



August 5-6, 2019 Meeting

The ACE Hotel

311 North Morgan Street
Chicago, IL 60607
\$229 for a King Room

Monday, August 5, 2019

Noon - 3:00 pm

CFA Board of Directors Meeting

4:00 PM – 6:00 pm

General Session

TOPIC: WELDING PRODUCTIVITY – MORE THAN WELDING FASTER

Many people think that to increase productivity in welding, you need to make the welder go faster. These days nothing could be further from the truth. With the number of trained welders decreasing, wages not keeping up with other jobs or even inflation, and trends showing fewer employees going to manufacturing, making a welder's job more difficult is not a viable solution. Advances in technology hold the key to increased productivity, reducing costs per unit of weld, creating a safer environment and verifying these gains.

The focus of welding technology today is to make it easier to make a higher quality weld with less skill and then validate the results. This presentation will cover such topics as how consumables are keeping up with higher strength materials while reducing the potential for defects and failure. We will look at how power sources and feeders have become more efficient, simpler to use, and upgradeable through software to keep up with new developments in arc transfer and what those developments are. We will see how even ancillary items are designed to make it simpler to put a quality weld in place. From digital welding guns, to heads up displays in welding helmets that show the welder step by step where the weld goes. Then we will review the latest in Automation and welding data verification systems that precisely provide everything you want to know about the entire fabricating process, from productivity to predicting defects. Finally, we will tie all of this together to show how a basic shop controlled by the expertise of the welder can become more productive and produce higher quality products in a safer environment, controlled through the welding process itself.

Our Presenter: Michael Flagg, Global Manager of Application Engineering for The Lincoln Electric Company



Michael Flagg is the Global Manager of Application Engineering for The Lincoln Electric Company in Cleveland, Ohio. Michael graduated from The Ohio State University in 1988 with a B.S. degree in Welding Engineering. He has been with The Lincoln Electric Company for over 30 Years. Twelve of those years were as a Technical Sales Representative in the Western Pennsylvania market where his responsibilities included selling and supporting all of Lincoln's product line including equipment, consumables, automation, and environmental systems. In 2001 Mike transitioned to the role of Application Engineer in Lincoln's Cleveland headquarters.

There he focused on procedure development, inverter waveform creation, and specializing in Advanced Submerged Arc Welding applications. In 2009 Mike was named manager of the Application Engineering department. With a staff of 20 engineers and technologists, the AE department answers technical questions for customers and sales reps, evaluates new products for sale, and performs cost reduction analysis and procedure development for end users. In 2019 Mike was promoted to his present role of Global Manager of Application Engineering, charged with coordinating and directing the activities of Lincoln's 42 global Application and Automation centers.

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Sponsor Dinner & Reception

Dinner at The ACE Hotel and catered by:

[The Publican](#)

Their regular menu utilizes exceptional product prepared to showcase the farmers and fishermen's bounty. From classic Belgian-style mussels and seafood stew to housemade terrines and charcuterie, the daily rotating menu reflects the best seasonal and local ingredients available. Presented simply and free of adornment, other favorites include beef heart tartare, country ribs and The Publican's signature Farm Chicken, as well as a thoughtful selection of fresh and pickled vegetables.

The Publican is one of Chicago's Top 50 restaurants. Chicago Magazine says: "The Publican may well be the most Chicago restaurant there is..." [Read the full review here.](#)



Tuesday, April 30, 2019

8:00 am – 9:30 am

Fabricator Round Tables - Breakfast

Fabricators ONLY

9:30 am – 10:00 am

Large Group Discussion

Fabricators ONLY

Contact CFA with any topics you would like to see discussed via j.metsker@centralfabricators.org.

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

PEER LEARNING GROUP Session (for committed members only)

- There is an additional Annual fee to participate in the Peer Group. Unless you have paid this fee, please do not sign up for this portion of the meeting. Committed participants will receive a separate agenda and communication regarding the Peer Group session.
- Committed companies can bring up to 2 participants
- Lunch will be provided.
- Please plan to attend the complete session until 1:00 pm

* A King room at the hotel is \$229 with WiFi included.

CFA will make your room reservation per your registration information.

CFA will send your confirmation approximately one week prior to the event.

CFA limits Member Companies to having 2 company employees attend as a portion of their dues.

Spouses and significant others as well as employees above 2 will be charged \$150 per person.

Vendor Sponsors are limited to 2 attendees only.

A cancellation fee of \$175 will apply for any and all registrations cancelled by Wednesday, August 1 at Noon.

No shows will also be invoiced a fee of \$175.