Hello Wisconsin AFS Members, Affiliates and Friends:

I hope this email finds everyone doing well!   I am writing to update the group on the recent decisions made by the chapter to provide its membership with the best possible experiences moving forward.   As we all know, 2020 has brought about some challenges that many of us wish we could erase and eliminate.   As we look into the last part of 2020 and into 2021, we are looking for optimism that our world will start to return to what is considered normal.   With all of that being said, your supporting AFS Board of Directors have been meeting virtually to iron out details for the future.

Here are some recent updates:

**Christmas Party:**   With much consideration for the health and safety of members and the metalcasting industry we are all a part of, it saddens me to say that we will not be holding our annual Christmas party in 2020.   I know many of you looked forward to this special event and enjoyed the evening.  We plan to bring back the event for Christmas in 2021 and hope to see all of you there.

**Monthly Meetings:**  We will be hosting monthly meetings starting in January.   In fact, we are hosting a meeting January 18th and February 15th (this is an added date due to the Regional Conference news below).   Future dates and locations will be provided on the website as the time get closer.   Look for more information and invites to these monthly meetings – we hope to see our friends and metal casting family in upcoming months.   We are always looking for ideas for these monthly meetings that people find interesting and useful – if you have any of those ideas, please reach out to one of the AFS board members, TEAM or me personally.

**Regional Conference:**  As everyone knows, our annual Regional Conference event is our largest, fun and most well attended event each year.   With much consideration and discussion, the Board of Directors has decided it is best to move the time and location for this event rather than cancel it for the year.   We have decided the new date for the Regional Conference will be May 12/13/14 and the event will be held in the greater Milwaukee area.   We are working hard to finalize a suitable location for the 2021 event as the event cannot be held at the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino as it has in the past.   The overall look of the Regional will likely be different and only time will be able to carve out exactly what those details will look like.   We will do everything we can to offer an event that mimics as many of the amazing offerings as past events.  Look for more details as the event gets closer:

* Technical Sessions (with virtual options)
* Casting Competition
* Job Fair
* Networking and Business Discussions
* Exhibit Opportunities
* Great Food and Interesting Speakers

Look for more details on how the upcoming Regional will shape up in early 2021.   More details will follow on support opportunities (or carry over if you’ve already donated) and all of the items listed above.

I hope all of you have a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in 2021!

**Mike Kamin**

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2020-21 AFS Wisconsin Chapter President

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