMY BLACKMON

Jimmy Blackmon is among the most combat experienced leaders of the modern era. He has led high risk missions all over the world including serving as the air mission commander on the operation that netted #2 and #3 in the famous Iraqi deck of cards. Amazingly, Jimmy also served as the aviation commander during the battles in which four Medals of Honor were earned in Afghanistan – in the very valleys where the attacks of 9-11 were planned and rehearsed. Having achieved impressive results in the military, as well as an experienced consultant in businesses large and small, Jimmy understands how to navigate the complexities of the 21st Century. His ability to develop an organizational strategy, build living systems and processes that enable organizations to thrive with speed and agility in the modern era, and build cohesive teams driven by vision and purpose are unparalleled.

Jimmy's natural storytelling ability bring his experiences alive. From high stakes crisis management in combat to business examples in a multitude of industries, Jimmy shares colorful experiences that are sure to both educate and entertain your audience, but Jimmy is far more than a proven leader and entertaining speaker.

ANTON VAN DER ZALM

Vice President Corporate Research & Development at the Royal Van Beest Group. Working out of the head-quarter of the Group in the Netherlands. Started as a product manager back in 2003. With more than 20 years of experience in the industry, now responsible for all technical challenges and product developments within the group. With a degree in teaching Physics and Chemistry sharing knowledge is a core competence. Contributing member to the technical committees in ISO TC 111, CEN TC 168 and ASME B30.26.

My mission: Empower customers around the world to lift, move, secure, and build great things with safe, high-quality products, innovative solutions manufactured by the companies in the group.



BILLY EVERETT



Billy Everett is a senior business development manager with extensive experience in heavy transport, lifting, and engineered solutions for large-scale industrial projects. As part of the leadership team at Fagioli Inc., Billy plays a key role in driving business development and strategic partnerships across the energy, oil & gas, and LNG sectors throughout North America.

With a strong background in project management and client relations, Billy specializes in connecting Fagioli's world-class engineering and execution capabilities with the evolving needs of the global industrial market. He has been instrumental in supporting complex projects involving heavy haul, heavy lift, and modular transportation, ensuring safe, timely, and innovative delivery for clients.

Billy is recognized for his ability to build long-standing relationships with stakeholders, identify growth opportunities, and represent Fagioli's commitment to excellence and innovation. His focus on collaboration and results has positioned him as a trusted partner to major EPCs, fabricators, and energy companies.



2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Peyton Welinski

AWRF SCHOLARSHIP
TOTAL TOOL SUPPLY
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

I am majoring in Community Psychology, with a double minor in Psychology and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). This fall I will begin my application for my master's program in ABA, and I hope to stay at SCSU for that. I plan to begin that 2-year program after graduating in the spring of 2026. I am ultimately working towards getting my BCBA and I intend to work in the field of behavioral analysis. I would be providing Early Intensive Developmental Behavioral Interventions (EIDBI) to individuals under 21 who have an Autism diagnosis or other related neurological disorders and disabilities.



Julian Araiza

AWRF SCHOLARSHIP
HOLLAND 1916, INC.
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

I am currently a sophomore at the University of Missouri studying finance. I enjoy spending time with my family, being outdoors, and helping others. After I graduate, my goal is to move to either Chicago, or Austin, Texas and work in investment banking. I plan to make many connections on the way and meet as many people as possible. But most importantly, in the end I want to make my family proud.



Olivia Limer

JURGEN PROHASKA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
HARRINGTON HOISTS & CRANES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

I'm from East Petersburg, PA, and I am a graduate of Hempfield High School. I am honored to receive this scholarship and will be attending the University of Michigan to study pharmaceutical sciences, with the goal of becoming a pharmacist. Outside of academics, I enjoy dancing to Afrobeats and playing tennis.



Baylor Dumont

"THE 16 GUYS" SCHOLARSHIP
DCL MOORING & RIGGING
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

During my high school years, I played Varsity basketball and I look forward to participating in some intramural sports at Auburn. I am enrolled in the Pre-Building Science program which is laying the groundwork for my future academic and professional career. My goal is set on the professional building science program for my junior and senior years. With a degree in building science, I aspire to work as a project manager, where I can oversee the entire construction process from conception to completion. This role would allow me to combine my interest in construction with my desire to lead and manage complex projects.



Amelia Smith

BILL FRANZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
INDUSTRIAL MAGNETICS, INC.
NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

I am attending Northern Michigan University for Elementary Education. My company sponsor is Industrial Magnetics, Inc. My father and sponsor, Gordon Smith has worked at IMI for over 25 years. I am very thankful for the opportunity to receive this scholarship to help me achieve my goals of being an elementary school teacher.



Jayde Thomas

THE DON SAYENGA MEMORIAL
APEX TOOL GROUP
YORK COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

I'm pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics. Alongside my studies, I'm a dedicated member of the college's cross country and indoor/outdoor track and field teams. I'm also committed to gaining real-world experience and plan to complete two more co-ops before graduation to further develop my hands-on engineering skills. Looking ahead, I'm excited about the possibility of working in the manufacturing industry, though I remain open to exploring all areas within the engineering field. My goal is to apply both my academic background and practical experience to solve real-world problems and make a meaningful impact through engineering.



Victoria Weaver

ROBERT H. ASHLEY SCHOLARSHIP
KEN FORGING, INC.
MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

I am a junior majoring in Political Science (Pre-Law) and Intelligence Studies, and I am starting my Master's in Criminal Justice Administration. I am heavily involved in the Student Government, Residence Life, and the Honors Program. I hope to attend law school to become a guardian ad litem lawyer.



Ryan Bacon

RONALD J. WORSWICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
BISHOP LIFTING
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

I am an Air Force ROTC student majoring in Aeronautics with minors in Aviation Safety, Aeronautical Studies, and Military Science. I enjoy traveling, working out, spending time with friends, and flying planes. After I graduate in May 2026, I will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. I have been selected to attend pilot training, where I plan to earn my wings and pursue a career flying fighter jets, as I am motivated by the challenge and precision of operating advanced aircraft. I am very grateful for this scholarship and the opportunities it helps make possible.

TRADE WINNERS

Leina Beshir

NACM SCHOLARSHIP

KITO CROSBY

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

I am entering my second year as a Mechanical Engineering Major at the University of Texas at Austin. I have been exploring diverse areas within mechanical engineering, including aeronautics through my work with Texas Spacecraft Laboratories, biomechanics in my chainering lab, and advanced modeling using computer aided design. I love volunteering with SEEK (Student Engineers Educating Kids) as a Program Officer to enhance Austin students' learning experience! I hope to use all of the experience and knowledge I'm gaining throughout college to engineer a more accessible future. I am motivated to continue learning and building!



Mitchel Waycott

YOKE SCHOLARSHIP

STREN-FLEX

UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA

I am incredibly grateful to be gifted this award. A couple of things about me: I play collegiate soccer at the Division II level, and I also love working out and spending time with my family. My future educational plans are to finish college with an MBA while maintaining a GPA of 3.8 or higher.



Seth Mosley

GREEN PIN SCHOLARSHIP

CERTEX USA

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

I am attending the University of Southern Mississippi majoring in Forensic Anthropology with a Criminal Justice minor. After graduating I plan to start working a job in forensics for a year or so before going to graduate school to continue my education.



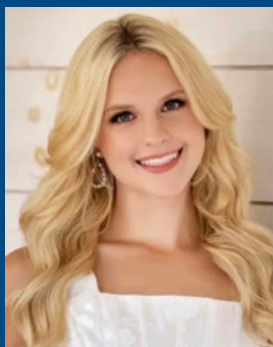
Isabella Ruston

AWRF SCHOLARSHIP

PATTERSON COMPANY

SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE

I am currently a sophomore at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, majoring in Communication and Media Studies with a minor in Digital Art and Media. In addition, I am pursuing a Weather Forecasting Certification through Pennsylvania State University World Campus. This scholarship provides me with the opportunity to continue toward my goal of becoming a news anchor and weather forecaster. I aspire to create authentic and factual stories to inform the general public. I am deeply grateful for this support, and I will use it to further my education, and achieve my professional aspirations.



Elias Fust

AWRF TRADE SCHOLARSHIP

NORTHERN STRANDS GROUP

SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC

I live in Saskatoon, SK, Canada with my wonderful wife and five kids. Both my wife's and my family moved here from Germany before we met around 17 years ago and so our household is bilingual. After we got married I was job-hopping for a few years until I found an opportunity to become a Machinist. I took the opportunity and soon discovered a passion for the trade. Thus I've been working as a machinist for close to two years now. I completed my first year of school this past spring and I'm enrolled to complete my second year in the spring of 2026. I am firmly planning to continue and complete my education so long as God gives me the health and the strength. Once I become a Red Seal Machinist I want to further develop my skills and become adept at handling anything that can be thrown my way in the industry. Perhaps my road will lead me to another employer some day but as of now I am planning to continue working for Northern Strands Group of Companies and to make a difference with my work.



Matteuis Sulcer

OLIVER CROSBY & EDWIN

HARRINGTON MEMORIAL

SCHOLARSHIP

RASMUSSEN WIRE ROPE & RIGGING

CLOVER PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE

I have faced challenges that taught me strength, and I have celebrated moments that have shown me the value of hard work. I believe in pushing forward no matter how difficult the path may seem, because every step brings me closer to my goals. My journey is about growth, learning and building a future I can be proud of. I want to go to college to learn the skills I need to become an electrician. Working with light and wires have always interested me, and I know education will help me turn that interest into a career. My goal is to work hard, solve problems and use my trade to help people every day and build a strong future for myself. Thank you to the AWRF scholarship for helping me achieve this goal!



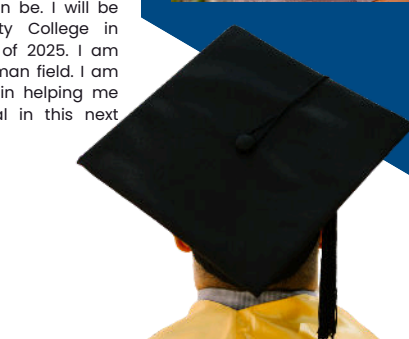
Ayden Amos

MEL FIREOVID TRADE SCHOLARSHIP

TOTAL TOOL SUPPLY

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

I am very grateful to have received the AWRF Scholarship. I graduated from Waverly High School in Waverly, NE in May of 2025. Beyond academics, I was involved in multiple sports throughout high school; football, basketball, and track. I enjoy challenging myself through my academics and sports to be as successful as I can be. I will be attending Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, NE starting in September of 2025. I am pursuing a career in the utility lineman field. I am very appreciative of your support in helping me continue to work toward my goal in this next chapter of my life.



THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP DONORS



We sincerely thank our full scholarship donors for their generosity and unwavering support.

Your company's involvement in our scholarship initiative plays a crucial role in helping students reach their academic and career goals, providing them with opportunities they might not otherwise have had. With your support, we are able to empower the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and innovators. *Thank you* for your dedication to education and for partnering with us in this important endeavor. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

Thank You

Acme Rigging
ADB Hoist Rings
Advantage Rigging
Advantage Sales & Supply
All Material Handling
American Rigging & Supply, Co.
American Webbing & Fittings
ARG Industrial
Assembly Specialty Products
Associated Wire Rope & Rigging
Bairstow Lifting Products
Bishop Lifting
Bridon Bekaert
Cable Moore, Inc.
Caldwell Group
Cargo Control USA
Cascade Rigging
Celik Halat
CERTEX USA
Chant Engineering

Chicago Hardware & Fixture
cromox US
Dakota Riggers
DCL Mooring & Rigging
Doleco USA
Elite Sales Inc.
F.D. Lake & Company
Industrial Magnetics
Industrial Splicing
Ken Forging
Kennedy Wire Rope & Sling
Kulkoni, Inc.
Metro Wire Rope Co.
M & G Industries
OZ Lifting Products
Pacific Industrial Supply
Peck & Hale

pewag
The Rubicon Group
Sahm Splice USA/CECA Forge
Slingmax Group
St. Pierre Chain & Wire Rope
Stren-Flex
Total Tool Supply
The Rigging Box
Trinity Sling
United Rigging
Washington Wire Rope
West Coast Wire Rope
WireCo
Wire Rope Exchange
Wirerope Works, Inc.
Wirop Americas
Wisconsin Lifting Specialists
IPTAM Donors:
Mary Beymer
Tom Hudgins

2024 SAFETY PROGRAM AWARDS

DIAMOND

CABLE CISCO
CASCADE RIGGING, INC.
CHANT ENGINEERING CO.
FULCRUM LIFTING / KENTUCKIANA WIRE ROPE
MAZZELLA COMPANIES
MEMPHIS CHAIN & CABLE LLC.
PACIFIC INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CO.
THE RIGGING BOX, INC.
JOHN SAKASH CO., INC.

PLATINUM

ACTEK MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING
ESMET, INC.
HANDLING SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL
METRO WIRE ROPE CORPORATION
PROFCERT, LLC.
ROBERTS CALIBRATION, INC.
SWOS
ROYAL VAN BEEST N.A.

GOLD

AMERICAN RIGGING - SAN DIEGO, CA
CABLE MOORE
HOISTING WIRE ROPE & SLING
HOLLOWAY HOUSTON
SLINGMAX GROUP
KULKONI, INC.

STANDARD

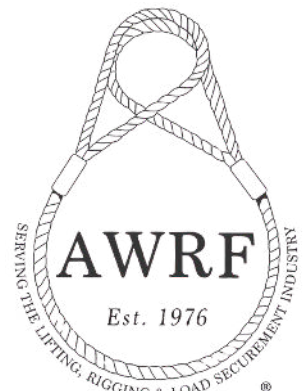
ACME RIGGING & SUPPLY CO.
ADVANTAGE SALES & SUPPLY
BISHOP LIFTING
CARPENTER RIGGING
CARPENTER RIGGING - BAKERSFIELD, CA
DCL MOORING & RIGGING
ERIEZ MAGNETICS
FULCRUM LIFTING / TRI-STATE WIRE ROPE, DAYTON, OH
FULCRUM LIFTING / VERNON LIFTING
HERCULES CRANE & LIFTING SUPPLIES
INDUSTRIAL SPLICING & SLING CO.
INTEGRICERT LLC
KITO CROSBY - CLACKAMAS, OR
KITO CROSBY - CORONA, CA

WE THANK ALL
COMPANIES THAT
PARTICIPATED IN THE
2024 SAFETY AWARDS.
YOUR COMMITMENT TO
SAFETY IS DEEPLY
APPRECIATED AND VITAL
TO OUR INDUSTRY'S
SUCCESS.

SILVER

ALPS WIRE ROPE
AMERICAN WEBBING & FITTINGS, INC.
AMICK ASSOCIATES, INC.
CABLECO
CONSOLIDATED RIGGING & MARINE SUPPLY
FULCRUM LIFTING / TRI-STATE WIRE ROPE, CINCINNATI, OH
GLOBAL RIGGING AND SYNTHETICS, LLC.
INDUSTRIAL MAGNETICS, INC.
LIFTGEAR INTERNATIONAL, INC.
RUGGED CONTROLS, LLC.

KITO CROSBY - ARLINGTON, TX
KITO CROSBY - SOUTH HOLLAND, IL
LAMCO SLINGS & RIGGING, INC.
LEXCO CABLE
MARINE RIGGING, INC.
MASKELL RIGGING
MID-AMERICA RIGGING
MILE HIGH RIGGING, INC.
PADUCAH RIGGING
PEAK TRADING CORP
PECK & HALE LLC.
ROYAL RIGGING
TOTAL TOOL SUPPLY, INC.
WEST COAST WIRE ROPE & RIGGING, INC.
WISCOLIFT, INC.



AWRF NEWS



Stay connected with the latest news, industry updates, and member highlights by subscribing to the AWRF Newsletter!

JOIN THE BOARD

Are you ready to elevate your impact and shape the future of AWRF? Joining the Board of Directors presents a unique opportunity to become a driving force behind our organization's growth and success. As a board member, you'll play a pivotal role in steering our strategic direction, fostering innovation, and championing our mission to advance the industry. Your expertise and leadership are invaluable assets as we navigate challenges and seize new opportunities in an evolving landscape. Take the next step in your journey with AWRF and join us in shaping a dynamic future for our industry. Interested? Please email emily@awrf.org

INDUSTRY STORIES

Every rigging shop has a story. What's yours? This is an open call for industry stories to be featured in *Slingmakers* Magazine. We're looking for the kind of moments that define who you are: milestone anniversaries, interesting origin stories, or standout projects that deserve recognition. If you've got a story, let's share it with the rest of the lifting world. Email submissions to: nicole@awrf.org

2026 DIRECTORY

Emails regarding the 2026 directory update will be sent out soon. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to careen@awrf.org

IPTAM

The mission of IPTAM (I Pay Twenty a Meeting) is to expand the Association's scholarship funds, which ultimately will result in awarding additional scholarships to AWRF member employees, and their families. For only \$20, IPTAM provides all conference attendees with a mechanism to be contributors to the scholarship efforts of AWRF. IPTAM opens the door for conference attendees, whose companies may not currently be donating to the scholarship program, with a way to support, and grow, AWRF's scholarship efforts. Additionally, even if your company is currently donating to the scholarship program, IPTAM provides you the ability to personally contribute and be a difference maker. Each meeting attendee that donates at the conference meeting will be recognized by affixing an IPTAM decal to their meeting badge as well as being recognized in *Slingmakers* Magazine.



Want to donate?

Find someone from the AWRF Staff to donate cash or donate by PayPal with QR code



FUTURE MEETINGS

2026

BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW!



TECHNICAL SUMMIT & P.I.E.
APRIL 20-23 (MON-THURS)
MARRIOTT MARQUIS, HOUSTON, TX

FALL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 18-21 (SUN-WED)
WALEA BEACH RESORT, MAUI, HI



2027

TECHNICAL SUMMIT & P.I.E.
APRIL 5-8 (MON-THURS)
MARRIOTT MARQUIS, HOUSTON, TX

FALL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 18-21 (MON-THURS)
OMNI OKLAHOMA CITY HOTEL
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

2028

TECHNICAL SUMMIT & P.I.E.
APRIL 2-5 (SUN-WED)
OMNI CHAMPIONSGATE, ORLANDO, FL

AWRF STORE

Planning to exhibit at the next PIE? Have your team show up in matching gear and represent your company and AWRF all in one shirt! Our AWRF Store is open to all members. The store offers co-branded items designed exclusively for you. We hope these resources help you highlight the value of the AWRF brand and share with your customers the benefits of working with an AWRF member.



SHOP NOW

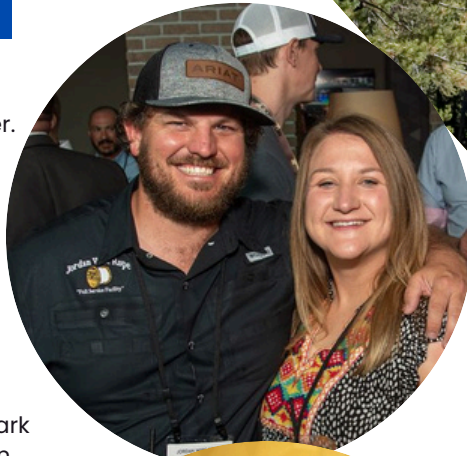


EMERGING LEADERS

THE FUTURE OF AWRF

Elevate your professional journey by joining the Emerging Leaders, a dynamic community within AWRF dedicated to individuals aged 40 and under.

As part of this vibrant network, you'll have the opportunity to connect with fellow young professionals, exchange ideas, and cultivate invaluable relationships that propel your career forward. From exclusive networking events to mentorship opportunities and professional development resources, the Emerging Leaders program empowers you to thrive in the industry. Join us as we shape the future of AWRF and embark on a journey of growth, leadership, and innovation.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program is launching, and we're seeking experienced professionals (40+) across the rigging and lifting industry who are passionate about developing the next generation of leaders.

As a mentor, you'll be paired with a young professional from a different company and department, offering them guidance, perspective, and real-world insight they can't get anywhere else.

What to expect:

- One mentee, matched based on complementary backgrounds
- One quarterly meeting (virtually or in person)
- Simple tools and support to guide the relationship
- A chance to give back, connect, and stay active in shaping the industry's future

This isn't just about advice. It's about connection. It's about growth for both mentor and mentee. Let's build something that lasts together!

Are you interested in being a mentor?

Please email nicole@awrf.org for more details!



EL HAPPENINGS

SUNDAY

EMERGING LEADERS RECEPTION
5:00 - 5:30 PM
CYPRESS ROOM

WEDNESDAY

EMERGING LEADERS BRUNCH & LEARN
9:00 - 11:00 AM
POMODORO ROOM
GUEST SPEAKER: JIMMY BLACKMON

Subscribe to our
Emerging Leaders
Newsletter!



LOOKING AHEAD...

At our PIE & Technical Summit in 2026, we're excited to bring back the 'Future Leaders' initiative for local high school and college students, designed to spark early interest in the wire rope and rigging industry. The program features a presentation from the Emerging Leaders group on innovation and career opportunities, followed by guided exhibit tours where students will meet company representatives and see real-world applications of their studies. This initiative connects students directly with industry professionals while showcasing the many paths our field has to offer.

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