



American Welding Society®
DETROIT SECTION



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Check out the latest videos published by the American Welding Society on its YouTube page.

AWS Technical Nights are open to everyone! We encourage that members bring students and non-members to learn more about our organization and industry.



Affiliated With

AWS-Detroit Technical Meeting Thursday, February 20, 2025 • 6 to-8:30pm RAM Solutions LLC 1904 Woodslee Drive, Troy, MI 48083



Presenters:

*John Macdonald, Vice President at RAM Solutions LLC
and Markus Weckbach, Business Manager Automotive at Staubli*

Please join us for the February AWS Technical meeting at RAM Solutions, distributor of robot automation equipment at the Troy location. RAM Solutions provides robot automation products, technical services, training, and development for the past 26 years. RAM Solutions is a technical partner with Staubli Robotic Tool Changer. As one of the leading manufacturers of quick connector systems, Staubli covers connection needs for all types of fluids, gases, and electrical power. Their product offer ranges from quick and dry disconnect couplings, multiconnection solutions, safety break-away couplings, tool changers and quick mold change systems, to standard and custom products built on performance, quality, safety, dependability, and durability.

MEETING TOPICS:

- Quick Disconnects (MONO)
- Manual and Automatic Multi Coupling Systems (MCS)
- Robotic Tool Changers (MPS)
- Importance of Robotic Tool Changing for Automotive Manufacturers

BIO: John Macdonald, Vice President for RAM Solutions, with over 25 years of experience in automotive manufacturing. John has held numerous positions in joining engineering roles at direct OEM automotive, equipment supplier, and Tier 1. John has launched many joining assembly systems at integrator and plant level installations. Lab development work on advanced joining techniques for high volume production and with equipment specifications. At RAM Solutions, John experiences helps companies with new equipment joining development and product launch. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jason-ball-6988265/>

BIO: Markus Weckbach, Automotive Business Manager, with over 10 years of experience in advanced industrial connecting solutions for all applications: fluid, gas, and electrical. Markus has held numerous positions within Staubli FCS, from Engineering to Sales, Business Development, and Business Management. During his time at Staubli in Germany, Markus worked closely with Injection Molding Machine (IMM) OEM ENGEL for their Mold Clamping needs before internally transferring to work with Automatic Tool Changers (ATC) for Robots and Gantry systems. In this new function, Markus has worked predominately on BiW (Body-in-White) projects with Automotive OEMs, System Integrators, and Tier-1 companies. At Staubli Corporation, Markus is responsible for managing Staubli's Automotive Sales Team targeting mechatronic connecting solutions in Body & Assembly, Engine, and Powerplant. www.linkedin.com/in/markus-weckbach-5754b269



Chairman's Message
Russ Webster

Hello AWS – Detroit Members and Friends,

AWS Detroit has hit the ground running in 2025. Our first scheduled event was a technical night that was held at Wayne State University. I was unable to attend this event but I have heard nothing but compliments on how the evening went. I would like to thank Wayne State and Centerline for their involvement in the technical night and AWS Detroit.

Our second technical night will be held February 20th. It will be hosted by RAM Solutions and the presentation will be given by RAM/Staubli. The topic for the evening will be robotic tool changing equipment. This is a great opportunity to network and learn about the cutting-edge topic of robotic tool changing.

I would like to make you aware of one more career and hiring fair. This event will be held on Monday, March 10th, from 6 to 8pm, at Harrison Hall at the Hawk, located at 29995 West 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. If you are in the skilled trade field, feel free to stop by and see what they have to offer.



Thank you for your support!

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- Institutional Grants (endowment based);
- Scholarships through Application (endowment based);
- Scholarships through aptitude (HSWC);
- Vocational Support (case by case but budgeted each year), Institution (e.g. supply gas and materials), Local Contest (e.g. travel expense), International Contest (e.g. travel expense);
- Student Memberships (evaluated each year);
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American Welding Society – Detroit Section Seminar Information

DATES

CWI Seminar:

May 4 – May 9, 2025

Exam:

May 10, 2025

LOCATION

Detroit Metro Airport Marriott
30559 Flynn Dr
Romulus, MI 48174

AWS CWI Seminar Seat

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Ever wanted to become a Certified Welding Inspector but found the cost of the week-long seminar prohibitive? Now you have the opportunity to submit an application to be considered for the free seminar seat offered by the AWS-Detroit Section.

If you are interested, please apply with the following Google form by February 17, 2025. <https://forms.gle/pnhxudPgVmzw2RZ77>
If you have any questions, please email erin.e.lalinsky@gmail.com



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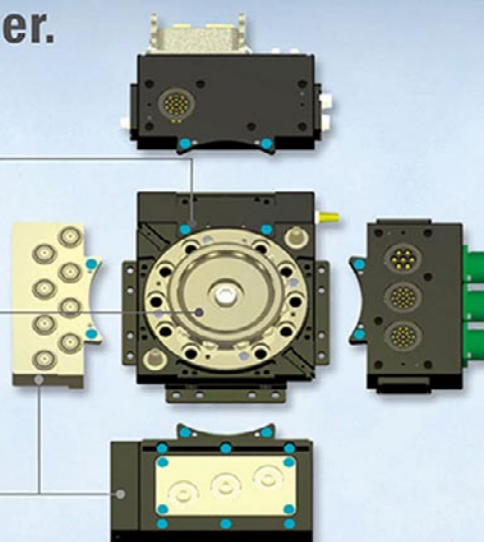
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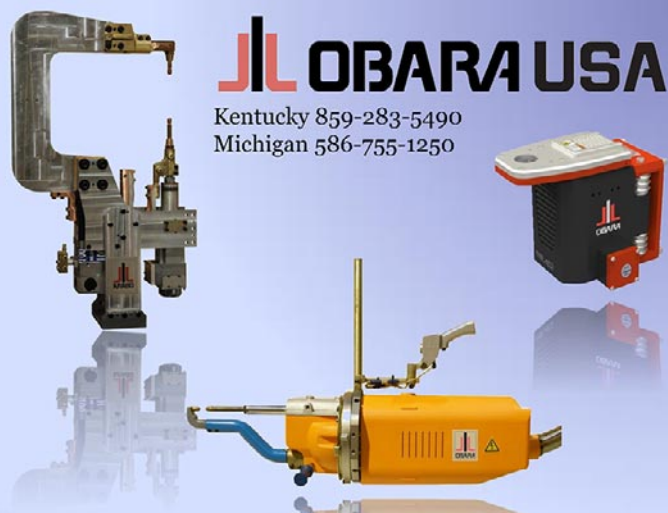


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A Look Back at 100 Years

Can you remember what was going on back in 1925? After all, we are talking about 100 years ago. That being said, there was some history being made back then. To set the stage for a look at both the present and the future, it might help to take a small step back to the past.

The world population clocked in at roughly 2.0 billion people back in '25 – we are over 8 billion now. The year also saw plenty of significant events. This would include F. Scott Fitzgerald publishing his novel *The Great Gatsby*, the founding of Chrysler Corporation by Walter P. Chrysler as an automobile manufacturer, and the dedication of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial. The year 1925 also saw the AWS-Detroit Section chartered.

The year 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the AWS-Detroit Section. With this notable milestone in mind, we thought it would be an interesting journey to recount how the section came to be and acknowledge a few of the significant events along the way. But to do that, we first have to start way back at the beginning.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

The following is based on a record of events collated by past-chair Bernie Bastian and published in 1995. It has been further edited by this author to focus on the initial formation of the Detroit Section.

On January 14, 1924, Mr. William A. Slack (Vice-President of the American Welding Society) wrote a letter to Mr. Harold M. Gould (an engineer with the Detroit Department of Street Railways) about starting a section of the American Welding Society in Detroit. At that time the nearest active Section was in Cleveland – too far away for anyone to attend meetings on a regular basis.

On February 26, 1924, Mr. Gould sent letters to a number of individuals inviting them to a meeting at the Aviation Club on Washington Boulevard in Detroit at 12:30 pm on February 28, 1924 to discuss the



formation of a Section of the American Welding Society. According to the minutes, there were 14 persons present at the February 28 meeting and Mr. Gould was elected chairman. Mr. C. L. Finch was appointed Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Finch was instructed to contact National Headquarters for a list of all the AWS members in the State of Michigan. This was to be the nucleus of a new Section in Detroit.

This meeting must have proved fruitful because on March 28, 1924 there was a meeting of prospective members of the proposed Detroit Section to pursue the formation of a Section. The Detroit Section was formally chartered about a year later on February 3, 1925.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

From this austere and humble beginning came the AWS-Detroit Section we know today. A part of the Metro-Detroit region for 100 years, the AWS-Detroit Section has grown to be a strong voice within the welding community. And that growth has only been possible by the seemingly never-ending efforts of our volunteers. With a stated mission to advance the science, technology, and application of welding, the Section utilizes multiple ways to encourage folks to participate in this important industry. A few of the more significant milestones related to this process are highlighted below.

1941 – The Section held its inaugural Ladies Night. This charity event is a formal gathering of the welding community in Detroit and has been held annually since its inception. Past iterations have had over 2500 folks in attendance and has grown in prestige to the point we have hosted AWS-Presidents and National board members.

1946 – The Quiz the Experts gathering saw the various sections in District-11 get together and test their welding prowess. It continued to be an annual event until 2016.

1973 – The Section held its first High School Welding contest. The event, now passed the 50-year mark, has become one of the premier

Continued on page 14





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- An on-line application form (with supplemental instructions) is now available on the AWS Detroit Section website, under the 'Scholarships' tab. **CLICK HERE**
- Applications open December 1st, 2024. The deadline for completing the application process for the 2025-26 academic year is April 1, 2025.*
- **For 2024/25 the Detroit Section was able to award 37 scholarships totaling \$64,000 to students from 7 different schools.**

**Please reach out directly if you have a paper application to send in (dmaat@reautomated.com)*

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – RULES and APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

2025-2026 School Year

Completion of this application automatically considers the student for the “Amos and Marilyn Winsand Scholarship,” the “Robert P and Mardell D Wilcox Vocational and Engineering Scholarships” and the “Blazok Foundation Scholarship.” These are AWS Foundation endowed scholarships.

RULES:

1. Applicant must be enrolled in a Welding Engineering Program, a Welding Engineering Technology Program, a Post-Secondary Technical Program (Welding Certification targeted program), or a related field of study with a strong welding content.
2. Students are eligible to apply for Detroit Section scholarships if they are permanent residents of the state of Michigan or the following Ontario counties: Essex, Chatham-Kent, and Sarnia-Lambton. Students who are temporary residents attending school in the state of Michigan or the following Ontario counties: Essex, Chatham-Kent, and Sarnia-Lambton are eligible for non-named scholarships. Preference will be given to students who are permanent residents of the Detroit Section territory, including Ontario counties: Essex, Chatham-Kent, and Sarnia-Lambton.
3. The Detroit Section Scholarship Committee administers the AWS Detroit Section Scholarship program, with the assistance of the AWS Foundation. The Committee also selects the recipients of the Foundation scholarships.
4. AWS Detroit Section Scholarships are paid in varying amounts based on individual awards. If an applicant is awarded a scholarship, the payments are made directly to their qualifying educational institution through the AWS Foundation.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- The information requested on the application form is self-explanatory. Please fill out the form completely.
- The AWS Foundation inter-active application is available either at www.awssection.com/detroit under the Scholarships tab or by going directly to the AWS Foundation scholarship page **CLICK HERE**.
- For additional information about the scholarship program **CLICK HERE**.
- AWS membership is encouraged of all welding aspirants.
- In addition to the application form, you must enclose or attach the following:
 - a) **Transcript(s):** Official scholastic records or grade transcripts from the high school, college or university you attended during the recent school year.
 - b) **Personal Statement and Work Experience:** Ambitions, goals, background, and other factors that will help the selection committee understand your commitment to pursuing a welding career.

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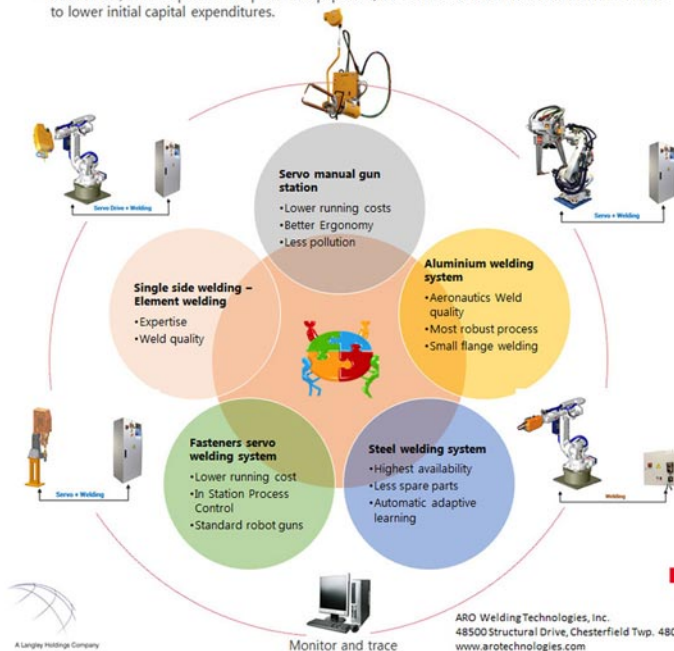
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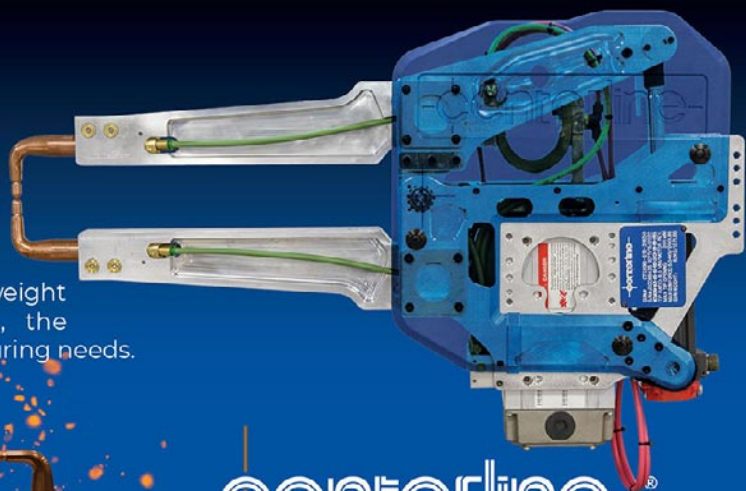
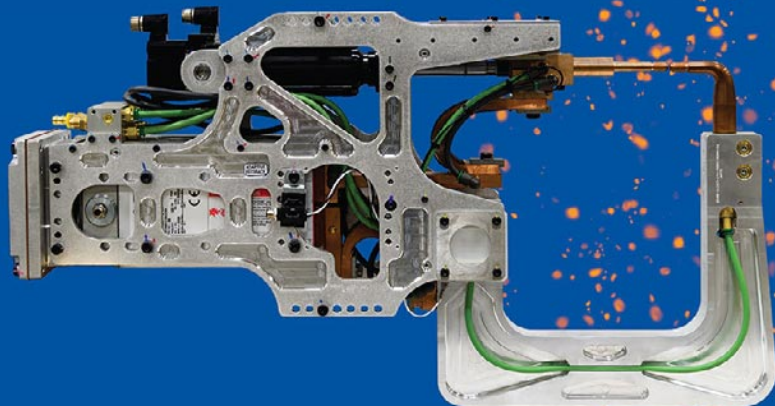
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WHEN: Saturday, April 12th, 2025 **•SAVE THE DATE•**

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Dinner and Program	7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Afterglow Dancing	9:30 - 12:00 am

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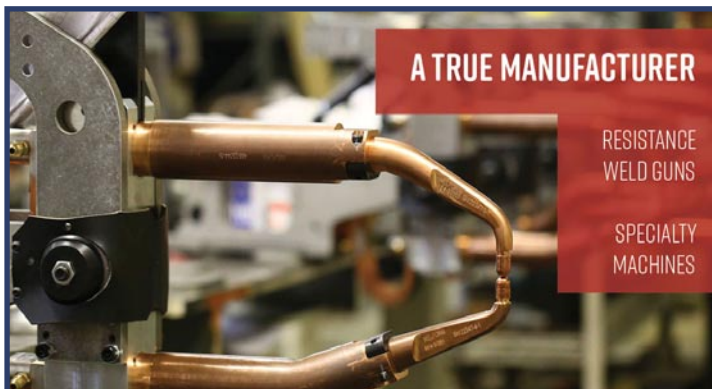
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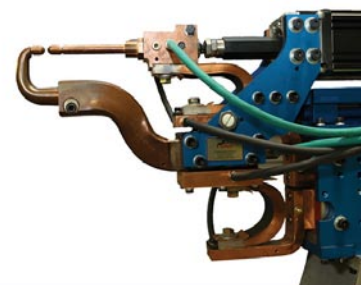
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January Tech Meeting

Wayne State University's Engineering Building that fostered collaboration and innovation. Andy Ritchie from Centerline led a presentation on digital transformation and industry solutions for welding, highlighting the crucial role of data collection in advancing manufacturing practices.

As attendees entered the auditorium, they were welcomed by a vibrant environment rich with engaging conversations. Certified Weld Inspectors (CWIs) interacted with engineering students, while shop supervisors connected with members of the Detroit section board. The discussions spanned a variety of topics, including workplace experiences, the motivations driving attendance at this month's meeting, and ambitions for personal career growth. It was truly motivating to witness so many dedicated individuals coming together to enhance both their careers and the welding industry as a whole.

During the presentation, Andy outlined Centerline's journey, beginning with their proof of concept established

in 2017. Over the years, they have diligently developed the platform and configured their beta sites. Centerline's primary mission is to incorporate AI 4.0 into the manufacturing sector. By gathering and analyzing data, they aim to predict equipment failures, minimize downtime, and improve maintenance practices, ultimately contributing to a more efficient and effective industry.

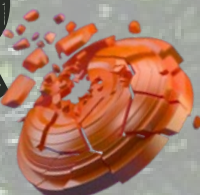
Andy also opened the floor for questions from attendees, who primarily inquired about how AI could be applied to the welding industry and how shop floor workers could be involved in the conversation and adaptation of AI alongside the machines they operate.

Overall, it was a successful technical meeting that sparked meaningful discussions about the future of AI in the manufacturing industry. A big thank you to the Wayne State Engineering Student Chapter for their contributions to this event.



AWS Detroit Section Presents:

SPORTING CLAYS FUNDRAISER



Friday June 13th @ 10 am

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A Look Back at 100 Years *continued page 7*

welding events for schools from all over the state. The 2024 iteration had over 60 contestants who were competing for over \$9000 in scholarships and a wealth of donated prizes.

1974 – The Section's scholarship program was started. From initial funding that permitted for awarding \$2000, the program has grown to award over \$90k annually in the form of scholarships and grants at the Section, District, and National level.

1983 – The Detroit Brazing and Soldering Division was approved by the National Board in 1983. It continued to operate until 2004, at which time its funds were used to create the AWS Foundation's Robert L. Peaslee - Detroit Brazing and Soldering Division Scholarship.

1984 – The first Sheet Metal Welding Conference (SMWC) was held. The Section's SMWC is the premier technical conference dedicated to bringing experts together to discuss state-of-the-art welding and joining technologies for the automotive, transportation, and light manufacturing industries. It has continued every two years since with SMWC XX having been held in October-2024.

2005 – The Detroit Section was awarded the WEMCO Image of Welding Award - The predecessor of the WEMCO Excellence in Welding Award.

2009 – The Detroit Section became AWS's first international section (Hello Canada!) when its' boundaries were expanded to add the counties of Essex, Chatham-Kent, and Sarnia-Lambton in the Province of Ontario.

2012 – The Section's scholarship program partnered with AWS Foundation. This allowed for matching funds to be added as part of the Section's donation. The endowment continues to grow and now permits us to award over \$90k a year.



2018 – The Section, again working with AWS Foundation, established an annual Work Force grant. This \$15,000 award is open to any training program or institution within the boundaries of the Detroit Section, and can be used for all related expenses entailed (think welding rod to gloves, etc.) while running a welding training program. The awardee is selected by the AWS Foundation Grants Committee.

In addition to the aforementioned, the past 100 years saw the Section membership presenting innumerable technical meetings, hosting many fund-raising events, and participating on AWS National committees. All this while most held full-time positions and were busy with every other aspect of their lives. Not bad for a bunch of volunteers dedicated to nothing more than being good advocates for their industry.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the AWS-Detroit Section. We will celebrate this milestone during our annual Ladies Night event this April. See our website: awssection.com/detroit for details of this momentous event.

My thanks to the members of the AWS-Detroit Section who contributed their time and efforts to provide information for this article. They drew from old records and their memories. It was a joy to speak with each and every one of them.

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