

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY THINK TANK

(A Continuous Learning Experience)

Steve Krar

A relatively innocent meeting of three authors and three potential authors in the spring of 1962 lead to an Annual meeting that has lasted for the past 45 years. What started off with 6 attendees has grown in popularity attracting research organizations, publishers, and research scientists, company presidents, business people, university professors from around the world. The reputation of the Think Tank has spread to many corners of the world and for the 45th Think Tank there have been enquiries for information from Australia, China, New Zealand, Japan, and Qatar. As one of the delegates said at one of the conferences, he had never heard of a more prestigious and longer lasting event in the world.

The purpose of these Think Tank's is to provide a relaxed and informal setting where titles and ties are left at the door and everyone is there to learn and share ideas with other delegates. Formal sessions, where delegates present specific topics on their expertise, are scheduled for the mornings, but informal presentations and discussions go on in the afternoon and late in the evening.

Todd Phillips, Editor Advanced Manufacturing magazine Report

For the past 44 years, they have come to Lake Nipissing from across North America and other parts of the world for this Annual Retreat now held at the spectacular Samoset Lodge (www.samosetlodge.com). A cross-section of American, Canadian, and World business and manufacturing leaders, educators, entrepreneurs, and writers gather to take stock of what is new and discuss what is relevant. The ringleader for this prestigious event is Steve Krar, one of the most prolific and talented writers I have met in the publishing business. Although he is now more than a decade past the age when most of us dream of retiring, he remains a tireless force.

When Steve invited me to take part this year, I readily accepted. I am sure the fishermen drinking their morning coffee were scratching their heads in bewilderment when delegates got up to talk about things like Lean manufacturing, new product design process, nanotechnology, and emerging technologies.

Brian Malloch, President, The Plant Engineering and Maintenance Association of Canada **ATTT 20006 Testimonial**

Global competitiveness and economic pressures are driving our industrial leaders to expand their thinking beyond the constraints of day-to-day business. Steve Krar is a true

visionary who has emerged to create an environment that for 44 consecutive years, has allowed other futurists to contribute and share knowledge and experience with the goal of finding effective and sustainable solutions. Mr. Krar's annual Advanced Technology Think Tank (ATTT) is one of the most unique, innovative and effective forums that I have ever witnessed and I am very honoured to have been part of ATTT 2006. North American industrial advancement will benefit from Steve Krar's annual think tank for all future generations. The advanced thinking of all of those that I met at this year's event could only be described as "*imagineering*".

Historical Data

Mission: To provide leading experts and specialists in productivity-enhancing technologies an opportunity to meet annually in an informal setting to share concepts and new technologies among fellow colleagues on how industry can become more productive and meet and beat the challenges of global competition.

- **1962 – First meeting, called the Authors Annual Meeting, was initiated by three authors (Steve Krar, Bill Oswald, and Joe St.Amand *) along with three potential authors.**
- 1965 - The first time an invitation was extended to three industrial experts from Cincinnati Milacron, Inc. This practice has been continued to the present day.
- 1965 – Present: In the past invitations have been extended to manufacturing specialists in Canada, United States, England, Germany, and Switzerland.
- 1962 – Present: About 30 authors have produced 77 texts and have written 65 magazine articles on the latest advanced industrial practices with a circulation of 1.8 million copies worldwide.
- 1970 – Renamed the Advanced Technology Think Tank (ATTT) to more accurately describe the proceedings.
- All ATTT conferences have been held at various locations on the west arm of Lake Nipissing; the last 10 years at Samoset Lodge in Monetville, ON.
- 2006 – This will be the 44th year of the Advanced Technology Think Tank and the Conference will be held at Samoset Lodge from June 3 to June 6.

Delegates

Over the years, the many delegates have freely shared their knowledge and experiences with other delegates to make this a better world in which to live. Many have made personal friends that will possibly last a lifetime with knowledge being exchanged for many years to come. Who can say exactly what the world may benefit from the contacts made at the Think Tank conferences?

Industry Support

These Think Tanks could not have been successful without the support of leading industries throughout the world that have provided the most up-to-date technical information on new technologies for use at the Think Tanks. Their support is not only welcome but an essential for everyone, especially delegates, to be familiar with the latest technology developed anywhere in the world.