Letter from the President

Dear SME Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! I wish everyone a successful and prosperous 2018! As I reflect on 2017, I am very grateful to Murray Energy Corporation for their commitment to fully fund the ABET program at $50,000 per year, indefinitely. This generous gift will fully endow the ABET program, which will free the Foundation to focus more efforts and attention on other programs. Bob Murray, and his son Ryan, are very committed, long-time Foundation supporters and we are thankful for the personal time they have spent on Foundation activities along with their financial support.

The SME Foundation fiscal year 2018 (starting October 1) funding need has increased over $100,000 from FY2017 to $1.85 million as the Ph.D. Fellowship and Career Development Grant program ramps up to a full complement of awardees, as well as normal year-to-year program cost increases. While on an operating basis we fell short in FY17, our aggregate fund balances actually showed an increase due to very good investment returns. As a result, our educational and outreach program reserve balances presently are adequate representing generally one to three years’ worth of funding. However, unless we can increase fundraising, these balances will be inadequate over the medium term to maintain our programs.

To meet the challenge, the Foundation is working very hard to increase corporate contributions and developing and implementing fundraising programs and activities. We are nearing the formal announcement of our new Planned Giving program which we will be introduced at the 2018 Annual Conference & Expo. Additionally, the Foundation is working on appeal dinners, golf tournaments and several other fundraising efforts.

I would like to formally welcome Niki Humphreys as the new SME Foundation Manager. Niki brings a wealth of non-profit fundraising experience to the Foundation; her perspective and knowledge is already making a positive impact. I am very confident that the Foundation management is in good hands.

Don’t forget to purchase your tickets to the 2018 SME Foundation “Great Gatsby” Gala Dinner which will be held on February 25, 2018 at the 2018 Annual Conference & Expo in Minneapolis. I hope to see you all there!

Best Regards,

Bill Hancock

SME Foundation Executive Committee

Bill A. Hancock  President
Mary J. Korpi  President Elect
C. Dale Elifrits  Vice President of Finance
Dennis P. Bryan  Past President
Dave Kanagy  Secretary
Steven C. Holmes  Individual Fundraising Officer
Timothy D. Arnold  SME Past President

For all of the roarin’ details, please visit: www.smefoundation.org

GREAT GATSBY

ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Please join the SME Foundation for its Annual Gala Dinner – Great Gatsby Celebration

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Hilton Minneapolis  Minneapolis, MN

COCKTAIL RECEPTION & SILENT AUCTION
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News
letter

January 2018
BSA Mining in Society Merit Badge

MEC continues to support the Boy Scouts of America Mining in Society merit badge year-round through the Mining in Society merit badge webpage. On that page you can learn all you need to know about becoming a Mining in Society merit badge counselor. Then, by completing the Roll Call form, you will be added to our mailing list for MiS merit badge counselors for future communications regarding the merit badge, support materials and your role as a counselor.

For more information, please visit https://mineralseducationcoalition.org/mining-in-society-merit-badge/

Upcoming Events:

USA Science and Engineering Festival

Volunteers are needed for the USA Science and Engineering Festival that is taking place in Washington, DC, April 6-8, 2018. Thousands of students, families and teachers attend the event every two years. Please consider taking a shift to interact with booth visitors who will participate in hands-on activities while learning about mining safety, properties and uses of minerals and having fun! Contact Tanya Kriss at kriss@smenet.org for more information and to sign up!

We need your help to make a difference!
Help secure the next generation of mine safety professionals.

SME has acquired the mine safety and health program that offers the Certified Mine Safety Professional (CMSP) certification. SME is building on the excellent foundation of the 25-year program by completing many activities leading to the first SME CMSP examination. One of the tasks, and the subject of this article, is to seek volunteers to serve on the Cut Score Panel February 24-25, 2018 at the Minneapolis Convention Center preceding the SME Annual Conference & Expo.

The objective of the Cut Score Panel is to set the passing score appropriate for the certification. The Cut Score Panel will consist of 15-20 subject matter experts who will take the actual examination to be administered to potential CMSPs applying for certification later in 2018. The Panel will take the examination on Saturday, February 24 from 8 am to 4 pm, and then reconvene Sunday at 8 am. On Sunday, each question will be discussed with regard to difficulty, quality, pertinence to the profession, and other psychometric and general statistics.

Individual scores will be confidential only to Dr. Schissler and the panel member. Group analysis of the examination is the objective. Please send your interest in participation to Dr. Andrew P. Schissler, CMSP Examination Coordinator at schissler@smenet.org, by January 15, 2018. The panelists will be notified January 19. The panel will be composed of people with diversity in experience, geographic location, and mineral industry careers that reflect the CMSP population.
Video entries for the 2017 Move Mining and Move Mining Next Gen competitions have been received and People’s Choice online voting ended December 13. While both competitions engage individuals and teams from around the world using technology, creativity and innovation to share their ideas on how to positively change or “move” the public’s perception of mining, the second annual Move Mining competition is geared to college students, professionals, industry-and non-industry adults and the new Move Mining Next Gen competition is for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Finalists for the Move Mining competition and winners for Move Mining Next Gen were announced December 15. Congratulations to the five team finalists for Move Mining: Bridge 360, Teaching Kids, S&T Miners, and SME PUCP; and MynasClique won People’s Choice. These teams will be moving on to compete at a live competition at the SME Annual Conference & Expo in February 2018. To see their concepts ahead of time, go to www.MoveMining.org where their video submissions can be viewed. In the Move Mining Next Gen competition, the Best Overall prize was awarded to Team Kamille, People’s Choice went to Pioneer, the Grades K-5 winner was Children for Sustainable Mining, Grades 6-8 went to Team Pluto, and Grades 9-12 to I have a Pet. To see the winning videos and all of the Move Mining Next Gen entries, visit www.MoveMiningNextGen.org. Overall, the Move Mining and Move Mining Next Gen 2017-2018 competitions have captured the attention of people all over the globe. The total votes cast for the competitions total in the thousands.

National Science Teachers Association Regional Conferences

The 2017 National Science Teachers Association regional conferences are complete. MEC staff and SME members and volunteers talked with teachers and provided free mineral kits in Baltimore (October 5-7), Milwaukee (November 9-11) and New Orleans (November 30-December 2). NSTA area conferences reach around 2,500 educators. You are invited, along with your SME section or student chapter, company or other interested parties, to help with planning, donating rock and mineral samples and staffing the booth at the 2018 NSTA area conferences. Locations are as follows: Reno, NV (October 11-13), National Harbor, MD (November 15-17) and Charlotte, NC (November 29-December 1). Conference calls for planning each of these events will begin in April 2018. Stay tuned for more details! Do you have questions about outreach opportunities or how you can conduct outreach in your hometown? Contact Tanya Kriss kriss@smenet.org.
Thank You!

The SME Foundation thanks our Corporate Roundtable Partners for their encouragement, support and assistance in creating a stronger industry around the world, developing tomorrow’s professionals and leaders, and strengthening relationships within our communities. To find out more or to lend your support, please visit the Foundation website at www.smefoundation.org.