



October 2013 and beyond,

The New England Chapter of the AFS met at The Steel Yard in Providence Rhode Island on Wednesday September 11, 2013. The Steel Yard is a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and preservation of industrial and manufacturing skills and arts.

The site was designated a brownfield and remediation took place with a grant used to cap the contaminated soil and permeable pavement.

The organization has converted over 9,000 sq. ft into workshops that are used for education, job training in the industrial arts, and workspaces that are rented to artists. In addition, the organization also works with “at risk” youth, training them in marketable manufacturing skills and soft skills such as how to conduct yourself during a job interview, what employers are looking for in a new employee, and how to keep a job once you get it. They have success stories regarding a number of their students including 3 particular welders which obtained jobs at Electric Boat in Groton, CT, a well paying employer with excellent benefits.

A sizable contingent of Chapter members arrived for the tour and presentation at 6:30 P.M. from various distances in CT and Massachusetts, along with an excellent turnout from the Ocean Staters. Chapter Chairman, Ed Marczyzak, had issued a challenge to the Rhode Islanders to attend as the meeting was in their backyard, and they met the challenge. Well represented was Cumberland Foundry, Friends Foundry, New England Union, and Edgar Berebi, and Kevin Rooney.

The meeting began with a moment of silence in honor and memory of the 9/11 terrorist attack victims and for the men and women of our armed forces. After a short introduction from Chapter Chairman, Ed Marczyzak, Karl Nye, Chapter Treasurer, made a presentation of a check to The Steel Yard to assist them in their good works and efforts to promote manufacturing and the industrial arts.

Brian Dowling, Associate Director of The Steel Yard began the presentation by explaining the history and mission of The Steel Yard and then began the tour. Members were shown the sand molding area and received an update on upcoming iron pours, including their well attended Halloween Iron Pour. Then it was on to the forging, welding, and ceramics areas. There was a ceramic class taking place during the tour and numerous signs of activity in the other areas. Brian explained how the students are given their instruction and then, with the assistance of the instructors, can make iron fences, gates, bike racks, and ceramic products all of which are sold with the proceeds being returned to the organization so it can continue its mission.

In addition, Brian explained the 3 week program that some students participate in that result in their receiving a check at the end of the program if they successfully complete their class.

At the end of the tour there were questions and answers and healthy social interaction with the chapter members. All agreed that it was well worth the time and effort to attend the presentation and collectively decided that the Steel Yard was an organization deservant of the support of the New England Chapter of the AFS.

Our next chapter meeting will be on Tuesday, October 08, 2013 at the Mill On the River in South Windsor, CT at 5:00 P.M. The speaker will be Attorney Bruce Barth, head of Robinson and Cole's Employee Benefits and Compensation Group, and his topic will be "The Affordable Health Care Act", also known as Obama care. This will be an excellent presentation and an opportunity to learn about the act from one of the foremost attorneys on the subject of health care reform. If you have any questions regarding this matter this is the meeting for you. This will be a dinner meeting and the cost of dinner will be \$35.00. If you plan on attending please contact either Ed Marczyzak emarczyzak@burndy.com or Kevin Vecchiarelli Kevin@Yankeecasting.com so we may have an accurate headcount for the restaurant.

We are looking into the possibility of a November meeting and if it comes to fruition, we will add it onto our website and the next newsletter.

As always we appreciate your input and ideas and look forward to seeing you all at a chapter meeting.

Sincerely,
Ed Marczyzak
Chairman, New England Chapter AFS