



**INSTITUTE OF ROLL DESIGN**

**IRD ASSOCIATION, INC**  
*DESIGNING THE FUTURE THROUGH INNOVATION*

# **50 YEARS OF THE IRD**

***A BRIEF HISTORY***

## How the Institute of Roll Design was Born

**Spring of 1975**, at the Aise Convention Center, Bob Kibler distributed a flier to all past, present, and future roll designers: “I sincerely believe that a Roll Design Institute should be FOUNDED”  
During this conference, sketches of logos were proposed.

**June 19, 1975** - An organizing committee met for the purpose of how the development of the Institute of Roll Design should proceed.

In attendance: Bob Kibler, Hugh Wallace, Matt Verbischer, Dave Stein, & Mike Papp

**August 6, 1975** – A 2<sup>nd</sup> organizing committee was held for the purpose of setting up the format of the IRD; such as Membership Requirements, Guidelines, Fees, Etc..

The meeting was held at Savoia's Restaurant in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

In attendance: Bob Kibler, Hugh Wallace, Matt Verbischer, Dave Stein, Mike Papp, Ron DeRoos, Vern Mitchell, & Jack Soltis

The First organizational meeting was held **September 3, 1975**, at the Tivoli Restaurant in Chicago Heights, Illinois. The meeting was opened by interim president Bob Kibler.

In attendance (18): Bob Kibler, Hugh Wallace, Matt Verbischer, Ron DeRoos, Dave Stein, Vern Mitchell, Mike Papp, Paul Opie, George Seams, Jake Michels, Gordon Holiday, Ed Scheick, Bob Hermes, Giles Gilley, Don Miller, Lou Pacetti, Bob Swepkee, & John Stevenson.

The original **By-Laws** were written by Matt Verbischer & Vern Mitchell.

They were then adopted on **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1975**.

- **1975 TO 1977: PRESIDENT-BOB KIBLER, SECRETARY-MATT VERBISCHER, TREASURER-HUGH WALLACE**

- FIRST MEETING AT AISE CONVENTION-BIRMINGHAM, AL 5/2/1976
- 75 MEMBERS AS OF 11/19/1976
- PROGRAM COMMITTEE: ED SCHEICK, CHAIRMAN
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: RON DeROOS, CHAIRMAN
- PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: BOB HERMES, CHAIRMAN
- ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE: DAVE STEIN, CHAIRMAN
- 127 MEMBERS AS OF 8/15/1977

- **1977 TO 1979: PRESIDENT-MATT VERBISCHER, SECRETARY-LINDY LINDHOLM, TREASURER-HUGH WALLACE**

- FIRST EASTERN SECTION MEETING
- 175 MEMBERS
- EASTERN SECTION OF IRD SET-UP ON 7/14/1978 (JOHN BIGATEL, CHAIRMAN)

- **1979 TO 1981: PRESIDENT-RON DeROOS, SECRETARY- PAUL OPIE, TREASURER-HUGH WALLACE**

- 50 PEOPLE AT JANUARY MEETING IN CHICAGO
- EASTERN SECTION: CORRESPONDENT'S = ED SCHEICK & GILES GILLEY
- 213 MEMBERS AS OF 3/1/1980

- **1981 TO 1983: PRESIDENT-TED DULL. SECRETARY-BOB LEE, TREASURER-HUGH WALLACE**

- EASTERN SECTION PROSPERS
- 260 MEMBERS

- **1983 TO 1985: PRESIDENT-BOB LEE, SECRETARY-KENNY ROGERS, TREASURER-HUGH WALLACE**

- FIRST CANADIAN MEETING (MANATOBA ROLLING MILLS)
- BLIZZARD AT CHICAGO MEETING





- **1985 TO 1987: PRESIDENT-GILES GILLEY, SECRETARY-TIM JENKINS, TREASURER-HUGH WALLACE**

- 360 MEMBERS
- 2<sup>ND</sup> CANADIAN MEETING (SLATER STEEL)
- EASTERN & WESTERN SECTIONS CONSOLIDATED

- **1987 TO 1989: PRESIDENT-TIM JENKINS, SECRETARY-ED MALAN, TREASURER-HUGH WALLACE & DENNIS MANLEY**

- !! IRD TREASURY BROKE!!
- CONCEPTION OF ROLL DESIGN CERTIFICATION
- FIRST HOSPITALITY SUITE
- 400 MEMBERS
- FIRST REUSABLE NAME TAGS

- **1989 TO 1991: PRESIDENT-GEORGE YAGER, VICE PRESIDENT-HORST KUEHNE, SECRETARY-ED MALAN, TREASURER-DENNIS MANLEY**

- FIRST KEY-NOTE SPEAKER
- FIRST COMPUTER RECORDS KEPT
- FIRST ROLL DESIGN CERTIFICATION
- FIRST TECHNICAL PAPER AWARDS
- FIRST WIRE/ROD COMMITTEE
- FIRST MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
- FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

- **1991 TO 1993: PRESIDENT-HORST KUEHNE, VICE PRESIDENT-GILES GILLEY, SECRETARY-RON CUTLER & NICK SWAIKA, TREASURER-CLARENCE KELLY**

- HARDNESS COMMITTEE FORMED
- MAJOR EXPANSION OF COMPPPUTERIZATION
- EDUCATION COMMITTEE FORMED
- CAD/CAM USERS GROUP FORMED





• **1993 TO 1995: PRESIDENT-GILES GILLEY, VICE PRESIDENT-RODNEY WARD, SECRETARY-NICK SWAIKA, TREASURER-HORST KUEHNE**

- !! 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF IRD!!
- FIRST PRESIDENT TO SERVE A 2<sup>ND</sup> TERM
- FIRST LADIES SUITE'S
- FIRST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
- FIRST EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION (CHARLEY CYR & RAY BOWMAN)
- FIRST OPERATIONS MEMBERS
- FIRST TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT & TREASURER (HORST KUEHNE)
- 3<sup>RD</sup> CANADIAN MEETING (COURTICE STEEL)

• **1995 TO 1997: PRESIDENT-RODNEY WARD, VICE PRESIDENT-DARRYL PECK, SECRETARY-BUTCH HARTMAN, TREASURER-JEFF BEIKER**

- RECORD ATTENDANCE = 260 (FALL MEETING)
- FIRST PRES. FROM A WIRE I ROD Mill
- 600 MEMBERS
- FIRST "GILES M. GILLEY, SCHOLARSHIP" - AWARDED
- FIRST INTERNET COMMITTEE
- FIRST - WEB PAGE

• **1997-99: PRES. DARRYL PECK, V. PRES. NICK SWAIKA, SECT. BUTCH HARTMAN and TREAS. JEFF BEICKER**

- 4th CANADIAN MEETING (ISPA T SIDBEC - CONTRECOEUR) record attendance, special tour of "Old Montreal" compliments of Ispat Sidbec
- FIRST PHOTO ALBUMS & PICTURES ON CD"s
- FIRST STRUCTURAL COMMITTEE MEETING - Arlington, Texas

• **1999 TO 2001: PRESIDENT-NICK SWAIKA, VICE PRESIDENT-JEFF BEIKER, SECRETARY-BOB DeNUNZIO, TREASURER-ROBERT STEDJE-LARSON**

- RECORD ATTENDANCE AT DINNER MEETING = 261 (SPRING MEETING AT CHARLESTON, SC)
- !! 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF IRD!! (CHICAGO, IL)
- FIRST EMBROIDRIED I. R. D. LOGO ON SHIRTS AND HATS





• **2001 - 2003: PRES. JEFF BEICKER, V. PRES. ROBERT STEDJE-LARSON, SECT. BOB DeNUNZIO & LOU DADDARIO, TREAS. PAT MANCINI**

- \* 9/11 TWIN TOWER ATTACK
- \* 5th CANADIAN MEETING (GERDAU MRM)

• **2003 – 2005: PRES. ROBERT STEDJE-LARSEN, V. PRES. BRENDA DANIELS, SECT. LOU DADDARIO, TREAS. CHUCK BERRIER**

- FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS AN OFFICER
- FIRST MERCHANT MILL WORK GROUP MEETINGS
- !! 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF IRD!!

• **2005 – 2007: PRES. BRENDA DANIELS, V. PRES. ED CLARK, SECT. GREG COMBS, TREAS. CHUCK BERRIER**

- ROLL FOUNDRY VISIT: UNITED FOUNDRIES.
- 6<sup>TH</sup> CANADIAN MEETING (ARCELOR MITTAL)
- Douglas Black Awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award 9/27/2007

• **2007 – 2009: PRES. ED CLARK, V. PRES. CHUCK BERRIER, SECT. GREG COMBS, TREAS. JAMES MELTON**

- SUCCESSFULLY GUIDED THOUGH TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES FOR INDUSTRY
- !! 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF IRD!!

• **2009 – 2011: PRES. CHUCK BERRIER, V. PRES. JAMES MELTON, SECT. WILLIAM POSEY, TREAS. KEVIN DANNER**

- FIRST IRD HOSTED BY TWO VENDORS-SINTERMET & HERKULES
- IRD BOUNCES BACK FROM TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES FOR INDUSTRY
- ICE CREAM TREATS SERVED DURING TECHNICAL BREAKS – YUMMY!



• **2011 – 2013: PRES. JAMES MELTON, V. PRES. JEFF BEICKER, SECT. WILLIAM POSEY, TREAS. ROB KIBLER**

- CHUCK WAGON COOKOUT IN PHOENIX AZ
- HONORED 9 RETIREES AT THE MEETING IN JACKSONVILLE FL

• **2013 – 2015: PRES. JEFF BEICKER, V. PRES. MIKE CLARK, SECT. MICHAEL CHOCIEJ Jr, TREAS. DAVID LIGHT**

- FIRST ON-LINE PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION
- NEWLY REDESIGNED WEBSITE WITH TECHNICAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE
- !! 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF IRD!!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> President to serve a second term

• **2015 – 2017: PRES. DAVID LIGHT, V. PRES., BOYD WRIGHT, SECT. MICHAEL CHOCIEJ Jr, TREAS. JENNIFER LOSER**

- INCORPORATION OF OUR ORGANIZATION.
- BECAME CERTIFIED AS A NON-PROFIT.
- RETAINED FULL TIME ATTORNEY.
- COMPLETED EXTERNAL FINANCIAL AUDIT
- SOME BY-LAWS CHANGES AS RATIFIED BY MEMBERSHIP

• **2017 – 2019: PRES. BOYD WRIGHT, V. PRES., JENNIFER LOSER (2018) & EIRIK PHYTLA (2019), SECT. MICHAEL CHOCIEJ Jr, TREAS. CHET KNELL**

- CHANGED FOCUS OF PRESENTERS FROM INFO TO EDUCATIONAL CONTENT
- INCREASED EXECUTIVE MEETING PARTICIPATION TO INCLUDE SUPPLIERS
- FIRST FULL MEMBERCLICKS REGISTRATION MEETING IN 2018
- Lifetime Achievement Awards given to Giles Gilley & Rodney Ward 4/26/2018



**2019 – 2021: PRES. EIRIK PHYTLA, V. PRES., CHET KNELL  
SECT. MICHAEL CHOCIEJ Jr, TREAS. David Mowry**

- Successfully navigated through the COVID pandemic
- Scheduled 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of this term only to cancel at last minute due to the Delta Covid Variant
- Held the executive meeting at 7 Spring to review business and swear in new executive team as we postponed the meeting conference until the following fall.

**2021 – 2023: PRES. CHET KNELL, V. PRES., David Mowry (Jan.-April2022) & Johnny Adkins ( SECT. CHRIS HIXSON (Jan.-May2022) & MICHAEL CHOCIEJ JR (May2022-2023), TREAS. GREG SCHRIEWER (2022) & MITCHELL GAFFKA (2023)**

- Created both Rules & Regulations along with an Incident Report
- Spring 2023 – Award Keith Bacon the Lifetime Achievement Award
- Fall 2023 – Award Ron Walker (Uncle Ron) the Lifetime Achievement Award
- Started handing out Memorabilia Challenge Coins at each meeting
  - Front with logo, backside with City where meeting held & picture from host mill

**2023 – 2025: PRES. JOHNNY ADKINS (thru JUNE2024) & CHET KNELL (JUNE2024-2025); V. PRES. MITCHELL GAFFKA (thru JUNE 2024) & WILLIAM DROHAN (JUNE2024-2025); TREAS. WILLIAM DROHAN (thru JUNE2024) & JACOB LOPEZ (JUNE2024-2025)**

- Current Executive Team continuing to work on new website for the future



- New logo Accepted **INSTITUTE OF ROLL DESIGN**
- Fall 2024 – Award Tom Statham the Lifetime Achievement Award
- Spring 2025 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - George Yager & David Light received the Lifetime Achievement Award 4/23/2025



2020-2021

**COVID-19**





# THE GEORGE L. YAGER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Douglas Black – Fall 2007



Giles Gilley & Rodney Ward – Spring 2018



Keith Bacon – Spring 2023



Ron Walker – Fall 2023



Tom Statham – Fall 2024



