Hope you are planning to attend the AWS Show in Dallas at the Dallas Convention Center in April and the District 20 Conference in Idaho Falls, ID in May.

**AWS Show in Dallas**

Plans are in the final stages for the AWS Show being held April 26-28, 2005 in Dallas. The Texas AWS sections are really working hard to make all attendees feel welcome, and floor space rentals at approaching 84,000 ft², well ahead of last year’s Show.

**Complimentary Registration:** As in the past, Sections may sponsor one of their officers or a representative to attend the 2005 AWS Welding Show in Dallas. Remember, you can only sponsor one (1) complimentary registration so section chairs please coordinate with the section officers heading to the Show. That individual will be extended complimentary registration to the Show and technical sessions (a $225 value).

If your Section plans to sponsor an individual and they’ve already registered, let Rhenda know their name (1-800-443-9353 ext 260) and she’ll adjust the records after the Show. If they have not registered, they need to write “Complimentary Section Representative from Section xx” across the top of the Seminar Registration form, complete the form, and check code #25 - Complete Professional Program. Remember to complete Sections B through K on the reverse side of the form.

Please fax the Section Representative registration forms to (305) 443-5647, attention Rhenda, no later than March 22nd - that’s in six (6) days so hurry!.

Also, have your representative attending the Show stop by the AWS Membership Booth and an AWS staffer will provide them with a special ribbon for their registration badge. It identifies them as an AWS Section Representative.

Section chairs be sure a member from your section takes advantage of this great value!

**Special Events at the Show:**

All section officers are cordially invited to the Section Appreciation Luncheon held at the Show on April 27th. Please call Rhenda Mayo (1-800-443-9353 ext 260) by March 22, 2005 as she needs a head count so all attendees enjoy an excellent lunch. The luncheon is a great time to meet new and old friends.

**AWS Job Fair.** Bring your resume to the Show and meet with company representatives looking for new employees.

Hope to see you at the Show!
November 2005 Welding Show

Remember there are two Shows this year. The second, FABTECH/AWS, happens November 13-16, 2005 in Chicago. The Professional Welders Competition Committee is planning the second Professional Welders Competition to be held at the November show and the Skills USA competition happens at the AWS Show in Dallas.

Professional programs will accompany each of the shows so there will be great opportunities for both presenters and attendees to learn about the latest in welding research at these two venues in 2005!

2005 District Meeting

The Eastern Idaho/Montana section is hosting our 2005 district meeting on May 13-14. We will start with lunch on the 13th and conclude the business meeting just before lunch on the 14th. The district meeting is a great place to meet other section officers and get some great ideas for section activities as well as meet AWS staff from national.

Details regarding reservation and directions for this year’s district conference follow:

Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott
1293 W. Broadway (Rt. 20)
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone: 208-552-7378
Fax: 208-552-7379
Reservations: 800-228-2800

Rooms have been reserved under AWS. The rooms cost $69.00 plus 8% tax for either a double or king-size bed. Each morning a continental breakfast is provided. Paper provided is a complimentary USA Today. The hotel also has an indoor heated pool and spa along with a laundry area and fitness center.

Directions from I-15: Take the 118 exit and go east on Broadway (same as Rt. 20). You will find the hotel on the right-hand side of the street almost immediately after passing JB’s Restaurant. Note, if you cross the railroad tracks - you have gone too far.

Directions coming from Fanning Field (Idaho Falls airport): You are on Skyline Road as you leave the airport. Continue on Skyline until you reach Broadway. Broadway is the cross street at the second red light. Make a left onto Broadway and follow it to the hotel. Once you go through the underpass for I-15, you will find the hotel on the right hand side of the street almost immediately after passing JB’s Restaurant. Note, if you cross the railroad tracks - you have gone too far.

If you have questions regarding the district conference meeting site, call Denis Clark at 208-526-0746.

Come the District’s prepared to learn about what is happening regionally and nationally in AWS.

Each section needs to come prepared to do the following:
- Select the District representative for the Leadership Symposium and the Instructors’ Institute.

For several years AWS national has provided a Leadership Symposium and Instructors’ Institute in late July and early August. The plans are to hold both these opportunities again in 2005. Our district can send one representative to each of these events. The leadership activities enable attendees to understand the intricacies of leading a local section. The instructor activities focus on new welding
instruction approaches to use in the classroom and to obtain hands-on time with new welding equipment.

In the past we have had representatives attend both events from the Idaho, Montana, Colorado, and Utah sections. I really encourage New Mexico and Wyoming sections to bring forward candidates for these two great learning opportunities.

- **Select District scholarship recipients.**

Each section should have, or will soon receive, their scholarship applicants from the AWS Foundation. Please make sure your scholarship selection committee reviews all applications and selects **only the top two** to bring to Districts. Remember it is the section scholarship committee’s responsibility to call your top two applicants so you can share their unique qualifications and passion for welding with attendees at Districts. It is a good idea to bring at least one copy of the section’s two applications so attendees can review them, and (most important!) Rhenda Mayo has a complete scholarship packet to take back to AWS national. The staff of the AWS Foundation will facilitate the awarding of scholarship funds – sending the funds to the student’s school to cover tuition and fees.

- **Nominate outstanding section members for section, district, or national awards**

Section chairs will soon receive information describing section, district, and national awards from Rhenda. It is a great idea to get your section executive board together in March, April, or early May to establish if you have section members deserving recognition for the following:

- Section and District Meritorious Award
- Section and District Educator Award
- Section and District Private Educator
- Section and District CWI

National nominations require a portfolio of information to support the nomination – so start now to prepare a national nomination package.

- **Bring a section check to help the host section cover expenses.**

At Park City, UT in 2004, District conference attendees approved that all sections need to assist the host section in covering the expenses of the District conference. The national provided section reimbursement for attendees - $50 for the first and $25 for the second and third attendees – and the number of attendees establishes the amount national pays each section. I plan to use the same approach to cover expenses this year as the host section, at a minimum, covers room fees and snacks both Friday and Saturday. That way the host section sees no financial hardship from hosting Districts.

- **Need a section to volunteer to cover a portion of the cost of lunch on Friday or we can do a Dutch treat approach for lunch.**

Section chairs please email me your choice – Dutch or section(s) pays. If you want a section(s) to cover lunch, please indicate if your section is willing to pay or co-pay the cost of lunch. Call me at (208)526-6302 or email at nancy.carlson@inl.gov by May 1, 2005 with your choice.

- **Please bring all your section’s meeting notices for the past year to the district meeting.**

Congratulations to the Southern Colorado section for great meeting coverage in the last issue of the Welding Journal.

At the District conference, we will take time to share meeting details and complete AWS Section Event/Meeting Reports so District 20 is well represented in the Section News portion of the *Welding Journal.*
Denis Clark of the Eastern Idaho/Montana section has planned a great time for us in Idaho Falls. Please call him at 208-526-0746 by May 1st so he knows the # of attendees to plan for.

Thanks to Montana and Denver section members

In January I was able to attend a section meeting hosted by Montana Tech in Butte, MT. The meeting included tours of the Rocky Mountain Agile Virtual Enterprise Technical Development Center and Advanced Silicon Materials, Inc. followed by an excellent dinner and technical talk by Drs. Bruce Madigan and Richard Donovan.

I had the pleasure of attending the Denver section’s March meeting and presented a talk on AWS committees, gases and fumes (content provided by Denis Clark), AWS Foundation, AWS Show, and approaches to encourage members to assist with section activities. While in Denver I toured the Denver Airport and Warren Tech.

Also in March I visited Idaho Technology Corporation, a specialty thermocouple manufacture, with eastern Idaho section members. The tour was followed by a dinner and technical talk on Fumes and Gases by Denis Clark.

Section or Individual Input

If you have a news item to share with other section officers or faculty advisors, send the message to me at either nancy.carlson@inl.gov or nancymcarlson@msn.com. I’ll either forward it to all or include the tidbit in the next newsletter.