

# The Gear Industry Needs You

Dean Burrows



**Every major milestone in your life and in your professional career is an inflection point for you to take stock of where you came from and where you are going.**

This is no different for an organization like the American Gear Manufacturers Association. As AGMA celebrates its centennial in 2016, it is an appropriate time for the organization to look back at the individuals and companies who brought the organization from its inception through its formative years to become the renowned global association it is today. The individuals and companies who have dedicated themselves to the AGMA are too numerous to name, and the contributions they have made through the first 100 years have been truly invaluable to the organization's continued growth and success. Their commitment over the years and their willingness to share their time, talent, and treasure has made AGMA what it is today.

As a global organization with almost 500 members, with over 25 percent international, AGMA continues to lead the global gear industry while remaining rooted in the technical standards that AGMA was founded to create. As we look to the next 100 years, we will use our strong foundation to envision a future that moves the AGMA to heights that our 19 original founding members could have never imagined.


Joe Franklin has led AGMA for the past 25 years and has grown it to be the world's premier gear association. His contributions cannot be put into words, but can be seen through the continued success of the organization over his tenure. As we embark on this new journey with a new President, Matt Croson, we seek to chart a path that continues to honor our traditions and build on the success of technical documents, networking, and educa-

tion, while exploring new areas such as emerging technologies and advocacy. We are also committed to adding more value to our global members through education specifically tailored to members' needs in their respective countries.

With a seasoned, professional staff leading the organization at our headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, the AGMA continues to stride forward, but as with any organization, there are challenges that we face. Engaging our members to volunteer their time, talent, and treasure has become increasingly more difficult as companies and individuals face more time and financial constraints. Therefore, we need to find new and innovative ways to engage our members and encourage their involvement with the AGMA. The benefits and rewards of involvement through serving on technical committees, business committees, and ultimately the board of directors need to be voiced to our members. As leaders, we need to identify those individuals within our organizations that can help the AGMA, and as a result, our businesses, move forward and succeed. When the AGMA helps the global gearing industry advance, it contributes to the success of all our members. At this time, we need our company leaders to make a personal commitment to help the AGMA help them.

So what is the value proposition for your company? How will your company and your most valuable asset, your employees, be better off for participating in AGMA? From personal experience at Gear Motions, our involvement began in the early 1970s. Over the years, our employees have attended the Daley Gear School, participating in online training/webinars, participated on technical committees, and brought this knowledge back to the day-to-day business of running our employee-owned busi-

ness. The costs associated with participation in AGMA are far outweighed by the benefits it has brought to Gear Motions. We are a stronger company through our involvement at all levels of AGMA.

As we enter the next century of the AGMA's leadership in the gear industry, the long-term view for the organization and the industry as a whole remains bright. The industry and AGMA's members will always have challenges and rough times, but we can continue to ultimately survive and prosper. The AGMA has supported its members and made invaluable contributions to the industry for the past 100 years and will continue to do so for the next 100 years and the 100 after that. 

**Dean Burrows** is

beginning his second year as chairman of the board of AGMA. He is also president of Gear Motions. Burrows joined Gear Motions in 2008 as president of Nixon Gear. He graduated with a Master's in engineering management and a B.S. in industrial engineering from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He previously served as vice president of operations for Marietta Corporation in Cortland and director of global supply chain for Carrier Corporation, a Division of United Technologies. He has more than twenty-five years of operations experience from various industries including automotive, medical device and consumer products.

