



AGMA Foundation— A Dream Fulfilled

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The AGMA Annual Meeting in Tucson in March, 2010, marked the end of my term as chairman of the AGMA Foundation. This chairmanship was one of my most pleasurable and fulfilling roles at AGMA. It allowed me to oversee an organization that was conceived in the early '90s—while I served on the Technical Division Executive Committee—by some of AGMA's finest visionaries.

The foundation was a brainstorm of people like the late Don McVittie, Dan Thurman of Caterpillar, Bill Bradley of AGMA and Wendy Allen of AGMA to name a few. The original charter of the organization was to raise funds to support AGMA's role as Secretariat of ISO TC60. Companies like Caterpillar, Gleason and Falk had an interest in promoting global standards while having foundations of their own that were looking for worthy projects to finance. After filing the necessary documents with the IRS, the AGMA Foundation was approved as a 501(c)(3) in 1994.

The newly formed foundation had a vision, mission and multi-year grants from some major corporations. The funding of the ISO TC60 work was secure, and the board quickly recognized that the role should be expanded to include education and research. A fundraising campaign began and ground rules were set for an endowment fund with a goal of \$500,000. Since 1994, the foundation has raised more than \$2.5 million, and the endowment fund has risen to \$304,000 after many successful annual campaigns with generous contributions coming from a broad spectrum of AGMA member companies and individuals.

The foundation has a clear set of objectives:

- Identify gaps in gear education and training that need curriculum or training tool development.
- Identify institutions with the core competencies to create solutions for the needs.
- Match solution providers with the identified needs and create funding sources for the resulting project.

- Identify AGMA standards that need a better or deeper scientific foundation.

To promote gear education and training, a project is under way to create a web-based, detailed gear design class where students can be trained in sixteen one-hour segments at their leisure, as opposed to traveling to a seminar location. Besides being a cost-effective alternative, engineers do not have to sacrifice as much time from their busy schedules.

Another noteworthy project is the funding of a resource book on the subject of gear vibration and noise. This topic is becoming critical as companies focus on a safe working environment for their employees.

In 2010, The AGMA Foundation will make its first scholarship grant to a graduate engineer doing gear education and research. This scholarship was made possible by donations in honor of Don McVittie, a long-time supporter of AGMA/ISO,

who passed away in 2008. His family, friends and colleagues wanted to do something meaningful to honor the man who devoted his long and rewarding career to the gear industry.

Fundraising is critical to any foundation. The AGMA Foundation raises money through project-specific grants, the annual campaign, which netted \$73,000 last year, and the annual meeting events. At this year's annual meeting, the first ever casino night was a great success. Combined with the golf event and live auction, over \$30,000 was raised.

On behalf of the trustees and recipients of the foundation-funded projects, I want to personally thank you for your support. The foundation has made a difference for the industry as it was conceptualized by the founders.

For more information about the foundation, please visit www.agmafoundation.org.

