

# There's a Story Here

Lewis A. Weiss

As the founder, president and co-host of *Manufacturing Talk Radio*, as well as publisher of *Metals & Manufacturing Outlook eZine*, I am excited to report that the economic outlook for 2018 is just too good not to tout. Whatever 'final GDP number' the government divines for 2017, the year will finish above 3% for the first time in a decade. While that is great news, the real excitement is that we have a pretty good handle of 2018 with the expectation that the year will run above 3% or better month-by-month, quarter-by-quarter, and may just have a shot at 4% for the entire year for the first time in decades.

What that means is that machines will be selling well, and inside many of those machines are the magical gears that covert energy and power to increase speed, increase force or change direction. And some gears do a combination of those things. Those components move the modern world, even more so than the lever and fulcrum. And the incredible brilliance of the engineers who design gears, and the machinists who make gears, and the mechanics who install gears is truly remarkable when you look beyond what a machine does to how it has the ability to do it at all.

For a decade, America has waited for the recovery from The Great Recession. No one expected it to drag on this long or be this tepid, but the water in the kettle is boiling now and the gear industry will be cooking in 2018, with some early inklings that 2019 might just be another strong year of economic growth. There will be great excitement in the gear industry, from new gears for new machines to replacement gears for maintenance and repair being in high demand.

At *Manufacturing Talk Radio*, we're looking for stories in manufacturing. Somewhere in the gear industry, perhaps as hidden as gears in the gearbox, are amazing stories of 'how things work' or a new gear design that has never been created before for a use no one imag-

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ined just five years ago. We want to hear those stories. We want to highlight them “on the air.” Tell the world just how cool gears are and the astonishing things these unsung components do deep inside a manufacturing marvel. We want gear manufacturers or industry associations to bring their story to us so we can tell it, so we can interview the mavens and gurus behind what is so often taken for granted or simply unsung. And in that telling, we hope to touch the minds of the next generation so they take a deeper look into an industry that is at the forefront of innovation and change, especially the change of speed, force or direction.

As you work through 2018, bring a story to the forefront of a segment of a remarkable industry that has transformed the world many times since the invention of the wheel.

## What's Your Story?

If you have something to say to the gear industry, this is the place to do it. Send your letters to the editor, opinion pieces and other short columns to Managing Editor Randy Stott at [wrs@geartechnology.com](mailto:wrs@geartechnology.com).

**Lewis A. Weiss** is the president of All Metals & Forge Group, a manufacturer of open die forgings and seamless rolled rings, who has continuously published *Metals & Manufacturing Outlook* and its predecessor, *MetalsWatch*, since 1987, and launched *Manufacturing Talk Radio* in 2013 to promote manufacturing to the next generation.

