LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SME Members and SME Foundation Friends,

As the holidays are fast approaching, I want to stop and highlight some of our latest developments. Our regional visits continued as we visited three more of our Corporate Roundtable Sponsors: J.H. Fletcher, JENNMAR and CONSOL Energy; we also celebrated two big MEC events: BSA National Jamboree, and our first visit to the American School Counselors Association (ASCA) Conference.

The BSA National Jamboree was well supported again with SME Foundation volunteers coming from across the country to engage nearly 2,000 Scouts who visited our booth where 766 new Mining in Society Merit Badges (MISM) were awarded! Thank you to our sponsors CONSOL Energy, Coronado Global Resources, WAAIME, Blackhawk Mining and the SME Florida Section. Amongst the many impactful Foundation programs, the MISM continues to stand out and meet our mission through education and outreach.

At the end of September we wrapped up our best fundraising year since FY17. Thank you to all the support we’ve received from our supporters, Corporate Roundtable Partners, SME Divisions, SME Local Sections, and Trustees.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the SMEF’s Golf Outing in November at Gold Canyon Golf Resort in Arizona; we hope to see many of you there. We are also excited to announce our first Eastern Golf Outing at The Greenbrier in West Virginia in September 2024!

Finally, please join us in remembering John Murphy, our long-time friend, Trustee, and leader within the Foundation, who passed away over the summer. John gave us many good years of his energy and passion, including being SMEF President for two consecutive terms. Thank you, John.

Best,

Thomas C. Rauch
SME Foundation President

SME Foundation Leadership

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To donate to the SME Foundation, please visit us at: smefoundation.org
SCOUTS LEARN ABOUT MINING AT THE 2023 BSA NATIONAL JAMBOREE

The SME Foundation hosted the Mining in Society Merit Badge at the 2023 BSA National Jamboree. Over 15,000 Scouts, from around the country were in attendance. Themed, “Mining in Our Modern World: Journey to the Middle of Your Mobile,” the exhibit emphasized messages embodied in the Mining in Society Merit Badge, while helping Scouts make a personal, direct connection to the importance of mining in their lives. Highlights included staff from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation (OSMR) teaching Scouts about the site’s history as a reclaimed coal mine, the Luck Stone front-loader simulator, and the haul truck tire from Kings Tire Service. In total, there were 1,950 visitors to the booth and 766 Scouts earned the Mining in Society Merit Badge.

Thank you to CONSOL Energy, Coronado Global Resources, WAAIME, Blackhawk Mining and the SME Florida Section for your sponsorship of this event!

MEC RELEASES 2023 MINERAL BABY

MEC released its 2023 annual infographics on “Mineral Baby” and “Minerals Needed Every Year.” The MEC Mineral Baby details the estimated amount of minerals, metals, and fuels that an American born this year will use in their lifetime. In 2023, this amount is 3.07 million pounds. The companion graphic, “MEC Minerals Needed Every Year,” explains that 40,209 pounds of new minerals must be provided for every person in the United States each year to make the things we use daily. Download these graphics at MineralsEducationCoalition.org/stats.

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK FEATURES INNOVATION AND CAREERS IN MINING

MEC partners with the American Geosciences Institute’s (AGI) Earth Science Week (ESW) to provide educational resources across the globe at www.EarthSciWeek.org, in the ESW Toolkit and on the MEC website. The 2023 ESW celebrated the theme “Geoscience Innovating for Earth and People.” A postcard explaining MEC’s new resources was included in the 9,000 Earth Science Week Toolkits available for free from AGI’s website. Additionally, MEC produced a Jobs of Tomorrow educational unit available on MineralsEducationCoalition.org/esw, which includes new MEC activities in the online lesson plan and the “Safe as a Mine” activity in the 2023-2024 ESW Calendar.

This year, MEC participated in the ESW webinar series. SME created a video about mining and drones for the series, featuring Dr. Richard Bishop, an SME member from Virginia Tech Mining & Minerals Engineering.

SME TALKS ABOUT CAREERS IN MINING AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

This summer, SME attended the American School Counselors Association Conference. Over 5,000 school counselors attended and hundreds of school counselors visited the SME booth. Flyers from eleven mining schools and information about internship opportunities from Corporate Roundtable Partners were distributed. The new SME “Exploring Careers in the Mining and Minerals Industry” booklet was also distributed at the booth. The new booklet includes SME member profiles and focuses on the need for mining professionals in a wide variety of disciplines. Download a free copy at MineralsEducationCoalition.org careers. The booth also included a video sampling of Jobs of Tomorrow, a video series geared toward educating young audiences about careers in the mining industry.
THE SME PE COMMITTEE HAS AN ACTIVE YEAR
Submitted by Dr. Andrew P. Schissler, PE

The SME PE Committee has been actively working behind the scenes this year to enhance the PE program. The committee requested the National Council for Examining Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) to consider adding “mentoring” as a satisfactory method for an engineer to gain the qualifying experience that states require for licensure. NCEES will consider it for the model rules for licensure. Many engineering disciplines have the same problem as mining and mineral processing engineers in that it is sometimes difficult to have a supervisor or close colleague within the company or business unit.

Every seven years, the material for the Mining/Mineral Processing PE Exam (MMP) is reviewed and amendments made through a survey. The survey asks practicing PEs if the current topical outline of subject matter describes what a PE needs to know on the job. The survey was completed August 31, 2023 with over 200 responses used in the review. Thank you to those who participated. The graph below shows a 33-year recap on how many people have taken the MMP exam. The average number of examinees between 1990 and 2022 was 74.

The SME PE Committee and its sister organization the NCEES MMP Committee always need volunteers, particularly mineral processing and environmental engineers. To volunteer, you must be an active licensed engineer and a member of SME. Please email Andrew Schissler at Schissler@smenet.org if you express an interest in volunteering.

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To donate to the SME Foundation, please visit us at smefoundation.org

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FIESTA TIME!

Please join the SME Foundation for its Annual Gala Dinner and Silent Auction

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Contact the SME Foundation at smefoundation@smenet.org for additional information.
THANK YOU!
Thank you to 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 smefoundation.org.