SteelWize

You may talk here talk, but can we talk here talk?

IT HAS COME TIME to speak of language in the steel industry. The topic has been building for many years, and since no one else has tended to this task, I will do my best.

I went to my first AWS committee meeting many years ago and found the participants—all very well-established and respected individuals—arguing for 15 minutes about whether a sentence in question should use "and" or "or" as the conjunction. At the time, I could not believe that they were debating over something so seemingly trivial.

Nowadays, I can definitely say I believe it! Lest you think it is peculiar to AWS committees, I can say that AISC committees can do similar things. I'm sure we are not alone.

Many words are chosen with great care. Others just seem to slip in. As frustrating as it is to argue the "ands" and the "ors," on one level or another, we do recognize that it can make a difference. Yet it is not long after a new code or specification is published that you (I will return to this word in a moment) make it very clear that we have not made

Those terms, of course, do not really designate the plural, though they do share an inclusive [...] this before, but I heard it from a respected engineer from Texas (or was that Pennsylvania?) that the plural of y'all is "all y'all." I do not think I will vote for that one. But I do think you should let us know what utterance you (or yins, youse, or y'all) think we should use for the plural of "you." If you have an opinion, email it to chief editor Scott Melnick [...]