

AGMA

Recognizes Member Achievements at Annual Meeting

The AGMA/ABMA Annual Meeting took place April 10-12 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Between committee meetings, networking opportunities and social events, many individuals in the gear industry were presented awards. Here are some of the highlights:

Lifetime Achievement

Fred Young, CEO of Forest City Gear, was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by Louis Ertel, AGMA chairman and chairman of Overton Chicago Gear Corp. Young has been an active member of the AGMA for more than 25 years, serving various committees and councils, reviewing technical papers and attending over 150 meetings and conferences.

“Fred grew up in the gear industry. His parents, Stetler and Evelyn, started Forest City Gear when Fred was 11 years old. As a boy Fred would help out around the shop, doing everything from cleaning the chips out of the oil sumps, to washing and centering motor shafts, to cutting gear teeth,” Ertel said during the award presentation.

With Young at the helm, Forest City Gear has grown to a 35,000-sq.-ft. facility with \$14 million in annual sales. “He prides himself on having the latest technology, reinvesting 25-40 percent



AGMA Chairman Lou Ertel presents GMTA's Scott Knoy with the Next Generation Award.

of their annual revenue back into new equipment each year. Fred and his employees truly embody their motto, ‘Excellence without exception,’ Ertel said. “The company is truly a family affair – his wife, Wendy, is now president of the company, his daughters, Appy, Kika and Mindy, have all had roles with the company, and now his son-in-law Rustin Mikel is heavily involved in the company too.”

Ertel went on to explain that Young has been active in training the next generation of gear manufacturers. “Forest City Gear prides itself on mentoring of high school students who work part time while attending school, hiring summer interns who are attending college to expose them to the demands of manufacturing, and encouraging current employees to advance their knowledge of mathematics, science and technology.”

Young has served as AGMA Chairman, Chairman of the Foundation, a member of the Board of Directors, the Education Council, the Nominating Committee, the Awards Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Marketing Council, the Membership Committee, the 60th Anniversary Committee, and the Small Business Council. He has received the Past Presidents Award, Board of Directors Award, Old Goats Award, and the Administrative Division Executive Committee Award.

“His greatest contribution to AGMA has been as its ambassador throughout the world and at the over 150 meetings and conferences



AGMA Chairman Lou Ertel presents Forest City Gear's Fred Young with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

that he has attended. So for all of these reasons and many more, AGMA presents Fred Young with the highest honor we have, the Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you Fred, for everything you have done for AGMA, and the industry,” Ertel said.

The Next Generation Award

The Next Generation Award, in the words of the AGMA Awards Committee, “honors individuals who, while early in their career, are emerging as contributors, innovators and/or leaders in the gear industry, and who serve as role models for others in the next generation of the gear industry.” It was presented to Scott Knoy, vice president of German Machine Tools of America (GMTA). Knoy has been active in service to the gear industry for 20 years, serving first for 11 years with major machine tool supplier Gleason and now in his ninth year with GMTA, where he oversees the sales, strategic planning, project management and marketing efforts for this major supplier of machinery to the gear, powertrain and other industries.

In addition, along with company president Walter Friedrich, he spearheads the ongoing effort at GMTA to educate and nurture the next generation of leaders in the gear industry, an endeavor to which the company has made a great commitment. GMTA supports local schools in their tech training and also Eastern Michigan University in its unique “business as a second language” program.

Knoy grew up in the industry with his father, Jerry Knoy, working at the Gleason Corporation and followed in his father’s footsteps, joining Gleason Cutting Tools. Scott began his career with Gleason as a regional sales manager, where he was the key contact for clients such as TRW, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Dana Corporation, Parker-Hannifin and General Electric. Following his time at Gleason, Scott joined German Machine Tools of America (formerly American Wera), where he now serves as GMTA vice president of sales and marketing. He is active with the AGMA Strategic Resources Network and has been attending the Annual Meeting, Gear Expo and other AGMA activities for many years.

Education Award

During the 2014 AGMA Annual Meeting, several members were recognized for their achievements over the past year. Seven members of the Education Task Force were recognized for their work on the AGMA Skills Assessment Tool. Released in 2013, the Skills Assessment Tool allows members and others in the industry to set standards for a variety of skills and abilities and for several broadly defined job titles. The tool allows employers to assess each employee’s proficiency in each skill. It also allows the employer to set a minimum score and automatically determine where each employee needs additional education or training. The tool is available for free on the AGMA website, www.agma.org. The Skills Assessment Tool is an important achievement for AGMA, and would not have been possible without the dedication of the Skills Assessment Task Force. The BMEC Award is presented to individuals who have made noteworthy efforts to enhance the art of management in the gear industry. In that spirit,



From left to right: Bob Sakuta, Bill Miller, Rustin Mikel, Tom Marino and Jeff Reynolds receive awards for developing the Skills Assessment Tool.

AGMA recognized the members of the Education Task Force with individual BMEC awards for their dedicated work developing the Skills Assessment Tool.

The award was presented to: Jeff Reynolds, Rolls Royce Corp.; Briggs Forelli, Precision Gear; Bob Maggetti, Triumph Group; Tom Marino, Gear Technology; Rustin Mikel, Forest City Gear; Bill Miller, Kapp Technologies, and Bob Sakuta, Delta Gear.

50 Years of Membership

Organizations like AGMA would not be able to exist and continue to thrive without the support of the members, and this year AGMA recognizes a company that has been a member of AGMA for 50 years. Progressive Engineering Company (PEC) is a precision gear and machine parts manufacturer. Established in 1923, the company has celebrated many years of service, and joined AGMA in 1964. The company provides “job shop made to order parts” for many Fortune 500 companies, manufacturers, parts companies, and metal processors in the Richmond area and throughout the United States. PEC also rebuilds gearboxes; has the largest surface grinder in the area, and a full complement of CNC and manual machines for general machine parts production.

In 1992 an Ion Nitride Heat Treatment department was added to provide low distortion hardening of high quality parts in order to reduce cost and increase the life of machine parts. In 2001 PEC expanded with the addition of Progressive Heat Treating Co., a commercial heat treating company that specializes in plasma ion nitriding, vacuum hardening, oil hardening, induction hardening and carburizing. President Mel Belcher from Progressive Engineering Company accepted the 50 Year Award on the company’s behalf during the 2014 AGMA Annual Meeting.

New Members of the Board of Directors

AGMA also announced the election of four members to the AGMA Board of Directors. The new board members are: Kenneth J. Flowers, owner and vice president

Machine Tool Builders, Inc.; Bill Gornicki, vice president sales and marketing, ALD-Holcroft Vacuum Technologies Co., Inc.; John E. Grazia, president, GearTec Inc.; and Brian L. Schultz, president, Great Lakes Industry, Inc. The new board members began their three-year term at the AGMA Annual Meeting. 