LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SME Foundation Friends,

Although the last few months may have been frustrating and overwhelming at times, everyone has been working to stay the course, alter and/or modify the course as needed and even create a new one. We cannot begin to understand how these changes may have affected you and your circumstances, but we know that no one will come out of these times unchanged. One way or another our lives are and will be different.

During this time, the Foundation staff and the Board of Trustees have devoted their talents and creativity to continuing the mission of the Foundation as the source of funding for education and outreach to SME and the community it serves. Everyone has closely monitored the financial status of the Foundation and adjustments made, as necessary. As an example, you have already seen that the communications with SME members, individual donors and companies are through e-mails and only periodically will materials and information be published and mailed. Please be on the lookout for these important e-mail notices as they will be highlighting SME individuals and the Foundation programs that have significantly and positively impacted their professional lives.

We are thankful for all the donors and supporters who believe in the good work of the Foundation and continue to support the Foundation’s critical programs and activities. Working together, remaining calm during these uncertain times, and with ongoing support, the SME Foundation will stay its course that provides value and benefit to our members and the mining industry. Support of the SME Foundation is your conduit to making an important difference!

Be safe and stay well.

In deepest gratitude,

Mary B. Korpi
SME Foundation President

2020 Midyear Meeting – September 21-25, 2020

Due to potential local regulations protecting against exposure to COVID-19 and in an effort to keep volunteers safe, SME has made the difficult decision to host the majority of the Midyear Meeting remotely this year. Committee members will be sent details for phone and video conference arrangements scheduled for the week of September 21. Please watch your email for additional information.

SME Foundation Executive Committee

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<td>Mary B. Korpi</td>
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<td>Hugh B. Miller</td>
<td>SME Past President</td>
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To donate to the SME Foundation, please visit us at: www.smefoundation.org
Entries for both competitions open on September 9, 2020. Move Mining: Share your idea of how to change the public’s view of mining. Mark your calendar and get your team assembled. Together, we can show the world why mining is essential! Visit movemining.org to learn more.

Move Mining Next Gen: Students in grades K-12 are invited to make and submit videos showing the importance of mining in our lives. Cash prizes will be awarded. Spread the word to teachers, students and parents you know! Visit moveminingnextgen.org to learn more.

The Minerals Education Coalition will be awarded the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum 2020 Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award at their 33rd Annual Induction Banquet in Denver, CO on October 24. The MEC is being recognized for its work with the Move Mining and Move Mining Next Gen Program. The award recognizes efforts to educate “the public about the critical role of the mineral and mining industry to our everyday lives. The work should have enhanced society’s view of mining and generated understanding of the relationship mining has to every aspect of modern-day life,” according to mininghalloffame.org, where you can go to learn more about the event.

While students around the world are learning remotely, MEC found a way to jump in the mix by joining forces with the Western Florida Scouting program to guide 637 Scouts to starting the Mining in Society merit badge, with 67% of them having already completed it! The remaining Scouts have 1-3 requirements before earning the badge, and will receive credit for the portions they completed. MEC would like to thank the many volunteers who made the virtual event possible, including Charlie Zimmerman, Chair of the Scouting Subcommittee who took the lead on this project, Katie Kosloski, Pam Wilkinson, Will Wilkinson, Dan O’Connor, and Aaron Young. This successful event certainly encourages MEC to conduct outreach on yet another platform.

Along with the other changes due to postponed conferences, MEC accepted the invitation to create a careers video for the USA Science and Engineering Festival (USASEF) team. This video, made possible by SME members, and even some of their children, is written in a student-friendly format. With kids asking questions such as, “What do you actually do in the mining industry?” and “Are you safe in your work?” volunteer/video producer Charlie Zimmerman spliced together video clips with answers recorded from industry professionals from around the world. The result: a seamless stream of honest questions by kids with child-friendly answers from engaging experts who prove the mining industry to be a strong career choice. Stay tuned for an MEC watch party! You can have a sneak peek of the video before its release to the USASEF this fall.

For SME members in the Pittsburgh, New Orleans and Phoenix areas who are planning to volunteer at the National Science Teaching Association area conferences this fall, MEC thanks you for your interest! At this time, we have not received any information about the status of these events this fall. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Tanya Kriss at kriss@smenet.org.
Due to the uncertainties of travel and social interaction related to COVID-19 pandemic, ABET leadership has cancelled or converted all events and meetings to virtual formats for the foreseeable future. The Program Evaluator Candidate training workshops scheduled for this April – June were cancelled. Enrollees are now re-registered for spring 2021 workshops. The July ABET summer Commissions meetings will be virtual events as will the Annual Fall ABET meeting. This fall, when the largest number of program accreditation visits at the largest number of campuses to be visited in ABET history is scheduled, all visits have been moved to virtual settings unless the institution can provide a substantive reason to postpone its visit a year for a face-to-face visit. To do this, the visit calendar has been extended from its usual November end to a late February or early March end.

SME’s degree program criteria efforts: The very slightly edited version of the newly approved geology degree program criteria, which SME produced, is now on track for approval by the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission this summer. These criteria will be used for accreditation decisions during geology program evaluation visits this fall. The new SME-created degree program criteria for mineral processing engineering and extractive metallurgical engineering have moved to the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) Criteria Committee and appear on their way for approval by EAC for a first one-year reading starting this fall.

To support the 2500+ SME members that hold the PE license, SME plans to launch an internal SME PE Committee that will perform non-examination developmental work, yet critical tasks central for the PE license. Launch will be fall 2020. The tasks to be performed by this committee include continued writing and publishing the Study Guide and Practice Exam, updating the Mining Reference Handbook Edition II, and increasing the importance of the PE to industry in tangible ways such as webinars, speakers bureau, liaison with NCEES; and SME representation in two ongoing national efforts concerning advocacy of the PE license: the License that Works Committee, and the Professional Liaison Organization Council. SME will be forming the PE Committee with volunteers in fall, 2020.

Dr. Andrew P. Schissler PE, Coordinator for the Professional Engineers Examination for Mining / Mineral Processing
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.