

Happy Birthday!

The 25th anniversary is the silver. The 50th is the gold. The 75th is the diamond. But what symbolizes the 100th?

I wanted to know, because the American Gear Manufacturers Association (AGMA) turns 100 this year, and that's an anniversary worth celebrating. From its beginning, AGMA has been an important part of our industry's success, and it continues to be so today.

A brief history: In the early 1900s, industrialization caused an explosion in the requirements for all types of machined components, including gears. Nearly one million cars were sold in 1915, but the lack of industry-wide gear standards meant individual companies developed unique gears to suit particular applications, without any concern for interchangeability. This proved especially unwieldy for the U.S. military. By 1916, the U.S. government called upon the gear industry to create standards that would define gear types, tooth sizes, tolerances (quality), and manufacturing processes.

Nineteen companies answered the call, becoming the founding members of AGMA:

- Nuttall Gear (then part of Westinghouse Electric, now part of Altra Industrial Motion)
- Cincinnati Gear (the predecessor to today's Cincinnati Gearing Systems)
- Earle Gear (now part of Steward Machine Co.)
- Horsburgh & Scott



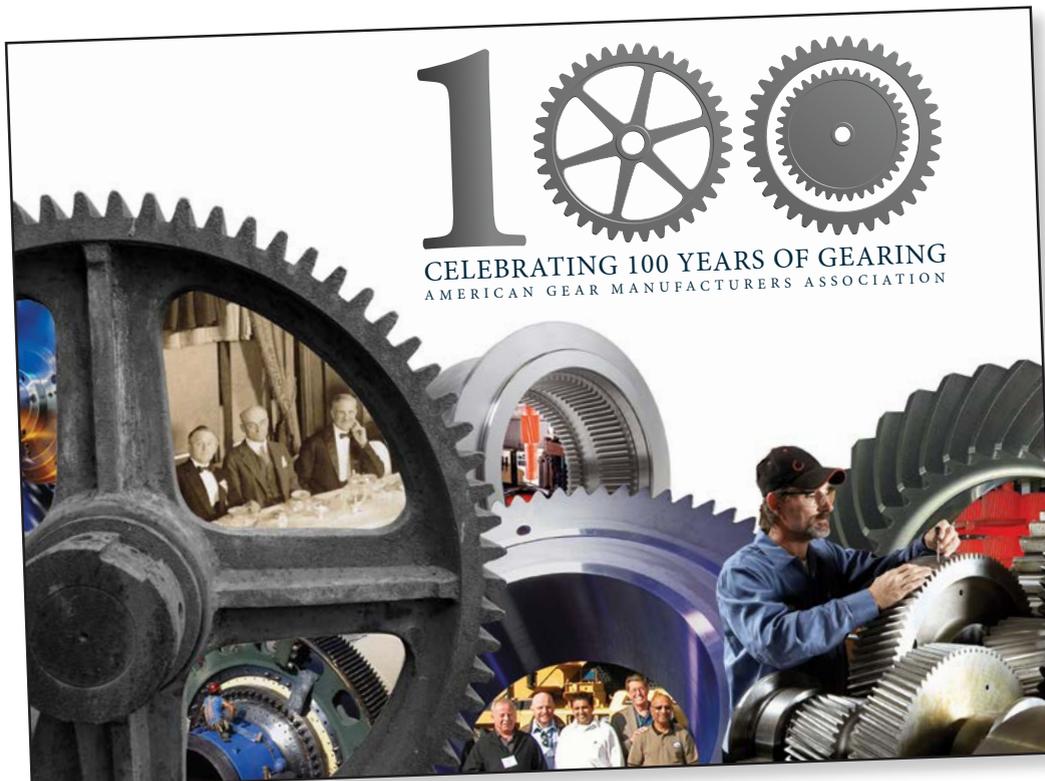
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Michael Goldstein

- Newark Gear Cutting Machine Company
- Philadelphia Gear (now part of Timken)
- Simmonds Manufacturing
- Van Dorn & Dutton
- Pittsburgh Gear (which became part of Brad Foote Gear Works, currently part of Broadwind Energy)
- Bilgram Machine Works
- Boston Gear (now part of Altra Industrial Motion)
- Crofoot Gear Works (now Tracey Gear & Precision Shaft)
- Foote Bros. Gear & Machine (now part of Regal Beloit)
- William Ganschow Company
- Gleason Works
- Hamilton Gear & Machine (now Standard Machine, a division of Timken)
- D.O. James Manufacturing (now Overton Chicago Gear)
- W.A. Jones Foundry & Machine (now part of Regal Beloit)
- Meisselbach-Catucci Mfg. Co.

These details and many more are included in AGMA's 100th Anniversary commemorative book, which I've had the opportunity to preview. The book describes not only the history of the AGMA, but also the history of the gear industry over the past century. You can follow this hundred-year journey by purchasing a copy of this beautiful book from AGMA. The cost is only \$20, and all proceeds go to the AGMA Foundation. You can order one by contacting foundation@agma.org.

But, it's more than the publication of the book and the 100th anniversary of the association that excites me. AGMA itself is undergoing one of the largest transformations in its history, and the next few years will likely be pivotal in determining whether the next 100 years will be as successful for AGMA as the first 100.

Joe Franklin, AGMA's president for almost 25 years, is retiring after the association's annual meeting (May 12-14 in Florida). During his tenure, Joe has brought a great deal of profes-



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sionalism to the association, overseeing a period of tremendous growth, not just in membership, but also in AGMA's impact on the industry. He leaves knowing that his tenure has been a great success. You can read our interview with Joe beginning on page 24 of this issue.

Not only has Joe brought a high level of professionalism to his own office, but he has surrounded himself with excellent people of a similar caliber. AGMA has a younger group of dedicated, smart and capable employees that are bringing new ideas and new energy to the association and the industry. Gear Expo has blossomed into one of the most important events in the world focusing on the gear industry itself, both for suppliers to the industry but also for the gear manufacturers, under the excellent guidance of Jenny Blackford. Our technical standards and representation at ISO were moved forward in giant steps, by Bill Bradley, followed by Charlie Fischer (both now retired) and now in the capable hands of Amir Aboutaleb, with the help of Justin Sikorsky. The AGMA Foundation has grown with the assistance of Cindy Bennett. Casandra Blassingame, who took over as Director of Education for the recently retired Jan Alfieri, brings solid experience and a fresh perspective to the educational offerings of AGMA. Jill Johnson with member services, Madelaine Morgan with meetings and Amy Lane's technical editing all mirror this excellence.

Just recently, AGMA has announced that Joe Franklin's replacement as AGMA president will be Matthew Croson. I haven't met him yet, but I hope he has big feet, as he's stepping into some very big shoes. What I do know is that Croson has more than two decades of manufacturing trade association experience, and who most recently was president and CEO of the Adhesive and Sealant Council.

But the influx of new, experienced and energetic leadership doesn't stop there. AGMA's chairman is the capable and relatively young Dean Burrows, president of Gear Motions, who is just beginning his second year as chairman. More importantly, Dean has experience both inside and outside our industry, and that perspective brings new ideas, new insight and a new vision for where our association and our industry can and will be going in its second century. Dean offers some of his perspective in his *Voices* column on page 12.

If you're an AGMA member, this 100th anniversary celebration is going to be an event you don't want to miss. If you're not an AGMA member, you're missing an opportunity not only to participate in helping direct the future of your industry, but also to avail yourself and your employees of the many benefits of membership, some of which are talked about in Buzz Maiuri's piece, beginning on page 14.

Oh, and it just came to me. If the 75th is diamond, the 100th must be the gear anniversary. So happy 100th birthday AGMA — have a great and successful centennial celebration.

