A Year of Growth: 
Bringing the Pieces Together
Dear Die Casting Industry Professional,

For the past 11 years, NADCA has published an annual report in DCE magazine. The report highlights the accomplishments of the industry and its association in the previous year. This year’s report is not different in format, but definitely identifies some new directions that NADCA is moving toward in the future. Generally, NADCA is moving toward positioning itself to more greatly assist its membership in a global marketplace.

The past year saw NADCA introduce rebates back to its chapters for each individual member, offer free technical publications to its corporate members and expand its efforts to assist the design community in developing new die casting applications. Additionally, NADCA published information on where die casting technology stands, worldwide, in the areas of die material, cast materials and process control.

I encourage you to read through the annual report to find out more about the activities of NADCA and how they can be applied to your business in order for it to be more successful in the coming year. If you have any ideas on how NADCA can help, I’d also like to hear from you about them.

The final pages of this annual report will also show that NADCA continues to be in a strong financial position. This is one of the biggest reasons that the Board has decided to offer many of our products and services at little or no cost to the membership. This decision shows the commitment that your industry leaders have to sustaining and growing die casting in North America.

If you are reading this magazine and are not a member of NADCA, you may want to consider joining in order to take advantage of all these member services and product offers. If you are already a member, I want to thank you for your support, and we look forward to working for you in 2007.

Letter from the President

Daniel I. Laine
Those Who Lead

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RCM Industries Inc.

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Annual Report 2006/A3

www.diecasting.org/information/annual
Planning for the Future

NADCA Mission

To continue as the worldwide leader in stimulating growth and improvement in the die casting industry.

Strategic Areas of Concentration

Chapter Relations: Determine the role of the chapter in NADCA.

Research and Development: Maintain and expand funding sources while identifying industry needs and placing tangible results on the factory floor. Focus efforts on obtaining all applicable and available technology.

Education: Create programs for new markets and upgrade delivery systems while measuring the effectiveness of the training. Ensure that the most recent research information is incorporated into the standard education curriculum.

Meetings and Expositions: Review NADCA’s meetings schedule and explore options to coordinate with other groups.

Marketing: Develop a plan to effectively market die casting as the process of choice.

Government Affairs: Foster strategic alliances and increase grassroots efforts to further strengthen the program. Effectively communicate the ongoing efforts and impact that the program is having.

Globalization: Develop a plan to define NADCA’s global presence.

Membership — the Reason for Being

An association’s life blood — its only “reason for being” — is simple and can be summarized in a phrase: “to serve its members.” NADCA’s membership numbers reflected the continued industry consolidation. Recruitment and retention remained a challenge throughout the year. Though individual membership was up from the dip in 2004, the totals for the year were off more than 5% from the previous year. Corporate membership fared better with less than a 4% drop in 2006. As with all manufacturing associations, NADCA saw drops in individual membership numbers due to employment shifts to other industries, an aging workforce retiring and the simple elimination of positions. Corporate membership suffered from the two reoccurring themes — plant closings and corporate mergers/consolidations.

To counteract the reduction of corporate members and to reflect a directive from the NADCA Board of Governors (BOG) to continue to provide this level of membership with more value, the association’s compilation of benefits and services available to corporate members grew substantially during the year. A special “Corporate Members Only” area of the website was created touting the ever-growing list. For example, with every new publication or CD-ROM produced by NADCA, one copy will be given to every corporate member complimentary, at their request. This increased “return on investment” approach to membership dues was given its own distinct icon. The yellow oval with the words “Corporate Member Xpress” appeared in various areas of the NADCA website and in both of the association’s magazines to publicize and re-emphasize the new program while directing those that qualified to claim their special benefits or services. It also was a way to inform those that are non-corporate members what they were missing.

Membership promotion was continuous throughout the year, focusing on various demographics, regions or special offers.

NADCA Chapters — Reaching the Industry

Having a chapter structure allows a North American-based association such as NADCA to reach various geographical regions on a regular basis. Whether it is educational events, membership meetings, plant tours, scholarship programs or networking, NADCA chapters brought the die casting community together in various locales.

Communicating the activities of the national headquarters was once again done through the chapter structure. NADCA staff attended or spoke at 14 different chapter events. Updates covering topics such as the state of the industry, technical/R&D developments, industry marketing and die casting education were the typical presentations offered to the local membership.

National support of local chapters continued in 2006 with 12 qualifying chapters receiving more than $20,000 in the form of a yearly stipend based on their membership totals and verification of their status as a “chapter in good standing” based on NADCA bylaws.
As the industry consolidates, the same is true with the chapters. During the year, a formal review of the current area breakdown — which affects both the distribution of chapters and their representation on the national BOG — was completed by the area representatives on the BOG. Once approved, suggested changes will allow for both an improved regional representation on the Board and an opportunity to enhance the alignment of the current chapter network based on continued shifts in the geographic concentrations of the industry.

**Education — Upgrading the Workforce**

The NADCA educational courses maintained a strong attendance level for the third year in a row. National, chapter, in-plant and in-house class attendance in 2006 totaled 1,120 students for 88 course offerings. There were 42 national courses with 323 students, 20 chapter courses with 297 students and 26 in-plant courses with 357 students. Coupled with the five courses offered by Southwestern Michigan College (SMC) where 57 attended, total attendance was 977. Additionally, 143 students completed the Operator Training Program as in-house training, 28 of which were through SMC. The high number of individuals for a single year that completed the Operator Training Program is in part attributed to the high number of new trainers who were developed for the program through the Train-the-Trainer course in 2005. This also provided an expectation for growth in the in-house program in 2006.

The attendance numbers nationally include four courses in eastern Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Iowa and southern California to assist education programs in these specific regions and eliminate risk for chapters. Also included is the attendance at two OEM design seminars in Kentucky and Southern California.

A shift for 2006 was seen through the sale of 135 in-plant training modules. Past years have seen just a few or no sales of this training mechanism. Although it is not known how many individuals may have been trained by the plants procuring these modules, the aforementioned attendance of 1,120 students is certainly a conservative number.

Contributing to the overall strong level of attendance was the initiation of individual course promotional brochures. These brochures are mailed to select populations in addition to the other education promotions and advertisements.

Courses that were revised in 2006 included EC-411 Die Casting Lubricants & Coolants (presentation and book) and EC-415 Die Cooling Systems (presentation). A new course, EC-205 Quick Die Change/SMED was developed based on the book released in 2005. Two books have been revised, Gating and Designing Die Casting Dies; a new book was written, A Guide to Process Monitoring and Control; and a new Safety video was produced. A fourth course presentation was translated to Spanish — EC-302/3 Metal Melting & Handling. This and EC-102 Introduction to Die Casting, EC-908 Die Casting Safety and the Operator Training Program are all available in Spanish.
Working Smarter with New Technology

There were 23 projects in the 2006 NADCA Research and Development Program portfolio, the same number as 2005. Six new projects were initiated during the year while six projects were completed. Five of the new projects are within the new AMC Program funded by the Department of Defense through the Defense Logistics Agency. This program is dubbed as Castings for Improved Readiness (CIR) and began in March of 2006. The other new-start project was a NADCA-funded project on the development of porosity guidelines. The remaining projects which have been running for at least one year are also under NADCA funding or under the DOE/CMC ENERGY-SMARRT Program.

As a means of disseminating research project results to the industry, summary reports and implementation strategies for completed projects were compiled into “Turn Research into Action” brochures and distributed to corporate members. Four such compilations were developed in 2006 for the topics of cast materials, die materials and technologies, computer modeling and process technologies. More brochures will be developed in 2007.

Other R&D and technology efforts in 2006 led to the revision of the following publications: Special Quality Die Steel & Heat Treatment Acceptance Criteria for Die Casting Dies (NADCA Publication #229), Product Specification Standards for Die Castings (#402) and Product Specification Standards for Die Castings Produced by the Semi-Solid and Squeeze Cast Processes (#403). Publication #229 now addresses a series of die steels in addition to H13, while existing information has been updated and new information on properties, GD&T and porosity has been added to Publication #402 and Publication #403. Reports on the state of foreign technology were completed in two areas — process control and die materials. These reports were also distributed to the corporate members.

Utilizing the electronic assessment tool developed in 2005, additional energy audits were provided by NADCA this year, totaling more than 20 to-date. The audits and assessment tool, which is available to the membership base, are intended to assist companies in becoming more energy efficient and identifying energy savings opportunities that are not immediately obvious.

The 110th Metalcasting Congress encompassed 12 NADCA Congress Sessions. Seven were regular sessions with presentations of 18 transactions papers. Five of the sessions were of a new format. The new format sessions were comprised of a keynote presentation, success stories from die casters and suppliers and a panel discussion. The intent was to better transfer the state-of-technology and “how-to-do-it” information to the attendees. These were well-received and considered to be a success. Therefore, the new format will be used for some of the sessions in the 111th Metalcasting Congress.

Contributions to these developments have been made by the technical committees and task forces which also continued their efforts in selecting new projects, providing oversight of current projects and future technology planning for the advancement of the industry.
Maximizing Knowledge through Industry Events

NADCA and the American Foundry Society (AFS) held the 110th Metalcasting Congress April 17-21, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus, OH. This was the second time the NADCA and AFS associations co-hosted the event. The combining of the NADCA and AFS associations’ congress and tabletop expositions created an event that represented every facet of the metalcasting industry. It offered NADCA’s supplier and die casting membership a unique opportunity to gain insight into the entire metalcasting industry.

During the five-day show, more than 2,200 people visited the 239 companies in the tabletop area. Exhibitors showcased the most innovative products and services offered today.

More than 100 technical and management papers were presented by experts from around the world during the congress sessions. These presentations addressed new technology, innovative production practices, ongoing research and successful management tools. NADCA presented die casting congress sessions in the areas of process control, process engineering, cast materials, die materials, advanced technologies and computer modeling.

Recipients of the Best Congress Paper, Technical Committee Member of the Year and Instructor of the Year were recognized during an awards lunch held at the hotel, and winners of the 2006 International Die Casting Competition were on display throughout the duration of the show. NADCA corporate member companies who had received Safety Awards were also recognized at the show. In 2007, NADCA and AFS will co-host the 111th Metalcasting Congress, May 15-18 at the Hilton Americas – Houston in Houston, TX.

During 2006, NADCA also conducted the CEO Conference, Government Affairs Briefing and the Plant Management Conference.

The CEO Conference was Feb. 19-23, 2006, in Aventura, FL. Topics covered during this conference included energy – future and emerging technologies, future technology in die casting, manufacturing economy and the state of the auto industry.

The Government Affairs Briefing was May 23-24, 2006, in Washington, DC. The conference provided attendees time to meet one-on-one with their members of Congress. Topics covered were Chinese currency manipulation, small business health plans, Department of Defense metalcasting funding and Department of Energy Industrial Technologies Program.

The Plant Management Conference was Sept. 20-22, 2006, in Minneapolis, MN. Presentations included energy efficiency of melting and transfer, quick die change and die temperature control. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit Twin City Die Casting plants in Minneapolis and Monticello.
Industry Marketing — Finding the True Decision Makers

The buyer, designer and specifier from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and design/engineering companies around the world were once again part of the North American industry’s focused marketing efforts during the year. The approach was simple, yet very effective: use a combination of advertising, PR and editorial to get the attention of key people in the manufacturing chain — the design and engineering decision makers. Industry advertising included both print and electronic media, with a higher percentage emphasis on web sites and e-Newsletters. Products offered as an incentive to respond to NADCA and register included the Design for Die Casting CD-ROM as well as the Product Specification Standards online (both for high-pressure die casting and SSM/squeeze). PR incorporated 19 press releases on various topics, along with the coordination and management of the annual international Casting Design Competition. Editorial took even more of the center stage this year with the completion of four op-ed columns and three industry white papers.

One metric that best defined the level of success of the marketing program for the year was the number of unique contacts received by NADCA from OEM employees. This “lead generation” reached a level that surpassed the totals for the last five years at 1,738. This figure did not include more than 425 additional names generated but not counted due to inability to completely confirm their level of interest in the die casting process. Those that benefited directly from the program were corporate member subscribers who received these names on a monthly basis along with other exposure through the NADCA marketing program. As the year came to a close, the program was being streamlined to become a service that all corporate members would be able to access.

Through the year, various magazines carried articles and columns regarding the die casting industry, including Design News, Machine Design, Job Shop Technology and Appliance. The completion of an article for the magazine U.S. Industry Today (USIT) was the year’s culminating editorial event. An eight-page spread in the publication featured the main article titled “Casting Innovation” and included sidebar coverage of all the winning castings from the year’s Casting Design Competition. To meet the directive from the NADCA Marketing Committee to increase exposure via electronic media, the entire article was also produced as a Featured Virtual Exhibit on the USIT website.

In a continued move toward educating OEM employees and to present NADCA as a “design resource,” NADCA evolved its Design for Die Casting seminars from regional events to focused in-plant seminars. Being promoted as an On-Site Seminar & Value Analysis Review, the program was held in six locations with the level of experience ranging from “none” to those wanting to potentially increase their use of die castings. The program is being marketed with its own identity and promoted as a curriculum that will help in “creating value with die casting.” Also, follow up will continue with each company to reinforce NADCA as a technical resource and quantify any increase in die casting design and usage, courtesy of the educational effort.
Industry Facts and Figures

The Wage and Benefit Survey, published annually by NADCA, was conducted in December of 2006. The survey represents 38 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 $23.3 million per year, utilized 17 die casting machines and employed 154 full-time direct-labor employees. Eight (21%) were union shops. Less than 1% of the total production employees reported were temporary. Nearly 69% of the survey participants’ total employees were hourly production employees.

The report also covers how hourly employees are compensated, what benefits they receive and how practices vary by company size and location.

In May of 2006, NADCA published the 2005 Financial Survey. This survey provides a snapshot view of the financial performance expected from a company in the die casting industry. Productivity, sales performance, profitability and manufacturing efficiency are all measured and reported.

Eighteen (18) die casting industry companies participated in this year’s survey, representing 26 facilities. All results were based on the most recently ended fiscal year of each participant. Based on the responses of die casting companies to this survey, the industry shipments and profitability declined in 2005. Pounds shipped decreased 7% since 2004. Profits remain positive but weak with a median net profit of 2.97% for all respondents. Another measure of profitability, Income Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (IBITDA) increased since last year. Efficiency, as measured by output per employee, increased by approximately 18% compared to 2004. The 8.4% IBITDA shows an upturn compared to 2004 where there was no change. As economic conditions improve, these negative figures are predicted to slowly turn upward.

The NADCA Executive Compensation and Salary Survey was also conducted in 2006. The survey is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on salaried employees at the plant manager level. The second part is devoted to executive compensation and benefits for the top seven executives in the die casting operations. The results will be summarized by region and sales volume. Part one will show highest paid, average paid and lowest paid. Part two will include executive benefits and will have salary broken down by base, bonuses and other compensation. The results of this survey will be published in February 2007.

Publications — Documenting Technology

NADCA introduced several new and revised publications and software in 2006 that will continue to spread information and technology that is constantly being developed. The following publications were revised or new in 2006:

- 2006 Machine Safety Standard
- 2006 Transactions
- A Guide to Correcting Soldering
- Designing Die Casting Dies
- Die Cast Machine Study
- Die Casting Industry Capabilities Directory
- Energy Saving Tools Software
- Gating Manual
- Machine Assessment Software
- NADCA Product Specification Standards for Die Castings
- NADCA Product Specification Standards for Die Castings Produced by the Semi-Solid and Squeeze Cast Processes
- Safety in the Die Casting Workplace DVD
- Special Quality Die Steel & Heat Treatment Acceptance Criteria for Die Casting Dies
- Vacuum Die Casting
Monthly Resources for the Die Casting Industry — DCE & LINKS

Die Casting Engineer (DCE) magazine is distributed to all individual members, corporate members and to subscribers. In 2006, 21,000 copies of Die Casting Engineer were in circulation, with an average of 3,500 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 36 articles throughout the six issues. The themes for 2006 included rapid prototyping, energy, die material, defects, aluminum and squeeze casting and semi-solid modeling. More than half 2006’s technical articles were contributed by NADCA corporate members.

The biannual Supplier’s Directory was published in the September issue, and more than 430 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 Supplier's 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 640 suppliers, organized by more than 120 product categories.

Die Casting Industry LINKS finished its sixth 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 can 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.

E-Newsletters, DCE Update and LINKS Update, are also sent out to those who receive the magazine. DCE Update started in May 2005 and has been sent to members and subscribers every month since. LINKS Update started in January 2006, and it is sent to its regular mail recipients each month. These electronic newsletters are designed to provide a quick look at the most recent issue of magazines. Every month, snippets of select stories are sent so the recipients can get a sneak peak at the top features. The e-mail newsletter also helps to keep readers informed, in case news comes out between issues that might need to be immediately reported, such as EPA regulation notices.
Logging into the Members Only section of NADCA’s website has become even easier. From the home page, viewers can log in directly to the Members Only section to access all of the new offerings this year. This includes the ability to print a membership card in real-time – eliminating the wait to receive a membership card in the mail. Members can also read and print pages from the new Product Specification Standards and also the Standards for the SSM and Squeeze Process. Downloadable software includes the Machine Safety Assessment Software and two energy saving tools, the Melting Cost Calculator or the Energy Assessment Software. All three programs can also be requested on cd-rom.

Corporate members are now also able to search the entire Capabilities Directory and download the search criteria into an .xls format. This directory links directly to NADCA’s main database, so as soon as a change is made, viewers have immediate access to the update information.

Via a directive by the NADCA Board of Governors, corporate members are now able to request complimentary copies of the newest publications.

Items currently available for corporate members include:

- Guide to Process Monitoring & Control
- NEW Standards for the SSM and Squeeze Processes
- Vacuum Die Casting Book
- The Current Issue and Past Articles from LINKS
- 2006 Transactions CD-ROM
- The Capabilities Directory
- Melt Cost Calculator
- Energy Assessment Software
- 2006 Machine Study
- Better Understand the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) from R Reports
- NEW Product Specification Standards
- 2006 Machine Safety Standard
- All Research Updates and Implemented Results
- i-Select AI software
- Articles from Transactions: 1995-2006
- Die Casting Engineer (Select Articles): 1995-2006

The entire OEM Lead Report entry and dissemination became more efficient. The website for OEM buyers, engineers and designers was consolidated into one area. OEMs can now find standards, whitepapers, design assistance software and other offerings all in one place. Doing a single point of entry allows us to enable corporate members to now have real-time access to a special list of OEM contacts generated by the NADCA Marketing Program. A valuable addition to any company’s sales and marketing efforts, these individuals, along with their demographic information, can be extremely useful in reaching a specific company involved in the designing, buying or specifying of die castings, as well as formulating a better understanding of the geographic distribution of OEMs, their various end markets, what type of information they have requested/received, along with the publication/media that led them to NADCA. Formerly an additional “subscription only” service, it is now available — complimentary — to all corporate members in good standing.

Other areas that were expanded on the website include the Industry Safety section. This area was reorganized to present the material in a more organized fashion. Also added to this section was Online Training, which includes video samples from the new Safety in the Die Casting Workplace DVD.

The scholarship section was also expanded. The section now includes background information on the Laine Scholarship fund, along with ways to contribute, how to apply, and how to find an intern. Past winners are also profiled on this page.

Advertising on the website doubled in the year 2006, with increased banner ads and ads for the Supplier’s Directory. This revenue offset the expenses of the website.
Government Affairs
— NADCA’s Priority Issues and Key Projects

Priority Issues
The 2006 election brought many changes to the nation’s capitol, giving democrats control of the House and Senate for the first time in 12 years. This presents both opportunities and challenges for NADCA members.

For 2007, NADCA’s Government Affairs Committee (GAC) legislative agenda reflects the new Congress and will focus on the importance of retaining a strong manufacturing base in the United States. NADCA will work with lawmakers to ensure that new legislation and laws will enhance the die casting industry’s ability to compete in the global economy.

In addition, NADCA will also continue to work on several critical partnerships with federal agencies to support industry research and environmental compliance.

The committee chose the following priority issues for the new 110th Congress:

- Level Playing Field for Trade – By undervaluing its currency by as much as 40%, China has an unfair advantage in selling its exports. NADCA supports legislation that will strengthen existing U.S. trade laws and a) provide the executive branch with more effective tools to deal with this unfair trade practice, b) define currency manipulation as an illegal export subsidy, c) instruct the Commerce Department to accept countervailing duty cases against non-market economies and d) give individual companies impacted by currency manipulation the ability to bring trade cases against China.

- Affordable Health Care – NADCA supports legislation that will help make it affordable for its member companies to purchase health insurance for their employees, such as allowing associations to offer health coverage under ERISA to its members.

- Environment – NADCA monitors the activities of Congress and federal regulatory agencies relative to air, solid waste and other environmental issues. In addition, we alert NADCA members about proposed measures that may be economically disruptive of business and industry activities.

NADCA Government Partnerships
Over the years, NADCA’s government affairs program has identified opportunities for the die casting industry to partner with federal agencies to achieve mutually beneficial goals. NADCA is currently partnering with three agencies: the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- DOE Metalcasting Research – For the last 18 years, NADCA, through the Cast Metals Coalition (CMC), has collaborated with the U.S. Department of Energy to advance metalcasting research, technology and energy efficiency. Since 1989, CMC has been successful in securing bipartisan support of Congress and of the Administration for nearly $65 million in federal dollars for this program.

NADCA is currently developing a new research partnership with the DOE Vehicle Technologies office. This collaboration to advance the NADCA HyperCAST program will require new funding from Congress.

- DOD Metalcasting Program – This is a collaborative effort between DOD and the American Metalcasting Consortium (AMC), of which NADCA is a founding member. Metalcastings are critical to defense readiness and capability. Through our partnership with the DOD, NADCA and the metalcasting industry provides timely, cost-effective solutions for procuring high-quality critical castings used in weapons systems to protect our soldiers and our country around the world.
• The Metalcasting Sector Partnership Program – Since 1998, NADCA has partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The program is designed to reduce regulatory burdens, improve environmental performance and help American die casters become more efficient and compete globally. To reach these goals, compliance assistance tools and other resources have been developed for the die casting industry.

In addition, NADCA has also realized many other benefits from its partnership with the EPA, including the opportunity to serve on key EPA advisory committees; access to top EPA officials; and a specific point-of-contact within the agency working to facilitate better communication and develop innovative strategies to overcome barriers to environmental improvement.

Be sure to mark your calendar and attend NADCA’s Government Affairs Briefing in Washington, DC, on April 24 and 25, 2007, at the Hotel George. NADCA leaders will gain unique insight into current political issues that will affect your bottom line; hear from key political leaders; and, advocate for NADCA’s legislative agenda on Capitol Hill.

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.

In 2006, eight undergraduate students each received a $3,000 scholarship based on successful die casting internship experiences ranging from developing a new cooling method for a magnesium die casting operation to marketing a company in a mature industry. 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.

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.

In years past, the scholarships were given through the Foundry Education Foundation and considered students only from FEF schools and across all foundry processes. The recent split from the FEF changed the landscape, and it now considers applicants from any school with a requirement that they must have worked in an internship or co-op in die casting.

In order to expand these benefits, the Laine trustees plan to more aggressively promote the program and increase fundraising. The trustees also agreed to goals of raising the scholarship fund to $1 million by 2010, providing an endowment that would provide significant scholarship amounts annually; seeing the industry retain 90% of the students; and, awarding up to 20 scholarships annually.

Other significant changes include an increase in the scholarship from the $2,000 per student in 1995 to $3,000 in 2006. The number of known interns grew from seven in 2005 to 12 in 2006, and the Laine funds now exceed $750,000, which are distributed in a more die casting specific manner.

Applicants for the Laine Scholarships must be a U.S., Canadian or Mexican citizen who has worked in the die casting industry for at least three months within a period of 12 months. The applicants submit a paper on the activities and results from their work in the die casting industry, along with a letter of support from their supervisor at their place of employment.

The scholarships provided by the Laine Scholarship Fund are supported entirely by contributions and pledges from the die casting community. For more information, visit www.diecasting.org/students/scholarship.
In 2006, NADCA ended well above expectations financially. Net revenue at Dec. 31 was $348,046, which was $337,578 above budget. Gross revenue came in 4% over budget with department expenses coming in 17% over budget and general and administrative expenses well under budget. Overall, expenses were $247,862 under budget.

In April of 2006, NADCA, in conjunction with the American Foundry Society, hosted a very successful Metalcasting Congress in Columbus, OH. NADCA’s share of revenue from Exhibit sales was 74% above expectations, almost twice the budgeted amount. The expense side saw a positive variance of 26%. Overall, NADCA’s profit of $142,140 from the Metalcasting Congress was $66,255 above budget.

Our education department also thrived in 2006. At year end, total revenue from education classes was 15% above projections. In conjunction, expenses only increased 3% due to higher attendance, which in turn increased class material expenses. Net profit ended up $37,600 higher than anticipated.

In 2004, NADCA revised its investment strategy and in 2006 continued to see a positive outcome. Net investment income was 48% above budgeted numbers. We continue to anticipate healthy growth in this area.