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pages 15 & 18

Steel Detailing During a Pandemic
pages 16 & 22
NISD 53rd Annual Meeting
in Louisville, Kentucky

SAVE THE DATE!

April 12-13, 2021
I would like this to be an upbeat message.

Since we detailers play an important role as builders of steel structures, I want to share this poem with you. I memorized it many years ago and it inspires me to feel proud of the work we do and how it relates to living a meaningful and constructive life.

- John Linn

The Builders

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

All are architects of Fate,               Each minute and unseen part;
Working in these walls of Time;         For the Gods see everywhere.
Some with massive deeds and great,      Let us do our work as well,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.           Both the unseen and the seen;
Nothing useless is, or low;            Make the house, where Gods may dwell,
Each thing in its place is best;        Beautiful, entire, and clean.
And what seems but idle show          Else our lives are incomplete,
Strengthens and supports the rest.     Standing in these walls of Time,
For the structure that we raise,        Broken stairways, where the feet
Time is with materials filled;         Stumble as they seek to climb.
Our to-days and yesterdays             Build to-day, then, strong and sure,
Are the blocks with which we build.    With a firm and ample base;
Truly shape and fashion these;         And ascending and secure
Leave no yawning gaps between;        Shall to-morrow find its place.
Think not, because no man sees,        Thus alone can we attain
Such things will remain unseen.        To those turrets, where the eye
In the elder days of Art,              Sees the world as one vast plain,
Builders wrought with greatest care    And one boundless reach of sky
Hello Everyone,

I sincerely hope this message finds you safe and well. In any other year, in this issue we would be reflecting on our NISD Annual (Spring) meeting and the AISC Steel Construction Conference. I don’t have to tell anyone that this isn’t "any other year." What historical, and in many ways catastrophic times we are living in! We all face an uncertain future… What will it look like? How much will life as we now know it, normalize? We are all becoming accustomed to some "new normal," whatever that might be for you and your families, friends and co-workers.

We in the detailing industry have been blessed in many ways with opportunities over the years. Opportunities to have a relatively stable profession. Opportunities to work in a safe environment. Opportunities to work with people from various ethnicities, various walks of life and levels of education.

I know in my 43 years in the detailing and engineering industry I have learned much from others and had many opportunities to grow as a person. Of course, I have not always responded correctly to those opportunities, but hopefully I have learned something. I am definitely thankful for the career and opportunities that I have been given. Now, more than ever, I believe we have an opportunity to come together as people. Now, more than ever I believe we need to come together, pull together to beat this pandemic and to live in peace.

We have been and continue to face down a global pandemic the likes of which the world has not seen in at least a hundred years. We face civil unrest that hearkens back to our childhood. Now, more than ever I would hope that all of us could at this place in time heed the words of a wise man who once said:

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

I think that was and is good advice for me and all of us. It is my hope that you stay safe and well and will look for ways to help someone else.

We as an organization are continuing to look for ways to better serve you, the detailing community, and would love to have your participation and support. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Sincerely,
Joel Hicks
Friends and Associates,

The planning and organizing of both the NISD Annual Convention and the NASCC Detailing Sessions along with the subsequent cancellation has been a most challenging and stressful event for the staff and organizing committees of NISD.

They have handled both situations with professionalism, patience, and good humor.

At the very least they are deserving of a huge "Thank You" and a standing ovation.

Well done team!

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Metcalfe

NISD Board Member

---

Events are great ways to stay current on trends, and network with others. Join us for any of these events in 2021!

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A Message From Our Vice President

by Kerri Olsen

I have heard on occasion, from some of our own members even, that the NISD is a dying entity. I didn’t fully understand why this was being said and so did not know how to respond to this for a long time, so I didn’t. I instead tried to understand why those who say this, think it and believe it.

I worked to get to the root of the problem. What I finally came to understand is this:

When you spend your time getting work out on schedule and 100% accurate, it is hard to see what is really going on in the rest of the world.

NISD is an international organization now. As individuals, our focus tends to not go beyond our own office, our own region, and our own country.

An organization like NISD needs its members to be continually active to breathe life into it.

Our current nucleus – Joel Hicks, Fred Tinker, John and Karolyn Linn, Jack Metcalfé, Michael Pelliccio, David Merrifield, Christine McCulloch, Frank Mercurio, Russell Neal, Ryan Wunderle, Jim Truitt, and Steven Harris, have spent countless hours of volunteer time promoting, organizing and supporting the programs and ideals of the NISD without any direct financial benefit. Some are beyond retirement age and I will soon be among them.

And for what? Why do all these people, in the face of all the adversity – continue?

It is because we work for the industry. We always have and we always will. Our minds and hearts are sold on one thing – we help ourselves by helping each other and this IS the foundation that continues to support the NISD. We are here to help each other. And if you are detailing steel, we can never have enough of your help and support.

Now I’m not saying that the NISD doesn’t need help – we do! Our committees tend to be a party of one. We need to expand, to bring more people in. We are not the boisterous types who make good salespeople, we are more the silent worker types who focus on completing the projects that are in front of us. Often, that work gets in the way of our volunteer time, but we keep pushing forward!

So, if you are one who considers the NISD dying or dead – consider this: it may be because you are not enough involved. Because you are not involved you are unable to fully understand what is really going on with the NISD and our volunteers.

Only you can change that.

Consider this an invitation to join us and become a part of that nucleus! Big things are happening, and we want you to be part of it! Help on a committee or invite another person to join, come to the next annual meeting; any of these is a show of support, which will not go unnoticed!

Kerri Olsen
NISD Vice President – 1-360-426-4108
National Institute of Steel Detailing
Application for Individual Detailer Certification

Classification:
☐ Senior Detailer – Class I: Minimum 10 years experience including checking
☐ Detailer – Class II: Minimum 5 years experience

Disciplines:
☐ Structural/Miscellaneous  ☐ Bridge

Submit:
• Experience history, and
• Either a letter of recommendation from a steel fabricator, a Certified Class I detailer, or a NISD National Director.
When your application is processed, you will receive a sample test and a list of publications to study for the test.

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At time of application + 10 days prior to test + proctor fee (if applicable)

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Rev. 11-2019
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12637 So 265 W., Suite 100D
Draper, UT 84020
phone: (801) 601-1916
jerrod.jones@acmedetailing.com
Jerrod Jones

METAL SOLUTIONS
330 s. 3rd Ave.
Ault, CO 80610
phone: (970) 834-2700
steve@metalsolutions.org
www.metalsolutions.org
Steve Kattning

RNR STEEL DETAILING
7041 S. Woodgreen Rd.
West Jordon, UT 84084
phone: (801) 860-4890
ray.mcdonald@rnrsteeldetailing.com
rnrsteeldetailing.com
Ray McDonald

ROCKY POINT DETAILING, LLC
5351 Bethel Ln., #D
Las Vegas, NV 89119
phone: (858) 324-1903
jim@rockypointdetailing.com
Jim Truitt

STREAMLINE DESIGN SOLUTIONS, INC.
4365 Colonel Talbot Rd.
London, ONT N6P1P9
Canada
phone: (519) 652-3003
michele@streamline.pro
streamline.pro
Michele Johnson

MEMBERS AT LARGE - cont.

SQUARE TOP DETAILING, LLC
7317 State Route 515
Millersburg, OH 44654
phone: (717) 875-8644
ivan@squarerotopdetailing.com
Ivan Stoltzfus

TOP ENGINEER, INC.
610 Main St.
Stoneham, MA 02180
phone: (508) 513-7119
topengineerusa@gmail.com
Yury Rysin

WHEATON STEEL DETAILING, INC.
17518 Strack Rd. East
Spring, TX 77379
phone: (281) 655-4411
andywheaton@wheatondetailing.com
www.wheatondetailing.com
Andrew J. Wheaton

INDIVIDUALS

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phone: (240) 413-1202
ncjaspela@gmx.com

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351 Rolling Oaks Dr., Suite 202A
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361
phone: (805) 370-1300
gkorn@gka-arc.com

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Rev. 2-2020
Congratulations!

This regular feature recognizes detailers who have recently taken and passed the IDC test. The listing is by discipline and class.

Structural/Miscellaneous Detailer – Class II

Sachin Chhajed
Prothious Engineering Services
Maharashtra, India

Individual Detailer Certification Program

Industry professionals are in search of talented detailers who have the knowledge and capability to produce quality shop drawings within the framework of various codes, specifications and contract documents.

NISD created the Individual Detailer Certification Program in response to the steel industry’s need to measure the skill level of individuals performing steel detailing services.

This is not a test of memory but a test of ability. The exam’s emphasis is based on a candidate’s knowledge of the various techniques, codes, and specifications involved in detailing.

Training, Safety, Leadership – Training Spotlight

AISC and IMPACT Introduce Steel Detailer Training Series

Originally developed by AISC and the National Institute of Steel Detailing, the AISC Detailer Training Series is being made available as a free web-based service thanks to funding from IMPACT.

The DTS program provides an introduction and overview of the roles and responsibilities of the steel detailer. This program consists of 10 Modules – most with multiple parts. Each of these parts consists of a series of videos, followed by a quiz pertaining to the concepts covered in that section. Click on a module listing on the DTS page to begin. At the end of the (entire) course is a final exam. A certificate of completion is earned upon passing this exam. Each exam can be repeated until a passing score is achieved.
St. Sarkis Church

by John Linn

NISD member, American Steel Detailing located in Medina, Ohio recently completed the detailing of a church complex that involved four structures totaling 446 tons of steel.

The entire church building was stick built and field welded together. The other three structures were connected using a variety of welded and bolted connections. Structural design used a variety of different details including diagonal bracing and moment connections. The floor slab for the church building is 1'-0 thick concrete to allow the erection crane access to some of the hard to reach beams.

The dark gray panels at the exterior walls are actually pre-cast concrete panels. This combination of structural steel and pre-cast concrete must make for a very strong design.

The event center and athletic center both had large open areas with beams spanning seventy-plus feet. Also, there is a connecting canopy between them framed by HSS tubing.

This conical dome was totally assembled on the ground, including roofing, and then erected as a one-piece frame.

Pre-cast concrete wall panels

Event & athletic centers with canopy between.

Church structure.

Roof structure opening for conical dome.

Church model.
On the Job Site — Mint Street Parking Garage — Charlotte, NC

Mint Street Parking Garage

by Steven Harris

To be truthful, the new stairs for the Mint Street Parking Garage in Charlotte, NC was a project I did not want to work on. I was contacted one day by Commercial Fabricators, Inc., located in Newton, NC, and they asked me to look at a project. I was sent a picture of the existing stair; as soon as I saw the curve, I said, as politely as I could, "No thank you." Several weeks passed by, and those curved stairs were the farthest thing from my mind; my phone rang, but this time it was Richard Tucker, the owner of Commercial Fabricators.

"We would really like for you to help us on this project."

Appalachian Drafting, LLC is like most every other independent firm out there – we have several clients that we have worked with over the years and have been able to form strong relationships with them. The problem with having relationships with your clients like that is when they call and ask for things that push you from your comfort zone, it really gets hard to say no.

I told Richard then, “I have never done a spiral (curved) stair before.”

"That’s okay, I can help you. Don’t worry – I really believe you can do this," Richard replied.

Over time, Commercial Fabricators had replaced all the stair framing and rails in the existing parking garage with new galvanized material, and the two curved stairs on the exterior of the parking garage were the last two items to be replaced. The stairs not only had to be detailed to perfectly duplicate the old stairs, but no "As-Builts" existed for the existing structure, so we had no idea of the radius or locations of work points.

Reluctantly, I agreed to try, under the condition that we would utilize 3D laser scanning and the Microsoft HoloLens.

The Mint Street project took a lot of firsts for Appalachian Drafting, LLC. It was our first spiral stair, our first 3D laser scan, and our first HoloLens use on a real project.

After the scans were complete, they were then imported into Tekla Structures. After the first stair was completed in the model, we loaded the model into the Microsoft HoloLens. To ensure everything was modeled correctly, we were able to overlay the hologram with the existing stairs before they were demolished.

Now that the job is over, I am very blessed to have been part of this project. I would like to give a special thank you to Richard Tucker for having confidence in us and pushing us out of our comfort zone. The entire crew here at AppaD played a vital role in the completion of these stairs, and it would not have been possible without each one of them.
Annual Meeting Blues

by Kerri Olsen

After the event cancellation shock wore off, I began to realize how much I missed going to the NISD and the AISC Conferences. Many of us donate unquantifiable hours of volunteer time in preparation of these events, the reward for which is to see and experience the benefits of our labor while attending.

Those of us who had worked so hard for so long had no sooner seen our handiwork in print when the world news began explaining that this encroaching pandemic would shut down international travel, all events and gatherings, would close most stores, restaurants, workplaces and jobsites, putting all our lives on stall. It took some time for shock to transform into realization, understanding and, finally, acceptance.

I finally understood that part of my unsettled feeling was due to not being able to attend the most important steel industry event of the year. I missed my steel detailing buddies!

The conference this year was to be like no other. The AISC had donated a meeting room strictly for steel detailing sessions that had been successfully filled with 13 tracks for continued education on steel detailing. With attendance open to all, these sessions offered information and insight to steel detailing best practices, workability with other trades, software platforms, the NISD Industry Standard, Individual Detailer Certification and the Quality Procedures Program. Attending NISD members who have their Individual Detailing Certification could use the PDH (Professional Development Hours) continuing education credits in lieu of the three-year re-testing requirement.

I was very excited for the opportunity to have these sessions available to those who are unclear what the NISD is about, who we are and what we do for the steel detailing industry. So much was going on for steel detailers at this conference, you just cannot buy this kind of exposure!

Additionally, the AISC had donated space and internet for those taking the Individual Detailer Certification test during conference week. Test takers were to receive NASCC passes free of charge.

If you had attended the 2019 NISD conference in St. Louis, you would have known about this year’s steel detailing sessions, for it was at this meeting when AISC’s Scott Melnick and Larry Kruth announced this new opportunity for us. I immediately understood the potential for industry impact we would have through this offer!

I came to realize something else – it felt as though steel detailing had finally become recognized as a viable entity, our existence now being taken seriously by those outside the steel fabricator groups. We have worked very hard for a very long time to achieve this goal. We kept pushing forward, refusing

Continued on page 18
As I sit here today to begin writing this article, my office is a complete ghost town, and the streets are eerily vacant. We, as a nation, are struggling with something that no one has had to deal with before, and none of us really know what to do or even how to act. We in the steel industry have had our NISD & NASCC conferences cancelled and have been told by our national and local leaders to practice social distancing; all the while, businesses are asked to close or send workers home. During this time of chaotic trips to the grocery store and watching the stock market swing back and forth, we as steel detailers find solace in our jobs and just want to sit down and knock out some work.

Thankfully, for the last couple of years, our group here at Appalachian Drafting, LLC has worked remotely, leaving us largely unaffected by the government’s guidelines and requirements to work from home. Unlike some of you reading this, we were not forced into this overnight but rather chose to do this over a period of time, and we had the ability to work out the kinks along the way. Our decision to work remotely was influenced by several elements - from long commute times to needing to be close to home to care for an elderly parent with dementia.

Now, working from home is NOT for everyone. Personally, I live close to our office and I enjoy getting up, driving to the office, and stopping by Dunkin’ to get my morning cup of coffee. Before we wade out into the weeds, let me say what works for us may not work for you. Obviously, if you have an inexperienced detailer/modeler, it may not be in the best interests of your operation to have someone like that working solo at home. Working from home requires great discipline and dedication from the employee, and the employer must have trust in the employee.

Our current setup at Appalachian Drafting, LLC is this: the business does maintain an office, and everyone still has an area here at the office, complete with monitors and desks. Staff members do still come in once/twice a week, or once a month depending on the projects, and if they just want to get out of the house. Even though having multiple setups at home and maintaining an office comes at an additional expense, this allows each employee the flexibility and, frankly, freedom in their daily work. Also, having the ability to still work together in person is important to us in order to build the team mentality and maintain good relationships with each other.
The undersigned hereby applies for membership in the National Institute of Steel Detailing, Inc.

Name: ___________________________________________________________ Title: ___________________________________________________________

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to sell out despite the urgings of some of our own members, and now this dream was to be realized – almost. We have the AISC to thank for this opportunity and have only a short time to wait before the next debut.

There was one session that did spark a note of controversy – the session on ‘Managing Offshore Detailing.’ Emails were sent to the AISC and to the NISD that the session was looked upon negatively. I do want to share my thoughts on this now as I do hope the speakers for this session are available for next time when we do gather again for an annual conference.

Steel detailers are a people who keep their heads down and work. They don’t like to make noise; they don’t like to make waves and they do not like to draw attention to themselves. This trait is a standard for most steel detailers - there are exceptions, though it appears to be shared by the majority.

Consequently, the steel detailing profession is not in the public eye. Steel detailing is not a sought-after trade here in the US and few are those who truly understand what it takes to do the job of a steel detailer.

Many steel fabricator project managers think of steel detailers as being the same world-around as they seek the lowest price, expecting equal product quality.

It seems as though most steel fabricator project managers often do not review their shop drawings, so they do not know what they have bought. Many don’t know what to look for if they do look them over. I was hoping the session ‘Managing Offshore Detailing’ would open some eyes for these folks. Since I was thinking about the session in this light, I was surprised by the negative response. The intent was to help those who had made the offshore choice and not performed their due diligence, making sure that the details received were accurate and would achieve company standards.

The steel fabricator’s project manager needs to know the best practices for working outside the US, and how best to navigate through these conditions. Speaking now as one who IS working as a project manager for a steel fabricator using both domestic and foreign detailers, I must be sharp to catch what is missed while working with US detailers let alone detailers sourced outside our borders. I am surprised at each submittal from both resources, as neither operate according to any standard. I am training more than managing. Doing my best to prevent shop and/or field disasters.

I know that there are exceptions to this and I have worked with some stellar offshore steel detailers. My point is this – the problems we have today may only be helped and prevented by adequate education - for all concerned. That is what the NISD Conference on Steel Detailing offers, and hopefully we will get the opportunity for this at the next NASCC Conference and NISD Annual Meeting.
National Institute of Steel Detailing

About NISD Certification Programs

Certificate of Development in BIM

Building Information Modeling (BIM):
The Certificate of Development—Building Information Modeling is an assessment-based certificate credential that establishes the knowledge and understanding of concepts to BIM and detailing practices that is important for all BIM teams to know. CD-BIM has been designed to prepare entry level technicians as well as highly experienced construction professionals in BIM with a common understanding of core concepts. Some of these topics include who the stakeholders are in the process, what the BIM Execution Plan is, how coordination meetings function, and many other key concepts.

Individual Detailer Certification Program

The National Institute of Steel Detailing created the Individual Detailer Certification Program (IDC) in response to the steel industry’s need to determine the skill level of individuals performing steel detailing services. Industry professionals are in search of talented detailers who have the knowledge and capability to produce quality shop drawings within the framework of various codes, specifications and contract documents.

The IDC program examines and evaluates an individual’s detailing knowledge and issues a certificate attesting to that level of knowledge. NISD has established this program as an industry-wide professional standard of practice in conjunction with its Quality Procedures Certification Program.

Quality Procedures Program

The NISD Quality Procedures Program is aimed at helping companies define their commitment to quality through management planning. The program provides a guide and a checklist to help your team define such aspects as management goals and responsibilities, office procedures, training and corrective actions. This program, while targeting detailing firms, has its roots in solid business planning that any company providing similar services could find to be beneficial. Whether you’re providing structural steel, miscellaneous metals, bridges or design services, you will find it helpful in guiding your company to a successful and profitable project.

Because NISD fosters a professional approach to business and advocates improved quality through member networking, education, and certification, our members are highly regarded by fabricators, architects, engineers and contractors.

For more information about these programs:
Visit our website at www.nisd.org or send us an e-mail at nisd@sbcglobal.net
IDC Interview - Michael Biordi

by John Linn

We have recently certified a Class I detailer into the NISD Individual Detailer Certification program. He is Michael Biordi from the great state of New York in the town of Bayside.

Michael first passed the Class II test in 2015 and then went on to get his Class I Senior Detailer certification three years later.

In talking to Michael, I soon realized that he must be a very busy young man. His wife is a school teacher and they are also kept busy raising their two sons who are 1½ years and 3 years old.

Michael works at Alpha Detailers located in nearby College Point, New York. He has been detailing for seven years and learned detailing on the job. In addition to detailing he also has studied structural engineering and anticipates getting his PE license by August 2020.

Michael enjoys his job in part because he likes the diversity of working on many different types of projects and materials. He has done work ranging from re-bar to roof top platforms. He likes doing engineering calculations and is very familiar with the AISC Code of Standard Practice. I would speculate that Michael has a very bright future ahead in his career.

I am greatly pleased to welcome Michael as an NISD Class I Senior Detailer and congratulate him on his accomplishments.
As you may know, the NISD board of directors is composed of ten members. We have three officers and seven directors. The three officers are president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer.

Recently two of the directors have retired from steel detailing and one director had to leave the board for personal reasons. The three directors who have now left the board have all given many years of service to our institute. We are very grateful for all that they have done to improve and support the detailer’s position in the steel construction industry. The names of the three retiring board members are Richard Anderson from Quebec City, Canada, Jack Metcalfe from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Fred Tinker from Southern California. Many thanks to all for their generous service to NISD.

I am pleased to report that we have been very fortunate to have found three excellent replacements who have stepped up to fill the void left by the loss of the three retiring directors. The new directors taking their places are:

Frank Mercurio Jr. replacing Richard Anderson

Ryan Wunderle replacing Jack Metcalfe

Jim Truitt replacing Fred Tinker

Each of the three new directors have submitted a brief resume of their background in steel detailing.

**Frank Mercurio, Jr.**

Frank Mercurio, Jr. got his start in the structural steel detailing business by following in his father’s footsteps. His father, Frank Sr., is the proud owner of Frank F. Mercurio and Associates, and has been owner/detailer for over 50 years now. Frank and Missy Mercurio have now been the proud owners of Mercurio Drafting, LLC for the past 5 years, taking over for the legendary Jack Metcalfe. Needless to say, Frank Jr. has had some very influential mentors in his professional career!

Frank is the father of 2 wonderful children. Son Max is a junior at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, studying to become a Chemical Engineer. Daughter Bella graduated high school this year, in one of the most trying senior years a kid can have. She persevered and is going to Gannon University on a golf scholarship to study Mechanical Engineering. Frank and Missy couldn’t be prouder of the two of them.

In his spare time (what spare time?), Frank enjoys golfing, weightlifting, cornhole, or any other activity that allows for competition. Frank is also a 2nd degree blackbelt in taekwondo.

Frank Mercurio Jr. is a respected member of the structural steel and bridge detailing community, with over 30 years of experience. He started in the industry as a structural steel detailer, and progressed through the ranks as a checker, project manager, and now as a successful owner of Mercurio Drafting, LLC since July 2015. Frank is the current Owner/President of Mercurio Drafting LLC dba John Metcalfe Company, Monroeville, PA and he is an NISD Certified Senior Detailer Class I – Structural/Miscellaneous & Bridge.
One of the first things that should be addressed is the hours that a home-based employee is expected or required to work. If you remember, our decision to work from home was based on reasons other than mandates from the government, so having flexible hours for us is critical. Some of our team members need time in the afternoon to pick up kids from school or to leave to watch a ball game, while others like to mow their grass or check on elderly parents. Don’t get me wrong, we don’t have crew members just aimlessly wandering in and out all day; we all communicate several times a day, and if someone needs to step out for a few minutes, they will send out a notification to alert the whole team.

That brings me to a critical element of having a detailing crew working independently of each other, and that is communication. One of our most important pieces of software (besides our modeling software) is the software we utilize to communicate with each other. We very rarely communicate by telephone, but each employee has a microphone and speakers and we call each other through the software; then we have the ability to share screens and take command of each other’s computer. The software also allows us to invite our customers/architects/engineers as guests, and then they, also, can see our screen; this is most helpful when trying to explain RFIs.

Appalachian Drafting, LLC utilizes Tekla Structures as our software of choice to perform our services. Tekla Structures offers a cloud-based Model Sharing service for an annual fee. Regardless of the software you use as part of your operation, most, if not all, of the developers of the popular steel detailing software offer subscriptions for cloud-based model sharing.

Before I conclude, I do want to say that having everyone separated and independent from each other does have some disadvantages as well. Steel detailing is a unique skill, and it takes a special talent to excel in this field. The camaraderie between detailers is something special to me and is hard to develop when we don’t have a personal connection. Many of the things I know today were handed down to me by previous co-workers while eating lunch together or shooting pool in the break room. Also, lessons I learned from experienced detailers during kick-off meetings, as they proved my theories wrong on the dry-erase board in the conference room, will always stick with me. If you do decide to make working from home a permanent part of your business, please allow time for team building during the year. Plan events together and enjoy the friendships without always having to discuss work.
Setien & Associates - Enlightening Children to Optional Careers

We would like to share with our readers a letter we received from Nehemias Moreno of Setien & Associates who have their headquarters in San Antonio, Texas.

Good afternoon Mr. Linn,

Last year I mentioned a project that I was looking to start. The project consisted of introducing the construction industry to younger children, by donating construction-related children’s books to elementary schools.

Many young students that have interests and aptitudes that would be useful in construction, are discouraged from these areas as they progress through their academic studies. Most of this happens while they are still in elementary school, as they are guided and influenced into careers that do not match their interests and skills.

Setien & Associates is committed to training and educating the next generation of skilled construction workers and subsequently helping to close the gap in the shortage that the industry has suffered in the past few decades. We are doing several things to help accomplish this, such as getting involved with schools’ CTE Advisory Committee Boards, participating in career days, opening internship opportunities for high school students, and yes, donating construction-related children’s books to elementary schools.

We recently got this project up and running and the first independent school district that opened its doors to our project was East Central ISD in San Antonio, Texas. On February 20, 2020, ECISD allowed us the honor of making a presentation of these books to the principals of each of their elementary schools. The book that was donated to them is Look at That Building: A First Book of Structures, by Scot Ritchie. We are currently working with Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD to do the same with them; and our goal is to be able to do this with many other ISDs in our area.

Respectfully,

Nehemias Moreno
Ryan Wunderle

Ryan Wunderle has 12 years’ experience in steel detailing. A 2007 graduate of North Olmsted High School and Polaris Career center in northeast Ohio, Ryan began working for a detailing company in Rocky River, Ohio in 2008. In January 2016, he started his own firm, American Steel Detailing, operating out of Medina, Ohio.

Ryan has been married since 2013 and has two young sons. In his personal time, Ryan enjoys building and repairing computers, a skill he puts to use at the office. He also enjoys maintaining his Ford Mustang. Ryan enjoys both professional and community theater with his wife. He frequently can be found helping her build sets for her various theater endeavors for the local school system, and he is a supporter of Playhouse Square in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jim Truitt

Jim Truitt has been involved in the steel detailing/fabrication/erection industry since 1972. Born and raised in Pleasant Grove, Utah, he gained his education in drafting, structural steel detailing, welding and metallurgy at Utah Technical College – Provo in the 1970s. Jim has achieved certifications along the way, including Senior Certified Detailer, certified welding inspector, and certified welder. Jim founded Aircad Steel Detailing in San Diego, CA in 1993 and has recently added Rocky Point Detailing to his conglomerate. His steel detailing business has become a three-generation family business. Jim trained his daughter Cherokee to become a detailer beginning in 1995. She is currently managing the office in Las Vegas. Her son, Mike came on board last year and is proving that detailing is in his genes. Jim has three daughters and a son, plus nine grandchildren.

Jim received his private pilot certificate in 1976 and has enjoyed flying light planes ever since. He became instrument-rated and added a multi-engine rating along the way.
Dear NISD sisters and brothers,

Some 50 years ago on May first we had our very first NISD Annual meeting. It was held in Pittsburgh at a hotel in which AISC was holding their annual steel conference. It turned out to be a notable event as NISD President Richard Amron was asked to address the AISC conference to introduce and explain NISD. His talk was well received.

Our separate annual event was highlighted by a dinner reception attended by over 100 members and their spouses. Our dignitaries, the NISD officers, were all in attendance:

President Richard Amron (New York Chapter)
First V.P. James Ziegenfuss (Great Lakes Chapter)
Second V.P. Ralph Sorrentino (California Chapter)
Secretary George Beck (New York Chapter)
Treasurer Chuck Carlson (Midwest Chapter)

Those hosting the event were John W. Metcalfe (Pittsburgh Director), Jack Metcalfe (Pittsburgh President) and wife Pam. Pittsburgh officers were Bill Erdner (V.P.), Glenn Blank (Secretary) and Frank Mercurio Sr. (Treasurer).

A cocktail party was sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter with two lovely twin nursing students as greeters. While it was not a black-tie affair, a number of tuxedos were evident and many of the ladies were resplendent in gowns and fine dresses.

Following a white table-cloth dinner, the social gathering continued with an evening of dancing to live music (no social distancing was involved).

These were the days my friends – believe me. It was beautiful.
More NISD History

by John Linn

This photo was taken at one of the tri-chapter meetings we held in Las Vegas. This one was held in September of 1990 (thanks to Ron & Valerie Montes for this information). It looks like we had about thirty people in attendance at this meeting.

The tri-chapters that organized these meetings were the Southwest Chapter, the California Chapter, and the Pacific Chapter. However, the meetings were open to all NISD members.

I recall that these meetings were lively and quite productive, and a lot of good friendships came from them. I think that the greatest benefit we got out of them was that they planted the seed for the Industry Standard Program that Greg Brawley and others worked on for about five years afterwards.
Benefits For NISD Members!
Visit Your NISD Website...

We Are Your Voice...
The NISD Board of Directors was pleased with the feedback it has had from membership regarding new ways that NISD can help expand the scope of services for the benefit of members and the steel detailing industry!

Our web site is contemporary, easy to navigate, and represents our members as a professional and knowledgeable organization. Check it out!

Visit NISD.org

Networking Knowledge!

Our Discussion Board is a tool to allow sharing of knowledge and resources. Post your industry-related questions or comments. Receive responses from other professionals. Utilize your NISD membership network today!
nisdorg.wordpress.com

Find us on Facebook too!

www.facebook.com/NISD.org

Because NISD fosters a professional approach to business and advocates improved quality through member networking, education, and certification, our members are highly regarded by fabricators, architects, engineers and contractors.