



Slingmakers

ASSOCIATED WIRE ROPE FABRICATORS

2026

ISSUE 189





2026 AWRF PRESIDENT

Celena Moses



AWRF Members,

As we wrapped up the Spring 2026 Houston Conference with tremendous success, the attendance numbers alone reflect the continued dedication and efforts being invested into AWRF by JAGwire, the Board of Directors, Technical Committee, and our members. With 705 attendees, 80 first-time participants, 70 Emerging Leaders, and 101 exhibitors, it is clear that AWRF continues to grow as a valuable and beneficial organization for the industry.

I want to personally thank all the members who attended, contributed to the P.I.E., and participated as speakers during the Technical Summit. Your involvement and willingness to share knowledge continues to strengthen this organization and create lasting value for our membership.

Providing members with opportunities to participate through presentations focused on safety, industry advancement, innovation, and technology has brought new excitement and energy to AWRF. If you or your company have ideas for future presentation topics or educational sessions, I encourage you to reach out to JAGwire, myself, or any of our chair members. Your ideas and involvement help shape the future of our organization.

The Board of Directors and Technical Board Summer Meeting will be held July 22–25 in Chattanooga, TN at The Read House, and all members are invited to attend. These meetings are where much of the behind-the-scenes work takes place as we focus on both short- and long-term goals, committee responsibilities, membership engagement, continued member benefits, and final planning for our Fall October Conference in Hawaii. Your voice can only be heard when you get involved, and we encourage every member to participate and

contribute to the future direction of AWRF. We hope to see you in Chattanooga.

Excitement is an understatement as we prepare for our Fall October Conference in beautiful Maui, Hawaii, where AWRF will celebrate its 50th Anniversary as an organization. The conference will be held at the Wailea Beach Resort, and we have several exciting events planned for our members and guests.

Golf will be hosted at the Maui Nui Golf Club, and Tuesday evening's gala will feature a fun Luau theme complete with hula dancers and island-style entertainment. Members will also have the opportunity to participate in guided Maui hiking tours on Wednesday, with both 4-hour and 6-hour options available, including the Easy Waterfall Walk & Swim Tour and the Maui Rainforest and Waterfall Hike Adventure with Local Guides.

We are also excited to announce that keynote speaker Mark Mathews will be joining us and hosting the Emerging Leaders Brunch & Learn session, bringing his award-winning motivational message to our membership.

If you have an interest in becoming more involved and seeing firsthand the work that JAGwire, the Board of Directors, and the Technical Committee contribute to the organization, we encourage you to submit your contact information for consideration as a future Board or Chair member. Continued member involvement is essential to maintaining AWRF's commitment to growth, leadership, and member benefits.

I look forward to connecting with each of you over the coming months and thank you again for your continued support and dedication to AWRF.

50th Anniversary Challenge!

Find the hidden black crane hook featuring the 50th logo somewhere in this issue of Slingmakers for your chance to win a prize!

Take a picture of it and send it to nicole@awrf.org. Every entry is automatically entered for a chance to win!



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Friedrich Höpfe
JANUARY 26

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FUTURE MEETING DATES

2027

P.I.E. & TECHNICAL SUMMIT
April 5-8
Marriott Marquis, Houston, TX

FALL GENERAL MEETING
October 18-21
Omni Oklahoma City Hotel
Oklahoma City, OK

2028

P.I.E. & TECHNICAL SUMMIT
April 2-5
Omni Championsgate,
Orlando, FL



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The Rigging Box, Inc.
OCTOBER 26

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Modulift UK Limited
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FUTURE MEETINGS

FALL GENERAL MEETING 2026
OCTOBER 18-21
WALEA BEACH RESORT,
MARRIOTT MAUI
MAUI, HI

P.I.E. & TECH SUMMIT 2027
APRIL 5-8
MARRIOTT MARQUIS
HOUSTON, TX

P.I.E. & TECH SUMMIT 2028
APRIL 2-5
OMNI CHAMPIONSGATE
ORLANDO, FL

FALL GENERAL MEETING 2027
OCTOBER 18-21
OMNI OKLAHOMA CITY HOTEL
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

FALL GENERAL MEETING 2028
OCTOBER 22-25
THE WESTIN LA PALOMA
TUSCON, AZ




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New
BOB'S RIGGING & CRANE
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 FELLOW ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC.

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AWRF NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations and welcome to the following new AWRF Members:

Manufacturing Members

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 André Carrion
www.asdo.de



Stuart Rush

Damascus, VA
 Rodney Reynolds
www.stuart-rush.com



CODIPROLUX S.A.

Wiltz, Luxembourg
 Contact: Anne-Lise Jonkeau
www.codipro.net



Atwood Rope Manufacturing

Millersport, OH
 Contact: Dale Atwood
www.atwoodrope.com



Non-Manufacturing Member

Gulf Marine Contractors

Spring, TX
 Contact: Steve Vanderwater
www.gulfmarinecontractors.com



AWRF 2026 P.I.E & TECHNICAL SUMMIT WRAP

April 20 – 23

Houston, TX

P.I.E. is Big in Texas

Record attendance and over 100 exhibitors were among the highlights of a hugely successful 2026 P.I.E. & Technical Summit in Houston, Texas.

We held a record-breaking Product Information Exhibition (P.I.E.) & Technical Summit at the Marriott Marquis Houston in April. Headlines included more attendees than ever before, with a combined total of over 150 first-timers and Emerging Leaders; and 100-plus vendors at a typically vibrant expo.

The P.I.E. & Technical Summit brings together leading professionals from all sectors of the lifting, rigging, and load securement industry, including wire and synthetic rope fabricators, rigging shops, manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, engineers, and service providers.

As one of the association's most significant annual events, the Spring General Meeting serves as a central forum for industry education, collaboration, and strategic alignment. Attendees participate in product showcases and networking events designed to highlight emerging technologies, regulatory developments, and best practices that support safe and reliable operations.

Jeff Gilbert, our Chief Executive, enthused, "We couldn't be more thrilled with how everything came to fruition. It was our largest attendance yet; we had record-breaking participation, exceptional vendors supporting the trade show, and fantastic speakers who were able to deliver value to our shops through their expertise."

Gilbert pointed again to headline numbers: 705 attendees; 80-plus first-timers; 70-plus emerging leaders; and 101 exhibition vendors.

A strong level of international attendance was recorded, reflecting healthy engagement from the wider community. Matt Marks, of DCL Mooring & Rigging, also played an active role in supporting young adult attendees, guiding them through the P.I.E., introducing each vendor, and helping to explain their respective activities, including highlighting organizations that may offer future employment opportunities.

Remember, starting last year (2025), at every Spring General Meeting, we hold our industry-best product showcase along with a Technical Summit. Each Fall General Meeting, we will hold an Annual Gala. We now offer a focused experience for our members that is designed to attract a broader membership base. We once again gave our members the ability to see all the fantastic products available to them at our P.I.E. and also to attend technical training seminars. Another fresh feature of the meeting was single-day passes, allowing rigging shops to bring their employees that would otherwise not attend our conference.





Emerging Leaders

Once again, a highlight of the Houston meeting was a good turnout from first-time attendees and our Emerging Leaders; these groups came together at dedicated receptions on the Monday and Tuesday evenings respectively.

Celena Moses, President, said, "Under the leadership of Matt Marks, Melissa Searle, Michelle Mathenia, Ryan Murphy, and Liz Shelton; this group is really bringing forward positive direction for both them and local communities in which our events partake in. The Emerging Leaders group has brought forth speakers that bring insight and experience to the members, along with the Mentorship Program that really provides an opportunity for growth in their professional career. The group's committee is doing a phenomenal job at engaging with our members to include their 40-and-under employees — and the outreach they are doing to bring in college students is bringing a lot of excitement and energy to the organization. We are super pleased with the direction and cannot wait to see what else they have in store for future meetings."

From a Board of Directors' perspective, Jeff Ferchen enthused, "I am pleasingly shocked at how many younger folks are getting involved with the association — and it's awesome to see. There is such a knowledge gap in this business based upon the people who have been in it for decades versus the younger generation of up-and-coming leaders in the space. From both the regular members as well as the manufacturing members, the influx of talent and drive is encouraging, and helping to evolve our association. Here on the Board of Directors, we embrace this evolution — because it matters."

Delivering value

Emily Wagner, Executive Staff — Operations and Accounting, said the new structure continues to deliver value. "The new format seems to really be taking hold," she said. "We had some people just attend the Technical Summit, showing the value in the information that we are providing. This conference brings the best of the best together to promote the industry in such a positive way. Single-day passes got us in front of new faces and also got vendors that face-to-face connection with people they deal with every day over the phone but haven't been able to sync up with in person. We are hopeful that this inclusion brings more people to our show."

Talking from the Marriott Marquis, the same venue of our meeting in Spring 2022, Celena Moses, President, was equally upbeat. "The P.I.E. and Technical Summit were both a success, based on the attendance and feedback received from members. Board Members worked very hard to put good speakers into place for the summit and help members be successful at the P.I.E.," she said.

Moses, whose term as President runs through to our 50th Anniversary Fall General Meeting in October, added, "The single-day registration brought in individuals that got the opportunity to network with people they speak with daily. They also got the chance to learn about the industry from a distribution and safety perspective."

"The heartbeat of our organization is based on technical safety, so I believe it is very important for us to continue to put a lot of effort into retaining and developing the Technical Summit."

Congratulations, Golf, Pickleball Tournament Winners

Networking sports competitions were again an event highlight. The Golf Tournament took place at the Clear Creek Golf Club.

- Winners: T1: Justin Brown, Phillip Chant, Alex Ortuno, and Keith Dennis (67); T1: Braden Allen, Frank Arellano, Rasmus Carlsson, and Mike Stamm (67); 3rd Place: Brian Agnew, Ian Archibald, Joe Scolaro, and Arne Niemann (68).
- Men's Longest Drive #3: Justin Brown
- Men's Closest to the Pin #5: Robb Parkinson
- Men's Closest to the Pin #12: Justin Perry
- Women's Closest to the Pin #7: Geraldine Brown
- Women's Longest Drive: Hannah Yoder
- The Pickleball Tournament took place at Elite-8 The Heights.
- Winners: 1st: Patrick Striebel and Tom Hudgins; 2nd: Melissa Searle and Lalit Kumar; 3rd: Sanjay Singh and Donnie Bordelon

AWRF 2026 P.I.E & TECHNICAL SUMMIT WRAP

Setting standards, new role

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 the 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 13 subcommittees that cover all aspects of the lifting and rigging industry.

Tim Klein, Chair of the Technical Committee, said, "The flow of the presentations and the arrangement of the topics was done very well. The committee created a new chair position solely dedicated to review and manage the summit. I was impressed with the content and the professional manner of the presenters and the attendees. Every topic generated questions from the audience and discussions could be heard after the conclusion."

Moses added, "I thought all the speakers did a great job of informing the members about safety and where the future is taking us with new technologies," while Board of Directors' Jeff Ferchen said, "The technical trainings had great content to



share with the members; but, as a representative of the board, we will keep working on delivering the content that the members want to see and hear about. We remind members that we welcome their feedback regarding the technical content they want to see next Spring."

Klein continued, "The drive to provide content to the membership is a topic that has always been a discussion point for the committee. Our main goal is to bring meaningful information to the membership to ensure they are aware of changes in standards and relevant technical topics. Members are looking to further explore the

path we have started to follow. The Technical Committee will continue to refine the meeting and request content and ideas from the membership.

"The Technical Summit is a tremendous amount of work and stress for the individuals that are involved. Their continued hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed, and I appreciate the endeavor that goes into ensuring the success of the summit."

Brooks Nunley, of Innovative Lifting and Kennedy Wire Rope; and Jon Alberson, of Means & Methods Engineering, delivered meaningful keynotes to Technical Summit attendees.



Accreditation Program, Hawaii

The latest meeting gave members the opportunity to measure ongoing advancement of the AWRF Accreditation Program, a voluntary opportunity for all member companies and their affiliated branches. Using the current revision of our AWRF RP&G, Recommended Practice for the Operation of Sling Shops, as a basis for evaluation, the Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA), our third-party auditing partner, is working with interested member companies to ensure compliance.

Robert Wilson, lead audit compliance officer at LEEA, who was present in Houston, said, "Over the last 18 months, we've had two new members per visit in the Spring and Fall. These companies have been fitted into our audit program. New members wanted to join to improve their businesses and recognize what the AWRF logo stands for."

President Moses concluded, "The unwavering support and dedication of our members are a major reason why AWRF continues to grow, succeed, and expand the benefits we provide. We sincerely thank each of you for your commitment, participation, and everything you do to support the organization and its ongoing success."

The 2026 50th Anniversary Fall General Meeting takes place at Wailea Beach Resort – Marriott, Maui, Hawaii on October 18-21, 2026. Sponsorships will be available.

AWRF's Wagner said, "Hawaii is proving to be the hot ticket this year. Room nights are filling up quickly, and we are expected to reach great attendance numbers. Our 50th anniversary celebration is proving to be one that you don't want to miss."

A hui hou!

Next Spring's P.I.E. & Technical Summit returns to the Marriott Marquis Houston, Texas.

Thank You, Sponsors

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the sponsors who have supported our various events. As the cost of delivering these programs continues to rise significantly, their contribution plays an important role in helping to offset pressure on member dues and ensuring accessibility for all participants. These are already substantial commitments for our members, and every level of sponsorship, regardless of scale, represents a meaningful contribution. We are truly grateful for your continued support.

Our 2026 P.I.E. & Technical Summit sponsors were:

ARG Industrial, Golf—Transportation; **Landmann Wire Rope**, Golf—Towels; **The Caldwell Group**, Golf—Balls; **Dakota Riggers**, Golf—Lunch; **Rubicon Group**, Golf—Hole; **Holland Nameplate**, Golf—Hole; **Kulkoni**, Golf—Hole; **Bayou City Wire Rope**, Golf—Hole; **SlingMax**, Golf—Hole; **Industrial Splicing & Sling**, Golf—Hole; **De Haan Special Equipment BV**, Golf—Hole; **Wire Rope Exchange**, Golf—Hole; **Wisconsin Lifting Specialists**, Golf—Hole; **Ashley Sling**, Golf—Hole; **Kennedy Wire Rope**, Golf—Hole; **Talurit**, Golf—Hole; **Etched**, Monday—First Timers' Reception; **Columbus McKinnon / Kito Crosby**, Monday—Opening Reception; **Rubicon Group**, Tuesday—P.I.E. Breakfast; **Landmann Wire Rope**, Tuesday—P.I.E. Lunch; **Royal Van Beest**, Emerging Leaders—Lunch; **The Caldwell Group**, Emerging Leaders—Giveaway; **Yoke Industrial**, P.I.E.—Exhibit Bar; **Kennedy Wire Rope**, Tuesday—Emerging Leaders Reception; **Landmann Wire Rope**, Tuesday—Reception; **pewag**, Wednesday—Summit Breakfast; **Dominion Rigging**, Wednesday—Summit Lunch; **Rubicon Group**, Wednesday—Reception; **Durabilt Dyvex**, Pickleball—Cooling Towel; **The Caldwell Group**, Pickleball—Beverage Station / Lunch; **Bayou City Wire Rope**, Pickleball—T-Shirt; **The Caldwell Group**, Pickleball—T-Shirt; **Holland Nameplate**, Pickleball—T-Shirt; **Suncor Stainless**, Pickleball—T-Shirt; **De Haan Special Equipment**, Pickleball—T-Shirt; **Wire Rope Exchange**, Pickleball—T-Shirt; **Associated Wire Rope & Rigging**, Pickleball—T-Shirt.



The Roys Built Royal Rigging by Fixing What the Industry Ignored

Colton Roy's journey into the rigging world didn't begin in a shop or a port. It started in the oilfields of rural Alberta, where long days, tough conditions, and constant problem-solving were part of the job.

As a crane operator, he spent his early years in cold weather, under heavy lifts, and in high-pressure environments. But even then, something bigger was pulling at him.

"I just thrive in that environment," Colton says. "Solving problems, working with people—it's really rewarding when you can help a project push through and get it done on time."

That mindset of problem-solving under pressure would become the foundation for everything that followed.



Nikki and Colton Roy

A Risky Move—and a Defining Mindset

In 2021, Colton and Nikki Roy made a decision that would shape their future. They sold their home, packed up their life, and moved to British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

There was no guaranteed plan. No safety net. Just the belief they would figure it out. That belief became a core principle of how they operate:

"We never say no. We say, 'We'll figure it out,'" the Roys say.



New space, new chapter—Colton and Nikki turning hard work into something real.

The Moment They Saw What Was Broken

After landing a job with a crane company in B.C., Colton was back on construction sites. Now, he was seeing the industry through a wider lens.

And what he saw wasn't working.

"There was a really significant gap in the industry," Nikki explains. "Long wait times, lots of gaps, and companies were having rigging problems."

Crews were waiting for equipment. Jobs were delayed. In an industry where time and safety are critical, those delays came at a real cost.

Colton had experienced those frustrations firsthand. Now, together, they saw an opportunity to solve them.

A Credit Card, a Storage Locker, and a Truck

That realization became the start of Royal Rigging.

"I bought a bunch of slings on my credit card," Colton says. "We ran them out of a storage locker in the back of my truck while I was still running crane."

By day, he operated cranes. Before and after shifts, the Roys were building something new, meeting customers, selling gear, and delivering directly to job sites.

What started small didn't stay that way for long. "It just started to take off—other people were asking about it," he says.

Many of their first customers came from the same job sites where Colton was already working. The relationships were already there. What changed was the level of service.

When Colton was just selling out the back of his truck... and building something way bigger than he even knew yet.

Outworking the Industry

From the beginning, Royal Rigging wasn't built on convenience. It was built on commitment.

After 12-plus-hour days on the crane, Colton kept going—handling orders, coordinating deliveries, and getting equipment where it needed to be, often before crews even arrived the next morning.

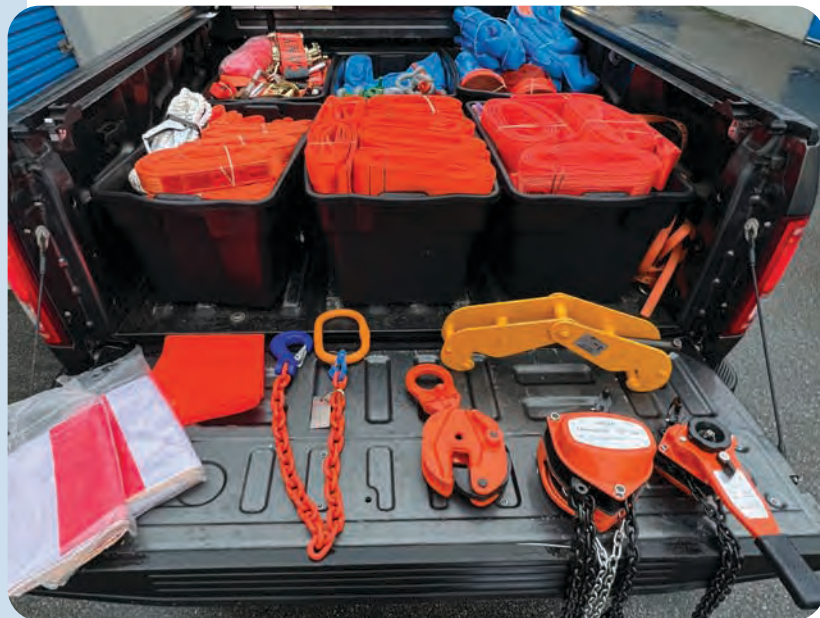
"We really focused on servicing quickly: early mornings, evenings, weekends, even 24-hour service," he says.

That responsiveness became their edge.

Sometimes, it meant stepping in when everything was on the line.

"We got a call at 9 p.m. for a chain sling," Colton recalls. "We had it built and delivered to the site by 6 a.m. the next morning."

That kind of service didn't just solve problems—it built long-term trust.



From Vendor to True Partner

As the demand grew, so did the scope of Royal Rigging's offerings.

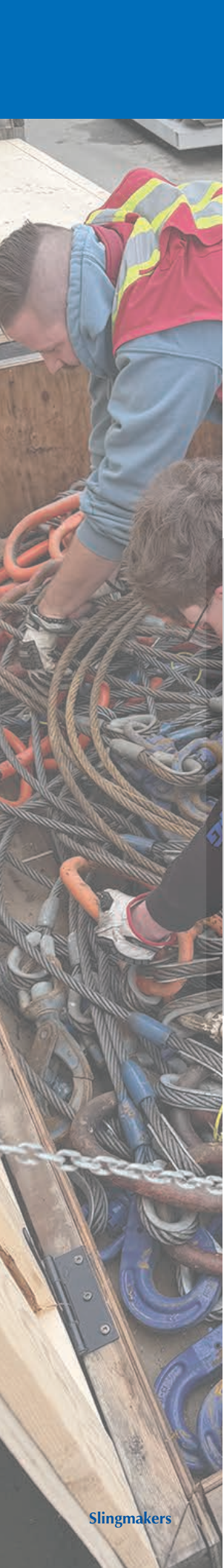
The Roys expanded beyond supplying equipment to becoming a hands-on partner, offering on-site pickup and delivery, inspections, and direct on-site support.

They even began working alongside crews in safety discussions and toolbox talks,

helping teams better understand and use their equipment.

"Building those relationships is key," Colton says.

Instead of waiting for customers to come to them, they brought solutions directly to the work, saving time, reducing delays, and improving safety outcomes.



Raising the Standard Through Industry Involvement

As the business grew, the Roys also strengthened their role in the broader industry.

They became members of the Associated Wire Rope Fabricators, using its resources and network to align with evolving safety standards and refine their operations.

Scaling Fast—Without Losing the Edge

The growth came quickly.

What began as a one-man operation has grown into a rapidly expanding company with nine full-time employees, four part-time team members, and a dedicated finance team, with more hiring underway.

They've already outgrown their original space, moving from a 3,000-square-foot shop into a new 15,000-square-foot facility to support continued expansion.

Even with that growth, the focus remains the same: fast service, strong relationships, and solving problems when they matter most.

Turning Visibility into Opportunity

While much of the industry stayed offline, the Roys took a different approach.

"We just knew we had to hit the ground running," Nikki says. "Social media was free marketing, and no one else was really doing it."

By sharing real work, behind-the-scenes operations, and educational content, they built something rare in the industry: a brand people could connect with.



Today, their platforms reach over **100,000 followers across Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube**, turning visibility into real business growth.

"People feel like they already know us before we even meet them," Nikki says.

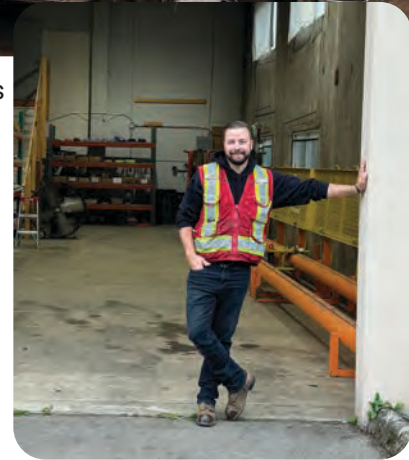
Cold outreach became warm conversations, and those conversations turned into long-term clients.

Still Growing. Still Solving

With a larger facility, a growing team, and increasing demand, Royal Rigging is still in motion.

Expansion into new markets and potentially new locations is already on the horizon. But despite the rapid growth, the core philosophy hasn't changed.

"If someone has a problem, we'll figure it out," Colton says.



The Real Reason It Worked

Royal Rigging didn't grow by accident. It grew because the Roys saw a problem others had accepted and chose to do something about it.

They moved faster. Worked longer. Showed up when others couldn't. And in doing so, they didn't just build a business. They built something the industry needed all along.

And for Nikki, that purpose goes beyond growth.

"If you can solve someone's problem, they'll trust you, they'll come back, and they'll grow with you," she says.

That belief—combined with relentless execution—is what continues to drive Royal Rigging forward.

Milestone Members

40 Years

Liftex Corporation
Wisconsin Lifting Specialists, Inc.

30 Years

Actek Manufacturing & Engineering
Block Division, Inc.
Chant Engineering Co., Inc.
Elite Sales, Inc.
Hercules Crane & Lifting Supplies
Ken Forging Inc.
KWS Inc.
SpanSet Inc.
Titan Supply LP

20 Years

Eriez Magnetics
St. Pierre Chain & Wire Rope
Premier Wire Rope
SC Industries, Inc; Contec Hoist & Rigging

10 Years

Diversified Chain & Rigging, Inc.
Strong Yun Industrial Co. Ltd.
Dynamic Load Monitoring (UK) Ltd.
Yale Cordage, a Slingmax Group Company

Please note: Milestones are met after the full year of membership has been established.
Ex. Members who joined in a year ending in 5, receive their plaques in 2026.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our milestone members for their unwavering dedication and contributions to AWRP and the lifting and rigging industry. Your commitment, expertise, and support over the years have played a crucial role in shaping the success of our organization and advancing the standards of our field.



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NW Manufacturing Group Announces Acquisition of The Ulven Companies

NW Manufacturing Group announced the acquisition of The Ulven Companies, a historic manufacturing organization headquartered in Hubbard, Oregon. Included in the transaction are Columbia Marine & Rail and Next Machining Solutions in Washougal, WA, creating a diversified manufacturing platform focused on long-term growth, operational excellence, and advanced industrial capabilities. The acquisition brings together several highly specialized manufacturing operations with deep roots in the Pacific Northwest industrial sector. The Ulven legacy traces back more than 130 years through Skookum, while Ulven Forging has been operating since 1971, establishing a longstanding reputation for quality, reliability, and innovation in critical manufacturing markets.

The combined organization will operate through five (5) primary divisions:

- Ulven Forging (Hubbard, OR), Ulven Aerospace & Precision Solutions (Hubbard, OR), Skookum Tough (Hubbard, OR), Columbia Marine & Rail (Washougal, WA), and Next Machining Solutions (Washougal, WA)

Together, these divisions manufacture mission-critical components serving a broad range of industrial sectors, including defense,

aerospace, energy and infrastructure, industrial manufacturing, maritime, logging, and specialty markets.

Columbia Marine & Rail brings additional capabilities in forging, upsetting, and precision machining for government and industrial applications, specializing in components supporting naval defense door hardware, the Department of Homeland Security, and other federal sectors requiring high-performance manufactured products and strict compliance standards.

The acquisition strengthens the organization's ability to support customers requiring vertically integrated manufacturing solutions, combining forging, machining, engineering, and precision manufacturing capabilities under a unified operational structure.

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Tom Leaptrott and Chief Financial Officer Daniel Snoey, the combined organization is positioned for continued expansion and strategic growth across critical manufacturing sectors. The combined companies remain committed to delivering exceptional value to customers through operational excellence, technical expertise, and a deep understanding of complex manufacturing and federal procurement requirements.

In Memoriam: This announcement comes with deep sadness following the unexpected passing of Dan Ulven, whose leadership, vision, and stewardship were instrumental in building The Ulven Companies into the respected organization it is today. Dan's legacy spans generations of craftsmanship, innovation, and commitment to excellence in manufacturing. His impact on the industry, his employees, and the broader community will not be forgotten. NW Manufacturing Group is honored to carry forward the foundation he built and remains committed to preserving and growing the legacy he leaves behind.



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A Multi-Generational Legacy: The Mazzella Story and AWRF's Impact



When Antonio Mazzella invented and patented five wire rope slings in the 1930s, he set in motion a family legacy that continues to this day. His son, James, founded Mazzella Companies more than 60 years ago. Now Tony Mazzella, his grandson, is chairman of the Cleveland, Ohio-based company, which designs, manufactures, and distributes products and provides services for lifting and material handling applications.

Where It Started

That legacy began with curiosity and hands-on ingenuity. Antonio Mazzella worked as a rigger in a steel mill and spent time experimenting with worn crane rope. What others might have discarded, he studied, reshaped, and improved. His patented sling designs eventually drew the attention of Wire Rope Corporation of America, which purchased the patents and moved the family to Connecticut. That opportunity helped launch the family's long-term connection to the rigging industry.

Starting From Scratch

James Mazzella built on that foundation with determination and resilience. After serving as a Seabee in World War II, he returned home and attempted to start his own rigging shop. The first effort didn't succeed.

James regrouped, took a job in Cleveland, and then tried again. In 1954, he launched the business that would become Mazzella Companies.

From the beginning, it was a true family operation. Tony's mother played a critical role in the early years, handling bookkeeping and payroll while raising their children. She also worked on the shop floor.

"She could actually braid wire rope slings," Tony says. "She made grommets and things like that while raising my two older sisters." That combination of grit and teamwork helped the company establish itself and grow.



Jim & Phyllis Mazzella

A Son Steps In

Tony represents the third generation, and his career has been closely tied to both the company's expansion and his involvement with AWRF. He attended his first annual meeting in 1981 in Tarpon Springs, Florida. At the time, he was young and new to the industry.

"It was eye-opening," he says. "I was young, and it was a little scary. But everyone was welcoming."

That first experience marked the beginning of decades of involvement. Tony joined the AWRF Board at age 28 and served for seven years, eventually becoming President in 1989. He also spent much of his career on the Technical Committee, where he learned from some of the industry's most respected experts.

The AWRF Effect

Looking back, he credits AWRF with shaping both his career and the company's trajectory. "AWRF was the single biggest influence on our ability to grow," he says.

That growth came in many forms. Through AWRF, Mazzella Companies built relationships that led to new hires, acquisitions, and long-term partnerships. The association also provided access to technical knowledge and industry best practices that would have been difficult to gain otherwise.

"We were able to learn from the best technical people in the industry," Tony says. "It helped us build a culture around being experts in what we do."



Tony Mazzella (far left) at the Spring Meeting in Hilton Head Island 1999

Then and Now

The industry itself has changed significantly over the years. In the early days, most operations were independent sling shops serving local markets. Today, consolidation and private equity have reshaped the landscape, and many companies operate across multiple locations. While the dynamics have evolved, Tony believes AWRF's core values have remained consistent.

In its early years, the association helped unify a fragmented industry and establish credibility with customers and standards organizations. Today, it continues to serve as a central place for collaboration, technical development, and professional growth.

"It gets people out of their own world," Tony says. "You see what others are doing, and it pushes you to be better."

More Than Business

Just as important are the relationships formed along the way. Over the years, Tony has built lasting friendships with peers, mentors, and even competitors. Those connections extend beyond meetings and committees. A group of industry colleagues has gathered annually for nearly 40 years for a weeklong golf trip, a tradition that now includes the next generation.

Those relationships have shaped more than a career. They have helped influence the path forward for the company and the people who will lead it next.

A New Generation

Tony has had the opportunity to watch his sons step into leadership roles within the business and the industry. Matt serves as President and CEO of the lifting business, while Adam leads the company's metal roofing division, Sheffield Metals International. A third son is also involved in the metals business.

Together, they represent a continuation of the family's commitment to innovation, growth, and industry involvement. Tony has recently stepped back from day-to-day operations and now serves as chairman. He's confident the company is in capable hands.

"I'm very blessed to have kids who are both passionate and qualified to take over the business," he says. "That doesn't happen very often in a third generation."

What's Next

As the industry looks ahead, Tony sees continued change, including the potential for greater collaboration among related associations. At the same time, he believes AWRF's core purpose will remain essential. The association provides a place for professionals to share knowledge, build relationships, and develop the next generation of leaders.

For Tony, one lesson stands out after decades of involvement. "The more you give to the association, whether it's time, information, or commitment, you get way more in return."

Built On Relationships

That mindset has guided the Mazzella family across generations, beginning with Antonio Mazzella, whose work as an inventor in the 1930s laid the groundwork for the business that followed. Today, that legacy continues as the next generation steps into leadership roles.

Their story reflects the same principles that have shaped AWRF: innovation, collaboration, and a commitment to helping others succeed.

As Tony reflects on his career, one thing is clear. The legacy is not just about products or growth. It's about people.

"I can't imagine we would have achieved this level of success without AWRF," he says. "It's the relationships that made the difference."



Excerpt from “30 Years of Associated Wire Rope Fabricators” Chapter 3 (1983-1986)

Written by: Donald A. Sayenga



A dozen AWRF standing committees ostensibly were poised for action in 1983. The ambitious list included: Communications, Finance, Government Affairs, Insurance, Long Range Planning, Membership, New Products and New Technology, Positive Sling Identification and Nomenclature, Quality Assurance, Shop Safety, Technical, and the Council of Associate Members. Some committees were moving forward rapidly with their assignments, but others were still inactive, or else were stymied by major roadblocks. Bill Meals made a presentation describing the purpose, scope, and goals of the newly reactivated Technical Committee. He strongly urged AWRF to join an umbrella organization with political clout in Washington, the National Association of Chain Manufacturers. Motions to join NACM were made, and tabled, several times.

In mid-March 1983 the Spring meeting was held at the Dutch Resort Hotel on the Disney resort property in Florida at a time when the USA was experiencing an economic downturn. The attendance of guests at general meetings was clarified, emphasizing the need for formal invitations to be issued because of concerns about safety and liability. Frank Becker recalled the first meeting of Meal's newly restructured AWRF-TC was conducted at 2:00 P.M. Sunday March 20, 1983. Frank noted: *"This was an organizational meeting with Bill Meals and David Bishop serving as Co-Chairman. In addition, Dennis St. Germain Sr., Tony Mazzella, Larry Sharrow, and I were in attendance."*

Tony Mazzella volunteered to host a follow-up meeting of the AWRF-TC at his shop in Cleveland August 9-10, establishing a practice of two committee meetings each year. Jeff Klibert also attended the second meeting in the summer, but Larry Sharrow was absent. It was clearly established in these committee meetings that the main focus of AWRF-TC activities would be to follow-through on the rewrite of the ASME's B30.9 Sling Safety Standard, as had been outlined by B30 Chairman Ted McKosky during his 1981 talk to AWRF members at Colorado Springs. The existing B30.9 sling safety standard had been incorporated into the 1975 OSHA regulations which were enforceable as law in the USA, but everyone agreed parts of it needed changing. David Bishop volunteered to establish formal contact with B30 establishing a path toward this end.

Synthetic Web Slings

fill a big niche in industrial lifting

by William D. Meals

This article is written to not only explain the niche and technology of web slings but also to give recognition to the early pioneers and developers of the product. In the last 42 years synthetic web slings have used their unique properties to fill many needs in industrial, marine, and pipeline lifting and would appear to possess an even larger market participation in the 21st Century. Their success story, technical assets, and history needs to be told since most users and many fabricators lack this knowledge and perspective.

The principal slings used today - wire rope, alloy chain, and synthetic web - have all evolved to present stature as a result of need, craftsmanship, technology, and an industrial base to make them viable. As an illustration, chain per se goes back to times BC, but in recent times the wrought iron and carbon chain so mediocre in retrospect, needed to be replaced by alloy steel. Alloy chain is a recent as the late 1930's when machine forming, automatic resistance welding, and heat treating could be applied to alloy steel to give the drastic increases in strength and abrasion resistance so badly needed. Similarly the concept of forming a piece of wire rope was known for centuries but a usable product of sorts was not available until the 1830's. Today's wire rope evolved from better carbon steel, heat treating, continuous multiple hole wire drawing, and excellent high speed wire rope machinery. For both wire rope and chain we had a triumph of metallurgy and production.

Coming into the 20th Century we have the advent of Nylon in 1939, a high strength synthetic fiber greatly exploited in WW II, and continued afterwards into industrial use. The Cordage industry used it in many applications to replace manila, sisal and jute, and the weaving industry found it to be a replacement for cotton and other fibers. The 1950's development of polyester gave us a second high strength fiber, albeit with many different properties. The synthetic web sling industry, in concert with web mills, has utilized these fibers for new applications and a market niche.

The following data gives properties of materials used in chain, wire rope, and web slings.

	Grade 80 Alloy Stock	Typical EIP Rope Wire	Nylon 6-6 Type 728 Yarns	Polyester Type 68 Yarns	Typical Kevlar Yarns
Typical Tensile, PSI	180,000	285,000	143,000	162,500	421,000
Specific Gravity	7.84	7.84	1.14	1.38	1.44
Melting Point °F	2730 Appr.	2730 Appr.	489	493	800
Approx Elongation %	7 %	2 %	13.3	8.8	3.01

The properties above translate into certain strong and weak points for their sling use. Alloy chain slings have the poorest strength/weight ratio, best abrasion and cut resistance, average elongation and shock resistance, best in flexibility, and best for high temperature use.

Wire rope slings are average in strength/weight ratio, average in abrasion and cut resistance, poorest in elongation and flexibility, and average for higher temperatures except fiber core ropes.

Nylon and polyester web slings are best in strength/weight ratio, poorest in abrasion and cut resistance, excellent flexibility, best in elongation, quite poor for high temperatures.

Nylon resists most caustics but not acids, polyester resists most acids but not caustics.

Kevlar webbing and slings is new and searching for applications - their strength/weight ratio fringes fantastic, high temperature use is most attractive. The negatives are price, and a low elongation that would limit most usage to 1 and 2 inch web widths that do not require tapering.

Where has this technology brought us in current times so far as US market participation and dollar sales are concerned. An educated guess for the three major sling categories would be expressed in dollars as follows:

Wire rope slings - 66.7%, alloy chain slings - 22.2%, and synthetic web slings - 11.1% - the latter divided about 95% for Nylon and 5% for polyester, and virtually no Kevlar. This market size alone demands need for web sling knowledge. In addition the synthetic sling market, in the foreseeable future, could take 20% of the total US sling market.

The Technological Progress of Sling Webbing - the web sling industry came to see that it needed a special webbing custom designed for its unique usage. The narrow fabrics industry studied Mil-Spec weave patterns and made changes from it to commercial weave.

Typical weave patterns are illustrated below by side view cross sections of the webbing. The solid sine curve lines represent warp or load carrying yarns running longitudinally in the webbing. The dots represent filling or transverse yarns which form the basis the picks (lay in rope parlance) of the weave, and they give a width cohesion that deters longitudinal web tears, and lastly the filling yarns interface with the stitching thread to make sewn joints feasible. The dotted lines represent binder yarns that secure face plies together for a joined mess, or cover center/stuffer yarns when they exist.

Typical Single Ply Mil-Spec Weave
(1" wide Type 18, or 1 3/4" wide Type 19)
in 1 up and 3 down pattern



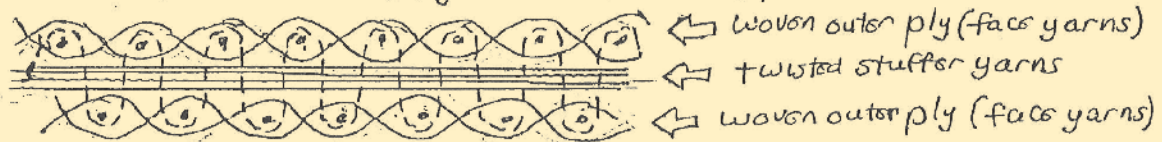
Strong, flexible, abrasion resistant.
These warp yarns go from one side to the other, so severe damage or wear is critical - there is no reserve strength.

Typical Two Ply Mil-Spec Weave
(1 3/4" web width such as Types 10 & 13)
plain weave - 2 up - 2 down weave



Strong, firmer weave, more abrasion resistant.
The two ply construction tends to limit severe damage or wear to that single ply - there is still no inner reserve strength ply.

Neither of these Mil-Spec webbings has protected inside yarns for safety and reserve strength, so a commercial weave adaptation used the Mil-Spec two ply weave with inserted center or stuffer yarns between plies, giving exactly what was required. Illustration given below for the typical commercial weave.



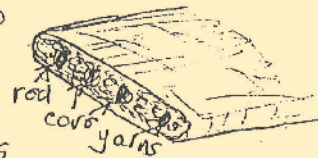
The dotted line binder yarns hold the outer plies together encapsulating the stuffer yarns, giving protection to the reserve strength center or stuffer yarns. The illustrated commercial weave has become, with minor variations, semi-standard for the narrow fabrics industry and comes in standard widths of 1 through 6 inch, in 1 inch increments; then 8-10-12 inch widths, all in varying thicknesses for several capacity classes.

Webbing Additions and Modifications to expand the web sling niche

Treatment for web slings is standard practice with Mil-Spec webbing. This Mil-Spec standard treatment was continued with commercial weaves made by Phoenix Trimming for Liftex. W.S. Adler Co started with untreated Buffalo Weaving commercial weave webbing and offered treatment as an extra option. For a number of years J & L Wire Rops Div. and Lift-All followed the W.S. Adler practice. Normally a light treatment of latex is applied by an in-line dipping process, followed by hot air drying under tension to minimize shrinking and retain prior tensile properties. Treatment improves abrasion resistance and tends to keep grit from penetrating the webbing with resulting internal wear; but treatment does not reduce ability to resist cutting. Safety yellow is almost a standard color; although other colors are used for fabricators trade mark or ID.

Red Core or Stuffer Warning Yarns are incorporated into the stuffer yarn aggregate so that cuts and badly worn areas are exposed and more noticeable during inspection.

This concept was initiated by Buffalo Weaving & Belting Co webbing via W.S. Adler Co slings around 1960; but it was not effectively commercialized until 1968 when it became standard practice with Lift-All Co.



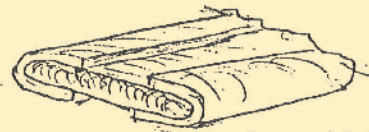
Web Face Plies Protection - Wear Pads are a supplemental piece of webbing sewn onto one or both sides of the web sling body to serve the sacrificial purpose of taking the service wear and cutting rather than have this occur to the sling body webbing. Although a rather successful addition it increases the sling cost noticeably.

Cordura Woven Face Ply Yarns are a budget alternative to wear pads. Cordura Nylon du Pont yarns are producer bulked yarns deliberately disarranged to give a tangled and fuzzy structure. Surprisingly the matted properties do improve abrasion resistance. Unfortunately Cordura does little to improve cut resistance which is the cause of well over 50% of web sling rejections. Woven Cordura face yarns

in web slings were first introduced by Wear-Fbx as a premium product at near to regular prices.

Web Selvage Protection - web sling cuts

usually start at a web edge and continue part of the way across one of the face plies. For years it was common to use wrap around wear pads sewn to the webbing - an expensive and bulky solution



wrap around wear pads

Polymer Coated Fibers Woven Edge - in 1987

Southern Weaving Co developed for Lift-All G their

Tuff Edge webbing using a polymer coated fiber woven edge.



Polymer Coated fibers woven edge

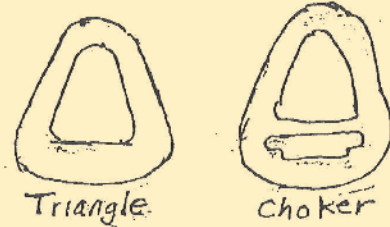
Tests and service show this innovation to be helpful in resisting service abrasion and cutting that starts at the web edges, and its cost is less than wrap around wear pads.

Sliding Sleeves - an old and excellent idea of using an appropriate length of tubular or sewn sleeve configuration of webbing to cover the sling webbing and give protection on all sides. When used on load corners the sliding sleeves will hug the load corner and permit the web sling body webbing to stretch and slide while stabilizing, without incurring sling body abrasion or cutting. The sliding sleeve is sacrificial.

All of these webbing additions and modifications are helpful but given too much reliance we should hear the sage who said "Show me a web sling lift that needs a lot of sling protection, and I'll show you a lift pushing its luck with web slings."

Sewing Web Slings - a properly sewn stitch pattern is the one factor that demands perfection and is analogous in its requirement to a good or bad weld in chain, or a good or bad splice or socket in a wire rope sling. Full line sling shops may take high sewing efficiency for granted since they get 100% efficiency from chain factory welds or mechanical couplers, or 95% plus from wire rope mechanical splices in the more popular diameters. In contrast typical web sling sewing efficiency frequently runs in the area of 80%, and care must be taken to achieve even this percentage. A typical stitch pattern might have $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 stitches per lineal inch and 4 to 5 rows per inch of web width, plus using the correct thread for the class of webbing being sewn. Overly sharp or badly worn needles damage the webbing being sewn, while sewing too fast generates enough heat to fuse thread. The top sling fabricators develop and refine their own stitch pattern standards and techniques that work with their specific threads and webbings - and they monitor their results with routine testing, and retain this test data.

Web Sling Fittings in a sense tend to negate the advantages of web slings. The light weight and softness of web slings protect the loads that require their use. Attaching a metal fitting, be it triangle, choker, hook, or a link is in many cases incongruous. Despite this there are requirements for fittings but for them come cautions.



Forged aluminum triangle and chokers are a compromise. They are light and less damaging if they bump a load, but they have two negatives. First they almost invariably are designed and are rated to be used only with single ply webbings or slings. Secondly, the 7075 aluminum, as used, has a yield strength so close to the ultimate that there is no early overload deformation to warn of past overloadings, let alone the current one. Steel triangles and chokers are used for one, two, or more ply web slings; and steel fittings of the right steel and temper will give the warning deformation of overloading that is so badly needed.

A web sling compatible line of fittings is a product line still waiting to happen.

An Industry Looking for Universally Accepted Rated Capacity Standards

The web sling industry lacks universally accepted Rated Capacity Standards that exist for wire rope and alloy chain slings. The web sling industry lacks a WRTB Simile, with industry management backing plus engineers, test laboratories, and test procedures to come up with incontrovertible and accepted standards.

Historically the web sling industry spawned two rated capacity factions and to a degree they exist today. Liftex and Phoenix Trimming & Webbing Co started their commercial weave with two classes - a 6000 lb and a 9000 lb/inch width minimum strength webbing. They accepted rated capacities that could be attained after sewing; other followed this concept.

W.S. Adlor/Buffalo Weaving & Belling Co./Columbia Cordage took the approach of starting with a desired Rated Capacity and making webbing to derive it. They started with 1200 lb and 1600 lb/inch rated capacities which worked upwards to 7200 lb and 9500 lb/inch width webbings. This philosophy was adopted by the J & L Steel Corp Wire Rope Div and by Lift-All Co. and they were joined by Southern Weaving Co to make the webbing. This latter standard was accepted by ANSI/ASME B30.9 and OSHA, but not by all fabricators.

A soft metric compromise may be the solution - it would have two web sling Rated Capacity Classes of approximately 500 Kg/1100 lb per 25 mm/1 inch derived from a 6800 lb/inch width webbing. The second would be approx 700 Kg/1550 lb per 25 mm/1 inch starting with 9500 lb/inch width webbing. It is working its way through ANSI/ASME B30.9 toward publication. Will this new standard gain universal industry acceptance? It is badly needed and something must happen.

Page 5

THE AWRF ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



The AWRF Accreditation Program is an exciting, new, and completely voluntary opportunity for all member companies and their affiliated branches. Using the current revision of our AWRF RP&G “Recommended Practice for the Operation of Sling Shops” as a basis for evaluation, LEEA (our third-party auditing partner), will work with interested member companies to ensure adherence to the AWRF RP&G. Member companies interested in the AWRF Accreditation Program are encouraged to sign up below with QR code.

- Ensure safer sling shop operation
- Drive more business to AWRF member companies
- Marketing to end users with Program Credentials/Site Accreditation
- Permitted use of a co-branded AWRF/LEE logo
- Access to LEEA technical answer center for submitted questions
- Access to LEEA technical guidance documents and online training

For more information, please visit www.awrf.org/accreditation-program/ or email nicole@awrf.org



Ensuring Excellence in the Lifting Industry

The AWRF Accreditation Program is a comprehensive initiative designed to promote industry standards and encourage continuous improvement among rigging, lifting, and load securement. The program provides members with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to safety, quality, and operational excellence, reinforcing their credibility within the industry.

Participation in the AWRF Accreditation Program is crucial for members who want to distinguish themselves in an increasingly competitive market. By adhering to the AWRF RP&G for Sling Shops, members ensure that their operations meet or exceed the highest standards, which not only increases trust with clients but also enhances the overall safety of operations.

One of the key benefits of earning AWRF Accreditation is improved business reputation. Companies that are accredited by AWRF are recognized as leaders in the field, setting themselves apart from others. The program also offers access to valuable resources, such as industry insights, access to LEEA's Technical Center, and Access to LEEA technical guidance documents and online training.

Moreover, the accreditation program helps businesses stay up to date with the latest safety regulations and technological advancements, ensuring they remain competitive in an evolving industry. For members, this means better risk management, greater client satisfaction, and the ability to attract new business opportunities.



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- Global Rigging & Synthetics
- Holloway Houston
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- Wisconsin Lifting Specialists
- Sling-Choker Mfg. - Hamilton
- Lexco Cable



Get to Know Our Auditor, Robert Wilson

Although Scottish by birth, Robert is now located in the North of England. Married to Helen, with 2 grown up kids. Robert has been in the lifting industry since 1982, with a Wire Rope/Lifting Equipment background. Robert manages the Global Member Engagement Services team at LEEA and oversees all membership matters, including applications, audits and events. Robert has conducted LEEA audits within the North/South America region for the past 7 years.

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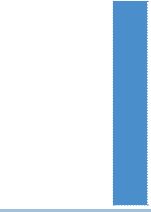
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Tim Shears
Slingmax Group
Safety Committee Chair

HSE COMMITTEE UPDATE



Andrew Leblanc
Global Rigging and Synthetics LLC
Safety Committee Vice Chair

Safety Committee Update: Why Involvement Matters

The Safety Committee continues to update recommended practices and training resources to better reflect what's happening in the real world. For companies, the message is simple: staying involved in safety isn't just about compliance, it's about staying ahead and reducing risk in a meaningful way.

Inspection criteria and usage standards are regularly updated based on real-world data and feedback from across the industry. When companies stay engaged, they're able to see what's coming sooner and adjust their operations before changes take effect, not after. Just as importantly, you have a real opportunity to help shape the standards that ultimately impact your day-to-day work.

Training remains a key focus, with new tools aimed at simplifying inspections and improving consistency in the field. Companies leveraging these resources are seeing fewer avoidable issues, greater confidence among personnel, and stronger overall safety performance.

Beyond safety alone, there's a clear business benefit. A strong safety culture helps minimize downtime, reduce liability, and strengthen trust with customers who increasingly expect accountability from their suppliers. Many issues still come down to simple misuse or missed inspections once products are in service, which makes ongoing training and reinforcement especially important.

At the same time, our industry continues to deal with outside pressures like shifting material sources and changing regulations. Staying connected to committee discussions helps companies stay ahead of these challenges instead of reacting to them.

At its core, safety is something we build over time. Companies that stay actively involved aren't just helping improve industry standards, they're also setting themselves up for stronger, more sustainable success.



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From a Front-Row Seat: The Boykos and the Rise of AWRF

As AWRF celebrates its 50th anniversary, Donna and Jim Boyko, Mill Valley Splicing, Belchertown, Mass., can look back on a front-row seat to the evolution of the wire rope and rigging industry.

When they attended AWRF's first meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina, about 30 people were in the room, most of them owners of small, family-run sling shops. For the Boykos and their now third-generation company, the importance of being in that room 50 years ago is clear.

What began as a modest gathering grew into an association that would help shape industry standards, strengthen safety practices, and build lasting professional relationships.

Jim and Donna Boyko



Early Industry Challenges

In 1976, as AWRF was taking shape, the wire rope and rigging industry looked very different than today. There were numerous suppliers, and most operations were independent sling shops where owners and employees worked side by side, handling everything from fabrication to customer service. The industry was fragmented, and the need for shared technical knowledge, safety standards, and better communication was clear. AWRF stepped in to provide that foundation.

For the Boykos and other participants in the new organization, those early meetings were both unfamiliar and formative. "We were just newbies. We didn't know what to expect," Donna Boyko recalls.

But from the beginning, the atmosphere was welcoming and collaborative. At that first gathering, an industry peer and charter member greeted them and made them feel at home. That positive experience set the tone for the relationship-driven culture that now defines AWRF.

A Culture of Sharing and Safety

From the beginning, members shared a commitment to learning and safety. Early meetings focused on practical, technical knowledge, including how to fabricate products, understand regulations, and improve safety. As Donna says, “People didn’t keep their little secrets; they shared them so everyone could do things safely.”

Key issues discussed at general meetings also included industry trends, business operations, and insurance.

As more companies recognized the value of that open exchange, the association grew in both size and influence. Membership expanded to include suppliers, manufacturers, and a broader network of professionals. Technical presentations, facility tours, and industry updates became central to meetings, keeping members informed and connected.

The Boykos saw firsthand how that knowledge exchange translated into real-world impact. Members identified incorrect fabrication practices and corrected them through shared experience and manufacturers’ input, establishing safer, more consistent methods.

Built on Relationships—and Trust

Over the past five decades, the Boykos remained actively involved in AWRF. In later years, Steve, their son, joined them. Jim served two terms on the Board of Directors, while Steve, a project engineer, joined the Technical Committee and presented at general meetings. Donna attended meetings alongside Jim for decades, helping build relationships that became a hallmark of the association.

Meetings were often held in resort locations. For Jim and Donna, these sessions gave them the opportunity to travel to places they might not otherwise have visited. Because they were running a sling shop, they didn’t take much time off.

At AWRF meetings, attendees combined learning with time spent together—sharing meals, stories, lots of laughs, and activities like golf, tennis and more recently, pickleball.

Those connections extended well beyond business. When Jim experienced a medical emergency during a meeting in Newport Beach, California, fellow members stepped in without hesitation, ensuring he and Donna received the care and support they needed. Moments like that went beyond networking; they built lifelong bonds.

Consolidation Impacts the Industry

Today, the industry looks very different. Consolidation has reshaped the landscape, with many small, independent sling shops giving way to larger organizations. While that growth has brought efficiencies and expanded capabilities, it has also changed the nature of the business.

“There aren’t many small sling shops anymore—everything got so big,” Donna says.

Along with that shift, the nature of the work has changed. In earlier years, owners and employees had hands-on knowledge of the products they made and sold. Today, larger organizations are often more specialized, with roles divided across management, sales, and operations. That specialization can create distance from the product itself, making it harder to maintain a deep technical understanding.

As Steve explains, “There’s an intimacy with what we put out our door...people knew what was in their hands and what they were giving their customers.”

AWRF’s Role Is More Critical Than Ever

In today’s changing environment, AWRF continues to play a critical role. It brings members together to share knowledge, reinforce safety standards, and stay connected in an increasingly complex and specialized industry.

“We were always an association that looked for safety first,” Donna says.

Values Endure

As AWRF marks its 50th anniversary, the industry it helped shape continues to evolve—but its core values remain unchanged. What began as a small gathering built on shared knowledge and trust has grown into a lasting network of professionals committed to safety, craftsmanship, and supporting one another.

For the Boykos and Mill Valley Splicing, that legacy is something they’ve lived firsthand. After decades of involvement, the relationships, experiences, and lessons remain as meaningful as ever.



“Once it’s in your blood,” Jim and Donna reveal, “it’s here to stay.” For many members, AWRF is more than an association—it’s a lifelong community.

Mike Hughes ARMCO,
James Boyko, Charles
Lucas Crosby

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Timothy W. Klein, P.E.
WireCo | Corporate Headquarters
Principal Engineer
Structures and Fabrication
AWRF Technical Committee Chairman

Minutes – AWRF Technical Committee

Courtyard by Marriott – Phoenix, AZ
January 28-29, 2026
DRAFT

Melissa Searle
Laclede Chain
AWRF Technical Communications Chair



Attending Chairs & Vice Chairs

Jeff Gilbert – AWRF Chief Executive / PP
Herbert Allen – General Counsel
Celena Moses – AWRF President – Royal Van Beest
Timothy Klein – Chairman – WireCo
Bob Cushman – Vice Chairman – Cascade Rigging / PP
Tom Eicher – Caldwell Group
Curt Jabben – AWR & R (Board)
Melissa Searle – Laclede Chain

Mason Chant – Chant Engineering
Anton van der Zalm – Royal Van Beest BV
Justin Brown – Uniroppe Ltd. / PP

Committee Members

Patrick Hughes – MAGNA Lifting
Paul Boeckman – Kito Crosby
Knut Buschmann – Uniroppe Ltd. / PP

Joe Scolaro – ADB Hoist Rings
Jeff Doerge – cromox, Inc.
Rodney Reynolds and Troy Raines, Columbus McKinnon (via Zoom)
Alex Harris – Chant Engineering
Chase Vencel – Kito Crosby
Steven Boyko – Mill Valley Splicing

Michelle Mathenia – Laclede
Jason Ruby – Taluri
Bill Higginbotham – Royal Van Beest

Guests

Emily Wagner – JAGwire
Caren VanZant – JAGwire
Kelly Jones – Holland Nameplate (Board)

Terry Driscoll – Mazzella (Board)
Jeff Ferchen – Caldwell (Board)
Brandon Humpal – Caldwell

Paul DeMattie – Kito Crosby (Board)

Absent Chairs & Vice Chairs

Chris Richardson, Lone Star Rigging
Matt Mazzella, Mazzella
Andrew Mullis, Paducah Rigging
Luis Jimenez, ARG
Joost Eertman, Ropeblock

Nicole Sauve – JAGwire
Mary Beymer – Skookum
Andrew LeBlanc Jr. – Global Rigging and Synthetics (Board)
Matt Marks – DCL Mooring & Rigging
Mike Peters – Horizon Cable (Board)
Scott Postelwait – Industrial Splicing (Board)
Liz Shelton – Etched

Thanasis Varnava, Cortland
Tony Mazzella, Mazzella
Bob Jasany, WSTDA Liaison
Michael Benavage, WRTB Liaison

1. Call to Order

- Chairman Klein called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm, January 28, 2026
- Introductions

2. Introduction of Guests

- Chairman Klein welcomed AWRF Directors, Past Presidents, Attendees, and Guests
- 12 voting members, quorum

3. Antitrust – Allen

- Presentation on Antitrust, risks for individuals and companies
- Ground rules dos and don'ts
- Klein – will slides be in minutes, Wagner yes.

4. Minutes - Klein

- Reviewed minutes from the July 2025 meeting in Detroit, MI
Additions, Revisions, Comments?
- Motion to accept minutes; Eicher, 2nd Doerge Minutes approved.

5. 2026 Budget Technical J. Gilbert / Klein

- Testing \$5k over quote
- Klein where was the \$7k didn't spend
- Gilbert – questions where money went? RPGs not printed.
- Spent \$72,946.79 vs \$79,000 budgeted
- Wagner what needs to be purchased in 2026? VanZant B30.26 when it is available B30.26 (Rigging Hardware) Gilbert – document is done Klein – waiting on approval from ANSI and then will be printed should be ready by summertime.
- Gilbert – B30.30 (Ropes) not up for renewal for 2 more years. Klein – B30.26 would be a good spend as it was last updated reaffirmed in 2020. VanZant – no stock
- Wagner – 2026 budget is same as last year \$79k. Gilbert – budget can be amended. WRTB WRUM distributed this year.
- Wagner – Moses any documents to purchase from CVSA? Moses – Not at this time. Wagner – important to have load securement documents in the tech binder. Reynolds- free download from government ton load securement regulations will send link – Wagner can we mass distribute? Reynolds – yes public domain Wagner additional documents? Reynolds – key document FMCSR (Federal Motor Carriers Safety Regulations. All cargo securement regulations.
- Boyko – Is B30.26 only purchase this year? Klein – Not the only one. Roundtable purchase of documents, what to purchase reaffirmations, Proposals for Testing. VanZant – listing in PDF of version in Tech Binder vs version available from ASME ex: B30.10 (Hooks) and BTH. B30.20 Klein – proposals for testing. Wagner – Board no money allocated for testing, nothing slated for testing. Can be changed and ask for updated to the budget. Money can be moved into the budget. Wagner – can change budget with Driscoll for Board approval. Klein – yes, please amend TC budget. Wagner – must be spent in 2026.
- Klein – Testing provides validation for membership. Table budget, vote tomorrow to propose to the Board.

6. Technical Presentation upcoming General Meeting – Vencel / Brown

- Technical Summit
 - Accomplished - new committee, created mission statement, sent presentation templates, keynote speaker
 - 13 presentations, 1 outstanding
 - Confirm room layout
 - Finalize presentation schedule
 - Review presentations, 2 people per presentation
 - Finalize presentation schedule
 - Slingmakers article, success of Tech Summit
 - Proposal of presentation schedule – DRAFT
 - Keynote Mastering Below the Hook Devices, Nunley and Albertson 8:45-9:45am
 - 2 room lay out
 - 30 min presentation, 10 min transition open for discussion.
 - 2 presentations at the same time, different topics, no repeats
 - Start 10am, end 4pm
 - Tech Summit - Wednesday, PIE is Tuesday
 - Wagner – presenters published
 - Klein - in Slingmakers? Wagner yes. February 13th cut-off. Could print success of last TS.
 - Boeckman – room monitors? Klein – helps keep rolling when presentation is over for questions, Vencel to discuss with SC.
 - Searle – recording? Wagner – can be added – not budgeted right now -will get with AV Brown - should be a Board vote. Klein – present to the Board thinks it is a good idea. Searle – snippets for marketing of the presentations. Brown – schedule is a challenge. Rigging shops can only see half of presentations. Recording is good.
 - Searle – track data on hits for next year if beneficial. Wagner – approx. \$7500 for 3 cameras and editing.
 - Klein – have we learned from the 1st one? Vencel – Simplify the day. Condense to 2 rooms, little conflict attending topics. Klein - enough room? Wagner – yes. Boyko – how long? Vencel - 20 be in Slingmakers Klein – didn't realize time/ days changed Wagner – Board move to change schedule opening reception Monday, Golf Monday, Arrival PIE Tuesday, Wednesday Tech Summit Thursday – Pickleball and potential tour. Hawaii – Sunday to Wednesday, depends on hotel. Almost sold out of booths. Maybe able to open earlier for set-up. Boyko – day changes only PIE or regular meetings? –Boyko – Monday -Thursday takes a lot out of rigging shops to be gone that long. Klein – post and remind of the updated days/times have changed. Moses – Board always have conflict some do not want to be away from family, rigging shops
 - Klein – nothing for Technical Committee to do? Wagner – no. Ferchen – gap analysis – drive content next one coming soon. Need content. Where is the gap who can fill in the gap. Wagner – potentially adding other training, wanted to keep more technical. Brown – a lot of content. Wagner – need technical content for the fall meeting in Hawaii.

- Wagner – Fall 2026 Klein who do we have so far? Searle – Technical Summit booth at the PIE? Outline to drive interest. Potential presenters, FAQs. Get more people involved. Wagner – close to the AWRP booth. Booth mock-up. Klein – manpower Vencel – covered through SC. Wagner – add to TC budget. Wagner – one keynote only one hour. Singular presentations 1 hour or panel (2 hours). 8am to noon each day. Need four. Mason volunteered. Boyko – speaker (Mammoet) looking to present at AWRP, same as SC&R (modified) Wagner – Hawaii expensive, in-house speakers would be best. Buschmann – attendees changing, maybe a mini 101 – wire rope for those that don't know wire rope, marketing Klein – one hour?, Buschmann – no 30 to 45 minutes. Klein – technical 30 minutes is long enough Klein – M.Chant title of presentation? Chant – Test Bed Guarding can be one-hour Buschmann – 30 minutes Wire Rope Building Blocks Doerge – NACM can do a presentation. Wagner – to Reynolds – Chain Fundamentals 30 mins only basic building blocks, Searle - how chain is manufactured. Reynolds can do. Boeckman – likes idea, how to market Wagner – pay attention to crowd because it is Hawaii. Get desired audience? Klein – 3 ideas Basic Building Blocks of core products Jones – play on the history from 50 years ago and how it is changed? Wagner – wire rope too Klein – a lot of history. van der Zalm – different applications, Jones – what was lifted in 1976 vs 2026 and why. Eicher – chain grade went from 80 to now 100. Klein – Shackles (van der Zalm), M.Chant Test Bed, Building Block WR, Chain Brown - Testing programs since beginning Wagner – read list of potential presentation topics
- Fall Presentations:
 - Test Bed Guarding
 - Building Blocks
 - Wire Rope Fundamentals
 - Chain Fundamentals
 - Shackles variations over time
 - Summary of Testing (who, what when, why, outcomes), data available from AWRP
- Klein – build program Test Bed / Testing and Building Blocks/Shackle Wagner – will work on program with Paul Foret (Programs Chair), Klein – add me as well.
- Moses – CVSA files from Barry? Wagner- have files and getting move from Brenda.
- Klein – take advantage of 50-year history.

7. SC Chairs/Rosters – B. Cushman

- Cushman reviewed the roster listing.
- Praised and thanked Committee for filled Chair and Vice Chair seats on each Sub-Committee
- Noting to report
- Klein any SC need more members? Different Vice Chairs
- Eicher -BTH not very robust Anyone interested? Add Troy Raines and Steven Boyko, can Brandon be on the SC from same company? Gilbert – Yes on the committee. Wagner – can be a member of SC, discussion needed at Chair/VC appointments.
- Klein asked for roster to be reviewed / initial by each Chair/VC for edits. Return to VanZant.
- Wagner – member management sign-in there will be an info-hub. Can view roster, available in March.

8. ASME Report – Klein / Gilbert

- Gilbert – B30.19 Cableways Already commented on B30.9, B30.30 going through what was relevant to AWRP members 5-year cycle. B30.19 Cableways – Hoover Dam permanent, interesting application. Boeckman – ISO/CEN TC-96 we should do something similar, TC1-68 could give a report. ASME B30 committee interested in ISO.
- Klein – to Eicher any changes for ASME? Eicher - last one published 2023 for ASME, Gilbert - B30.20 and BTH-1?
- Klein – B30.26 Chair that committee - a) inclusion of crane blocks into rigging hardware, standard revised to: Crane & rigging hardware will be discussed b) including the energy absorption insulated link, c) quick disconnect carabiners used in load securement. Jabben – anything to discuss? Klein – nothing until 2025 version. Must be uniform starts with B30.5 (mobile cranes), Buschmann – don't mix crane blocks and rigging hardware – own ASME document. Riggers training different than inspecting cranes blocks. Boeckman – bounced where it should go B30.26 or 10, recommend Hooks and Crane Blocks agrees with Buschmann, other option? created from

detachable rigging gear. Hughes – dealing with it on B30.10 (Hooks) sent to B30.26, and it was sent back to B30.10 Klein - hopes for clear direction by end of year, Eicher - soft shackles in B30.26? Klein – will be in B30.9-2025, true difference of soft shackles doesn't meet criteria.

9. Technical Committee Binders – B. Cushman

- Gilbert – recommended SC go through and remove or add publications. Cushman – vote to remove/add? Gilbert Yes.
- Klein – put in 2026 budget B30.9 Slings buy 2025 version

10. Subcommittee Reports

- Web Sling & Round Sling – Jasany/Jimenez**
- Klein - Sub-Committee Chairs not in attendance, please review report.
- Sling shrinkage study
- LeBlanc- on committee, 5 members, gave review, combo polyester and nylon (1-ply, 2-ply) different lengths, times – 1 month, 3months, 9months, 12months next 60 days, some shrinking, nylon more than polyester, all results go to Jasany.
- Klein - when complete the 12-month time frame LeBlanc - in the next 2 months. Klein – Jasany from AWRP SC or WSTDA? LeBlanc - AWRP
- Chain & Chain Slings – Doerge / Searle**
- Temperature Chain Testing completed
- Working on Chain Embossing Identification project – template emailed back by November and December in NACM then additional manufactures. Reminder to NACM members. Goal to be finished by July meeting. Wagner – NACM meeting in Spring will push them. Buschmann – done by Mazzella Doerge – yes, updating Ferchen – outside of NACM? Doerge -Yes asking NACM first. Klein – high temp testing data any comments from NACM, Wagner- no. Klein – pushback about data? Wagner- no. On agenda for spring. Boeckman – to Doerge anyone can be on the list? Doerge – it was suggested to add additional companies to the list. Can't limit to only AWRP member companies. Boyko – all grade of chain? Doerge - yes
- Testing – Boyko / Mullis**
- No changes in SC roster
- Fall meeting Charlotte Result of Chain Temp results
- Did not accomplish – article for Slingmakers.
- Final report from TNT for archives soon.
- No projects for SC
- Cordage/Cordage Ropes – Richardson / Varnava**
- No report
- Wire Rope and Wire Rope Sling – Klein/Benavage**
- No changes to Sub Committee list. Will leave Pellow. Add Jill Reeves/ARG
- Test matrix to Boyko testing for 6x8x26 compacted/swaged turnback eye, Boyko to get pricing on assemblies. Only turnback eyes, open swaged sockets, closed swaged sockets
- Open item – Spooling RPG, T Mazzella suggested.
- Goals to accomplish Spelter Socket RPG – final stages, discuss final phase with pictures to AWRP office.
- Boeckman – when does the whole TC get to review? Klein - #11 agenda go through on Thursday. Buschmann created first outline. Request from sub-committee. Will send to VanZant.
- Klein - Slingmaker article
- Klein -Questions, comments, concerns – request from M.Mazzella on wire rope grommets and efficiencies and testing. WRTB charts built from data,, went to Colorado School of Mines, confusing Couldn't get information out of the portal. Could Lisa Dunn write an article? Tutorial? Need access to data. Ferchen – testing how to get on the list? Klein - Start with the Sub Committee. Ferchen – new teacup/ thimble wire rope fittings – teacup wire rope swage fittings - can tech committee testing take on? Klein – yes. Driscoll – cross work with pre-cast manufacturer, concrete.
- Below-the-Hook – Eicher / Scolaro**
- No change in members
- Task from last year RPG – Detroit title and wording postponed until Jan meeting
- Review edit from 2024 will update
- Disclaimer – common set of verbiage. Klein - have it. Scolaro some changes to illustrations.
- Klein – internally set on RPG policy try to stay on 5-year review with what is being done.
- Slingmaker article – standards

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- Buschmann – we have an RPG policy, last page definition of practice or guideline. Only done once in history. Never asked membership, became a guideline. Terms mutually exclusive. Confusing to membership. Klein – Tech Committee voted to make all documents Recommended Practices and Guidelines due to inconsistencies. Buschmann – Practice or Guideline, practice asked input from membership, guideline does not. Boyko – by-laws say Practice & Guideline definition on last page. Boeckman – not clear Buschmann – last page. Wagner – legal counsel was present for the vote, no opposition. Allen – what is the significance between the distinction of words? Boeckman – Chairman make changes and resolve practices and guidelines later. Klein – Aluminum Turnbacks voted in by membership at general meeting Buschmann – didn't ask the membership what they were doing, asked for approval, not reply of what they were doing. Klein – if we asked the membership, never be finished Buschmann – ask with quality survey answered. Wagner – isn't the Tech Committee representation of the membership? Buschmann – 2019 survey answer majority of sling shops, survey to get majority of answers. Boeckman – bylaws do not say we have to do survey. Boyko – read RPG Policy definitions of Practices and Guidelines.
- Eicher – proposes to move forward with the Recommended Guideline for Proof Testing Procedures for Lifting Magnets submit as is, had input from 4 or 5 other magnet companies, might be able to use Practices and Guidelines, if acceptable, present as is, with more discussion. Klein – leave title as is. Wagner – updates in office, can be changed. Reprinting will be new title. Buschmann – please include what is a recommended practice and what is a recommended guideline. Allen – good discussion, transparent the process, description of the process, not a big difference in terminology legally. Wagner – disclaimer on first page, can rework, disclaimer shown on screen. Eicher – asked Wagner to send latest document. Eicher – will title go back to RPG Wagner – yes, voted previously. Disclaimer topic specific. Wagner – Definition of practice as adopted by the tech committee, 2 sentences included in pre-amb. Wagner – will send pre-amb to Allen. Klein – Committee voted titles would be uniform to Recommended Practices and Guidelines. Scope defines it. Not changing course of action. Klein – everyone aware of by-laws, try to stay on 5-year renewal cycle.
- Scolaro – Slingmakers article European Standards, article would be narrow German focus to a specific type of product depending on content.
- **Load Securement – Reynolds / Moses**
- Requested information from WRTB, NACM and Cordage Institute, WSTDA best use of their product. Will follow-up in 30 days. Cordage Institute acknowledge receipt and working on it. Klein – any support needed for responses? Reynolds – yes, WRTB Klein – will reach out to Kimberly for WRTB, Eric Stahl, WRTB President (Wirerope Works). Jeff at NACM. Reynolds – appreciates the help.
- **Blocks & Tackle – Jabben / Eertman**
- Jabben – nothing completed still crane block inspection RPG. A lot to be done basic guidelines for assembly/disassembly. Additional info re inspection and maintenance. What manufacturers expect? Jabben/Eertman will discuss at ConEXPO. No solid date ASME to add Crane block – need more detail. Can't have conflicting information. Talk to crane dealers/users, Canadian group because of Z150, 5-year tear down.
- Article for Slingmaker done winter edition. Hopeful for article on the RPG later this year.
- Boeckman – chicken or egg idea written by ASME? Need a B30 for crane blocks? Can't lump all cranes, so catch all. Discussion regarding cranes. Buschmann – history of RPG, know audience,, wording. Klein – audience AWRP members operator on shop floor, customer service rep.
- **Sling, Fittings, Terminations and Other Rigging Hardware –van der Zalm / Vencl (Day 2)**
- van der Zalm Chair, Vencl is now VC
- Read committee
- Working on Flemish eye RPG
- Read names of people helping with draft RPG
- Outline of RPG
- Not aware of standard template – same of Aluminum Turnback
- Template shown on screen
- Vencl to go through the list
- van der Zalm combine work ISO and TC 111

- Boeckman – DEN components to chain grade 10 product almost completed.
- Buschmann – can title be included on DIN report? van der Zalm yes.
- Klein – changes in machine directory, van der Zalm – January 2027 changing to regulation.
- Reviewed template on screen
- Reorganize current RPG outline
- Reviewed RPG outline
- Buschmann – who SC? van der Zalm read SC roster, additional help from Bob Cushman, Carey Hanson/Bishop, Kevin Giles / Hercules, van der Zalm to include Buschmann.
- Boeckman – know audience, enough info to make Flemish eye slings, not too deep.
- Klein – inspection, most common question, *"once the sling is formed and the sleeve is pressed what amount of gap is acceptable between the eyes?"*
- Buschmann - extra help from Mazzella to be included
- Klein – review before editing, good work
- Buschmann – EN standards for Flemish eyes Boeckman - will include certain ropes if using others reference EN standards.
- Klein – timeline? van der Zalm summer meeting? Boeckman – with photos and all? van der Zalm – yes will attempt.
- Beymer – any type of video to go along with this? Users won't read the standards. Klein – Texas Tuck video properly make Flemish eye splice. van der Zalm – QR code in document if video made.
- Boeckman – used for training – sign off / record on training. Cushman – mention flemishing compact rope, swaged rope with two-piece Flemish eyes with tails. Will become more popular. Stronger sling. Buschmann – good idea for signature on each page – each company may have own training process document. Have to be careful. van der Zalm – how handled in Swager Guide? new hire has to sign Buschmann – signature ties to the OSHA letter. Want to adhere to OSHA letter van der Zalm – doesn't matter where information comes from Buschmann – aired concern. Boeckman – signature not in other RPGs Buschmann – only Swager because of OSHA.
- **Mechanical & Non-Electric Hoists – M. Mazzella / T. Mazzella**
- No report
- **Risk Management – M. Chant / Harris**
- Chant. Rehash discussion from earlier presentation
- Reviewed Test Plan designed test pictures, ordered parts end of Feb -March videos & pictures
- Presentation for Fall 2026
- **Technical Communications – Searle / Harris**
- No report
- Article for Slingmakers
- Different ideas – interviewing technical people how got into it? passion

4:45pm Motion to adjourn for the day - Boyko 2nd Jabben, Motion passed

DAY 2 – opened at 8:05am a moment of recognition for Barry Epperson

11. Quality Surveys & RP&G Reviews – Klein

• RP & G

- Sidebar about the name / title regarding Recommended Practice and Guideline. Referenced the Quality Survey. Document is the same for the user. Industry it doesn't make a difference. Buschmann – should distinguish. Klein – distinguish between cited RPG policy industry experience. Eicher – recommends presents updates have Klein – leave title? Wagner – can change the titles back to whatever you want. Allen – commented not a big difference on the terminology. Wagner – disclaimer on 1st page in each one. Buschmann – logical of information. Possible re-editing of all wording. Wagner – we will send file – Wagner what is the title. Wagner to send preamble to Allen.
- Klein titles voted to all be the same.

• Swager / Cushman

- Klein- what are the differences between the two documents? Buschmann – ask swager manufacturers to be asked to review document (Sahm, ESCO, Talurit, verope, Strider~Resource) opportunity agree or not. Only one from swaging community included concerning.
- Cushman and Buschmann to work together

- Klein – only include AWRF members (Sahm, Talurit, Chant, ESCO, Wirop)
- Boyko – RPGs overviews of general set of rules, manufacturers have own safety points in their manuals. Thinks taking all manufacturers info in RPG is getting in the weeds. For discussion – better to adhere to manufacturer's specifications?
- Buschmann – Talurit gives a copy of Swager Safety guide to every customer, worldwide
- Cushman – okay with sending document to other swager manufacturers, list the company names in the document? Buschmann – no names for RPG best due diligence of all the guys in the industry. Klein – will reach out to AWRF members, no blessing or approval. General document. Summary: major changes
- Buschmann -Not that many changes. Affirm from swager manufacturers to not miss anything. Ask opinion.
- Boyko – add Loos & Co.? Cushman – make a different realm Boyko – pneumatic and hydraulic bench, smaller. Boyko – they are a member
- Hughes – not a safety standard, not a manufacturing standard, a manufacturing standard is a guideline that users must abide. Buschmann – restated swager manufacturer members must be asked.
- Boeckman – to Cushman is document ready to be approved with the comments received and reach out to the five manufacturers? What needs to happen?
- Cushman – agree manufacturers can review document. Vote as it stands. Buschmann – can't object to it if it's approved. Show we have asked members and industry experts
- Klein – step back, sent to 5 swager manufacturers 6-weeks to review comments, virtual meeting SC chairs, review, vote and present to the Board in July. Industry manufacturers requirements. Cushman – agrees.
- Buschmann – General Warnings
 - Page 6 – 2019 images
 - Page 9 – don't overload the dies change WLL to MSP Maximum Swager Pressure Boeckman – disagrees Cushman – correct no WLL on dies, Boeckman – what do swagers say? Buschman – pressure, Boeckman – some say WLL, what do dies say? Buschmann – PSI or MP
 - Boeckman – asked Chant opinion, most shops leave machine at max pressure for everything – wear out and break dies. Solve – not dial set-point, choose size and computer, harder to swager with too much pressure.
 - Legal statement and Work Zone
 - Page 11 missing a graphic
 - Page 14 missing graphic
 - Page 18 OSHA looking for the word safety. Klein – bylaws are for Recommended Practices and Guidelines, word safety not in the bylaws. Previous discussion with Epperson reason Bob took on task, part of intent.
 - van der Zalm are hard hats required? Page 7 shows hard hat, page 6 employees no hard hat, page 8 graphic with hard hat. Klein – shop/site specific
 - Boyko graphic with hands near swager
- **Spelter Socket / Klein**
 - Klein- Final format not in template format, comments re: zinc, resin, need graphic approval from WRTB, Figure 3 ISO specs warnings? Discrepancy how to put on rope when to broom, should be gray in that area socket on safely. Logical way of doing things Buschmann fig 8 – change not the recommended practice.
 - Klein proof loading, inspection criteria, used shall recommended to proof load a socket.
 - Klein template format schematics get from rigging shops submit photos circulate back to involved and industry people. Buschmann – requirement how far the socket has to be that the rope is going straight to the socket? Klein – no, not in it Buschmann – why not? Strict recommendation German DIN standards should not bend wire from the socket – certain distance Klein – 30 rope diameter Buschmann - should be in standard. Alignment of rope is straight. 50% completed. Can use images as placeholders until finalized photos.
- **Klein – new RPG's:**
 - Spooling Klein important still unfinished

• Accreditation Program

- Ferchen – Accredited 10 members - campaign with limited success
- Klein – Board responsibility 7 years without survey, 144 question 50% wire rope, not much focus on synthetic rope or flat web. Align nomenclature. Removed some of the questions. Tagging / Recordkeeping in General section. Sent to Brian Dewey. Anyone filled out survey?
- Buschmann – familiar with survey, get original spreadsheet from Gilbert? Klein – yes.
- Buschmann – align all questions how industry progress changes hard to align with original questions. Already changed once before – for questions to say the same. Try to maintain the same question structure. Took out "do you use zinc or synthetic compound socketing" question why? Should stay. Asked to relabel question s/b in there because other countries
- Klein - didn't take out moved from General now in Chain section. Buschmann – many discussions on this topic.
- Klein – how many times sent survey? Different answers? Buschmann – 3 times different answers, yes. Return of survey – goal to make sling shop RPG how to run a sling shops. Klein – other intent (2019) 33% Buschmann – no one happy Klein – less questions more return rate? Buschmann – no how to run a sling shop. Gilbert – more responses in 2019 than previously. Klein – Dewey's committee responsibility. Buschmann – technology changing. Original spreadsheet comments? Survey part of RPG sling shop.

12 Slingmakers Articles - Klein

- **2025 each committee assigned an article.**
 - Wagner read committees needed reports
 - Wagner read ideas for the 50-year through the decades Klein – can Wagner distribute? Yes
- **Issue #188 – DUE 2/13**
 - Technical Committee Chair -
 - Sub-Committee Update – Web Sling & Round Sling – Bob Jasany
 - Sub-Committee Update – Mechanical & Non-Electric Hoists – Tony/Matt Mazzella
 - Sub-Committee Update – Technical Communications – Melissa Searle
 - Technical Committee Minutes Summary – Tim Klein
- **Issue #189 – DUE 5/15**
 - Technical Committee Chair -
 - Sub-Committee Update – Wire Rope & Wire Rope Slings – Tim Klein
 - Sub-Committee Update – Load Securement – Rondey Reynolds
 - Sub-Committee Update – Testing – Steven Boyko
- **Issue #190 – DUE 8/7**
 - Technical Committee Chair -
 - Sub-Committee Update – Chain & Chain Slings – Jeff Doerge
 - Sub-Committee Update – Risk Management -Mason Chant
 - Sub-Committee Update – Below the Hook – Tom Eicher
- **Issue #191 – DUE 11/6**
 - Technical Committee Chair -
 - Sub-Committee Update - Blocks, Tackle & Other Fittings – Curt Jabben
 - Sub-Committee Update - Sling Fittings & ASME B30.26 – Anton van der Zalm
 - Sub-Committee Update - Cordage & Cordage Institute – Chris Richardson

13. WSTDA Report – Jasany

- Read report submitted
- WSTDA WS-1 out for public comment
- T-4 Synthetic Webbing for Tie-downs
- T-5 Interior Van Securement

14. WRTB – Benavage

- No report

15. Old/New Business - Klein

16. Date and place of next TC meeting - Klein

Chattanooga, TN – July 22 – 23, 2026

Adjourn 10:00am

- Motion to Adjourn 10:00am Boeckman, 2nd Boyko - Motion Passed.



2026

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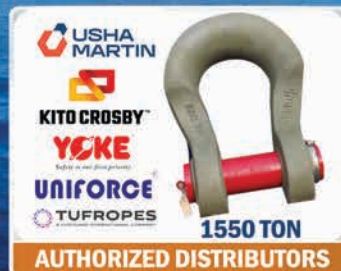
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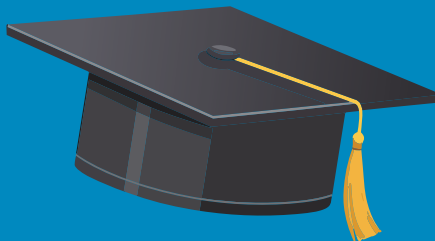
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T1: Braden A., Frank A., Rasmus C., and Mike S. (67)

3rd Place: Brian A., Ian A., Joe S., and Arne N. (68)

Men's Longest Drive #3 - Justin Brown

Men's Closest to the Pin #5 - Robb Parkinson

Men's Closest to the Pin #12 - Justin Perry

Women's Closest to the Pin #7 - Geraldine Brown

Women's Longest Drive - Hannah Yoder



Slingmakers

44

2026



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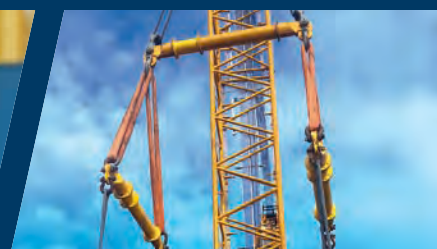
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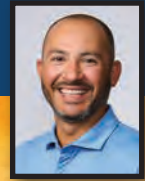
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PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Paul Foret
Arabi Sling & Rigging
Programs Committee Chair



Our recent meeting in Houston was another great success and continued the strong momentum we have built over the past several years. One of the most rewarding parts of these events is seeing our members come together to learn, connect, and share ideas. We received a great deal of positive feedback from attendees, and I would like to sincerely thank our speakers, Technical Committee members, and everyone who helped make the meeting both informative and enjoyable.

As we look ahead to future meetings, the Programs Committee is always searching for engaging speakers and timely topics that reflect the evolving needs of our industry. Innovation, leadership development, emerging technologies, safety, and unique project experiences are just a few of the subjects we are eager to explore. If you are interested in speaking or know someone who would be a valuable addition to our program lineup, we would love to hear from you.

This Fall, we are excited to gather in Maui for our 50 Year Anniversary in what promises to be another outstanding meeting. Golf will be held at the beautiful

Maui Nui Golf Club, located just a few miles from the hotel. Tuesday evening's gala will embrace the spirit of the islands with a festive Luau theme and on Wednesday, attendees can choose between guided Hike Maui excursions, with both four-hour and six-hour options available.

We are especially pleased to welcome Mark Mathews as not only our keynote speaker, but he will also host our Emerging Leaders Brunch & Learn session, which continues to be a meaningful opportunity for rising professionals in our industry.

Our goal with every meeting is simple: to provide valuable industry insights, keep members informed about the latest developments shaping our business, and create memorable experiences that strengthen the relationships within our association.

As always, we welcome your ideas and feedback. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the AWRP Board of Directors with suggestions on how we can continue enhancing your experience.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Maui!

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AWRF Technical Committee Chairman

Wire Rope and Wire Rope Sling Sub-Committee Report

The Wire Rope and Wire Rope Subcommittee's mission is to provide product knowledge through investigation, standards, and testing of both new and existing domestic and foreign products. The subcommittee members are focused on the safe usage of the products and provide oversight and information regarding the applicable safety standards required by the industry. The current projects in the subcommittee to create a new RP&G document for the Spelter Socketing of wire rope with both molten metal and resin compounds. The subcommittee also has the responsibility of maintaining the existing RP&G documents for sling shops and applicable components. This includes the major rework of the Swager Safety Guide document focusing on the fact the document is a RP&G for swager usage. In addition, the committee is currently preparing a test plan to determine the efficiency of swaged sockets on swaged wire rope. Several of the subcommittee members currently serve on both domestic and international Safety and standard committee to review and advise on new or amended standards involving wire rope and lifting components that may benefit the AWRF membership.

1. Committee Members

- a. Timothy Klein – Chair
- b. Mike Benavage – Vice Chair
- c. Justin Brown
- d. Bob Cushman
- e. Jeff Gilbert
- f. Johan Kapp
- g. Matt Marks
- h. Matt Mazzella
- i. Jill Reeves
- j. Chris Richardson
- k. Jason Ruby
- l. Brett Woodland

The Subcommittee requests that anyone interested in becoming involved in the Wire Rope Sub-Committee please reach out to any AWRF Team member.



Passing Over The Wire Rope Bridge

Daniel James Ulven, 53, passed away unexpectedly on May 21st, 2026.

He was born May 9th, 1973, in Silverton, OR, to Diane & Andy Ulven. He was one of three brothers. Growing up in Silverton, Dan spent much of his youth outdoors with family and friends, especially at the motocross track, where countless weekends were spent racing and building lifelong friendships.

Dan went into the family business, The Ulven Companies, at the age of 16 and worked in a variety of roles over the years, learning every aspect of the company from the ground up. He became sole owner in 2022 and took great pride not only in the business itself, but in the people who made it what it was. He deeply valued the relationships he built

with employees, customers, and industry partners, and considered many of them close friends.

He is survived by his wife, Adrian, four children, Madison (Darren), Drake (Kyleigh), Talon, and Keegan, 5 grandchildren, father Andy, and brother Mike (Whitney). He was preceded in death by his mother, Diane, and brother Darrin. Whether through a quick phone call, an unexpected visit, or simply remembering the small details of someone's life, Dan had a way of making people feel genuinely cared for.

Dan found his greatest joy in spending time with his family. He had an uncommon ability to connect deeply with others and stay in touch with a broad network. Though his life was far too short at 53 years, he filled those years with purpose,

adventure, laughter, and meaningful relationships, always making time for others. No matter how full life became, he always found time for a phone call, a visit, or a conversation.

Dan loved cooking, traveling, attending his kids' sporting events, four-wheeler rides with his grandkids, and capturing every moment on camera, preserving memories that his family will treasure for years to come. In recent months, he especially enjoyed the simple peace of watching the hummingbirds on the back porch with Adrian.

He leaves behind a legacy of loving his family fiercely, making the most of each day, creating time for fun and adventure, serving others generously, and faithfully walking with the Lord.

Where Women Are Valued: Kelly Jones at Holland Nameplate



Kelly Jones has built her career at Holland Nameplate, a Kansas City, Missouri, manufacturer where women are valued across roles—from the production floor to the sales team. Ten of the company's 30 employees are women working in hands-on production roles, a notable contrast in the rigging industry.

Within that culture of respect, inclusion, and opportunity, Jones has grown her career over the past 14 years. At Holland Nameplate, employees are often hired through referrals and cross-trained across multiple roles.

"Everyone is treated equally, and everyone has a voice," says Jones, a sales executive.

That culture extends throughout the company. Founded in 1916, Holland Nameplate manufactures capacity tags and warning labels used on chain and wire rope. Each tag displays critical information—including lifting capacity, serial numbers, and inspection dates—that crews rely on for safe operations. Though small, these components play an essential role in the lifting and rigging industry, serving more than 1,000 customers worldwide.

Jones's own path into the industry reflects that same openness to opportunity.

Finding Her Path at Holland Nameplate

When she was 23, Jones decided she wanted to try something different. She had been working for her father, but he was selling his company. She met the owner of Holland through college friends and found out the company was seeking a sales coordinator. She took the position and has grown in her role over the past 14 years.

With three children at home, Jones limits travel to one week a month. She relies on a supportive husband and nearby family, allowing her to stay active in the field.

After joining the firm, Jones inherited legacy accounts, many of which were in the lifting and rigging industry. She has managed some of these relationships for more than 15 years. "You get to know their families; it becomes more than business," she says.

In her role as sales executive, Jones emphasizes that communication is key. She needs to connect with all kinds of individuals, from CEOs to product workers.

At Holland, the company's owner sits in the same room as the other non-production staff. In manufacturing, Jones emphasizes that "you have to be able to sell it and know it. You also have to respect the people who are actually making it."

And underlying all of her sales is an emphasis on relationship building and trust. "You're producing something that people rely on for safety," she says.

At Holland, Jones collaborates with a five-person sales team. They get together several times a week. She also inspects projects on the production floor to stay current on new products and processes.

Industry Involvement Through AWRF

Jones appreciates the industry knowledge she's gained through AWRF. She now serves on the Board of Directors as one of two women on the board. She is also a member of the Preservation Committee, where she helps support the association's efforts to document and share its history.

"This committee works great for me because I am a history major," she adds.

At AWRF events, Jones connects with customers and maintains long-term relationships.

When she first joined Holland, one of her biggest challenges was learning about the industry. Through her involvement with AWRF, Jones deepened her technical knowledge of wire rope, rigging applications, and industry trends. She uses these insights to better serve her customers.

Jones notes that Celena Moses, Royal Van Beest, is the current AWRF President. Other women serve on the Technical Committee. "There's a long line of women who have been instrumental in making AWRF what it is," she adds.

Looking Ahead in the Industry

During her years at Holland, Jones has seen a lot of buyouts and consolidations of companies within the industry. Through her work at AWRF, she's observed that many older owners are getting ready to retire, while younger association members are stepping up to help lead.

Jones values the long-term relationships she has built with customers, colleagues, and others in the industry. "Everybody's just kind of become family," she says. "That's satisfying for me."

Jones encourages the younger generation to consider a career in manufacturing. "There are lots of opportunities there," she says.

Holland is doing its part to encourage involvement in manufacturing. Every Tuesday, elementary school children visit the plant. They get to screen print their own nameplate. The company also has an internship program for high school students.

After 14 years at Holland Nameplate, Jones has built more than a career—she's built a network of relationships spanning customers, colleagues, and the broader rigging community. Her story reflects a larger truth about manufacturing: opportunity often begins when people are willing to step into roles others might overlook.



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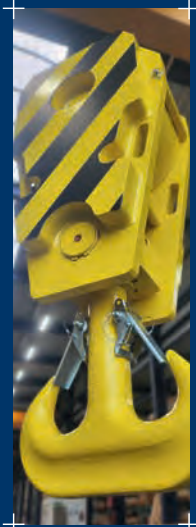
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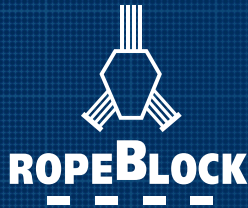
- 1st Place: Patrick Striebel & Tom Hudgins
- 2nd Place: Melissa Searle & Lalit Kumar
- 3rd Place: Sanjay Singh & Donnie Bordelon



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Ben-Mor Appoints Luke Vandercar

The team at Ben-Mor is proud to announce the appointment of Luke Vandercar as Director of Sales – USA. This is an important milestone in the continued expansion of Ben-Mor’s presence in the U.S. market.

Luke brings over 20 years of experience in the wire rope and cable assembly industries. Known for his technical expertise and customer-focused approach, he has built strong relationships across distribution, OEM, and industrial sectors. With a background in Mechanical Engineering, Luke brings a solutions-driven mindset that will help customers optimize lifting, rigging, and securement applications.

In his new role, Luke will focus on developing new markets while strengthening service and support for our existing U.S. customers. He will lead growth across the full range of Ben-Mor’s product offerings, including: Wire Rope & Cable Assemblies, Crane cable and Outrigger Pads, High Performance Round Slings, Rigging & Industrial Hardware, Lifting Slings, and Securement Solutions.

“Expanding our presence in the United States is a key part of Ben-Mor’s long-term growth strategy. Luke’s leadership, industry knowledge, and customer focus will help us strengthen relationships and accelerate our momentum across North America.”

– Melanie Frappier, CEO, Ben-Mor. Luke will operate in a hybrid role, working from the field, from home, and from our warehouse location in Bensenville, Illinois. This strategic positioning reinforces Ben-Mor’s commitment to improving service levels, inventory availability, and lead times throughout the United States.

The Ben-Mor objective is clear: to better serve current American partners while building strong new relationships across key markets.

Luke can be reached at 219-727-3020 or by email at lvandercar@ben-mor.com. We invite you to connect with him on LinkedIn.

Please join us in welcoming Luke to the Ben-Mor team. We look forward to growing together in the U.S. market.

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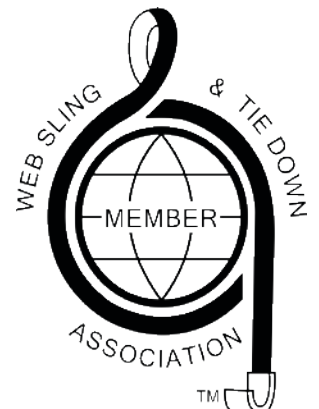
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Antitrust Do's and Don'ts for AWRF

Why antitrust compliance is critical for trade associations

"Experience has demonstrated that, whenever competitors come together, there is always a risk that they will engage in naked cartel-like behavior."

- DOJ Deputy Assistant AG Andrew Ferguson, Remarks at the Heritage Foundation (Jan. 23, 2018)

Trade associations "can be rife with opportunities for anticompetitive activity."

- U.S. Supreme Court in American Society of Mechanical Engineers v. Hydrolevel (1982)

Antitrust violations can lead to serious consequences for the association and its members.

- Naked agreements to fix prices or employee wages, allocate markets, or reduce output can be prosecuted criminally under federal law.
- The consequences of a criminal antitrust conviction can include jail time, significant monetary penalties, and debarment from federal contracting.
- Prevailing plaintiffs in civil antitrust cases are entitled to an award of treble damages and attorney's fees.
- All participants in an alleged antitrust conspiracy may be roped into the investigation or litigation. If liability is established, they will be jointly and severally liable for the entire amount of the judgment.
- Even if the defendants ultimately prevail, antitrust investigations and litigation can last for years, leading to significant business disruption, costly negative PR, and multi-million-dollar litigation expenses.

The Trump administration continues to bring criminal antitrust cases.

- Last month, a Maryland IT executive was indicted in Baltimore federal court for conspiring to rig bids for government IT contracts. Two co-conspirators pled guilty in late summer and fall of 2025. If convicted, the executive faces 20 years in prison on each conspiracy and wire fraud charge.
- "The defendants leveraged personal relationships to make corrupt, under the table deals that enriched themselves at the taxpayers' expense," said Special Agent in Charge Jimmy Paul of the FBI Baltimore Field Office. "The FBI and our partners will follow every investigative lead to ensure all those cheating the system are brought to justice."
- In November 2019, the Trump DOJ created the Procurement Collusion Strike Force (PCSF), a joint law enforcement effort to combat antitrust crimes and related fraudulent schemes that impact government procurement, grant and program funding at all levels of government — federal, state and local
- The first criminal wage fixing case was brought during the first Trump administration.
- Federal and state antitrust enforcers continue to investigate and bring claims that competing employers have conspired to reduce employee compensation and/or limit employee mobility through naked no-poach or non-solicit agreements.



Prohibited Conduct under the Antitrust Laws

- Agreements to fix prices or reduce output
- Market allocation agreements
- Bid rigging
- Wage fixing
- Naked employee no-poach agreements
- Improperly sharing competitively sensitive information with a competitor, including detailed confidential information about prices, costs, margins, competitive strategy, employee compensation.
- Group boycotts

Association activities that are likely permitted, but should be carefully vetted by counsel

- Standard setting initiatives
- Codes of conduct
- Best practices guidance
- Industry certification programs
- Industry data surveys based on the confidential information of any market
- participants
- Changes in membership criteria
- Changes to association bylaws
- Member expulsion or denial of a membership application
- Lobbying activities that relate to competitive dynamics in the industry

Antitrust Don'ts

- Don't discuss or disclose internal company information relating to prices, costs, margins, competitive strategy, employee compensation.
- Don't engage in private "side bar" discussions on any • of these topics.
- Don't discuss open business opportunities or RFPs at association functions, including your company's plans with respect to those opportunities.
 - Don't engage in any discussion that could be construed as an illegal antitrust
 - conspiracy.
 - Avoid making jokes about antitrust topics, which could easily be misconstrued.

Antitrust Dos

- Do immediately raise any questions or concerns related to antitrust in connection with any association activities.
- Do seek legal advice before engaging in any discussion that may be in a "gray" zone.
- Do err on the side of getting legal advice if in doubt. There are no bad
- questions—you likely aren't the only person in the room thinking the same thing.
- Do stop further discussion on any topic if a meeting participant raises antitrust concerns so that legal advice can be obtained.
- Do stick to the pre-approved meeting agenda and avoid raising new topics unless clearly permitted.
- Do engage in procompetitive activities like professional networking and education.



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How Benner's Diverse Experience Shapes His Path to Safety Leadership



Adam Benner grew up around wire rope. His grandfather was president of Alps Wire Rope Corporation, St. Charles, Illinois, and his dad and several uncles also worked for the company. Sometimes his mother would take Adam and his brothers to the shop, where they would walk through the warehouse and see the big press and reels of rope.

"That was really cool to see what my dad did," he recalls.

Early Exposure Sparks an Unexpected Career

But Adam's path into the industry wasn't direct. He studied automotive technology before realizing that working on cars wasn't the right fit. As he considered his next move, he joined his dad at Alps.

Before long, Adam became intrigued by the industry. Starting with hands-on work in fabrication, he learned how assemblies were made and how products came together. Over time, his role expanded to include customer service, IT, marketing, and operations.

"I just really liked wire rope," he says. "I kept asking questions and learning more."

This "jack-of-all-trades" experience gave him a deep understanding of both the technical and business sides of the industry. In his current role as quality specialist, he uses that knowledge to troubleshoot issues, identify root causes, and provide practical solutions that help customers extend the life of their wire rope products and improve safety.

A Broad Foundation Strengthens His Safety Focus

At the center of Benner's work is a focus on quality and safety.

In his role as a quality specialist, he reviews certifications, inspects ropes in the field, and helps ensure that proper procedures are followed throughout the shop and warehouse. When customers encounter issues—such as premature wear or unexpected performance problems—he works to identify the root cause and recommend solutions.

"We want to help support the customer in every facet, whether that's identifying an issue or helping them get more life out of the rope," he says.

That responsibility carries a larger purpose.

"You've got to keep those technical details on par so everybody gets to go home at the end of the day," he says.

Alps, a wholesale distributor of steel wire rope, is a joint venture of verope® and Kiswire LTD, two global leaders in advanced wire rope engineering. It maintains approximately 100,000 square feet of distribution and sales facilities at three locations nationwide.





Always Learning, Always Improving

While Benner grew up around the industry, he says one of the biggest surprises has been its depth and complexity.

"Every time I think I know all about rope, I find out that I don't," he says. "There's always more to learn."



That mindset has driven Benner's professional growth. Over the years, he has taken on new challenges—from helping relocate facilities to stepping into leadership roles as an assistant branch

manager and branch manager. Each experience has expanded his understanding of the business and strengthened his ability to adapt.



AWRF Expands His Knowledge

In recent years, his involvement with the Associated Wire Rope Fabricators (AWRF) has also played an important role in his development. Since attending his first event in 2019, Benner has used the organization to deepen his technical knowledge, learn industry best practices, and connect with peers.

"It's good knowing who to call," he says. "There are a lot of people in this industry willing to share their knowledge."

Making Technical Expertise Easier to Understand

Benner brings those insights back to his team, helping improve processes and training within the company. He is especially interested in refining how he trains others, focusing on ways to engage employees and make technical information easier to understand.

Looking ahead, he sees himself continuing to grow in that role—sharing knowledge and helping develop the next generation of professionals.

"I see myself training and mentoring the next wave," he says.

As he looks ahead, Benner is focused on continuing to build his technical expertise while helping others grow in the industry. He sees a future where he can train and mentor the next generation, sharing the knowledge he has gained and encouraging others to stay curious.

Promoting a Critical Industry

For those considering a career in lifting and rigging, his message is simple: the opportunities are there, even if they're not always visible at first.

"This industry is solid," he says. "It's not going anywhere. As long as there are structures to build, people will need what we do."





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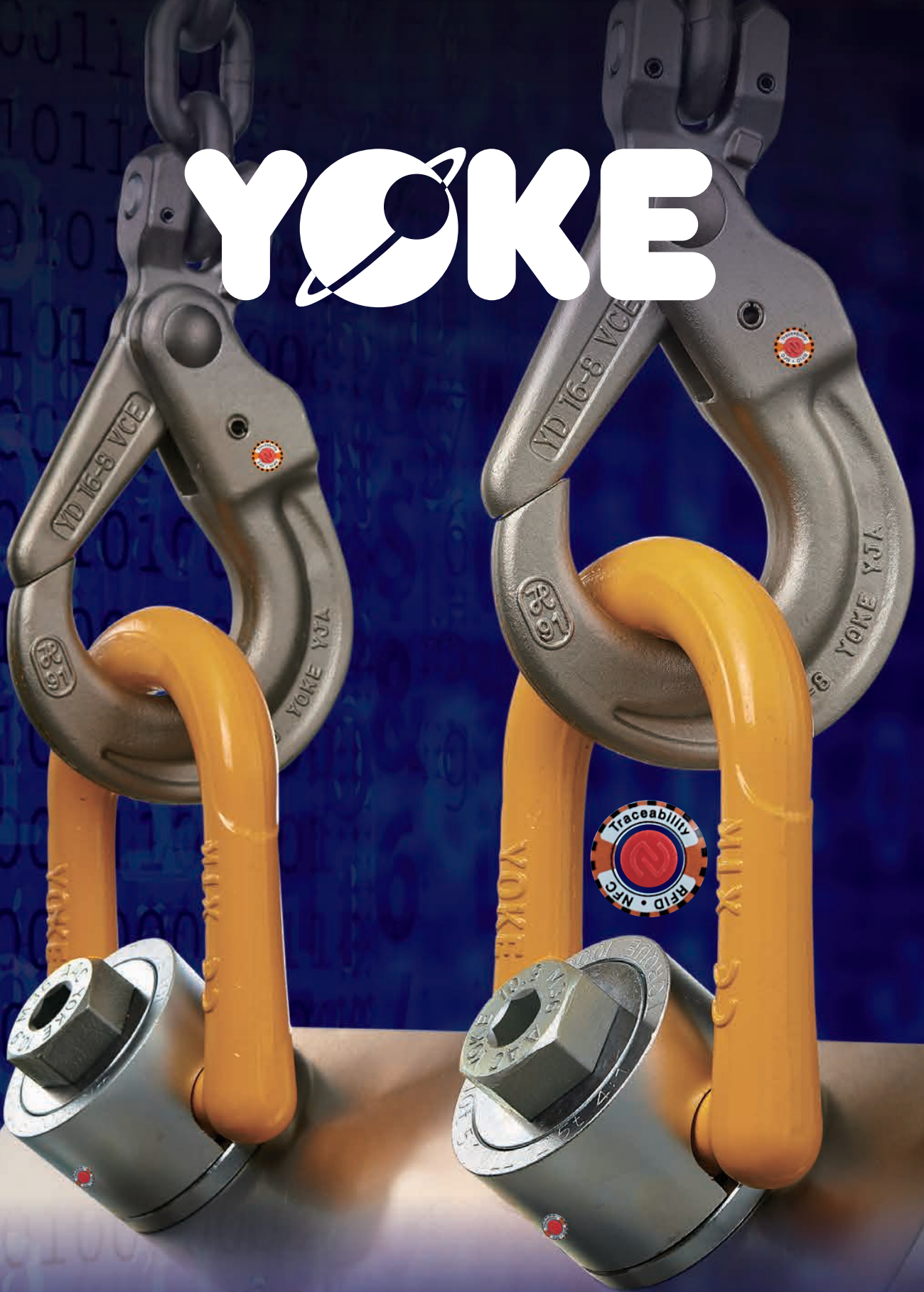
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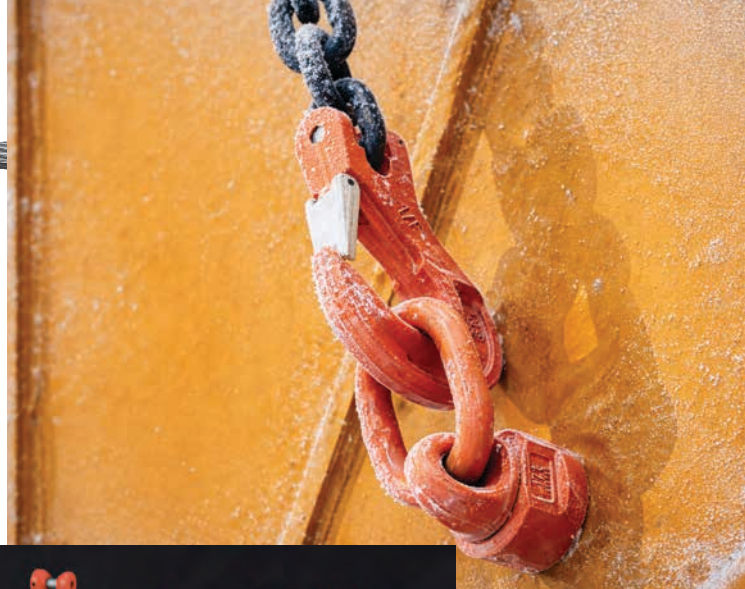
How Does Temperature Affect Steel Chains and Components?

Temperature significantly affects the performance and safety of steel chains and lifting components but is often overlooked compared with visible issues like wear or corrosion. Both high and low temperatures influence the mechanical properties of steel, affecting Working Load Limit (WLL), service life, and reliability. Manufacturer guidelines should always be followed when equipment is used outside normal conditions.

Alloy steel lifting chains and fittings, such as AMH's Gray Classic and CARTEC Grade 100 components, are heat-treated to achieve a balance of strength, hardness, and toughness. When exposed to high temperatures, steel gradually softens, reducing strength and hardness and requiring reductions in WLL. Prolonged exposure to excessive heat can also cause permanent metallurgical changes that cannot be reversed by cooling.

Industry standards, including ASME B30.9 and OSHA 1910.184, state that lifting components should not be used above 400 °F (204 °C) or below -40 °F (-40 °C) without reducing their WLL. Manufacturers should be consulted before using chain slings at or below -40 °F. Chain slings may still be used above 400 °F, but rated load reductions must be applied.

Some components are designed for extended temperature capability. AMH Gray Classic fittings can be used up to 720 °F without WLL reduction and remain suitable down to -40 °F. Drak Master Links and CARTEC Grade 100 fittings maintain full WLL between -40 °F and 400 °F. Above 400 °F, a 10% WLL reduction is recommended from 400 °F to 570 °F and 25% from 570 °F to 720 °F. Operations above 720 °F are generally prohibited due to the risk of severe material degradation. CARTEC hooks also feature a powder-coated



finish that changes color when exposed to excessive heat, providing a visual indication of overheating.

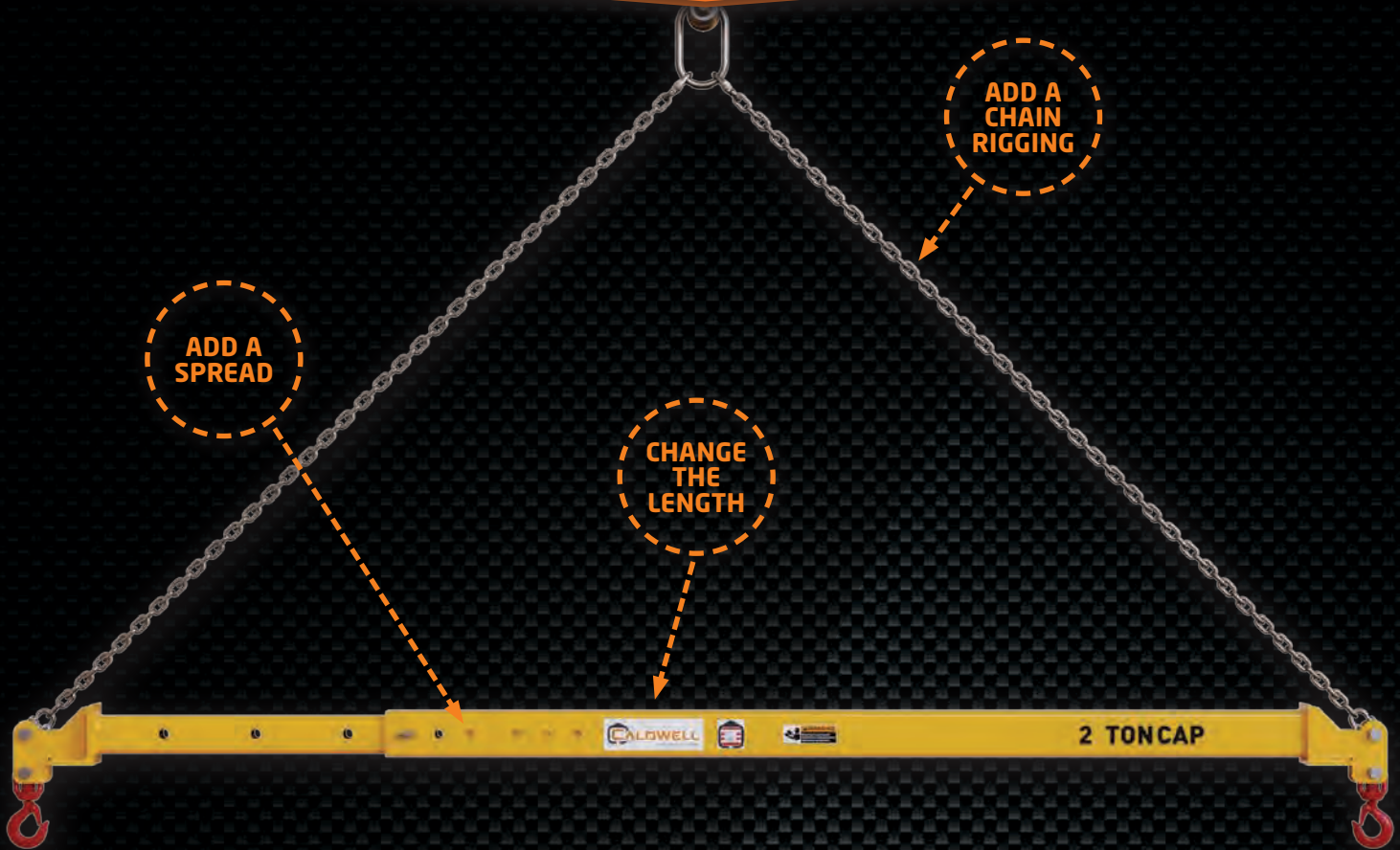
Cold environments present different challenges. Lower temperatures can increase steel strength but reduce ductility and increase the risk of brittle fracture, especially under shock loading. AMH chain and fittings perform reliably down to -40 °F; use below this temperature requires further evaluation.

Temperature effects are often invisible but cumulative. Following manufacturer guidelines and selecting high-quality lifting components helps ensure safe, reliable lifting operations. Whenever engaging in overhead lifting operations, always get professional advice from a lifting expert before starting the lift. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines and select high-quality products from a reliable supplier such as AMH.

"At AMH, we take pride in delivering reliable lifting solutions with a personal touch," said Peter Brettner, President of AMH. "When customers contact us, they speak directly with knowledgeable, service-driven representatives who understand their applications and respond quickly."

For more information, contact AMH at 877-543-8264 or email sales@allmaterialhandling.com.

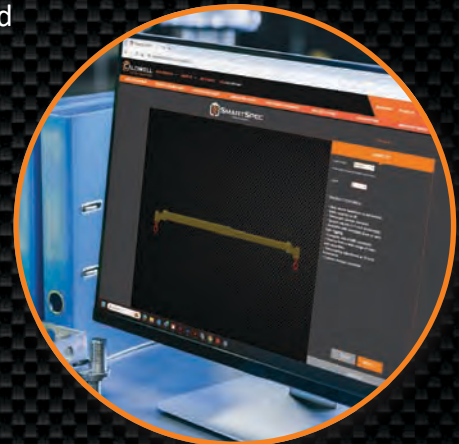
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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Building Strength Together: The Power of AWRF Membership

Curt Jabben - Chairman, AWRF Membership Committee

The Associated Wire Rope Fabricators (AWRF) continues to stand as the leading voice and driving force for the lifting, rigging, and load securement industry. Our members—manufacturers, fabricators, distributors, and service providers—represent the highest standards of safety, quality, and professionalism. Together, we form a community committed to excellence and united by a shared purpose: advancing our industry.

AWRF membership is more than a credential. It is a gateway to opportunity, innovation, and meaningful connection. Through comprehensive educational programs, technical resources, and safety initiatives, we equip members to stay ahead in a rapidly evolving global marketplace. Our commitment to expanding membership into new international regions reflects our belief that a stronger, more connected worldwide network benefits every member and elevates the industry as a whole.

One of the most powerful examples of AWRF's impact is our Spring General Meeting—now recognized as the industry's premier Technical Summit. This event features a full day of high-value technical presentations and hosts more than 100 exhibitors at the PIE tradeshow, making it the largest and most dynamic gathering of its kind. Leaders from across the industry come together to exchange

ideas, explore emerging technologies, and build relationships that drive long-term growth.

Beyond events, AWRF remains deeply committed to raising industry standards. Our Technical Committee, benchmarking programs, and collaboration with regulatory agencies ensure members have access to trusted knowledge, advocacy, and certification support. These efforts strengthen individual organizations while reinforcing the integrity and reputation of the entire lifting and rigging community.

In short, AWRF exists to connect, educate, and advance. As we continue to grow our global footprint and expand the value we deliver, our collective strength becomes even more powerful. When we work together as members, we elevate our businesses, our workforce, and the future of our industry.

If not already an AWRF member, give us a look to see all the benefits we can offer to you.

If you're already a member, please consider actively participating within the group, whether on the Board of Directors or as a member of one of the Technical Committees. Both groups are always in need of new, forward thinking individuals.

I certainly look forward to seeing you all at the Fall General Meeting where we'll be celebrating our 50th anniversary in Hawaii!!

Curt Jabben
Associated Wire Rope & Rigging



Thank you to Cindy and Cathey, our incredible massage therapists, for consistently going above and beyond to take care of our members at every meeting. Your skill, professionalism, and calming presence make such a difference—helping attendees relax, recharge, and stay energized throughout the event. You're truly an essential part of the experience, and we're so grateful for the care and comfort you bring to our AWRF community!



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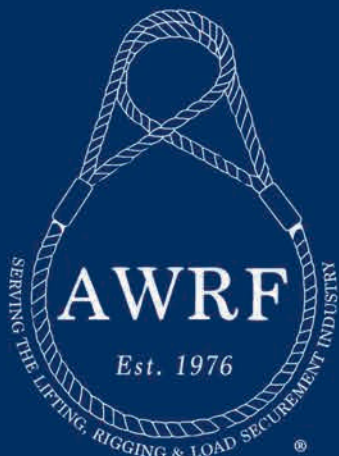
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FALL GENERAL MEETING 2026

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MAUI, HI



P.I.E. & TECH SUMMIT 2027

APRIL 5-8
MARRIOTT MARQUIS
HOUSTON, TX

P.I.E. & TECH SUMMIT 2028

APRIL 2-5
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