

2011 AFS 78th Annual Southeast Regional Conference

The Piedmont Chapter's March 2011 Meeting was held in conjunction with the 2011 AFS 78th Annual Southeast Regional Conference, March 2-4, 2011, at Litchfield Golf and Beach Resorts, Pawleys Island, SC.

The program began with an Education Projects Fundraising Golf event at the Willbrook Plantation Golf Club, in which about a dozen foursomes scrambled at captain's choice. That evening, a hospitality reception was held, where folks were able to catch up with old acquaintances and create new ones.



The next day's technical sessions, attended by over 80 participants, focused on Doing More ... With Less. These sessions were the highlight of the program, included 11 of the industry's most respected experts, speaking on topics varying from the current state of the industry, to cost savings through process optimization and energy conservation, and to labor and employment law strategies, including:

The Opening Remarks by Henry Lodge, Lodge Manufacturing, Current AFS National President
And presentations from: Walt Matthews, T B Woods, on "Power Curtailment Opportunities"
Fred Schlick, Conbraco Industries, on "Cost Saving in Charge Materials"
Scott Strobl, Simpson Technologies, on "Cost Reductions in Sand Processing"
Charley Graf, ret, GM Foundry Div, on "Improving Cupola Operation = Reduced Costs and Manpower"
Jerry Call, Executive VP, AFS, on the state of the industry
Leo Baran, AFS Membership Director, on "How Membership Creates Savings"
Greg Selip, Elwood Engineering, on "Energy Conservation Projects that WORK"
Dick Winsemius, Powerit Solutions, on "Electricity Management Optimization"
John Cole, on "Labor and Employment Law Strategies that can Reduce Costs"
Gene Muratore, Rio Tinto, on "Cast, Clean, and Make MONEY"



In appreciation for their time, speakers were presented copies of a foundry art print, by Michael Moore, and the original was raffled in fundraising drawing at the Banquet that evening.

The evening's dinner banquet was attended by over 120 registrants, including 13 spouses. Regional Chairman, Paul Hanna, paused after dinner, to recognize the morning's speakers, as well as Larson Wile, the Piedmont Chapter Chairman back in 1965-66, pictured with Don Rundle from TB Woods. Larson is now 92 years young.



The banquet culminated with entertainment by an amateur comedian from the local comedy club.



The next morning, participants toured Conbraco Industries Steel Product Division, in Conway, SC, to see their Investment and No-bake Casting processes.