

AGMA Losing One of the Good Guys

Charlie Fischer, VP Technical Division, retiring end of April

Joe T. Franklin, Jr., AGMA President

To say that Charlie Fischer has cutting oil in his blood is not going too far! His father made a career at Philadelphia Gear and Charlie followed him after high school as a co-op student to Drexel University.

Following college, Charlie spent five years at York Division of Borg Warner Corporation, and then decided to return “home” to Philadelphia Gear in 1975.

In Charlie’s own words, “My first assignment was with the Philadelphia Mixers Division where I served as manager of engineering, overseeing projects we took on in water treatment applications.

“From here I moved to reducer engineering where I had my first opportunity to work with Bill Bradley in managing workflow and special projects related to improving efficiency. I spent a few years gaining exposure to our field service organization, working with our service technicians and solving customer issues.

“My final assignment was ‘out in the shop’ when I took on the responsibilities of heading up the assembly and production test facilities.”

He left Philadelphia Gear in 1994 when he joined Bill Bradley in AGMA’s Technical Division.

In addition to his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Drexel University, Charlie has a master of administrative science from Johns Hopkins University. Coupled with his broad experience in the gearing industry, Charlie was ideally suited to be part of the team at AGMA.

Promoted to vice president of the Technical Division in 2007, Charlie has used the past seven years to cement AGMA’s tech-

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nical activities as one of the core benefits of AGMA membership. Moreover, his peers in the international committee on gearing, ISO’s TC 60 have elected him, repeatedly, to be the chairman – the Secretariat in the language of ISO – of the international group responsible for developing and maintaining the set of ISO standards for our industry.

Charlie has traveled countless miles and weekends, frequently with the leading experts in the industry, to do the work so important to international commerce.

In his final report to the board committee that oversees AGMA’s technical

activities, Charlie wrote, “When I compose the Technical Division report for each meeting of the AGMA board of directors I many times say:

‘AGMA Technical Committees continue to work diligently fulfilling their responsibility to serve as Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) to devote the time to actively research the required subject matters and prepare our delegates to defend the resultant U.S. positions.’”

I firmly believe this statement. I have had the pleasure of sitting in with these international committees when they have meetings to discuss ISO matters, and they enthusiastically execute these duties. Having to deal with what may be called ‘non-AGMA’ approaches to design and application, they learn together as they ‘study the art of gearing’ from a different approach. This all manifests itself in our presence at the table with the other international delegations where our delegates are respected because they know they are representing the U.S. position.”

Charlie is leaving a vibrant technical organization that he nurtured and led with his quiet resolve that AGMA will be second to no one and that we will always stand ready to support the best solution to the benefit of the members and the industry.

Always the professional, Charlie has built leadership in his department so it will be in good hands following his retirement. Amir Aboutaleb and Justin Sikorski are experienced



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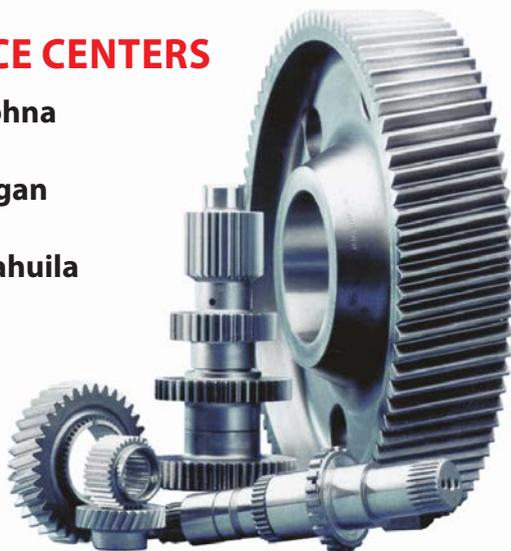


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mechanical engineers. Amir will succeed Charlie later this spring.

Many in the industry are not aware that Charlie is a passionate baseball fan, player and coach. In this upcoming season, he will have the freedom to help his grandchildren sharpen their skills on the field and enjoy their company in the stands as the Washington Nationals meet up with the Philadelphia Phillies.

(Gear Technology would also like to extend its congratulations to Charlie on the conclusion of a brilliant career in the gear industry, and the beginning of a new chapter honing his grandchildren's skills on the base paths, at the plate, and in the field. And may they never, ever, have any "trouble with the curve."—The Editors.)



Joe T. Franklin, Jr. has been AGMA President since 1994.



CORRECTIONS: In an exquisite example of the legendary Democratic House Speaker Tip O'Neill's adage that "All politics is local," we note that the Jan/Feb *Gear Technology* article, "Learn to Work, Work to Earn," by Senior Editor Jack McGuinn, incorrectly referred to former Washington State Governor Chris Gregoire as "he." "He," in fact, is a "she."

In the same article, a quote was incorrectly attributed to Laura Hopkins of the Washington state-based Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee. On page 27, third complete paragraph, her quote should read: "**Infrastructure:** the United States' entire education system and funding structure are set up to support students pursuing the four-year college degree; this type of degree has been established as a pathway to success. **A lack of awareness:** no marketing of apprenticeship programs to employers, candidates, parents, teachers, counselors, etc. **The history of manufacturing:** outsourcing manufacturing jobs to other countries."

Gear Technology regrets the error.