



Chairman's Message

As I write this, New Year's Day is just a few days away. And of course, this is the season for out with the old and in with the new. In that spirit, let me announce that 2008 will mark the end of my time as Chairman of CTOTF. Bob Kirn of TVA, who is our current Vice Chairman, will assume the duties of Chairman after the spring meeting. I am planning on retiring from Arizona Public Service in 2008 sometime after the spring meeting, and therefore will no longer qualify as a CTOTF member.

I have been attending CTOTF meetings for over 25 years and have had the privilege of being the Chairman since 1991. As this is my last Chairman's Message, let me share my thoughts first, on why CTOTF is not only the oldest, but the best user directed combustion turbine forum; and second, on how you can get the greatest benefit while attending CTOTF meetings for you and your company.

The strength of CTOTF is that it was formed by users and continues to this day to be user led and directed. It offers the greatest opportunity for user only discussions. OEM's and vendors participate only at the request of the members, and then are limited to technical presentations and answering member questions. CTOTF continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the users as new equipment and technologies come into service. One meeting offers users separate roundtable discussions for all makes and models, eliminating the need to attend multiple meetings. The knowledge base and experience level of the members that attend CTOTF is outstanding, and they continue to be generous in sharing their knowledge. I have been attending these meetings for over 25 years, and I always come away amazed at how much I learned.

My suggestions to get the most out of the meetings are really no secret. They are Preparation, Participation and Dissemination. Preparation includes scheduling time and getting the necessary permission to attend the meetings and well in advance. It includes gathering pictures and pertinent information on your units related to equipment failures or issues you wish to discuss. Formal presentations are not necessary, as show and tell with pictures or parts works very well. Finally, it includes packing plenty of business cards as this is a wonderful opportunity to network, and many vendors have drawings at the Vendor Fair that require a business card.

Participation is the most important of the three in getting the most out of the meeting. Begin by introducing yourself to people you do not know or have not met. Speaking in public becomes easier each time you do it, so make the effort to speak up. Remember your experiences are unique and important to others. Share your successful solutions and fixes as well as information related to equipment failures during the roundtables. Attend as many roundtables as you can. Knowledge of other types of equipment can be valuable to you and your company. Finally, consider volunteering to host a meeting, work on a committee or help with a roundtable session.

Disseminate the information gained at the meeting to those in your company that are involved in the operation and maintenance of the units to improve your unit performance, availability and reliability. It will also show your boss the value of sending you to the meeting. Disseminate meeting notices to others in your organization and encourage them to attend, especially those needing combustion turbine training.

As I prepare to pass the torch to Bob Kirn, I am confident that CTOTF will continue to grow and provide the combustion turbine operator with the best venue for interfacing with other users while addressing all combustion turbine plant issues.

Through my participation in CTOTF, I made many acquaintances and developed many cherished friendships over the past twenty five plus years. Seeing you all at the meetings will be the part I will miss the most. I thank you all for your support, and look forward to seeing you all one last time in Savannah.

Sincerely

John B. Lovelace
Chairman, CTOTF