NADCA: Providing the Tools for Success in the Die Casting Industry

2008 Annual Report
Dear Die Casting Professional,

It is always interesting to comb through NADCA’s annual accomplishments and figure out which ones to highlight in the Annual Report. It is interesting because when the list is compiled, it is far longer than I always think it will be. NADCA staff has done a good job in doing so many different things in many different areas that have helped the industry and NADCA’s members. Our 2008 membership survey results confirm that most members recognize this because of their continued involvement and commitment to NADCA.

The battle that we are fighting is the massive consolidation of the die casting industry. The coming year unfortunately already promises to be worse on die casting operations than 2008. Despite the industry problems, NADCA continues with its agenda to market, advocate, research, educate and network the North American die casting industry. We have been fortunate to receive significant industry support in the past that allows us to invest in products and services.

In 2008, we continued to market the positive aspects of designing with die castings. Our white papers, press releases, op-ed columns, print and electronic advertisements all generated interest from hundreds of companies. They wanted to learn more about how they can take advantage of designing with die castings. This was supported by the launch of the NADCA design Web site, the revision of the book Product Design for Die Casting and the 2009 update of the NADCA Product Specification Standards for Die Castings. Marketing and design assistance continue to be important elements in NADCA’s plans for 2009.

A major investigation into the industry was conducted through all of 2008. The die casting census study defined the U.S. die casting industry by markets served, pounds shipped, people employed and number of machines operating. The results of the study will be available in a report by mid-year. NADCA will continue to collect this type of data from die casters in order to re-establish the industry monthly index and to serve as a trade association that markets its members’ products and services.

In addition to all the products discussed above, NADCA worked with AFS on CastExpo’08 and a successful Government Affairs Briefing, organized a delegation to Europe and assisted Chapters with presentations and courses. We continue to develop online training programs, adding courses on Melting, Energy and Safety in 2008. Training courses on Dust Hazards, Introduction to Die Casting and PQ2 will be launched in early 2009. Much of the online training is offered for free and is supported by recently published NADCA books on PPE, Energy in Die Casting and Process Improvement Guidelines. NADCA Corporate Members continue to be given these new books free of charge.

All in all, NADCA completed its 2008 goals and has developed another aggressive list for 2009. We look forward to completing these goals for the members and for the industry to turn around so that they can fully take advantage of the resulting products and services. Thank you for your support of NADCA.
Those Who Lead

NADCA 2008 Executive Officers

Michael Stroh, Chairman
Stroh Die Casting Co. Inc.

Leonard Cordaro, Vice Chairman
Premier Die Casting Co.

Robert Dathe, Secretary/Treasurer
A&B Die Casting Inc.

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Ace Precision Castings LLC

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Fort Recovery Industries Inc.

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VERSEVO Inc.

Doug Harmon
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Custom Alloys Light Metals Inc.

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Ryobi Die Casting (USA) Inc.

Gary Klockowski
Klockowski & Associates

Mark Los
BuhlerPrince Inc.

Robert Marconi
RCM Industries Inc.

Mark Marshall
Chem-Trend Ltd. Partnership

Mark Petro
Walker Die Casting Inc.

Leon Suttles
Progressive Components

Dave Thomas
DTP Diecast Solutions LLC

Eric Treiber
Chicago White Metal Casting Inc.

John Walker
Walker Die Casting Inc.

Robert Wilson
Callen Manufacturing Corp.

Ryan Winter
Eastern Alloys Inc.

Robert Worthy
UBE Machinery Inc.
Membership – the Reason for Being

Just the Facts

Despite the downturn in the U.S. and global economy during the course of 2008, Individual Membership maintained, even increased slightly over 2007 by 3%. This number reflects the continued value members place in membership of NADCA, indicative of appreciation of the association’s publications such as Die Casting Engineer.

Corporate Membership also held well, remaining on par with previous years, as highlighted in the following chart:

Recruitment and Retention Efforts

Continued membership can be attributed to NADCA’s overall offering of products and services, supported by the associations marketing efforts. While the first, second and third quarters of 2008 were relatively light, fourth quarter marketing and advertising efforts concentrated on the associations free value analysis and roll out of the new die casting design Web site.

Retention efforts and membership drive, on both Individual and Corporate levels, were established through the use of e-mail, direct mail, industry publication advertisement and membership channels, including Chapter events. Press releases and industry news focused on NADCA publications, such as the Annual Wage and Benefit Survey, SupplierBusiness Automotive Metalcasting report, Laine Student Scholarship recipients and cutting membership dues by more than 10% for corporate level membership.

In the last quarter of 2008, the Board of Governors unanimously decided to suspend the marketing and R&D assessment fees associated with membership for both current and new, Individual and Corporate Membership levels. For corporations, this translates to a 12% savings for 2009; renewing individual members will only pay $80, and new individual members only $85.

NADCA continued its OEM drive and efforts with the completion of its design Web site www.diecastingdesign.org. While available to any member as a benefit, the promotion of this resource has been focused on OEMs optimizing die cast design, identifying die cast opportunities, reducing costs and improving part production and quality.

In 2007, NADCA introduced OEM lead service to the list of complimentary benefits for Corporate Members. This service provides members with OEM leads generated from online and print NADCA marketing initiatives. In 2008, NADCA continued with developing this source and has submitted hundreds of OEM leads to its Corporate Member base. This list of leads includes companies that expressed interest in a product or service of NADCA currently or intend to use die casting as a preferred process, or have a genuine interest in the die casting process. The chart following shows the increase in interest in the die casting process and includes a comparison in interest 2007 and 2008. In 2007, 546 leads were generated; in 2008 1,125 — an increase of 206%.
NADCA Chapters — Reaching the Industry

NADCA continued to be strengthened through the hard work of its Chapters around the country. The 15 active NADCA Chapters held local meetings, supported die casting educational courses, hosted networking events and organized tours. NADCA staff and representatives spoke at many of the events held by Chapters in 2008, including the annual supplier recognition evening event in Los Angeles. NADCA continued to support active Chapters through membership rebates that were used for scholarships and providing continuing education to Chapter members. 2008 saw the disbursement of $19,000 to 12 of the 15 active Chapters.

Education — Upgrading the Workforce

NADCA educational courses experienced a decline in attendance level in 2008 after maintaining a strong level for the prior four years. National, Chapter, in-plant, in-house and Train-the-Trainer class attendance in 2008 totaled 864 students for 67 course offerings extended by NADCA. There were 25 national courses with 137 students, 13 Chapter courses with 194 students and 25 in-plant courses (including an OEM course at Black & Decker and Monarch) with 494 students. The in-house program was completed by 32 students at three facilities, and seven new trainers for the in-house program were trained. With the six NADCA courses offered by Southwestern Michigan College (SMC) that generated an attendance level of 60, the grand total for 2008 attendance was 924 as compared to the 2007 attendance level of 1238. The decline in attendance was in spite of an increase in promotional activity and an Illinois State Grant to offset 50% of the cost of courses for Illinois employees.

The education program employs a review and revision cycle to ensure that course content remains current. Courses that were reviewed and revised in 2008 include EC-406 Machine Maintenance: Hydraulics (presentation and handouts), EC-411 Die Casting Lubricants and Coolants (presentation and book) and EC-606 Product Design (presentation and book). In addition, a new energy workshop was developed based on NADCA-sponsored R&D projects. This course was presented at Empire Die Casting to 40 attendees. Much of a new safety course funded by the OSHA Susan Harwood Grant Program, entitled Managing Combustible Dust Hazards in Die Casting Operations, was compiled in 2008 and will be made available in early 2009 through instructor-led, DVD and online delivery mechanisms. This course, the EC-102 Introduction to Die Casting and EC-302/3 Metal Melting & Handling were translated to Spanish. In addition, an energy course was placed online and efforts were applied, with the assistance of Harvill funds, toward preparing the Introduction to Die Casting and EC-700 PQ² for online offering in 2009.
Working Smarter with New Technology

The research project portfolio consisted of 24 projects in 2008 with a total leveraged value (direct funding plus cost share) of approximately $19.5 million. The number of projects is up by three as compared to 2007, but the total value of the portfolio is about the same. This is due to a few higher value projects being completed than those that were initiated. The portfolio is well-balanced in efforts to provide advancement in the areas of cast materials, die materials, computer modeling, process and energy/environmental technologies. Funding for the projects is provided by the United States Department of Defense (DOD) through the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; the Defense Logistics Agency, Ft. Belvoir, VA; the Armaments Research and Development Engineering Center, Picatinny, NJ; and Benet Laboratories, Watervliet, NY as well as the American Metalcasting Consortium (AMC), the United States Department of Energy (DOE) through the Industrial Technologies Program (ITP) and the Cast Metals Coalition (CMC) — the United States Council for Automotive Research (USCAR), United States Automotive Materials Partnership (USAMP) Program and NADCA.

Five new projects were initiated in 2008. One project focuses on assessing the performance of new coatings for zinc die castings. Another project is geared toward the development of a computer program to ease the conversion of part models to casting models. The remaining three projects are applying efforts toward the understanding of die distortion during heat treatment and the properties and performance of new die steels.

Technical information, including research results and the benefits derived from the results, is made available to the industry via the NADCA Website, DCE magazine articles, publications, conferences, congress sessions and special reports. In 2008, an updated and second version of a Process Technologies “Turn Research into Action” brochure was released. Worldwide reports on Computer Modeling and Zinc Cast Materials and a report on the Carbon Footprint of Aluminum and Magnesium Die Casting were issued. Publications such as #404 High Integrity Die Castings (Sound, Reliable & Heat Treatable) and #534 A Guide to Plunger Lubricants were also released in 2008.

Lastly, the 112th Metalcasting Congress at CastExpo’08 transferred information during a schedule of 13 NADCA Congress Sessions. Nine of the sessions were standard format sessions with presentation of transactions papers. Twenty-seven papers were presented. Four of the sessions were of the special format type, comprised of a keynote presentation, success stories from die casters and suppliers and a panel discussion. The topics of the four special format sessions were High Vacuum Die Casting, Aluminum Alloy Development, Zinc Alloy Development and Computer Modeling & Simulation. The 2008 NADCA Transactions, another 2008 publication available only online, contains the transactions papers and presentations, the keynote papers and presentations and success story presentations.

Note: Contributions to the above have been made by the technical committees and task forces which continue their efforts in identifying areas for future research, selecting new projects, providing oversight of current projects and assisting with the transfer of technology for the betterment of the industry.
Maximizing Knowledge through Industry Events

The global metalcasting industry was on display at CastExpo’08 and the 112th Metalcasting Congress at the Georgia World Convention Center in Atlanta, May 17-20. Co-sponsored by the American Foundry Society (AFS) and NADCA, the event featured more than 450 companies showcasing the latest technology, research and services available to the metalcasting industry. In addition, 63 technical and management sessions offered advice and research findings in several different fields of metalcasting, including molding, die casting, patterns, metals, human resources, marketing and engineering.

NADCA’s International Awards were announced at the reception and ceremony May 19 at the Atlanta History Center. Badger Metal Tech Inc. of Menomonee Falls, WI, was awarded the Edward A. Kruszynski Supplier Excellence Award for the company’s long-standing record of NADCA membership as well as its participation in NADCA’s education efforts and committees and boards. The Austin T. Lillegren Award was presented to Paul Robbins, Castool Tooling Systems, Uxbridge, Ontario, who has demonstrated loyal and extraordinary service to the die casting industry. The Nyselius Award, which is given in recognition of exceptional technical contributions to the industry, was awarded to Kurt O’Connor, Delphi Corp., Carmel, IN. Lastly, Bill Walkington, Walkington Engineering Inc., Madison, WI, was awarded the Herman H. Doehler Award for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of the die casting industry.

NADCA’s Recognition Luncheon, which was at the Georgia World Congress Center on May 19, honored the annual Safety Award winners and the 27th International Die Casting Design Competition winners. In addition, Paul Cnossen, BuhlerPrince Inc., Holland, MI, received the Instructor of the Year award; Bill Butler, who is retired from General Motors Powertrain, received the Technical Committee Member of the Year award; and Ed Herman, Creative Concepts Co. Inc., Utica, MI, received the Best Paper award for his USCAR/USAMP Large Thin Casting Project.

During 2008, NADCA also conducted the Executive Conference, Government Affairs Briefing and the Plant Management Conference.

The Executive Conference was March 9-12 in Jupiter, FL. Topics covered during this conference included global economics, pricing/selling a business, government affairs, automotive forecasting and the end market report.

The Government Affairs Conference was April 9-11 in Washington, DC. This conference was co-sponsored by NADCA and AFS. The conference provided attendees time to meet one-on-one with their members of Congress. Some topics covered were 2008 election outlook, energy/environment, Hypercast research and immigration enforcement.

The Plant Management Conference was October 22-24 in Greenville, SC. Presentations included automation, die spray technology and new dry plunger lubricants. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit RCM Industries Inc. – Imperial Die Castings and Callen Die Casting LLC.
Marketing Topics and Channels

The 2008 marketing program covered a range of vital topics, from specific technical information that die casters and OEMs could use to improve production to important industry issues such as environmental responsibility and the need for skilled workers. These initiatives resulted in increased requests for NADCA information and greater overall awareness of the North American die casting industry among multiple manufacturing segments.

2009 will see a continuation of integrated marketing efforts, premised on the promotion and elevation of the die casting industry. Focus will be placed on both the retention and recruitment of both Individual and Corporate Members, as well as the development of OEM interest, and will include outlining key member benefits that not all current members may be aware of.

To this end, the 2009 marketing campaign that will include “Bridging the Gap,” a marketing drive to inform existing Corporate Members of NADCA’s wide range of products and services, discounts and opportunities, and it will also inform OEMs of membership and member benefits. This includes the free value analysis and opportunities to use both the new NADCA design site and live support in optimizing die casting part design.

Continuing on from late 2008, advertising efforts will continue to see a shift from broad print and include progressively more online media in Design News, Design Product News, Machine Design, Global Spec and NASA Tech Brief. As magazine, print and online opportunities are continually explored, topics will include the promotion of the design assistance Web site and the annual die casting awards competition. Social media and discussion forums will be reviewed, as well as Webinars, which will all be geared toward the promotion and increased visibility of the die casting industry.

Public relations efforts will include the issuance of press releases and development of white papers on relevant topics such as the publication of the latest Wage and Benefit Survey, SupplierBusiness Automotive Metalcasting Report and most recently the promotion of a free copy of the Industry Standards Publication when becoming a new Individual Member.

Industry Facts and Figures

The Wage and Benefit Survey, published annually by NADCA, was conducted in December of 2008. The survey represents 37 companies in the die casting industry nationwide. The participating companies table defines the group of facilities in terms of annual sales, number of die casting machines, number of employees, etc. Information is provided both nationally and by region.

This year, the typical participating company had annual sales of $21.6 million per year, utilized 16 die casting machines and employed 118 full-time direct labor employees and 79 hourly production employees. Ten (27%) were union shops. Less than 1% of the total production employees reported were temporary. Almost 67% of the survey participants’ total employees were hourly production employees. Most companies (59%) reported a general wage adjustment in the last 12 months. The median value of the adjustment was 3%.
The survey also showed that 97% of workers had access to medical benefits and more than half to vision coverage in September 2008. Almost one fourth of the companies offered sick pay. Of that number, 5% allowed the sick days to be accrued.

The report also covered how hourly employees are compensated, what benefits they received and how practices varied by company size and location.

Another report was done in 2008 — the Supplier-Business Automotive Metalcasting Report — which showed that China was largest foundry producer with 28.1m tons in 2006. The report prepared is a definitive market review that includes a detailed survey of metalcasters views of the industry and details the likely changes in the automotive industry and their implications right up to 2012.

According to the report, considerable change is currently underway. The production map of the global automotive industry is re-focusing on emerging markets and production in lower-cost countries. Since 1995, the global output of the foundry industry has grown by approximately 32% and is up by more than 40% since 1970. In 2006, the last year for which reliable statistics are available, China was the largest producer, with its tonnage of 28.1m tons exceeding the combined total for the next three countries combined: the U.S. (12.4m tons), Japan (7.9) and India (7.2). Russia and Germany (6.9) are next in the order.

The report includes reviews of current industry trends, the roles of technology and how the usage of metal is evolving; a forecast for the global Automotive Market 2008-2012; detailed regional reviews for North America, Europe and Asia; company profiles of all the major players in the industry; and a global supplier directory.

**Publications — Documenting Technology**

NADCA introduced several new and revised publications and software in 2008 that will continue to spread information and technology that is being developed. The following publications were revised or new in 2008.

- The Automotive Metalcasting Report
- Recommended Procedures for H-13 Tool Steel Revised
- A Guide to Plunger Lubricants
- High Integrity Die Castings (Sound, Reliable & Heat Treatable)
- Temperature Control in Die Casting
- Metal Fusión & Manipulación DVD
- Water Treatment in Die Casting Operations — A Users’ Guide
- 2007 Wage & Benefit Survey
- Energy Saving Manual with Downloadable Software

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**Magnesium under .5 Pounds**

Twin City Die Castings Co.
Shield Main T10 & Shield Internal Standoff
for Fluke Thermal Imager

**Magnesium over .5 Pounds**

Twin City Die Castings Co.
L0940 Fairing Support Bracket for Buell
1125R Superbike
Die Casting Engineer (DCE) magazine is distributed to all Individual Members, Corporate Members and subscribers. In 2008, more than 20,000 copies of Die Casting Engineer were in circulation, with an average of 3,300 people receiving each issue.

The magazine’s purpose is to act as a vehicle to promote the industry. It does so by featuring upcoming educational courses, conferences, industry news and technical articles submitted by the industry’s leading educators, scientists and suppliers. The past year featured approximately 40 technical articles throughout the six issues. The themes for 2008 included defects; process control & automation; die coatings & surface treatments; components, equipment & machines; SSM & squeeze casting; and aluminum. One-third of 2008’s technical articles were contributed by NADCA Corporate Members, and one-third were contributed by NADCA individual members.

The year of 2008 included the Suppliers Directory, which DCE prints every other year. Participating companies were listed with their contact information and a description of their products and services. In order to be in the directory, suppliers must be Corporate Members or have at least one Individual Member of NADCA within their company. The Suppliers Directory is also available on NADCA’s Web site, where it is continuously updated by the suppliers themselves. Currently, by visiting www.diecasting.org/supplier, one can access more than 375 suppliers, organized by more than 150 product categories.

In 2008, DCE conducted a readership/NADCA membership survey, the first survey done since 2005. There were more than 560 respondents to the survey, which gave NADCA insight into the die casting industry and what the organization is doing well. The survey was also insightful for new ideas NADCA can incorporate as well as any improvements that need to be made. Specifically for the magazines, DCE is the most-used service of NADCA, and LINKS is in fourth place on that list. Approximately three people read each copy of DCE, which totals about 9,000 readers per issue. Most readers responded that it is very important for them to receive DCE in the mail vs. only reading it online. Nearly 35% of readers also like to read it online, and that percentage would most likely go up if DCE online was more reader-friendly.

DCE acquired its very own Web site in 2008: www.diecastingengineer.org. This new Web site has been redesigned to be easier to navigate and more reader friendly. The site has its old features as well as some new ones, and is still accessible through the main NADCA Web site.

Die Casting Industry LINKS finished its eighth year of publication for Corporate Members only and continued to provide a diverse content to satisfy the needs of many different levels of upper management, sales and marketing departments, as well as presidents and CEOs of die casting companies and suppliers. Because the magazine only targets these individuals — the key contacts of all NADCA’s corporate member companies — much of the information is very sought-after and is available only to these companies. Recipients of LINKS look forward to the full State of the Industry Report, in-depth industry marketing updates, Wage & Benefit Survey
results, Financial Survey results and many other features stories addressing ways to improve a company's bottom line. A large portion of LINKS content is derived from NADCA staff and another portion comes from business consultants, some involved with the industry and some from outside the industry.

**NADCA Online — www.diecasting.org**

NADCA continued in the next phase of changing the online systems. New programs were installed on the Web site to efficiently handle orders and meeting registrations online. In May, a new online publications catalog was introduced. An order is now put directly into our back office database. After a person logs into MyNADCA, the system automatically calculates the pricing for the item based on the membership level:

- Non-members pay list price.
- Individual Members receive up to 25% off.
- Corporate Members enjoy up to 50% off per publication as well as multiple quantity purchase discounts.

Once an order is placed online, it is processed in real time. This eliminates several steps in the back office fulfillment process.

In the fall, conference and course registration went online. Again, people were able to register for conferences and/or courses at their given membership level pricing in real time through logging into MyNADCA. Participants automatically received e-mail confirmation of their attendance.

Continuing for a third year, Corporate Members were able to request complimentary copies of our newest publications. They could also be purchased through MyNADCA for a discounted price.

Items currently available for corporate members include:

- Item 534 – A Guide to Plunger Lubricants (8/08)
- The “Carbon Footprint” of Aluminum and Magnesium Die Casting Compared to Injection Molded Components (8/08)
- Online Energy Training (5/08)
- Item 414 – Temperature Control in Die Casting (3/08)
- Item V302SP-DVD – Metal Fusión y Manipulación DVD (3/08)
- Item 533 – Water Treatment in Die Casting Operations – A Users’ Guide (2/08)

The items available through MyNADCA continue to expand. NADCA made available, through MyNADCA, an electronic version of the Leadership Directory. This directory, which was also published in the September issue of DCE, allows one to search the leadership of the organization and obtain contact details on a person.

The online training area expanded yet again. NADCA announced a new online energy training area, at www.diecasting.org/training/energy, which contains a wealth of information including free videos, tutorials and statistics.

The scholarship area of the Web site received a facelift and new location. Now located at www.diecasting.org/scholarship, the area highlights the winners of the David Laine Intern & Scholarship Program and the Steven J. Harmon Scholarship Program, as well as past winners.

The 2008 Transactions, formerly a CD-rom given to attendees of the Metalcasting Congress or CastExpo, moved to an online format. Participants are able to download a single paper or presentation. In addition, the full congress program and each session are available for download. The area has a search function allowing one to find a paper or presentation by author and/or keywords. The Transactions have now been moved into the Member Technology Resource Library.

The OEM section of NADCA’s Web site moved to its own site, www.diecastingdesign.org. All design resources and literature available to OEM product designers, engineers and purchasing specifiers from NADCA moved to this new Web site.

Advertising revenue for the Web site in the year 2008 continued to offset the expenses of the Web site.
Government Affairs – Priority Issues & Key Projects

During the past year, the NADCA Washington office has been busy advocating on the association’s priority issues before Congress and the Executive Branch. We enter 2009 amid enormous economic challenges and dynamic political change. At the same time, we recognize the potential for opportunity as Washington ushers in a new President and Congress. We anticipate action on a wide-range of issues from a massive stimulus package to health care reform and workplace mandates.

**Metalcasting Government Affairs Conference** – NADCA and AFS joined forces in May, 2008, to present a joint Government Affairs Conference in Washington, DC. More than 135 metalcasters from 22 states converged on Capitol Hill to lobby their members of Congress on the Employee Free Choice Act, the expansion of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and NADCA’s HyperCAST R&D program. In fact, the NADCA Washington office staff scheduled meetings with more than 125 congressional offices. Conference participants also heard from more than 18 experts during briefings on the industry priority issues. Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN), a key supporter of the HyperCAST program, addressed the group during a reception with several other Members of Congress in attendance.

**Labor: Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)** – NADCA strongly opposes the EFCA (“card check”) legislation that would essentially eliminate the secret ballot in union organizing elections and impose binding arbitration on first contracts if an agreement between labor and management cannot be reached within 120 days of the formation of a union. The NADCA Washington office met with key moderate Democrats in the House and Senate to express our opposition to the bill. NADCA’s lobbying efforts and those of the employer community successfully kept this measure from being considered again after its defeat in the Senate in 2007.

**Labor: Expansion of FMLA/Healthy Families Act** – In 2008, Congress considered several pieces of legislation that would expand the FMLA to apply to smaller business (>25 employees), cover more types of leave and require some of the leave be paid. NADCA opposed these measures in addition to the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 1542/S. 910). This bill would have required employers with more than 15 workers to include seven days of paid sick leave in their benefits’ package. NADCA lobbied labor staff in the House and Senate, which helped to keep these bills stalled in committee.

NADCA also signed onto a letter in support of the Department of Labor’s rulemaking on the FMLA that would make the more confusing portions of the regulations easier for employers to administer.

**Trade: Currency Reform** – During the 110th Congress, NADCA actively lobbied in support of bipartisan legislation — Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act (H.R. 2942)/Fair Currency Act (H.R. 2942/S. 796). These WTO-compliant bills would add currency manipulation to the list of unfair trade practices actionable under U.S. trade law. American manufacturers could file currency complaints against China with the U.S. International Trade Commission and seek sanctions on Chinese products until the illegal practice is ended.
In addition to aggressively lobbying in support of these bills during the 110th Congress, the NADCA Washington office worked to secure bill cosponsors. It also provided specific examples of how Chinese currency manipulation hurt the die casting industry to the leadership of the Ways & Means Committee, as well as the Speaker of the House. NADCA is actively involved in the China Currency Coalition. In January, Timothy Geithner, President Barack Obama’s nominee for treasury secretary, said the new U.S. administration believes China is “manipulating” its currency. Characterizing China’s policy as manipulation is “a very substantial change” by the Obama administration.

**Safety & Health: Protecting America’s Workers Act** – NADCA had serious concerns with Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) reform legislation, Protecting America’s Workers Act (PAWA), that was introduced in Congress during the 110th Congress. Civil and criminal penalties for OSHA violations would be significantly increased. The legislation calls for prison sentences of up to 10 years for employers whose willful OSHA violations result in worker deaths. Even if an employer were to do everything possible to prevent a workplace accident, they could still end up in jail. The NADCA Washington Office met with congressional staff and participated as a member of the OSHA Fairness Coalition, which represents employer interests in dealing with OSHA.

Under the Obama administration, we anticipate a much more activist and interventionist OSHA on both the enforcement and regulatory fronts. In addition, the administration recently announced the creation of a White House Task Force on Working Families, a panel that will make workplace safety a top mission. Lawmakers are expected to press for passage of PAWA.

**HyperCAST R&D Program** – In 2008, NADCA’s advocacy efforts resulted in the House of Representatives specifically approving $1.5 million for the HyperCAST program in the House-passed FY09 Energy Appropriations bill. NADCA also secured support from six senators to request the funding in the FY09 Senate Appropriations bill. This bill, however, never passed the Senate. The HyperCAST language secured in this year’s House bill puts NADCA in an excellent position to obtain federal funding when Congress finishes its appropriations work for FY09 and begins on the FY10 cycle in early 2009.

**Member Outreach** – In March, the NADCA Washington office presented an overview of politics, policy and NADCA’s priority issues at the 2008 Die Casting Executive Conference in Jupiter Beach, FL. In December, the Washington office provided a timely update on the outcome of the historic 2008 elections at the NADCA Chapter 7 (NY/NJ) Presidents’ Dinner. Attendees at both events were encouraged to participate in the Government Affairs Conference and invite their federal lawmakers on plant tours of their facilities.

The NADCA Washington office published six articles on key legislative and regulatory issues for the die casting industry in LINKS magazine. The GAC also receives Washington updates via e-mail approximately once per month.

Please contact Alicia Oman in the NADCA Washington Office (ao@wafed.com or [202] 898-1444) for additional information.
NADCA Design Assistance

The NADCA design assistance program is available to help designers and specifiers of die castings obtain an optimized die cast product. To reach this goal, the “NADCA Design” program provides multiple resources to improve the development, design and manufacture of a die cast product. The NADCA design resources allow designers and specifiers to operate at a higher level when interacting with a die caster, resulting in improved manufacturability and performance of the final die cast product. In addition, NADCA Corporate Members may integrate any of the NADCA design materials into their own design assistance programs.

**Seminars:** A NADCA Design seminar is available, covering, in detail, all aspects of die casting product design and development. The seminar also covers the die casting processes and associated tooling. This seminar is available at instructor travel cost to any company requesting it that has approximately 10 or more planned seminar attendees. The two-day seminar is typically preceded by an afternoon value analysis of current products with key personnel.

**Instant Design Assistance:** During normal business hours, prompt and direct design assistance is available through the on staff NADCA Design Engineer:

Dan Meyer – Design Engineer
North American Die Casting Association
241 Holbrook, Dr., Wheeling, IL 60090
E-mail: help@diecastingdesign.org
Tel: (847) 808-3158 (7 a.m – 3 p.m., CST Monday – Friday)

In 2008, designers and specifiers from 75 different companies were provided with design assistance via telephone and e-mail. Many contacts called or e-mailed NADCA after viewing NADCA design marketing material or visiting the new NADCA design Web site. The types of companies requesting design assistance and information ranged from industrial design firms to emergency vehicle manufacturers to defense systems companies. When NADCA is contacted for design assistance, the typical exchange involves discussion of a specific product design and the various properties that may make it a good candidate for die casting. Next, part design geometry is discussed and optimized. Finally, if the designer or specifier is not currently working with a NADCA die caster, they often use the online Find a Die Caster feature to connect with die casters to quote their part.

**New “NADCA Design” Web site:** In 2008, the new NADCA Design Web site, www.diecastingdesign.org was completed and activated. The NADCA Design Web site provides practical information designers and specifiers need to develop, design and manufacture their die cast products.

The NADCA Design Web site is divided into 10 major sections:

1. **Product Development:** with video modules on product working environment and structural criteria.
2. **Part Design:** containing video modules on developing die cast part geometry optimized for manufacturability and product performance.
3. **Alloys:** consisting of video modules about the range of properties of common die casting alloys, alloy selection and alloy supply.
4. **Instant Support:** Listing NADCA design engineer contact phone number and e-mail for quick direct design assistance when required.
5. **Seminars**: information on the two-day NADCA design seminar.


7. **Additional Resources**: includes useful legacy design and purchasing documents, including alloy data and customization software, commercial practice documents and check lists, information on the hidden costs of offshore sourcing, white papers, bulletins and case studies.

8. **Find a Die Caster**: a database of NADCA Corporate Member die casters available to manufacture a designers or specifiers die cast product.

9. **Die Casting Examples**: A database of example die castings including recent International Die Casting Design Competition Winners, as well as archived examples back to 1972.

10. **Design Publications**: Information on the Product Design for Die Casting and NADCA Standards design publications, as well as CastView design visualization software.

Statistics collection for NADCA Design Web site was started on Oct. 7, 2008, and from this start date until Dec. 31, 2008, more than 3,500 unique visitors used the site.

**New Die Casting Design Publication**: During 2008, the existing Product Design for Die Casting publication was updated and revised. The new book is a valuable design and development source book for designers, specifiers and die casters. New additions include updated 3-D CAD based figures, charts and other material. The latest edition of this publication is available for purchase through the new NADCA Design Web site [www.diecastingdesign.org](http://www.diecastingdesign.org).

### Opportunities for Interns — David Laine Scholarships

For more than 30 years, NADCA has encouraged studies in the many disciplines related to die casting with David Laine Memorial Scholarships. Established in 1975, the scholarships honor David Laine, who served for 29 years as secretary of the American Die Casting Institute (ADCI), a forerunner of NADCA.

The main objectives of the scholarship program are to provide financial assistance and encouragement to students who are interested in careers in the die casting industry, to foster and improve engineering education in die casting technology and to stimulate awareness of and interest in the die casting process.

Internships in 2008 gave opportunity for students to be involved in various projects, such as laser scanning of in-process components of die and mold tooling, production quality analyses, developing a gage control system, modeling gating systems, finding energy conservation opportunities and creating a booklet detailing the procedure on how to completely machine specific parts from start to finish.

Helping retain students in the die casting industry is one of the cornerstones of the Laine Scholarship program, which is why the applicants must have internship or co-op experience before applying.

This year, 14 full-time undergraduate students were awarded the scholarships, the most that have ever been given in one year in the scholarship’s history.

The scholarships provided by the Laine Fund are supported entirely by contributions and pledges from the die casting community. For more information, visit [www.diecasting.org/scholarship](http://www.diecasting.org/scholarship).

[www.diecasting.org/information/annual](http://www.diecasting.org/information/annual)
Bottom Line

In 2008, NADCA ended above expectations financially. Net revenue before net investment revenue at Dec. 31 was at a gain of $47,344. Gross revenue came in 5% under budget with department expenses coming in 8% under budget and general & administrative expenses 9% below budget. Overall, expenses were $288,722 under budget.

In May of 2008, NADCA, in conjunction with AFS, hosted a very successful CastExpo in Atlanta Georgia. NADCA’s share of revenue from exhibit and attendee sales was 4% above expectations. The expense side also saw a positive variance of 4%. Overall, NADCA’s profit of $942,041 from the CastExpo was $23,974 above budget.

Our research and development department met and exceeded their funding goals for 2008, coming in 8% over their budgeted figures, with the department expenses coming in 9% under expectations.