

AWS Celebrates Its 105th Anniversary



In honor of this milestone, read about the Society's early days and view a timeline of accomplishments

BY KRISTIN CAMPBELL

It seems just like yesterday we were in the year 2019 celebrating AWS's 100th anniversary. The *Welding Journal* covered the milestone through unique columns filled with stories honoring our rich history. Now, it's already 2024, and we're marking our 105th anniversary. Below is meaningful text provided by August F. Manz, an AWS Fellow and honorary historian.

100 Years Ago, AWS Was Five Years Old

In 1924, two Sections were added to AWS: the Western New York Section and the Kansas City Section. With the addition of these two new Sections, AWS membership grew to 718 members by midyear. In February, discussions began on the formation of a Detroit Section, which was added in 1925. This year, AWS membership reached more than 62,000.

In addition, the 5th Annual Meeting of AWS was held in New York City during April 23–26, 1924.

In 1924, welding was at its infancy. There was no gas tungsten arc welding, gas metal arc welding, submerged arc welding, or plasma arc welding, to name a few.

The year 1924 was noteworthy for welding because of the following:

- *The Welding Journal published 62 papers/reports*
- *Lloyd's Register of Shipping issued arc welding regulations for ship construction*

■ *Welded leak-proof aluminum fuel tanks made it possible for four Army Air Service airplanes to circle the globe*

■ *In England, Dr. Pulling reported recent x-ray developments made it possible to see through 4 in. of steel and discover the smallest of flaws*

■ *An all-welded natural gas pipeline, 14 miles long, was built using acetylene welding*

Today, AWS has become a world class organization. Visit aws.org to learn more.

Works Consulted: "Through the Years with the AWS – A Definitive History of the American Welding Society," a manuscript by T. P. Schoonmaker, 1990–1991 AWS Technical Papers editor emeritus.

On the following pages, there's a timeline highlighting a wide range of AWS accomplishments over the last five years.

Timeline of AWS Accomplishments from 2020 to 2024



The AWS Board of Directors announced Gary Konarska II as the organization's executive director and chief executive officer, succeeding Ray Shook, who held the position for 15 years.

At the AWS Education 2020 Virtual Summit, both the educational sessions and professional programs were live and interactive, packed with fresh research, insights, best practices, and more. It attracted 489 registrants.



Standards committees began using an online balloting system to review, comment, and approve new, revised, or reaffirmed standards.



The AWS Foundation launched weldingworkforcedata.com to highlight the need for welding professionals.

All standards committee meetings were conducted via teleconference or hybrid, allowing participants to attend meetings without the necessity of travel.

2020

The Welding Journal reported on talents getting used for good amid the COVID-19 pandemic and recognized the extraordinary efforts by many to make masks, respirators, face shields, and more.



AWS released D1.1/ D1.1M:2020, *Structural Welding Code – Steel*, and A3.0M/A3.0:2020, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions Including Terms for Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, and Thermal Spraying*.

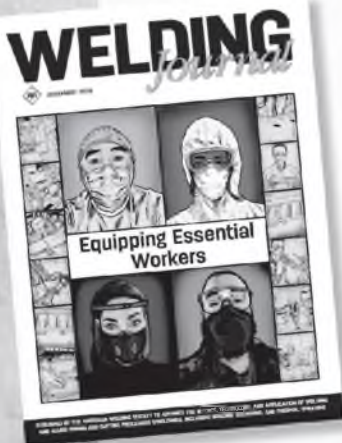
2021

The AWS ARCADEMY video series, available on youtube.com/@videoaws, was launched to provide resources for those interested in educating themselves toward a welding career.



FABTECH returned to an in-person event and became the first large-scale B2B and manufacturing trade show to be held at Chicago's McCormick Place since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

AWS began using AWS D1.1/ D1.1M:2020, *Structural Welding Code – Steel*, exclusively in Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) exams, and the Society began offering a comprehensive two-week CWI preparation option.





The *Welding Journal* celebrated its 100th anniversary and published a special column throughout the year in honor of this major milestone. It also debuted a redesigned layout with new type fonts, color palettes, and article templates.



Twenty agents from across the globe assembled at AWS World Headquarters in Miami, Fla., for the International Agents Meeting. Representing 13 companies, the agents in attendance hailed from nine countries.

AWS introduced the Lean Management for Welding Productivity online course, which aims to identify and mitigate waste to help businesses suit their production to demand.



Inspection Trends began being published as part of the *Welding Journal*, a pairing that gives all AWS members access and exposure to more welding inspection content.

The Taiwan International Section of AWS (AWS-Taiwan) hosted a Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) conference to share hands-on experiences and to address the significant roles of the AWS CWIs and Certified Welders in the fast-growing offshore wind farm industry in Taiwan.

In January, ESAB kicked off its Future Fabricators Program with the announcement of 12 scholarships in the amount of \$5000 each that are awarded through the AWS Foundation.

In February, the annual AWS Transition Ceremony took place. AWS President Michael A. Krupnicki was welcomed, and he spoke about his long-time experience in the welding industry along with strengthening our board governance, enhancing the volunteer experience, and more matters.

2022

2023

2024

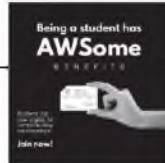
The AWS Foundation awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships.



The AWS Foundation started weldingapprenticeship.com, an employer-focused resource for Registered Apprenticeship Programs.




The AWS Board of Directors selected Robert "Bob" W. Roth as the interim executive director and CEO. The appointment came as outgoing Executive Director and CEO Gary Konarska II transitioned into a new role at The Lincoln Electric Co.



AWS launched its free Student Membership for up to four years for all students engaged in a form of industry-related education or training. More than 6000 students took advantage and became members of the Society within the first six months.

The AWS redesigned website debuted at aws.org, offering a responsive design optimized for tablets and mobile devices, a live chat feature, and more.



The rest of this year is all ours to achieve many more accomplishments! 

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