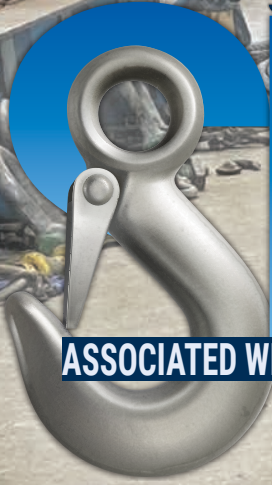


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2024

ISSUE 183

**AWRF 2024 FALL  
GENERAL MEETING WRAP**

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**SWIVEL HOIST RINGS**



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## 2025 AWRF PRESIDENT

Mike Poroo

5721 Harvey Wilson Dr.  
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AWRF Members,

I am both honored and excited to step into the role of President and to work alongside an incredibly talented group of Directors and Members to continue building on the strong foundation we've established. As we look toward 2025, I believe we have plenty of excitement on the horizon and I'm eager to lead AWRF through a year of growth, innovation, and opportunity.

In the near term, one of my most important responsibilities will be ensuring the success of our newly formatted PIE and Tech Summit in Denver. This event is going to be a pivotal moment for AWRF as we bring together industry leaders, innovators, and professionals to explore the latest in technological advances in our industry. The new format promises to offer more than just the traditional networking and exhibits of our traditional PIE events; it will include a full day of technical presentations, in multiple rooms, designed to drive awareness and education back to our membership.

However, the success of this event depends on one thing: strong attendance. I cannot stress enough how critical it will be for all of us to rally behind this event. Whether you are a long-standing member or new to AWRF, a manufacturer or a sling shop, your participation is what will solidify this new format for the long term. I ask those regular attendees to not only register and join us, but also to encourage your engineers and technical sales staff to participate as well. The opportunity to absorb the latest and greatest from our industry, think through how these products and technologies may be leveraged or improved upon back home within your businesses, and to engage with those providers is absolutely unmatched in our industry.

Perhaps the most exciting initiative for me in 2025 is to help our Emerging Leaders truly take flight. Leading up to the PIE and Tech Summit in Denver, the Emerging Leaders will execute a special recruiting function aimed at introducing soon-to-be job seekers from the Denver market, specifically those from local vocational schools and high schools, to the vast opportunities within our lifting and rigging sector. By escorting these young adults through our PIE and introducing them to the exhibitors and products, the Emerging Leaders will effectively build a pipeline of talent that our industry desperately needs. This is a process we wish the Emerging Leaders to repeat at each PIE moving forward.

The real win here isn't the introduction of a few dozen jobseekers in Denver though; the real win is your young professionals (those involved with AWRF's

*Continued on page 69*

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### FUTURE MEETINGS

#### 2025

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| April 6 – 9     | AWRF PIE and Technical Summit<br>Sheraton Denver<br>Denver, CO |
| October 19 – 22 | AWRF General Meeting<br>Omni Charlotte Hotel<br>Charlotte, NC  |

#### 2026

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| April 20 – 22   | AWRF PIE and Technical Summit<br>Houson Marquis<br>Houston, TX            |
| October 19 – 22 | AWRF General Meeting<br>Wailea Beach Resort,<br>Marriott Maui<br>Maui, HI |



#### 2027

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| April 5 – 8     | AWRF PIE and Technical Summit<br>Houson Marquis<br>Houston, TX   |
| October 18 – 21 | AWRF General Meeting<br>Omni Oklahoma City,<br>Oklahoma City, OK |

# AWRF 2024 FALL GENERAL MEETING WRAP

## Desert Classic

AWRF held a successful 2024 Fall General Meeting in La Quinta, California from October 27-30, as all eyes turn to the 2025 Spring PIE & Technical Summit in Denver, Colorado.

As the warm late October sun set in La Quinta, it marked both the end of an era for AWRF — a well-documented new meeting format launches next year — and for outgoing President, Unirole's Justin Brown, who reflected on a decade in the association's boardroom. Brown handed over to Mike Poroo, of SWOS, while Celena Moses, of Royal Van Beest, was named our new Vice President.



*Unirole's Justin Brown completed a successful term as president — and a decade on the AWRF board.*

"Looking back," said Brown, "It's truly satisfying to say I was part of a dedicated and hardworking Board of Directors. These are exciting times at AWRF. It's bittersweet to be stepping away, but I do so with a deep sense of pride and optimism. Over the years, I've had the privilege of working alongside passionate, talented colleagues who are deeply committed to advancing our industry and supporting our members. We've tackled complex challenges, launched meaningful initiatives, and watched AWRF grow stronger with each passing year.

"During my final board meeting," he continued, "We reviewed our accomplishments, and it was clear to all of us that we made meaningful improvements to the association for the benefit of all our members. Seeing the results of our efforts come into focus was a proud moment.

"It's been inspiring to see Mike jump right into action. Over the past few months, we've worked closely to ensure

a seamless transition, covering everything from key initiatives to the finer details of each committee.

To witness that momentum carry on without missing a beat is truly incredible. The board and committee members have laid a solid foundation, and I have no doubt that the association is in excellent hands. I look forward to seeing where this organization goes next and how it will continue to set the standard for excellence in our industry."

Vice President Moses has served on the AWRF board since 2017 and the Technical Committee since two years prior.

She said, "I am looking forward to sitting alongside Mike [Poroo], who has the desire to bring new ideas to the membership and continue the progress from past Presidents. I am very humbled to be able to learn and prosper from some of the greatest in the industry."

AWRF leaders were among over 300 attendees in La Quinta, which, as Jeff Gilbert, our Chief Executive, said, was an excellent turnout for a non-Product Information Exhibition (PIE) event.

## New Chair Looks Forward to Spring, Supports Emerging Leaders

Mike Poroo, of SWOS, was named our new chair in La Quinta — and he has immediately turned his focus to the upcoming 2025 Spring PIE & Technical Summit in Denver, Colorado.

In his first president's address, Poroo said, "One of our most important responsibilities will be ensuring the success of our newly formatted meeting. This event is going to be a pivotal moment for AWRF."

He also referenced the continuing importance of supporting Emerging Leaders as their respective profiles rise in our industry.

"Perhaps the most exciting initiative for me is watching our leaders truly take flight," he said.

Poroo pointed to momentum built in La Quinta, with the formality of meetings combining with the usual networking opportunities, alongside successful pickleball and golf tournaments.

"It was great seeing everyone — and such a good destination," he enthused. "Pickleball was a huge hit, offering our delegation some exercise, while the random team pairings seemed to bridge a lot of the social gaps. We will be sure to offer this type of thing more often."

Nods of appreciation were given to the Technical Committee; and members of the newly established Emerging Leaders sub-committee, which is primed to capitalize on bumper attendance in Denver to boost participation.

"Overall," said Poroo, "There is tons of excitement and curiosity. See you in Denver!"

Read Poroo's full President's letter on Page 3.



*Mike Poroo is our new president.*

"The meetings went extremely well," he added. "We had excellent programs, a great venue, and outstanding participation from our members. We had some very informative and collaborative panel discussions, brought forth by our Technical Committee and National Association of Chain Manufacturers [NACM]."

"We opened up event sponsorships for all functions relating to the meeting. Fresh out of the gate, they were a success. We hope to continue this program and further fine-tune the system."

Gilbert also praised attendees for supporting a silent auction during the

*Continued on page 56*

## Eyes on the prize

New to this year's Fall event was an awards program, launched to recognize major contributions towards the growth and success of AWRP and the rigging industry as a whole. Winners were announced during Tuesday's Gala Night.

Categories included Industry Leader Awards in Individual and Company classifications, where Knut Buschmann, of Unirole Ltd. and The Caldwell Group Inc. were the respective winners.

Buschmann said, "My initial motivation was to educate people in the subject of rope, rigging, and fabrication practices. The more people understood basic, or even advanced, engineering principals in our industry, the easier it became for me to have meaningful conversations about standards, product applications, or future directions of industry associations."

Jeff Ferchen, who claimed the award on behalf of Caldwell, said, "It was great to have Caldwell recognized for the hard work they have put in coming off Covid with our online digital platforms to the increased inventory to help support the channel. Distributors have so much they have to try and stock for their customers, so the more we can have on our shelves to support them win orders the better. It's a great partnership we continue to strive for in each of our interactions with customers."

He added, "The awards show that AWRP wants to recognize innovation and help drive our market to changes that will impact our end customers. It's just another example similar to the safety awards or the Accreditation Program of how AWRP membership sets them apart and pushes them forward to always challenge the status quo."

A Hall of Honor was also opened, with this year's inductees being Archie Lowrey, DCL Mooring and Rigging; Bruce Rubin, Jack Rubin & Sons; Richard Miller, Marcel Rope & Rigging; H. Stanford Truitt, Western Sling and Supply Company; Jim Yarbrough, Yarbrough Cable; and Gene Kaplan, Miami Cordage / Florida Wire & Rigging Works.



Various networking events took place in warm La Quinta weather.



Tuesday's pickleball tournament was a huge success.

The networking golf tournament took place at Desert Willow Golf Club.

More jovial prizes were up for grabs in equally popular pickleball and golf tournaments. Pickleball winners were Tom Bamford and Henry Patron (Beginners); and Jeff Ferchen and Sheila Gladue (Intermediates).

Caldwell's Ferchen said of pickleball, "It was an amazing event and such an incredible way to meet so many new faces in a fun and open environment. The turnout was more than we had anticipated but the excitement was something we have not seen in a while for an AWRP outing such as this. There was a pickleball fundamentals camp experience, which allowed those who have not played before to engage in the game."

Special thanks to Cuneyt and Lee Ann Ertezuk, of Celik Halat, who organized the event.

### The list of golf winners was as follows:

#### First Place Men's

Tony Zomparelli, Commercial Group Lifting Products  
Jeff Doerge, cromox U.S.

Chris Trenton, Kito Crosby

Jay Anderson, Hoisting Wire Rope & Sling

#### Second Place Men's

Matthew Marks, DCL Mooring and Rigging

Jeff Thornton, Miller Lifting Products

Robb Parkinson, Kulkoni Inc.

Michael Posey, F.D. Lake Company

#### Third Place Men's

Michael Bittikofer, Commercial Group Lifting Products

Rasmus Carlsson, Talurit AB

Mike Boisvert, Murdock Webbing

Robert Harris, Campbell Chain

#### First Place Women's

Christy Floyd, Ceca LLC

Sharon Mathis, Chant Engineering Co.

Geraldine Brown, Unirole Ltd.

Sheila Gladue, Dakota Riggers

### Other awards were given for:

**Closest to the pin – women:** Geraldine Brown, hole 3

**Closest to the pin – men:** Steve Zande, hole 8; Bill Higgenbotham, hole 14

**Longest drive – women:** Sharon Mathis, hole 7

**Longest drive – men:** Steve Zande, hole 7

# The Government Affairs Committee

## Year End Report for 2024

By: J. Barry Epperson  
General Counsel and  
Chairman of the  
Government Affairs Committee



### MISSION

Throughout the 119th Congress, the Government Affairs Committee (GAC) has developed and adjusted its agenda in terms of monitoring, information gathering, reporting and lobbying. Meanwhile, AWRP has continued to fine tune its priorities in light of worldwide economics, while insuring that the current agenda for the lifting, rigging and load securement industry remains sufficiently flexible to adapt to the current legislative, administrative and judicial environment. The U.S. economy is improving with growth potential likely to continue. Some dollars and jobs have been repatriated and certain companies are expanding their workforces, paying bonuses and raising salaries. The securities markets are bolstering retirement plans, notwithstanding some wild swings as inflation begins to decline. We await the effects of a new administration and legislature.

### STRATEGY

Notwithstanding legislative and administrative obstacles in 2024, within all feasible parameters of opportunity, the GAC will continue to pursue regulatory, judicial and legislative reforms of significance to AWRP members. While the Committee's strategic plan addresses issues at the federal and international levels, specific tactics will once again selectively target issues relevant to the lifting, rigging and load securement industry. These initiatives are listed below under the heading "Agenda where circumstances call for collective influence, the GAC will continue to participate in coalitions, joining representatives from other organizations with similar objectives. There is no doubt that the elevated membership status which AWRP enjoys at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has resulted in an enhancement to the Association's influence on Capitol Hill. Although the proposed annual GAC budget for 2025 will provide the necessary latitude to maintain current sources of information while at the same time developing new contacts, pursuing issues and lobbying where necessary, this amount nevertheless

constitutes a minimum allowance to accomplish the Association's objectives. As always, circumscribing all AWRP strategic objectives is the ultimate goal for promoting the lifting, rigging and load securement industry.

### GOALS

Through participation in the political process, AWRP will continue to maintain its own oversight initiative with respect to regulations and laws affecting its status as a non-profit corporation. Antitrust regulations adopted by government agencies in North America and the E.U., as well as applicable federal judicial decisions, will continue to be focal points of review. Where opportunities for action present themselves, the GAC will react accordingly. Tort and product liability reform at all levels of government will be given the highest priority. State court decisions and state legislative actions (often in conflict) are where bench, bar and the public take sides on the battleground. It is on this terrain that plaintiffs lawyers compete against business interests. Accordingly, the GAC must continue to concentrate on these objectives through membership in various non-profit associations and coalitions as well as via its own state networking system. Of course, the international interests of our members are always a part of our strategic agenda, with ever-increasing antitrust exposure crossing over national boundaries to accommodate the realities of international enforcement among civilized countries. The OSHA practice of lumping pneumatic and hydraulic machines with power presses has subsided dramatically with the acceptance by DOL of the AWRP swager safety program as a preferred alternative to barrier guards. As the leader of the rigging industry, AWRP has once again stepped up to the plate with its impressive Swager Safety Program. Although the GAC does not have the resources to be active at the state level, we rely on other organizations such as the American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) for informative updates.

### TACTICS

Efforts to expand commercial opportunities in the global economic community as a result of the trend toward internationalism, coupled with the vagaries of the U.S. dollar vis a vis other currencies, present the lifting, rigging and load securement industry with both familiar and unfamiliar obstacles in the form of international

standards, practices, procedures and ethics. These entanglements have been exacerbated by the continued threat of global terrorism. EU and ISO standards can no longer be relegated to a position of secondary importance, nor can this Association ignore the effects of emerging Asian, African, and South American influences. The GAC proposes to approach this situation with broadened sensitivities to the needs of members who compete in the global marketplace. Continued emphasis upon public recognition of the Association's role as the leading spokesman for the lifting, rigging and load securement industry remains a fundamental objective of the GAC. Commercial self determination takes on even greater significance as AWRF membership expands geographically and arithmetically. In anticipation of a U.S. Congressional agenda in 2024 with continued overtones of polarization, the GAC has set its clock to respond accordingly. Currently, the AWRF contract with LEEA is underway, the results of which should affect a significant number of AWRF members, resulting in comprehensive state of the art workplaces.

## AGENDA

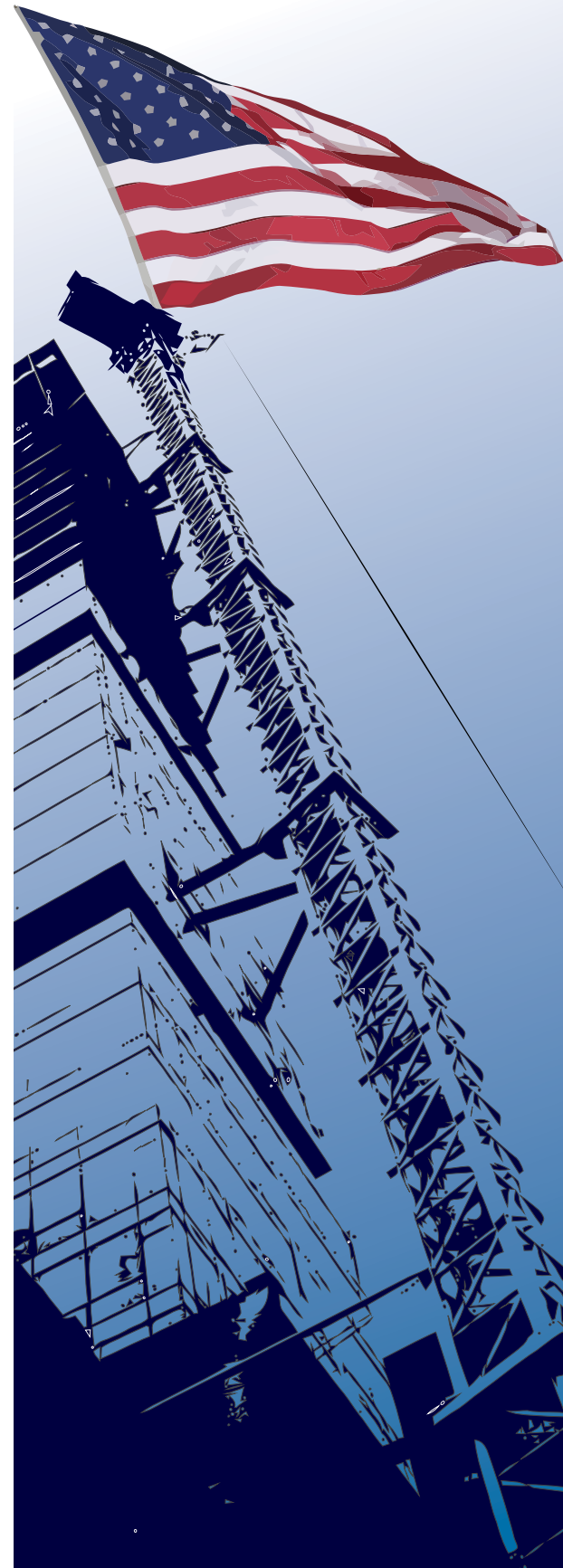
### 1. PRODUCT LIABILITY REFORM

Whether there is war, peace, recession or prosperity, business owners live and work in fear of frivolous and unfounded product liability lawsuits. The problem is critical for manufacturers and fabricators who should be investing in research and development, but instead, are forced to budget excessive amounts of money for insurance and legal fees. In this litigious climate, business owners must consider liability as an aspect of every decision. Businesses can be held liable for injuries which are not in any way connected with the quality or reliability of their products. Proposed legislation would insure a uniform system with fewer opportunities for abuse. In 2005, class-action reform legislation became the law of the land. Attacking the current lawsuit abuse mania on a piecemeal basis continues to be a more acceptable solution than sweeping remedial legislation. In the Senate sixty votes are still needed to control the issues. During the remainder of the 119th Congress, it is probable that this supermajority will be elusive for the majority party. The GAC will join with other business-related groups to meet these formidable obstacles, and, if by chance the Republicans win the Senate and/or the White House in the November 2025 general elections, we will fine tune our agenda accordingly. Whatever the situation may be, AWRF will adjust to meet the issues head-on.

### 2. ECONOMIC STIMULUS, SPENDING AND TAX RELIEF

In 2025, AWRF members hope for improving lines of credit and job market relief, while simultaneously undergoing increasing government interference in the shop and in the marketplace. But, in the U.S., are we to have continued deficit spending or a plan for a balanced budget? Tax relief should undoubtedly have a significant impact upon this issue. So, AWRF must rely on its government relations arm to exercise the appropriate influence in the U.S. Congress and elsewhere to meet the current fiscal challenges with reason and without jeopardy to the industry. On a positive note, some business are improving notwithstanding the obstacles. The groundwork has been laid out, but it remains to be seen whether America's 2025 elections portend needed improvement for business in general and the rigging industry in particular.

*Continued on page 62*





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# AWRF BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT

## Jeff Ferchen



**Company:** The Caldwell Group

**Committee:** Marketing & Communications

**Favorite TV Show/Movie:** The Chosen

**Glimpse into Your Life:** I have an amazing wife and 3 Children (Alyssa, Cara & Noah) all out of college and into the working world. My wife and I enjoy pickleball, spending time with our children and we are active in our church and small group.

**Goal for Your Committee?** I hope to get more engaged with both committees to understand what we have done and what we can do to help promote AWRF members better into the rigging, lifting and material handling markets.

**Why did you join the BOD?** I rejoined the Board because the first experience on the AWRF BOD was amazing and connecting with all the different members and making an impact for the organization was rewarding. I especially enjoyed learning the behind the scenes for the events and how much is required to make the organization run as well as the great personal connections with the people in the industry.

**What aspects of our industry do you love most?** I enjoy working with the genuinely nice people who are in our industry who work very hard to service our customers and provide technical information to those newer generations coming into the rigging and lifting industry. It's really just a good group of hard-working business owners and members digging in to take care of their customers.

**What do you get out of your AWRF Membership (both personally and professionally)?** Networking and working with those who have a passion for the lifting and rigging industry. I am grateful for all the technical knowledge we have in AWRF and their willingness to put out the best technical information for our member base that we can.

**What advice would you give AWRF Members currently seeing more out of their membership?** I would suggest them just jumping in and get connected as there are so many opportunities to get involved and help our association flourish and build their knowledge of the industry as well as the professionals who represent it.

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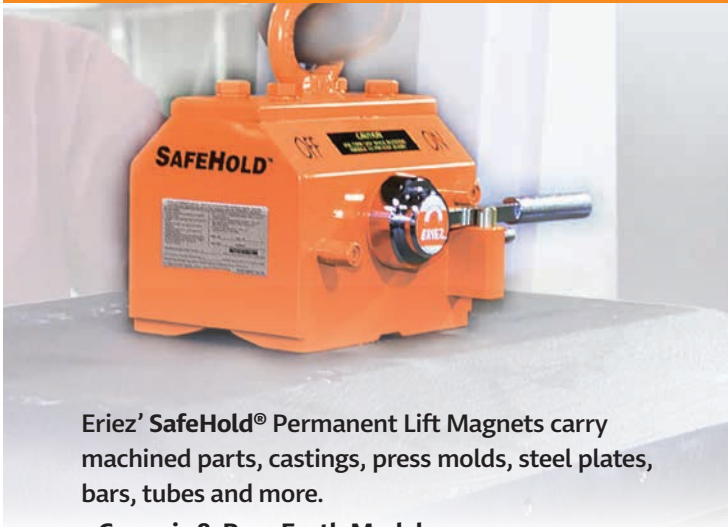


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## Platinum



## Gold



## Silver



## Standard



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Mazzella Companies  
Memphis Chain & Cable LLC.  
Pacific Industrial Supply Co.  
The Rigging Box, Inc.  
John Sakach Co., Inc.

## Platinum

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Carpenter Rigging Bakersfield  
Esmet, Inc. - Electroline  
Handling Systems International  
Metro Wire Rope Corporation  
Northern Strands  
Roberts Calibration, Inc.  
Samsel Supply Co.  
SWOS  
U.S. Rigging Supply  
Wisconsin Lifting Specialists, Inc.

## Gold

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F.D. Lake Company  
ProofCert, LLC.  
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## Silver

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Cable Moore, Inc.  
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Consolidated Rigging & Marine Supply  
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Harrington Hoists  
I & I Sling  
Kennedy Wire Rope & Sling  
Kulkoni, Inc.  
Phoenix Rope & Rigging, LLC.  
Rugged Controls, LLC

## Standard

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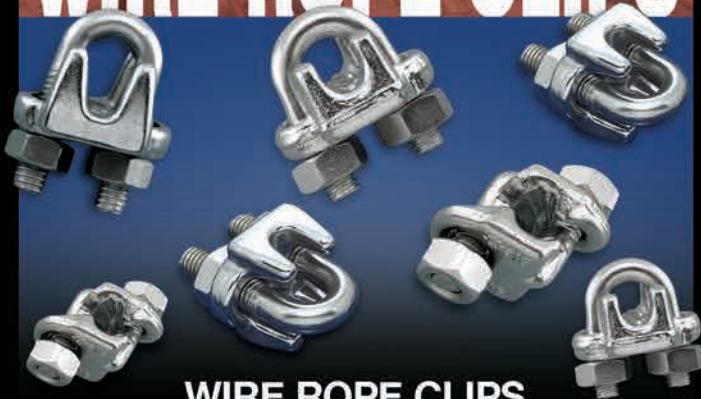
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# SWIVEL HOIST RINGS

Eight panel members joined the AWRP Technical Committee chair to cover swivel hoist rings at the recent 2024 Fall General Meeting.

Tim Klein, chair of the Technical Committee



The swivel hoist ring panel discussion was well attended on the Monday morning of the recent 2024 Fall General Meeting.

Swivel hoist rings are used in rigging applications every day. As this panel discussion – and the question-and-answer session that followed it – proved, it is a product range that is often misunderstood, which perhaps explains why the AWRP community continues to see and hear about swivel hoist ring misuse.

Tim Klein, chair of the Technical Committee, introduced eight representatives of manufacturers to explore the history, types, applications, standards, and inspection of this fascinating product.

- Joe Scolaro, ADB
- Felix Nyberg, Kito Crosby
- Anton van der Zalm, Royal Van Beest
- Chris Spada, Jergens Inc.
- Jay Schroeder, The Caldwell Group Inc., RUD
- Scott Schellhase, Actek Mfg & Eng Inc.
- Neyib Bernal, YOKE Industrial Corp.
- Jim Canfield, All Material Handling Inc. (AMH), Stamperia Carcano S.P.A.

## History

The first swivel hoist ring was engineered and manufactured in 1964. It was the result of an accident that occurred when an eyebolt

broke due to angular loading.

The patent was applied for in January 1965 and awarded to inventors Gary Andrews and John Palmer and assigned to American Drill Bushing Co. in 1967. Since the original patent's expiration, a number of manufacturers have produced similar devices to the one covered by U.S. Patent 3,297,293.

As ADB's Scolaro explained, swivel hoist rings are used in the same manner as shoulder pattern eyebolts to facilitate connection of hooks and chains to a workpiece. The key differences between the two devices are that the hoist ring bale pivots 180 degrees and the base swivels 360 degrees simultaneously to allow lifting from any direction.

The original hoist ring design was, and still is, referred to as the 'safety engineered' hoist ring and with few exceptions is true to its original form.

"This is a testament to the engineers that developed it," said Scolaro.

Swivel hoist rings can be used in tapped hole or through hole applications. Notably, most swivel hoist rings are for positioning and not swivelling under load. Ball-bearing swivel hoist rings, however, are designed to swivel under load. Swivel hoist rings can also be

used as tie-downs to secure loads.

As Kito Crosby's Nyberg explained, there are six major components to a swivel hoist ring:

1. Shackle / bail: U-shaped component for connecting hooks or slings; pivots to align with the pull direction.
2. Bolt: attaches the hoist ring securely to a load or surface.
3. Washer: acts as a barrier between the screw and the body to facilitate rotating.
4. Shoulder pin: secures the body and bail together.
5. Body: main structure where the load is attached; capable of 360-degree rotation.
6. Bushing: provides a barrier between the body and the load to facilitate rotation. Must be flush when properly torqued and in full contact.

## Special applications

There are standard 'off-the-shelf' versions and special application swivel hoist rings. Scolaro shared an example of two hoist rings that were taller than a person holding them in the middle. He explained that, generally, application photos are hard to obtain, largely because of the supply chain model that the panel discussion delegation is familiar with; manufacturers sell the products to distributors, and they then sell them onto the point of use. Many end-use applications are protected, meaning photographed examples of good – and bad – practice are few and far between.

However, in one documented example, a prefabricated home building company in a western province of Canada required a swivel hoist ring with an unusual stud or fastener; the bottom portion of the fastener went through the top plate of a framed wall construction and was retained by the bottom nut and washer. In the application, wall sections are shuttled through a manufacturing facility on a roller system, but there are pipes and tubes that come down from above and slide over the top portion of the stud. The hoist ring was subsequently used to pick wall sections up and load them onto trucks. The user also wanted them to be highly visible (orange) due to use in areas with heavy snowfall.

Other modifications are commonly related to the bushing flange or how the hoist ring mounts to the workpiece itself. Work surfaces are not always flat or free of any type of obstacle or obstruction. In one case study, the bushing flange had a concave shape so it could be installed on pipe or tubing. Another one had to sit in a counter-sunk hole in a workpiece.

Scolaro explained that if you were to just mount the hoist ring over the top of the counter-sink, you would only be reliant on the threaded portion of the fastener in the open hole, thus, it could shift on the workpiece. As a solution, the cavity to void was filled with extended bushing.

In a hydroelectric power plant case study, swivel hoist rings were used for the service and repair of two 140 MW (190,000 hp) Francis turbines. Waterpower, wind energy, aerospace, and military grade applications were also shared with the delegation. For a long time, Scolaro reported, the howitzer, an artillery weapon that falls

between a cannon (or field gun) and a mortar, had four special side-pull hoist rings applied to it for transport.

Caldwell's Schroeder, said the end-user markets that use swivel hoist rings are endless, but pointed to automotive; tool and die; aerospace; heavy equipment manufacturing; general manufacturing; and construction as standout examples. He said that, in all cases, there are six minimum requirements to proper usage:

### Swivel hoist ring materials

**Alloy steel:** provides excellent durability and load-bearing capacity.

**Stainless steel:** offers corrosion resistance, making it ideal for harsh environments.

**Special coatings:** different types of zinc deposits (zinc rich paint, sherardizing, galvanization, etc.) can be applied to hoist rings to improve corrosion resistance.

- Know the weight of the item being lifted.
- Know any special conditions or angles involved.
- Know the manufacturer's recommendations for size and WLL.
- If size is called out, then use the proper thread size for the call-out if the WLL works for the lift.
- Inspect the hoist ring before use.
- Attach the hoist ring until it is fully seated and then torque to spec.

### Types and sizes

Kito Crosby's Nyberg went into more detail about the types and sizes of swivel hoist ring available. These hoist rings come in various configurations, as described in ASME B30.26, including:

- Center-pull: the most common design, ideal for vertical lifts and multi-leg lifts. The bail pivots and it rotates 360 degrees.
- Side-pull: designed for lifts where the hoist ring will be subjected

to angular pulls. Again, the bail pivots and it rotates 360 degrees.

- Rotating eyebolt (not in ASME B30.26): only swivels and is optimal in limited space situations.
- Pivot links: only pivots and is designed to allow slings to align in the load's direction.
- Clevis connection: for connecting directly to chain.
- Synthetic connection: for connecting directly to synthetic slings, such as webbing.

Nyberg said that hoist rings are commonly found between 5/16" to 2" (M8 to M48), but other sizes are available. Other types of lifting point exist, such as weldable pad eyes, street plate lifting rings, concrete lifting rings, wind tower lifting points, etc., but these are largely for specialized applications.

The delegation heard about more configurations besides:

- Welded: instead of a bolt, the hoist ring is welded to the load. In other words, it isn't removed from workpiece to workpiece, or application, but it is permanently mounted and shipped with the load.
- Ball bearing: these swivel hoist rings are designed to swivel under load. Remember, most swivel hoist rings are for positioning and not swivelling under load.
- Forged bail: for heavy-duty applications.
- Custom length bolts: for certain applications a through bolt or a specific length might be preferred over standard bolts.
- Special thread: metric / UNC thread is the most common, but other types can be found.

### Standards

Interestingly, there is no single performance standard that industry can reference when it comes to swivel

hoist rings, as Royal Van Beest's van der Zalm reiterated. In theory, that gives manufacturers some freedom, with ISO, U.S. Fed Spec, ASTM, CEN, DIN, etc. not providing a rigid set of standards per se. That may be subject to change, though, said Van der Zalm. In CEN / TC 168 – Work Group 4, EN 1677 discussions about a revision are ongoing, regarding a proposed inclusion of lifting points more widely.

It's also true that standards do exist for the bolt component of swivel hoist rings, namely ASTM A 574 (Grade 8 bolts); DIN 912 (Grade 12.9 bolts); ASTM F 837 Group 1 (stainless steel bolts); ISO 4014; DIN 933. Material specification, meanwhile, is mentioned in EN 1677-1, Grade 8, which covers forged components for slings, albeit it does not specifically mention swivel hoist rings.

ASME B30.26 (Chapter 2, Adjustable Hardware) is very much in play if, again, it is not a product performance standard but a safety standard for rigging hardware generally. It says:

'Each swivel hoist ring shall be durably marked by the manufacturer to show, (a) name or trademark of manufacturer; (b) rated load; (c) torque value.

ASME B30.26 also mentions removal criteria:

'Adjustable hardware shall be removed from service if conditions such as the following are present and shall only be returned to service when approved by a qualified person...

'for swivel hoist rings, lack of the ability to freely rotate or pivot'.

B30.26 also includes application information. van der Zalm highlighted that, 'When used in a threaded

hole, the effective thread length shall be 1.5 times the diameter of the bolt for steel\*. For other thread engagements or engagement in other materials, contact the swivel hoist ring manufacturer or qualified person'.

He also pointed out that, 'When used in a through-hole application, a nut and washer shall be used. The washer and nut shall be in accordance with the swivel hoist ring manufacturer's recommendations. The nut shall be fully engaged.'

More general guidance covered by van der Zalm's presentation included the importance of avoiding sharp edges; and fastening to the recommended torque.

(\*Aluminum is subject to different guidance, as below.)

### Mounting options

Jergens' Spada, who also diligently outlined operating temperature ranges, went into more detail about mounting options (tapped hole / through hole). The tapped hole must be deep enough to ensure the hoist ring bolt is fully engaged and there is no empty space between the surface of the hoist ring bushing and the workpiece surface.

The following lengths of thread engagement are recommended:

- 1.5 times the thread diameter – when installing in steel (if parent material is minimum 80,000 PSI of ultimate tensile strength).
- 2 times the thread diameter – when installing in aluminum

Spada added that, per ASME B30.26-2.9.4.4 (b), 'A nut and washer shall be used' and, "After installation, check the hoist ring to make sure it swivels and pivots freely in all directions".

Spada also explored the impact of environmental factors, which are another key consideration in product selection and at the point of use.

Actek's Schellhase specifically referenced ASME B30.26-2.7:

'All hoist ring users should be trained in the selection, inspection, cautions to personnel, effects of environment, and rigging practices'.

All Material Handling's Canfield took the baton to address initial, frequent, and periodic inspection. He detailed that initial inspection, and periodic inspection, must be conducted by an expert and qualified person / inspector with a visual inspection according to ISO 9927. Frequent inspections shall be done by a designated person through a visual inspection conducted by the crane or lifting operator before starting lifting operations. Repairs, alterations, or modifications shall be conducted as specified from the manufacturer, he implored.

"Storage is important too," Canfield continued. "Use a rigging rack – don't throw swivel hoist rings in a pile, which could damage threads."

YOKE's Bernal had earlier referenced radio frequency identification (RFID) and Software as a Service (SaaS) as they pertain to inspection, traceability, and helping industry keep up with pre-use checks and unique identification numbers.

Overall, it is clear that a lot has happened since the first swivel hoist ring was engineered and manufactured in 1964, but their use remains more widespread than ever.



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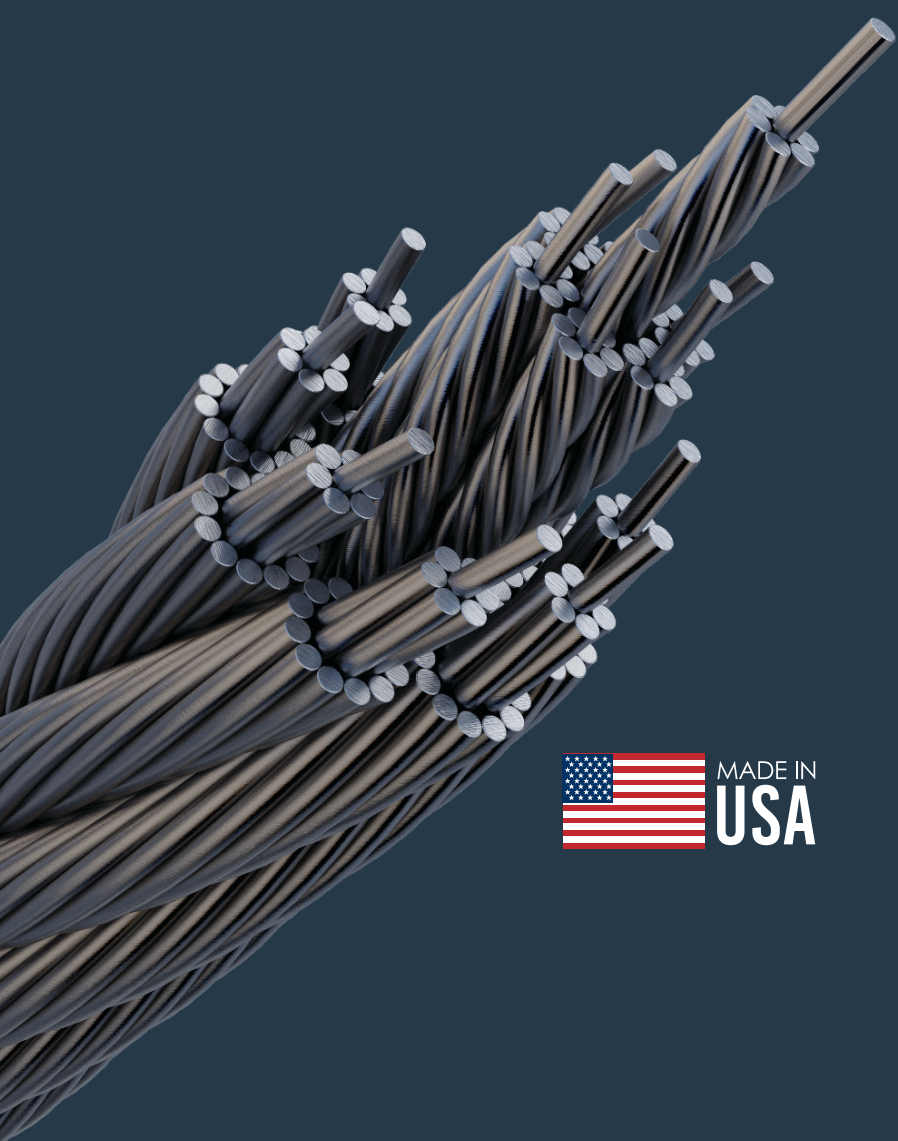


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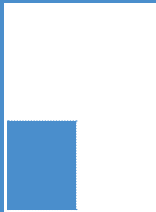
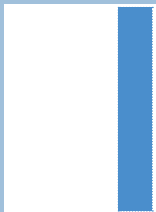
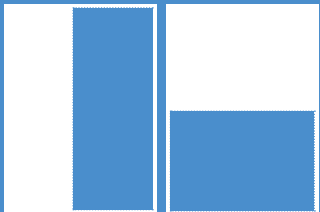
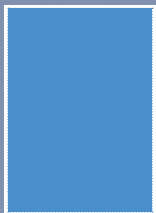
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**Celena Moses**  
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## A Veteran's Guide to Thriving in the Rigging Industry

Celena Moses' entry into the rigging industry didn't follow a traditional path. While many in her family pursued nursing careers, she chose something different. In 1998, a neighbor encouraged her to try out a job making rigging parts. "I started out drilling hooks, and my career progressed from there."

She got involved in shipping and customer service and earned a degree in Business Management. She participated in government and outside sales and learned about casting before working at her current position. Moses, of Jasper, Tn., is one of four regional sales managers in the U.S. for the Royal Van Beest Group, a European manufacturer of premium-quality lifting equipment.

"There's a very small percentage of women in rigging," Moses says. "There are more women in sales."

In all her years in the industry, Moses hasn't seen a woman working as a rigger. "It's a physical job that requires a lot of strength," she notes.

The construction industry has many aspects, with changes occurring constantly and an ongoing need for more employees.

Entering the industry, Moses says, "is one of the best things that ever happened to me in my life." She adds, "I had wonderful mentors I'm still in touch with today. And even though this is a competition-driven market, it's still a big, huge family. And once you get into it and do what is right for the industry, you'll always have a job."

### Matching Equipment to the Application

In her role, Moses visits rigging shops and job sites to support customers throughout the United States. She helps educate clients about rigging products and their suitability for specific applications.

In some cases, Moses encourages a male colleague to accompany her to visit a potential client who may question her abilities as a woman sales representative. "I sometimes take a male co-worker with me to put prospects at ease. In our conversation, I show them that I know what I'm talking about," she says.

During the sales process, Moses works with customers to select the best part for each application. This is challenging because there are many manufacturers for each piece of equipment.

"You have to know what parts are the safest for the application it will be used for."

After making a recommendation, Moses checks with the firm's engineers to confirm that the parts are what the client needs.

She describes the 100-year-old Van Beest Group as the best manufacturing company she's worked for. The sales managers work together as a team to serve their mutual customers.

### Continual Progress

The rigging industry is constantly evolving with new products and materials. In the future, more parts may be made of link chain that is lighter than steel chain. Moses reveals that the industry is reluctant to change if it knows an existing part is safe.

### Join the Industry

She encourages women to join the construction industry. "There are so many markets you can enter, such as construction, towing, and oil and gas."

She asserts that many people in the industry don't need a college degree. Instead, there's lots of on-the-job training. Moses recently took part in a training course to learn what's new in rigging.

The construction industry faces an ongoing challenge to encourage the younger generations to join the industry. "It's not an easy job — it's dirty, hard work and a lot of young people want to be behind the computer."

But there definitely are advantages to working in the construction industry that should be promoted to encourage recruits.

"People will work for you if you treat them like family," she says. Mentorship can play a crucial role. Moses had mentors to encourage her, and now she encourages others, especially women, to pursue their dreams in the industry.

### Why Rigging?

Moses loves working with people to achieve goals for all involved. During her nearly three decades in the field, she's made lifelong friends and has traveled to most states in the U.S. "I'm always learning something new. There's new lingo and new ways of doing something," she says. "Competition can be tough, but it's still a very interesting market to be in."

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## Aaron Bohnert



**Company:** Kennedy Wire Rope & Sling Co.

**Committee:** Membership

**Favorite TV Show/Movie:** I am more into educational podcasts and documentaries than tv shows.

**Glimpse into Your Life:** I am engaged to be married to a wonderful woman, Annie. I have also inherited three stepsons: Jake (16), Jackson (14), and Cy (11).

**Goal for Your Committee?** Maintaining and growing AWRF membership numbers during a time of consolidation at the regular and manufacturing membership levels.

**Why did you join the BOD?** I saw an opportunity to give back to the industry that has given so much to me professionally, as well as an opportunity to network and build comradery.

**What aspects of our industry do you love most?** I really like having a front row seat to the rapid innovation and changes that have taken place throughout the span of my career. I also enjoy being a part of the scholarships

funded and handed out by AWRF and its membership. Secondary education is very important, and having an opportunity to help young adults take those crucial first steps in their education is fulfilling.

**What do you get out of your AWRF Membership (both personally and professionally)?** Being a member of AWRF gives me an opportunity to surround myself with some of the most innovative players in our industry. It has created an awesome opportunity to build valuable relationships throughout the years, which have enriched my professional experiences.

**What advice would you give AWRF Members currently seeing more out of their membership?** I would recommend that they attend a convention, and if it is their first one make it a PIE. Also, reach out to AWRF directly and ask about what resources are available to them as members. I'm sure you will find that there is much more that will help you and your business with anything from product knowledge, sales, and safety. The AWRF website is a powerful tool. Make sure you get your login and password setup and explore what is available to you as a paying member.



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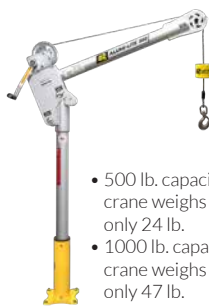
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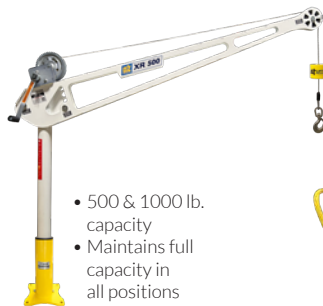
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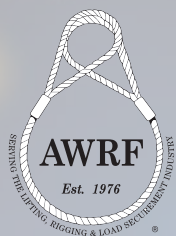
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## Keith Shepherd



**Company:** DCL Mooring & Rigging

**Committee:** PIE

**Favorite TV Show/Movie:** The Office / Gladiator

**Glimpse into Your Life:** Married to my wife Toni for 32 years, we have 4 children and recently became grandparents. Hobbies include hunting, fishing and golf.

**Goal for Your Committee?** To help the Spring PIE be successful, memorable and beneficial to our members.

**Why did you join the BOD?** I was invited to run for the board by a previous board member whose term was ending. So, I decided to do it to be more involved with the innerworkings of AWRF and, hopefully, offer good ideas and knowledge that benefit the AWRF membership.

**What aspects of our industry do you love most?** I enjoy the fact that every day is a different day. The industry exposes you to a variety of markets and applications that make every day interesting. I've enjoyed the travel, both domestic and international, this industry has allowed me to do. The many friends and relationships developed over the years have been wonderful.

**What do you get out of your AWRF Membership (both personally and professionally)?** Professionally.... obviously, networking is a key benefit. The technical information provided by AWRF is helpful. Personally.... AWRF is full of great people who are helpful, including competitors, who have become lifelong friends.

**What advice would you give AWRF Members currently seeing more out of their membership?** AWRF has gone through a positive change over the past 5 years so I would advise reaching out to become more involved. The membership is what helps make any organization be successful.



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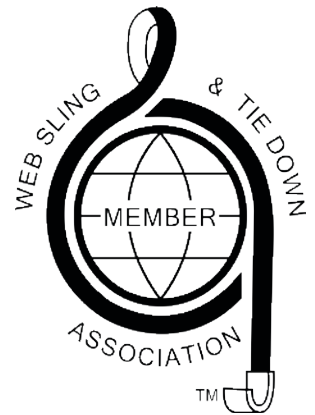
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## SUNCOR® STAINLESS Announces the Appointment of John Tavares and Alicia Bacewicz



Suncor Stainless is delighted to announce the appointment of John Tavares as the new Senior Regional Account Manager. In this pivotal role, John will oversee key customer relationships, and drive strategic growth in the Southeast Region.

John Tavares joins Suncor Stainless with an extensive background in sales planning and product line management, previously working at Cool Gear International, where he excelled in account management, channel management and sales.

John will be crucial in driving our Southeast Region strategy and fostering strong relationships with our customers, ultimately contributing to Suncor's continued growth and success. We are excited to welcome John to the Suncor family; with his expertise and track record he will be a great fit for this role.

*"I am thrilled to join the Suncor Stainless team and take on the new role of Senior Regional Account Manager. I look forward to leveraging my experience to build strong relationships with our clients and drive growth in the Southeast Region."*

John Tavares, Senior Regional Account Manager



Suncor Stainless is excited to announce the newest addition to the customer service team. Alicia Bacewicz, who is stepping into the role of Key Account Customer Service Representative, comes to us with a strong background, bringing a wealth of knowledge and commitment to delivering exceptional customer service.

With years of experience in customer service and sales management, Alicia has a demonstrated track record in logistics, negotiation, operations management, and account management. Prior to joining Suncor Stainless, Alicia worked at Bruning International as a Sales Manager.

Alicia is a fantastic addition to the customer service team and will continue to contribute significantly to Suncor's goal of providing exceptional experiences for our customers.

*"I am thrilled to join the Suncor Stainless team and look forward to applying my skills and experience to support our customers and help the team continue to exceed expectations."*

Alicia Bacewicz, Customer Service Representative



## Understanding Mechanical Advantage in Hoisting Systems:

### The Role of Sheaves and Parts of Line in Relation to Archimedes' Lever Principle

When discussing hoisting systems in industries like lifting and rigging, a critical aspect is understanding mechanical advantage (MA). Mechanical advantage is a crucial concept in hoist design, allowing operators to lift heavy loads with significantly less effort. In this article, we will explore how the number of sheaves and parts of line (the number of rope or wire segments supporting the load) in a hoist, impacts its mechanical advantage. Additionally, we'll compare this to the mechanical advantage derived from Archimedes' principle of the lever arm.

### Mechanical Advantage in Hoisting: The Role of Sheaves and Parts of Line Sheaves and Their Function

A sheave, commonly known as a pulley, plays an essential role in hoisting systems by redirecting force. When multiple sheaves are used, they distribute the weight of the load across several sections of rope or wire, known as parts of line. This reduces the force needed to lift the load.

Consider a simple block and tackle system: as the number of sheaves increases, the mechanical advantage grows proportionally. The mechanical advantage (MA) in a pulley system is defined as the ratio of the load lifted to the effort applied. In mathematical terms, this can be expressed as:

- $MA = \text{Number of parts of line supporting the load}$

If a single sheave is used, the force required to lift the load is the same as the weight of the load. However, if two sheaves are used, the weight is distributed across two parts of line, effectively halving the force required. For example, a system with 4 parts of line means the mechanical advantage is 4, allowing an operator to lift a 400 lb load with 100 lbs of force.

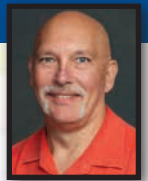
#### Parts of Line and Mechanical Advantage

In multi-sheave systems, the number of parts of line is a direct multiplier of the mechanical advantage. Each additional part of line reduces the input force required to lift a given load. However, while more parts of line decrease the effort, they also increase the distance the rope must be pulled.

For instance:

- A hoisting system with 2 parts of line has an MA of 2, meaning you need to pull twice the length of the rope to lift the load.
- A system with 4 parts of line (MA = 4) requires pulling four times the length of the rope to achieve the same lift height.

Curt Jabben  
Associated Wire Rope & Rigging  
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The efficiency of the system is impacted by factors such as friction in the sheaves and the stiffness of the line, but the fundamental relationship between the number of sheaves and mechanical advantage remains consistent.

### The Archimedean Lever: An Ancient Model of Mechanical Advantage

Archimedes famously said, "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world."

His principle of the lever is another classic example of mechanical advantage in action. The mechanical advantage (MA) of a lever is based on the ratio of the lengths of the arms on either side of the fulcrum.

In its simplest form:

- $MA = \text{Length of effort arm} / \text{Length of load arm}$

For example, if you have a lever where the effort arm is twice as long as the load arm, the mechanical advantage is 2. This means the force required to lift the load is halved, similar to how adding sheaves in a pulley system reduces the effort needed to lift a weight.

While the lever works through distance (longer effort arm = more mechanical advantage), it follows the same core principle as the pulley system: distributing the force over a greater distance reduces the required input force.

### Comparing the Two Systems: Sheaves and Levers Similarities in Mechanical Advantage

Both pulley systems and levers use the principle of distributing force over a distance to create mechanical advantage. In a lever, the distance is the length of the effort arm compared to the load arm. In a hoist, the distance is the length of the rope or wire pulled. As in a lever, increasing the number of sheaves (parts of line) decreases the force required to lift a load.

Both systems follow the same fundamental trade-off: you can lift heavier loads with less effort, but you need to exert that force over a greater distance. Whether it's pulling more rope in a pulley system or moving a longer lever arm, mechanical advantage comes at the cost of greater input distance.

### Key Differences: Application and Flexibility

The main difference between a pulley system and a lever lies in their applications and flexibility. A lever is typically a rigid structure with a fixed fulcrum, best suited for stationary lifting tasks where space and orientation are predictable. On the other hand, a hoisting system with sheaves and parts of line is more

flexible, allowing for movement in multiple directions and easier adjustment in complex lifting environments like construction, oil rigs, and industrial settings.

Additionally, hoisting systems with multiple sheaves and parts of line allow for greater control over the load's movement, including fine adjustments and smoother operation, whereas a lever requires precise placement and operation.

### Practical Considerations for Sling Makers and Hoist Operators

Understanding the mechanical advantage gained from additional sheaves and parts of line is essential when designing or selecting a hoist system for a specific lifting application. However, there are other considerations beyond pure mechanical advantage:

- Friction: While adding sheaves increases mechanical advantage, each sheave introduces friction. High-friction systems reduce the efficiency of the hoist, so high-quality, well-maintained sheaves are crucial.
- Rope wear and tear: More parts of line mean more rope in contact with the sheaves, increasing the wear on the rope. Selecting durable wire rope or synthetic slings designed for the specific application can mitigate this.
- Complexity: While additional sheaves offer greater

mechanical advantage, they also increase the system's complexity, which can affect ease of use and setup time. Balancing mechanical advantage with simplicity is often the best strategy.

### Conclusion

Whether you're relying on sheaves in a hoist system or applying Archimedes' principle of the lever, the goal is the same: achieving mechanical advantage to lift heavy loads with less effort. For sling makers and hoist operators, understanding how the number of sheaves and parts of line directly impacts mechanical advantage allows for smarter design and safer operations.

While levers provide a straightforward mechanical advantage through the length of the arms, pulley systems offer flexibility and adaptability in complex industrial environments. In both cases, the principles of physics remain unchanged, empowering operators to lift, move, and control heavy loads efficiently.

In the end, just like Archimedes' lever, a properly designed hoist system is a tool of remarkable efficiency—allowing us to harness the power of simple machines to achieve impressive feats of lifting and rigging.

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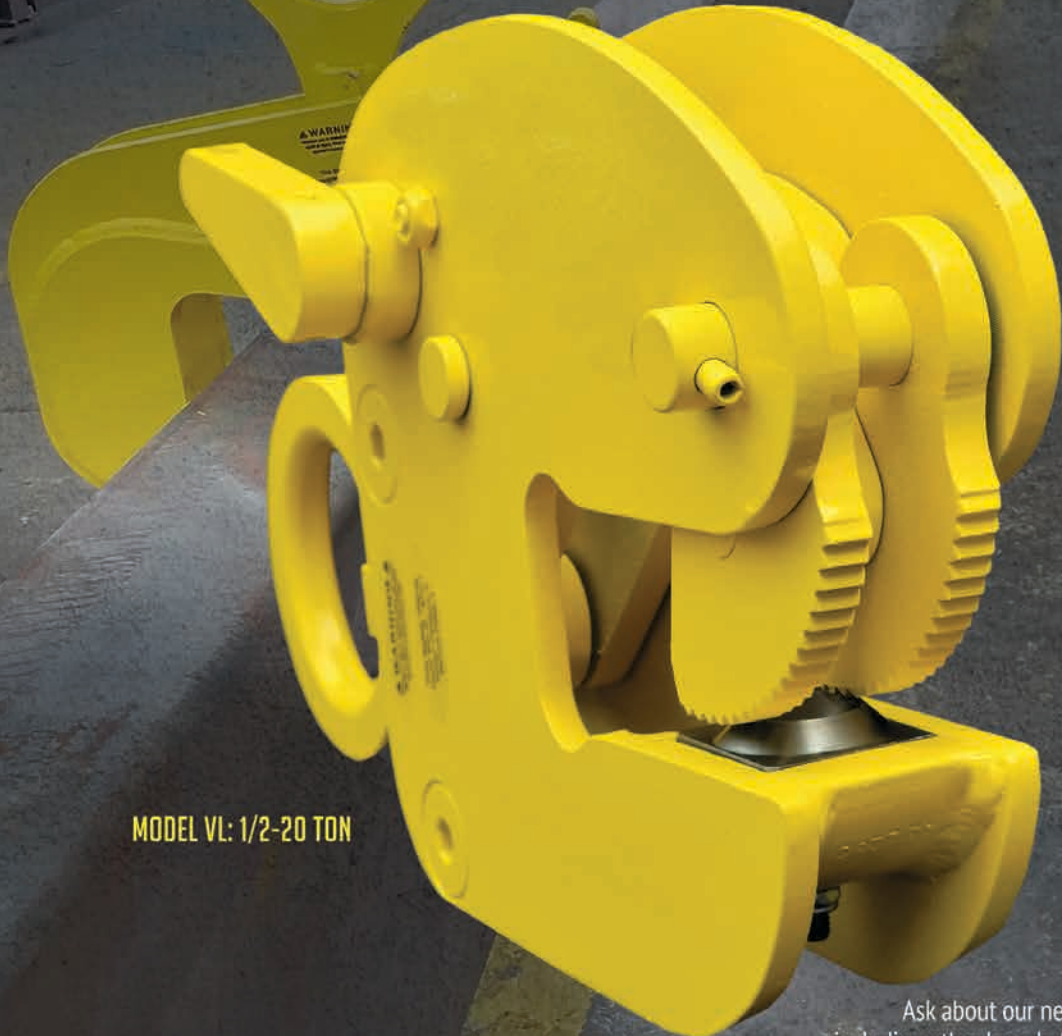


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## Taking Charge of your Health & Safety.

### Wellness Checklist

#### Daily wellness checklist

| Did you...  | Mon                      | Tue                      | Wed                      | Thu                      | Fri                      | Sat                      | Sun                      |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Eat breakfast   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eat fresh, plant-based, and whole grain foods         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eat one green food                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eat organic, free-range chicken, fish, and game       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eat organic eggs and dairy                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Avoid sugary, processed, and refined foods            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eat good fats: avocados, nuts, seeds, olives, coconut | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cook with organic, virgin coconut oil, or olive oil   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Avoid deep-frying, stir-frying, and sautéing          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drink plain coffee or tea                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drink 7-8 glasses of water per day                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Avoid skipping meals                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Avoid alcohol   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Get at least 6-8 hours of sleep                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Get 20-30 minutes of moderate exercise                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Avoid continuously sitting for more than 55 minutes   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stretch for a minimum of 5 minutes                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Take the stairs instead of the elevator               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Spend time outdoors                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Use this wellness checklist to help become and stay healthy. Take it slow – gradually add healthy habits and food to your existing regimen. Always consult with your doctor before making any decisions regarding your health.

#### Other wellness tips

1. Gain knowledge by researching nutrition and supplements.
2. Record your emotions and feelings before going to sleep each night in a journal.
3. If something hurts chronically, or if something feels out of whack, listen to your body. Don't push it.
4. Research pressure point therapy, massage and other forms of energy medicine that you can practice on yourself, your partner, or your children.
5. Research and take up daily stress-busting practices such as meditation, mindfulness, and affirmations.
6. If you're emotionally in trouble or feel lost or helpless, seek help from a professional or a loved one.

As technology evolves individuals become more dependent on someone or something to tell them how to take care of themselves personally and at work. We as individuals must take charge of our own lives and listen to our bodies. Take safety seriously at work and use the tools provided by employer to have a healthier workplace. Alternate sitting and standing at your desk. Use headphones instead of handheld to answer the phone. Get up and move your body every 15 minutes. Instead of picking fast food for lunch consider picking a healthier option. Take a 5-minute walk instead of catching up on social media. After work consider taking a walk, listening to relaxing music, spending time with family, or finding a hobby to clear your mind instead of having a drink to numb your stress.

How many times have we truly reflected on our own wellness to put things in perspective of our daily lifestyle? We should not wait on a doctor or the internet to tell us we are sick. We must take charge of our own health personally and at work if we want to be the best version of ourselves. So, for 2025 let's challenge ourselves at work and home to put a checklist together to tell us how we are doing as the example provided. Personally, I can tell you my wellness checklist currently is horrible and am going to challenge myself to do better.

Take Charge AWRP Members!

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## Talurit Group unveils new website to enhance user experience & strengthen digital presence

Talurit Group, a global leader in mechanical splicing systems for wire ropes, proudly announces the launch of its all-new company website. Built to significantly enhance the user experience and to strengthen the brand's digital presence the new platform offers several improvements and an updated design that seamlessly aligns with the company's modern corporate identity introduced two years ago.

With its sleek, modern design and upgraded functionality, the new website marks a major step forward. Enhanced navigation and an intuitive structure allow customers to browse and explore Talurit Group's broad product range with ease. Notable updates include expanded product descriptions, streamlined overviews, and continuous improvements to the comprehensive FAQ section. Enhanced search functionality and a fully responsive design help users find information quickly on any device, while optimized performance and enhanced security elevate the overall experience.

"We have listened closely to customer feedback regarding the old website and have made substantial improvements across the board," says Victor Lindh, CEO of Talurit Group. "The launch boosts our digital presence further, making it easier for customers to find what they need, explore our extensive product line, and engage with us directly."

Thanks to the integration of new customer-centric functions, users can now easily request quotes directly from any product page. They have also implemented 3D product views, allowing customers to explore products with greater depth and interaction. This feature is already available for most swagers and will continue to expand across the product range in the coming months. In addition, the company is focusing on promoting safer practices within the industry by publishing educational content and various product insights.

"Our aim with this project was to create a more appealing, user-friendly experience for our customers, while reinforcing our branding online by better showcasing the high standards of our products and solutions," adds Torbjörn Hillberg, Marketing Manager at Talurit Group. "With the launch of our new website, we now have a future-proof digital platform that better reflects the excellence of the Talurit® brand and our offerings."

This upgrade further underscores Talurit Group's commitment to innovation and providing great customer service. Going forward, continuous updates and translations into more languages are planned to further enhance the platform.

Visit [www.talurit.com](http://www.talurit.com) to experience the new website firsthand.



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Thank you to all sponsors and private donors for helping us reach our goal and supporting this worthy cause. Together with our channel partners, industry partners, team members, and friends, we are honored to have raised nearly \$270,000 for Fallen Patriots over the past six years.

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# PIE COMMITTEE

**Curt Jabben**  
 Associated Wire Rope & Rigging  
 PIE Committee Chair



The PIE committee is responsible for the preparation and the presentation of the Product Information Exhibition, and we are working hard to enhance the upcoming PIE in Denver. With the format of the Spring meeting changing to a Technical Summit, the goal of the PIE committee is to bring in as many vendors and suppliers as possible to meet with, and teach the exhibit attendees as much as possible about their products during the event. We're hoping for a large number of exhibitors, which should create an extensive learning experience for the attendees.

The Technical Summit program is designed to have employees from inside & outside sales, purchasing, operations, as well as other areas to attend the Summit / PIE. It's a great way for suppliers to reach young, or new employees at the distributor level, and show them exactly what their products are about.

We're very excited to pull this together, and see the results from the Denver Technical Summit / PIE, and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

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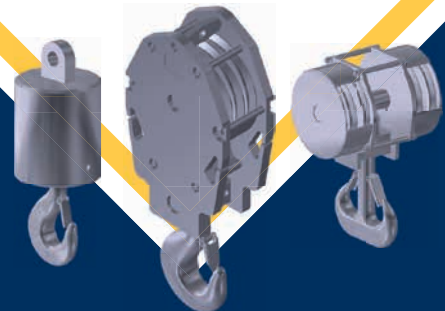
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### Technical Committee update



*Tim Klein, Chair of the Technical Committee.*

AWRF's Technical Committee met on the final day of the Fall General Meeting in La Quinta.

Remember, the mission of the Technical Committee, through its subcommittees, assumes the responsibility for identification and investigation of testing, industry innovations, new products, and domestic and foreign standards for the purpose of establishing AWRF recommended practices and guidelines (RP&G) and for such other purposes as the committee shall determine.

The committee works to strengthen the mission of AWRF by providing technical information to be distributed to end users of the products. The subcommittee members are focused on the safe use of the products and provide oversight and information regarding the applicable safety standards required by the industry. There are currently 12 subcommittees that cover all aspects of the lifting and rigging industry.

Tim Klein, Chair of the Technical Committee, explained that the group is currently reviewing a revised RP&G for Swager Use, focusing on all types of swagers used in the rigging community. The RP&G for Prooftesting

Lifting Magnets is also currently being reviewed, while a new RP&G for Wire Rope Spelter Socketing is imminent.

Klein said, "The goal of the Technical Committee is always to provide good information to the membership, therefore, all of the RP&Gs are thoroughly reviewed. Everyone on the committee works extremely hard to provide technical content. This includes creating reports and information that is available to the membership on projects that are being completed and documents that are being reviewed. I appreciate the efforts of everyone involved."

As we now know, starting in 2025, at every Spring General Meeting, we will hold our industry-best product expo – or PIE – along with a technical summit. Each Fall General Meeting, we will hold an Annual General Meeting.

"The agenda has shifted to focusing on the upcoming Technical Summit that will be held in conjunction with the Spring Meeting in Denver," Klein added. "We have formed an ad hoc committee that is being led by Melissa Searle to coordinate a review of the technical presentations."

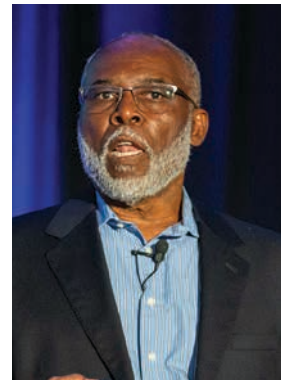
Momentum was built in La Quinta, with two vibrant panel discussions that explored swivel hoist rings (Monday) and chain (Tuesday). The Technical Committee assisted with the hoist ring panel, while the NACM led on the second. Both sessions received equally good feedback.

### Targeted talks

As always, AWRF also welcomed a series of guest speakers to La Quinta.

The keynote was delivered by Anthony 'A.B.' Bourke, a former F-16 fighter pilot and now leadership expert. Bourke is a highly accomplished and decorated pilot who flew tactical missions in service to our country all over the world. His focus on the importance of debriefing in particular sparked numerous discussions among board and committee members.

Bransford Pickett, of System Engineering Forensic Services, followed Bourke onto the AWRF stage, sharing over 30 years of



*Bransford Pickett, of System Engineering Forensic Services, shone a spotlight on ASME standards.*

experience working with load handling equipment, with a specific focus on ASME B30 standards that apply to our sector, how they write standards to keep employees safe, and how that combines with the work of OSHA.

Prior, Tom Sullivan, of the

U.S. Chamber of Commerce, kicked-off Monday morning with a presentation about small business policy outlook. Nick Vostoris, of The VOS Network, spoke the following day about digital marketing and social media. Interestingly, Vostoris first connected with AWRF as an intern back in 2019.



*Tom Sullivan, of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, presented on small business policy.*



*The keynote was delivered by Anthony 'A.B.' Bourke, a former F-16 fighter pilot.*

## Denver awaits — and expects

AWRF's new era finally dawns at the 2025 Spring PIE & Technical Summit, which takes place April 6-9 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado.

"There's a palpable energy building around Denver," enthused Justin Brown, outgoing President. "The technical content we have lined up is more advanced than anything we've presented before. In that sense, Denver is already shaping up to be a huge success.

"However, attendance will be the true measure, and we're encouraging rigging shop owners to bring their teams to experience this invaluable conference. There's something for everyone — from sales to technical experts — to explore all the latest industry offerings."

"Denver will set a precedent for future meetings," said Tim Klein, chair of the Technical Committee. "The amount of technical content that will be distributed to the members will be very good and even overwhelming."

Jeff Ferchen, of The Caldwell Group, said, "We are encouraging rigging shops and manufacturers to bring their inside and outside sales staff, key shop personnel, project managers, and engineers, who want to gain more technical insights into the products they use and sell every day."

Vice President Celena Moses also challenged membership to seize the moment.

She said, "The new era in Denver should go very well if the member owners will allow other colleagues within their companies to participate. AWRF is a large amount of knowledge that only a small part of the world gets to see. Moving forward, I would like to see even more opportunities for other entities and individuals to be able to participate and learn from this great organization."



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## Talurit Group welcomes the new chairman of the board, Mr. Thomas Brautigam

*Talurit Group, a global leader in mechanical splicing systems for wire ropes, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Thomas Brautigam as the new Chairman of the Board. This follows the recent change in ownership and the formation of a new board to guide the company's next phase of growth and innovation.*

Thomas Brautigam brings valuable experience, having held key leadership roles in prominent industrial companies. His extensive background includes serving as CEO of TAWI and as President of the Lifting Automation Division at PIAB, where he was instrumental in driving growth and innovation. Throughout his career, Thomas has accumulated deep expertise in both management and governance, with several board-level positions in leading industrial firms such as MIPS, Axxid, and Sordin.

“We are thrilled to have Thomas Brautigam on board,” says Victor Lindh, CEO of Talurit Group. “His impressive track record and deep experience in industrial management, coupled with his leadership in companies focused on safety and innovation, make him the ideal chairman of the board to support Talurit Group’s continued growth and strategic direction.”

Thomas Brautigam’s previous roles have provided him with a solid understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities in industrial sectors. As CEO of TAWI, he oversaw the development of ergonomic lifting solutions, positioning the company as a leader in the vacuum lifting segment. His tenure as President at PIAB further highlights his ability to lead innovative teams and promote cutting-edge solutions.

“As the new majority owner of the company, we are thrilled to be working with management and the Board of Directors and believe that we have a great team in place to support Talurit going forward. We have worked with Thomas in several of our portfolio companies and are certain that his vast experience from supporting global industrial companies on their



From left to right: Thomas Brautigam & Victor Lindh

growth journey will be a valuable addition to the team.”, says Maria Bilkenroth, Investment Director at SEB Private Equity.

Mr. Brautigam adds: “I am honored to join Talurit Group as Chairman of the Board. The company’s commitment to excellence, safety, and customer-centric innovation aligns perfectly with my values. I look forward to working with the board and management team on Talurit’s future growth journey.”

The Talurit Group board is confident that Thomas’s attribution will further solidify the company’s position as a leader in mechanical splicing systems while advancing globally. By developing solutions that meet the evolving needs of the industry, Talurit Group will continue to push the boundaries of innovation in their field.



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## Heather Fernlund Named Vice President of Finance of Mazzella’s Lifting Business



Heather Fernlund has been promoted to Vice President of Finance for Mazzella’s Lifting Business. For the past two years, Fernlund served as Mazzella Companies’ Corporate Controller.

In her new role, Fernlund will lead the financial strategy

for Mazzella, focusing on standardizing budgeting processes and optimizing financial systems to drive growth. She has also joined Mazzella’s Lifting Leadership Team, reporting to Matt Mazzella, President of Mazzella.

With over 25 years of experience in finance, particularly in IT, manufacturing, and acquisitions, Fernlund brings a wealth of knowledge to this position.

“I am honored to have this opportunity to support the continued growth of Mazzella. I look forward to working closely with a talented team to automate processes, streamline operations, and help drive our strategic goals through increased market share and acquisitions. Our goal is to provide management with the tools and insights necessary to achieve our long-term strategic vision,” said Heather Fernlund.

“Heather’s dedication, focus, and ability to build trust across all levels of our organization have been truly impactful. Heather is committed to being a valued partner to all our lifting businesses and providing transparency and clarity to our financial processes. Her leadership will be key as she and her team collaborate with each business and identify opportunities in our continued pursuit of strategic and profitable growth. Please join me in congratulating Heather on this well-deserved promotion,” said Matt Mazzella, President of Mazzella.

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# The Government Affairs Committee

## Year End Report for 2024

*Continued from page 7*

### 3. ERGONOMICS

It is certainly possible that the new Secretary of Labor will embrace the concept of an expanded ergonomics rule. Would such a standard be voluntary or mandatory? If the standard is to be fair to workers and employers alike, the latter must have the flexibility in determining the most cost-effective methods of identifying and treating employees with work related cumulative trauma disorder (CTDs). The business community must insist upon scientifically generated cause and effect relationships. By adopting a rule requiring the treatment of any possible CTD, a false standard of cause would be established in tort actions. Moreover, by mandating that employers use unproven technologies and practices (there is no consensus in the medical community) the incidence of CTDs is likely to increase and OSHA inspectors will be inclined to issue erroneous, subjective citations. The GAC must continue its vigil to insure that any new standard is voluntary. Acceptance must be driven with such good ideas that employers will logically adopt them and, of course, any new rule must apply to the particular industry for which it has been generated. A one size fits all@ programmatic approach should be out of the question.

### 4. HEALTH CARE

Universal health care legislation passed by the 112th Congress has continued to be a major challenge for AWRF businesses with respect to securing and maintaining affordable health insurance programs for themselves and their workers. AWRF members now face a more socialized approach to national coverage accompanied by mandates which are constitutionally questionable. As medical costs skyrocket out of all proportion, the GAC proposes

to focus on opportunities which would allow AWRF members to enjoy parity with labor unions and large employers in negotiating health care premiums. It appears more likely, however, that the business community will continue to be burdened with the lion's share of the costs of Obamacare. The current Congress has met only some of the more onerous challenges of Obamacare. The bottom line is that larger percentages of profits and incomes are still going toward a national health care program which includes many citizens and aliens who do nothing to support the system. Hope springs eternal for more relief to America's businesses by finding better health care solutions for all, whether in the form of comprehensive legislation or piecemeal repeal and replacement.

### 5. OSHA SLING SAFETY STANDARD

It is important to recall that the indefatigable effort by the GAC to persuade the U.S. Department of Labor to modernize its obsolete Sling Safety Standard paid off. Culminating with AWRF-sponsored Congressional testimony, this lobbying marathon ultimately resulted in a modernized OSHA Guidance document. Fine tuning by the ASME B30.9 Committee and the AWRF Technical Committee will continue as new products and procedures are developed.

### 6. SWAGER GUARDING ISSUES

AWRF will continue to emphasize to OSHA the differences between power presses and swagers. By demonstrating the fundamental differentiating characteristics between the two types of machines, corresponding safety remedies can be underscored. Members should be reminded to think and speak in such terms. To assist AWRF members threatened by OSHA citations for alleged swager barrier guarding

violations, information packets are available at the Association office. In addition, the GAC has succeeded in securing a published OSHA memorandum permitting the substitution of the AWRF Swager Safety Program for barrier guarding in swaging operations on a case by case basis. In November of 2010, multiple copies of the AWRF Recommended Practices and Guidelines regarding swager safety were provided to the Office of General Industry Enforcement at OSHA. Earlier, on June 4, 2007, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) published advance notice of rulemaking for the purpose of amending and/or expanding the OSHA standard governing the use of mechanical power presses (29 CFR 1910-217). Although mechanical power presses require barrier guarding under Section 1910.212, no reference is made to hydraulic or pneumatic power presses. Previously, one of the primary objectives of the proposed rulemaking procedure was to determine whether the scope of the current standard should be expanded to cover other types of presses. Following the lead provided by AWRF, OSHA has removed this initiative from its formal agenda. Obviously, any reconsideration by DOL of this issue could result in a major impediment to the AWRF position that hydraulic swaging machines by nature are not power presses and thus no point of entry barrier guarding is necessary. The GAC will continue to monitor this matter, following the direction of the AWRF Technical Committee. If the current statute were to be broadened to include the requirement of barrier guarding for hydraulics, the Association's current position that swagers are not mechanical presses would be constricted to a narrower argument, i.e., that swagers are not presses period. On November 5, 2013, the GAC

delivered copies of the recently revised Swager Safety Guide to members of OSHA. A protracted question and answer period followed during which many OSHA misconceptions were addressed. In 2016, the new Swager Safety Video was presented to the DOL by the AWRF GAC.

#### **7. CDAC**

The OSHA Crane and Derrick Standard became effective on November 8, 2010. A liaison with Specialty Carriers and Riggers Association (SC&RA) was most beneficial in our effort to monitor and contribute to this rulemaking process.

#### **8. REGULATORY REFORM**

The GAC maintains a close watch for proposed regulations affecting the lifting, rigging and load securement industry. Care must be exercised to make certain that agency regulations are not adopted without true scientific bases and a balance between risk assessment and cost benefit analysis. Although remedial legislation has been promulgated by the U.S. House of Representatives and many other pro-business bills have been offered, the antibusiness majority in the Senate generally has been able to block these efforts. With the new administration, many oppressive and overreaching regulations are being repealed and/or replaced.

#### **9. NAIC CODE**

In five year cycles, the U.S. Department of Census revises the official NAIC Code to reflect changes in industry demographics. The GAC provided a position paper in support of an integrated codification for the lifting, rigging and load securement industry to the Office of Management and Budget on March 22, 2010. Earlier position papers plus a visit to the Census Bureau have been largely ignored.

#### **10. CONVENTION SPEAKERS**

By virtue of the Associations upgraded membership at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (plus other Washington connections), AWRF is positioned to tap a valuable resource bank of speakers for general conventions. Liaison with other institutions in Washington, D.C. has also produced numerous convention participants.

#### **11. JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS**

AWRF remains sensitive to the judicial nominating process in which philosophical differences are often apparent between the candidates regarding the role of the judiciary.

#### **12. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Through its participation in the Diplomatic & Counselor Officers Retired (DACOR) organization, AWRF GAC has confirmed to maintain a keen awareness

of international actions affecting the Association.

#### **13. GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ADVISORS**

The GAC is advised by a balanced cross-section of AWRF members who have a keen interest in the promulgation of legislation, legal precedent and regulatory reformation essential to the health of the lifting, rigging and load securement industry.

#### **14. U. S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PARTICIPATION**

As Chairman of the GAC of AWRF, we have been invited to continue to serve on the U.S Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Council during calendar year 2024. We anticipate an invitation for 2025.

#### **15. BORDER SECURITY**

National attention has finally dictated to the incumbent administration that the present rate of U.S. border abuse must be corrected. AWRF supports efforts to resume immigration control.

#### **16. GLOBAL INSECURITY**

The obvious dynamic of world polarization will have macro-effects on the lifting, rigging and load securement industry. Accordingly, the GAC will support a return to normalization wherever possible.

### **CONCLUSION**

Through the exercise of its First Amendment Constitutional right to petition the Government for redress of grievances, AWRF will continue to play an important role in the political process during the calendar year 2025 with the objective of meeting those goals most beneficial to members of our Association. The maturity and sophistication of our organization has set the groundwork for AWRF to provide a vital role in tomorrow's issues.







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Terry Walker, CEO, reflects on this significant milestone: "Our 50-year journey has been driven by the shared mission of our two companies: Making Difficult and Dangerous Work Easier and Safer. This anniversary is a testament to our incredible customers and dedicated team who share our passion for excellence and safety." He added, "We look forward to continuing to innovate and provide the best solutions for our customers for many more years to come."

The company's commitment to innovation and quality is evident in their robust product lines. Their industry-leading rope collection is proudly made in the USA and rigorously tested to meet the highest

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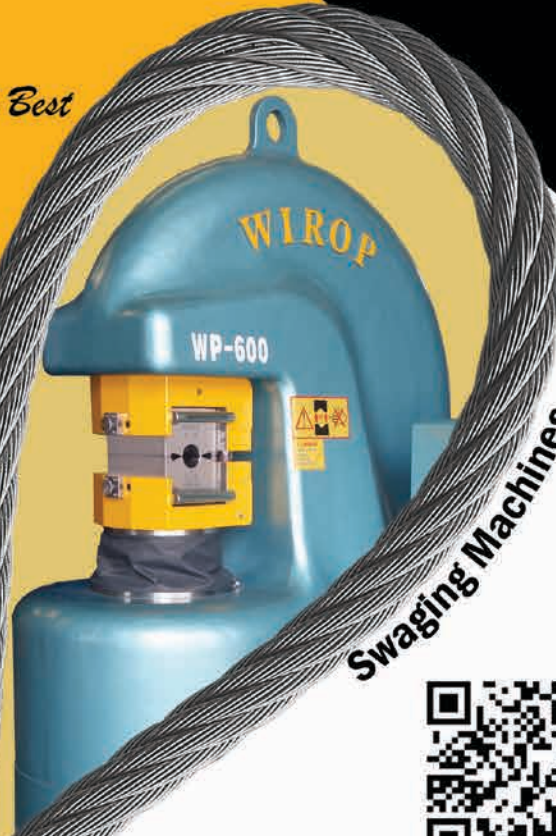
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As they celebrate this golden anniversary, Pelican Rope and U.S. Rigging Supply reaffirm their commitment to quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction. With a proud legacy and an eye toward the future, they look forward to many more years of making challenging work safer and easier for all.



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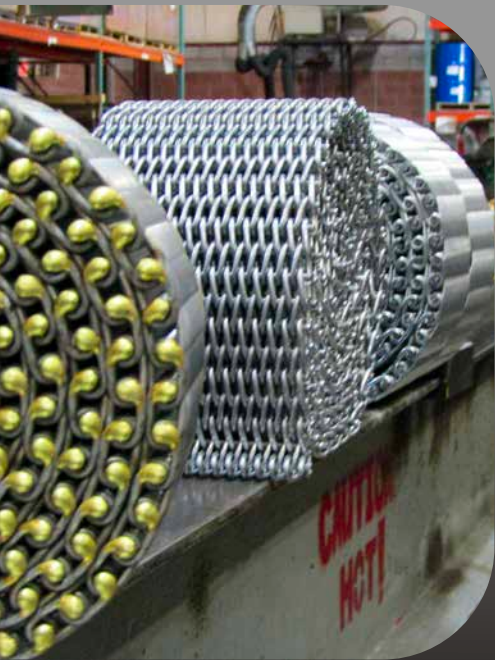
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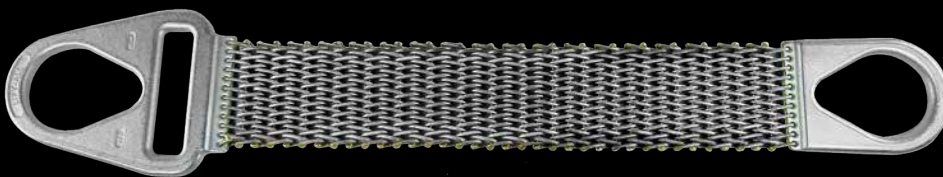
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## 2025 AWRF PRESIDENT

Continued from page 3

Emerging Leaders) learning how to execute a recruitment campaign. No doubt a skill they can take back and execute locally for their own employers. Be on the lookout for more information about this program as well as a couple other initiatives the Emerging Leaders will be working on.

Another area of focus for the Board of Directors over the next year will be to explore the opportunity to expand AWRF internationally, particularly in Mexico and Central America. Over the last few years we've seen a growing interest from rigging shops and manufacturers in this region, and as we look ahead, it's important that we better understand the opportunity so that we may take a thoughtful approach as to whether or not we deploy resources in that direction.

Over the years our association has melded into one rooted in quality, innovation, and professional growth, and the work we do in the coming year will only continue to build on this. I encourage each of you to actively engage with these efforts as your participation and support are what will ultimately drive our success. Together, we can ensure that AWRF remains a vibrant, forward-thinking organization that connects manufacturers with rigging shops, delivers education, awareness and networking opportunities to all of us, and empowers the young professionals in our industry to thrive.

Thanks again for trusting me with this position and I look forward to working with all of you over the next year.

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