

Make Volunteering the Norm

Thomas J. "Buzz" Maiuri

This is a very exciting year for AGMA as the organization celebrates its 100-year anniversary. In addition to the anniversary, AGMA President Joe Franklin, jr., who has done an outstanding job at the helm of AGMA for the last 25 years, will retire, and we welcome in our new AGMA President, Matt Croson, who will lead us into the next 100 years. The centennial kicked off in October with a dinner at the AGMA Gear Expo in Detroit and will continue throughout 2016 with a number of exciting events scheduled to celebrate this milestone anniversary. The celebration will come to a conclusion at the 2016 Fall Technical Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, the city where the first AGMA meeting was held 100 years ago.

AGMA is about a number of things, and one of the most important elements of the organization is the Technical Division. The Technical Division consists of the Technical Division Executive committee (TDEC) and the 25 technical committees, including two active subcommittees. The committees create and maintain the standards and information sheets that the gear industry relies on every day. The TDEC has the responsibility to supervise the development and maintenance of all AGMA standards and technical publications. They also coordinate the Technical Division's activities with the activities of the Administrative Division of AGMA. Another important role of the TDEC is to organize and conduct the Annual Fall Technical Meeting. This year, the FTM will be held October 2-4 at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square in Pittsburgh, PA.

For more information on the roles of both of these groups within the Technical Division, please look up the article in *Gear Technology* from September of 2013 titled "How Gear Standards are Written." The article, as well as all past *Gear Technology* articles, can be found in the "GT Library" at geartechnology.com.

The TDEC consists of a chairman (myself — T.J. "Buzz" Maiuri of The

Gleason Works) and seven voting members: John B. Amendola, Sr. of Artec Machine Systems; Terry Klaves of Milwaukee Gear Company; Todd Schatzka of Rexnord Corporation; Todd Praneis of Cotta Transmission Company; Bill Hanks of A-C Equipment Services, and Walt Weber of Siemens Industry Inc. The newest member joining the TDEC is Michael He of Scot Forge Company. The TDEC schedules two to three face-to-face meetings and conducts several meetings via web conference each year. In addition to these scheduled meetings, we hold several impromptu conference calls and emails throughout the year to take care of any business that needs to be addressed between meetings.

All TDEC meetings are attended by AGMA Headquarters Technical Division personnel Amir Aboutaleb (vice president of the Technical Division) and Justin Sikorski (staff engineer). In addition to Amir and Justin, the president of AGMA, the chairman of the AGMA board of directors, and the chairman of the Business Management Executive committee (BMEC) attend the meetings as well.

The new chairman of the board of directors, who began his term in May of 2015, is Dean Burrows, president of Gear

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Motions, Inc. John Cross, president of ASI Technologies, Inc. is the chairman of the BMEC.

Each member of the TDEC has the responsibility of being the liaison to several of the technical committees. The liaisons help the committee chairpersons



evaluate new projects and prepare project proposals to the TDEC. They also submit progress reports, present completed projects for approval and report difficulties that the committee may be facing to the TDEC.

Amir and Justin, from AGMA headquarters, are actively involved with each of the committees. Each has his specific committees that he is a liaison to, and one of the two is in attendance at every technical committee meeting, whether it is a face-to-face meeting or a web conference.

The technical committees are responsible for the timely development, maintenance, and theoretical accuracy of the technical publications of AGMA. Each committee has a chairperson and a vice chairperson. Last year there were a total of 138 committee meetings — 17 meetings were face-to-face and 121 were held via web conference. The use of web conferences by committees is growing every year, which allows committee participation without the costs of travel and time out of the office.

The average committee meets about six times a year. Some committees may have only two or three meetings, while other committees have as many as 10 or 11 meetings per year. Last year there were 9 committees that met exclusively through web conferences.

The average committee has about 30 members, with about 10 of the committee members being active members. The Helical Gear Rating committee is the largest committee with over 70 members and 23 of the members considered active members. The remaining committee members are observer members. An active member is a representative of a member compa-

ny that regularly attends meetings, and accepts and performs work assignments as assigned by the chairperson. All new committee members start as observer members. An observer member cannot vote on committee actions, but may participate in committee activities and receives committee distributions, such as meeting minutes and agendas. Based on attendance and contribution levels, an observer member may submit a request to the committee chairperson for their status to be changed from observer to active.

At this time committees are working on roughly 30 open projects. AGMA committees have responsibility for a total of 98 documents consisting of 55 AGMA Standards, 33 AGMA Information Sheets, six Adopted ISO Standards, and four Adopted ISO Technical Reports.

All AGMA standards have the status of being American National Standards as defined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). To maintain this status, AGMA's Technical Division procedures are audited by ANSI every five years to ensure compliance with our own Policy and Practices and with ANSI's requirements. The last audit was in 2014, and the next will be in 2019.

Several of the technical committees also have the responsibility to serve as the United States Technical Advisory Group to Working Groups (WG) within ISO TC 60 and ISO TC 14 (International Organization for Standardization — technical committees). AGMA is the secretariat of ISO TC 60 and procedurally oversees all the standards programs that are undertaken by TC 60. The scope of ISO TC 60 is standardization in the field of gears, including terminology, nominal dimensions, tolerances, and tools for manufacturing and control. The scope of ISO TC 14 is standardization in the field of shafts for machines, their keys and keyways, splines and serrations and their accessories such as couplings and flanges.

AGMA publishes two types of documents: standards and information sheets. While similar, information sheets and standards have several key differences. AGMA standards comprise proven, time tested information and require compliance to all guidelines provided except where specific exceptions are

clearly recorded. Information sheets often contain material that is not yet common practice and is still in the process of being proven. Information sheets are often a forum for setting new material before the industry so that it can be used and refined.

All AGMA standards require balloting before the entire membership of AGMA, as well as any other interested parties. An information sheet requires only approval of the technical committee that prepared it and permission to pub-

lish from the TDEC. Not going through a General Ballot allows an information sheet to be published more quickly; however, information sheets do not carry the same authority of consensus standards.

So what are the benefits to an individual serving on an AGMA technical committee?

For me personally, it has been a great experience. In 2001 I was asked to serve on the TDEC and I confess I was a little anxious because I had no idea what I was





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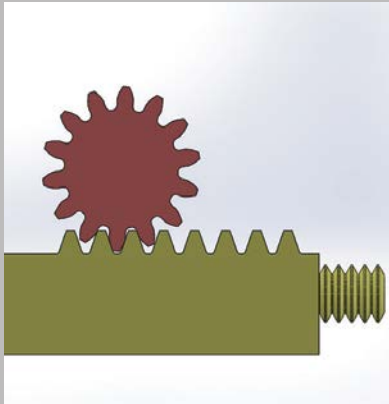


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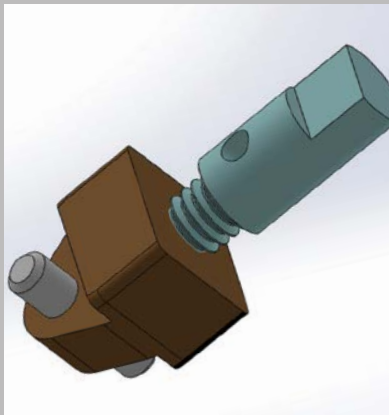
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getting myself into. I did not know any of the TDEC members prior to the meeting and I honestly did not know that much about the AGMA organization. I quickly realized that my anxiety was for nothing. At the very first TDEC meeting, I was warmly welcomed and made to feel part of the team right out of the box. Over the years I have had the opportunity to meet numerous men and women from the world of gearing. These people are the heart of the industry—they are the managers, salesmen, gear designers, machine designers, application engineers, manufacturing engineers, professors, owners, etc.

My involvement with AGMA and the people I have met and worked with over the years has been of great benefit to me. The experience gained working alongside people from other organizations has helped me further develop relationships with my coworkers. In many instances I have been able to help our customers by

AGMA and the support of my company The Gleason Works.

No one starts out as an expert—it takes time and effort to acquire the knowledge, insight and experience. You must put yourself, or your employees, in a position or situation to obtain that knowledge and experience by working with others in your segment of the industry who have different experiences and challenges. Often, you will find there are different ways to do things, or think about things—not necessarily better, but different. A good place to start or expand that knowledge and experience is by participating with AGMA. Working on an AGMA committee is not a chore or obligation; it's an opportunity.

A colleague of mine told me a story about a young engineer from a number of years ago who was just starting out as a new employee for his company. He joined an AGMA committee, and was tasked with doing some research and

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calling on the many contacts I've made to just chat and get a better understanding of a particular issue or subject. It also works the other way—I'll get calls from contacts and colleagues or even individuals that I have not met, asking for some insight or contacts that can provide further assistance.

One of the highlight experiences of my career came last year at a dinner hosted by *Gear Technology* magazine during the AGMA Gear Expo. I was seated in a room with over 20 individuals from all over the world who are known as the top experts in the world of gearing. I can't mention all their names here, but I will tell you it was like a hockey fan being in the same room with Gordie Howe, Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Bobby Orr, Tony Esposito, Bobby Hull, Mark Messier, and Stan Mikita - just to name a few. This would not have been possible for me if not for my involvement with

exploring the subject matter of the information sheet/standard the committee was working on. That young engineer eventually reached the position of Vice President of Engineering. It was clear that the research and investigation he did for the committee had played a large part in his becoming the expert and to his becoming the engineering manager.

I asked new committee members who have been participating on a committee for just over a year about their thoughts and experiences. They have attended several face-to-face meetings and a half dozen web conferences. Their first comment was on what a great networking experience it has been. They have met experts from around the industry and have benefited from “getting outside and seeing the industry from different viewpoints.” Joining while the committee was in the middle of writing a new standard provided an interesting look into how

and what information gets included in a standard, and the discussion of how best to present it.


When I asked the same question of a veteran committee member who has been serving on a committee for almost 20 years, he responded that he has gained a much deeper and broader knowledge of his trade by working with experts from different sectors of the gear industry as compared to what he would have ever gained interacting only with coworkers and suppliers. He had also gained a number of contacts with great expertise in different areas that he has been able to draw on over the years.

So what are the benefits to member companies and management who allow their individuals to serve on an AGMA technical committee? Again, I posed that question to a manager who has several of his staff working on AGMA committees. He said that it is an opportunity for those individuals to be exposed to and contribute to technical discussions, which will broaden their understanding of the gearing industry as a whole.

AGMA technical committee participation is a great way for managers to help their employees meet the development goals the employee would like to achieve, as well as the development that the employer would like to realize in order to maintain a competitive technical department. In addition to the professional development that managers see, having representatives on the committee allows the member company to have a say in the development of the standards.

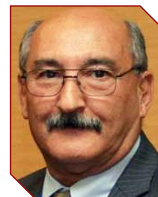
Since individuals serving on the technical committees and the TDEC are all volunteers from member companies, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for the great job they are doing. Involvement in AGMA is a win/win opportunity for all involved — the individuals serving on the committees, the companies they are representing, and AGMA. There is no better way to learn about the standards, the art of gearing, and the gearing industry than participating on an AGMA technical committee. You do not have to be an expert to get involved, but I know that if you do participate on an AGMA technical committee, you will

be working alongside some of the most knowledgeable individuals in the world of gearing. In time, you can become the expert and be the mentor to the next generation of those joining the industry.

We are always looking for new people to participate on AGMA technical committees. If you are interested we encourage you to contact Amir Aboutaleb at aboutaleb@agma.org. 

TJ. "Buzz" Maiuri

Sr. Product/Project
Manager — The Gleason
Works
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Executive committee



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