**2022 SME Annual Conference**

Coal and Energy Division Executive Committee

Sunday, February 27, 2022

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM MT

Marriott at City Creek Hotel

75 S W Temple St.

Salt Lake City, UT

Deer Valley II

**Attendees:**

* In Person: Ryan Murray, George Luxbacher, Sena Cicek, Steven Schafrik, Eric Shereda, Robert Kudlawiec, John Gefferth, Tathagata Ghosh, Vaibhav Raj, Brijes Mishra, Barbara Arnold, Susan Bealko, Ed Zeglen, Jim Haughey, Ray Donelick, Bill Wilkinson, Sekhar Bhattacharya, Rachel (Boz) Boothby, Sam Baker, Heather Trexler, Mathew Gray, Madan Singh, Elham Rahimi, Mike Trevits, Paul Conrad, Rich Wagner, Karin Harrington (SME Liaison)
* By phone: None

**Opening statement:**

* Ryan Murray welcomed back everyone to the first physical meeting post Covid-19. He thanked Paul Conrad for a successful program. Additionally, he introduced Susan Bealko as the incoming Chair of the C&E Division.

**Safety Share:**

* Ryan Murray reiterated the SME Conference safety rules and emphasized on exercising prudent personal safety such as masks.
* John Gefferth offered a second safety share regarding construction work around the Conference venue and emphasized exercising personal safety practices and vigilance while walking around the venue.

**Review and approval of the minutes from the 2021 Mid-Year Meeting**

* Motion was made to accept the September 11, 2021 minutes by John Gefferth, Second was made by Robert Kudlawiec. No discussion. Ayes were unanimous for acceptance.

**Review of the Division finances (complete details were provided in the agenda) – Tathagata Ghosh**

* Tathagata Ghosh provided the financial report
* Motion was made to accept the finance report by Ed Zeglen, Second was made by Mike Trevits. No discussion. Ayes were unanimous for acceptance.
* The Division fund ending September 30, 2021
* Beginning balance, October 1 2020 $63,336.79
* Revenue $9,450.18
* Expenses $5,852.38
* Ending balance, September 30, 2021 $66,934.59
* The Division Scholarship Endowment Fund ending September 30, 2021
* Beginning balance, October 1, 2020 $927,465.76
* Revenue $141,507.71
* Expenses $26,000.00
* Ending balance, September 30, 2021 $1,042,973.47
* The Division Ventilation Scholarship Fund ending September 30, 2021
* Beginning balance, October 1, 2020 $101,799.04
* Revenue $2,874.72
* Expense $5,114.00
* Ending balance, September 30, 2021 $99,559.76

**Scholarship committee report – Matt Gray**

* Matt Gray provided the scholarship report
* 49 applications were received from 6 US Schools and 4 international schools.
* Judges were on different pages for ratings. Create a guidance document to help rate the scholarship recipients. The Committee will create a rubric to score things.
* Steven Schafrik suggested forming an ad-hoc committee to develop proper metrics for international scholarship applicants. Vaibhav Raj volunteered to be on the committee. Matt Gray will put together the committee moving forward.
* There was a long discussion regarding international applicants and dual applicants.
* Conversation was had around whether the $500 cap for international students scholarships was still an appropriate amount. Should it be increased? Ghosh believes that $500 is appropriate based on International schools being highly subsidized.
* Discussions also centered around the amount of funds awarded to international applicants be based on their expenses and it varies country to country.
* Whether the international applicants are applying from schools which are ABET accredited was also discussed. The equivalency based on Washington Accord need further discussion.
* George Luxbacher suggested that candidates should not be eligible to receive more than one Scholarship.
* George Luxbacher made a motion, “No applicant should be awarded 2 scholarships (no doubling of scholarships) from the C&E Division”, whether in C&E or across all of SME. Motion was seconded by Tathagata Ghosh. Motion passed; Ayes were unanimous.

**Steve Holmes Visit**

* SME Foundation President, Steve Holmes, the gala dinner is sold out. There will be a drawing for a Hawaiian vacation where you must be present to win.
* There is an online auction as well as in-person auction items that will only available at the dinner. All the shipping for items is free. The funds raised will go to SME Foundation scholarships.
* The foundation has raised $6 million in the last few years. Foundation would focus on programs targeting incoming students to drive up falling enrolment in Mining Schools.
* Foundation has raised $11.1 million in total.
* The Foundation asks that each Division participates in the Division challenge that they all make a donation to SMEF regardless of the dollar amount. MPD & M&E are giving $10,001 and $10,005 respectively.

**Dave Kanagy/Bill Edgerton/Ron Parratt visit**

* Bill Edgerton thanked the Division committees and appreciated the hard work put in by each Division to make this SME event successful. He reiterated that the SME Sections are very important resource and suggested inter-section meetings/talks every 3 months.
* Ron Parratt talked about providing value to members and incorporating all advices and suggestions in the strategic committee.
* Mike Trevitz talked about the online raffle event and thanked Ron Parratt for coming to talk to the Pittsburg section.
* Robert Kudlawieic also offered thanks to Ron Parratt.

**Report of the Membership committee – Rachel Boothby**

* Membership as of September 30, 2021 was 918 professionals and 62 students, 21% decline. 29% decline in last 2 years.
* The declining trend continues. How do we recruit people?
  + Rachel Boothby suggested recruiting operators.
  + Sam Baker proposed tweaking the Division programming to benefit working industry professionals
  + John Gefferth suggested approaching CEOs or Chief Engineers/executives to fund SME travel for young engineers and professionals
  + Ryan Murray sent an email to C&E Execs soliciting sponsorship as well as encouraging them to send individuals to the Conference from their Organizations. They responded with Financial Support, but did not reply about sending participants.
  + Ryan Murray suggested everyone try to recruit at least one new member

Report of the Program Chair – Paul Conrad

* Total papers accepted – 79 papers
* COVID cancelations – 20 papers
* Current program – 59 papers
* NIOSH attendees are limited to 7
* Ryan Murray thanked Paul Conrad for his hard work and being able to accommodate last minute program changes

Percy Nicholls Award guidelines and nomination criteria – Ryan Murray

* Ryan Murray shared the Percy Nicholls award guidelines and nomination criteria
* One candidate was awarded this year – Dr. Michael Karmis
* George Luxbacher provided the history and background for Percy Nicholls award. The award was created when ASME had a solid fuels division and the award criteria is “Fuel Science”.
* SME wants to give the award every year or every other year depending on ASME’s intent. George Luxbacher indicated that ASME may also want to give the award, but if they don’t nominate anyone for a specific year then SME will give the award.
* When discussing whether the guidelines and nomination criteria should be changed, Steven Schafrik added that these changes would need to be brought to the notice of AIME and a committee convened to address the rule changes.

Investment return options – Karin Harrington

* SME was asking all Divisions to review their current investment return options. The Overall investment portfolio of SME provides 7-8% return rate vs. the interest income from bonds with a return rate of ~3%. SME has found that this lower rate is not enough to sustain the scholarship funds of most divisions without additional fundraising.
* If you elect for interest only we will not be charged for any fees. If you elect to receive your portion of interest, gains and losses and fees for the management of the portfolio, you will be charged your portion of the management fees.
* George Luxbacher shared that C&E was the one division who had chosen to participate in the gains/losses of the investment portfolio years ago which is why their finances were doing so well. As such he stated that voting was not required to stay with their current election.
* The C&E Division elected not to take a vote

Membership update – Karin Harrington

* Karin reminded the group that all Committee members must be full SME members to serve. She asked that if they have not yet renewed, that they please do so as soon as possible by renewing online or by calling SME Customer Service.
  + Renewal – Steven Schafrik argued for a multi-year option for online renewals. Sekhar Bhattacharya mentioned that the option does exist online.
* SME Volunteer process – The SME Membership Team will be updating the online SME Volunteer process so potential volunteers can easily learn about opportunities with your Division and contact you to get involved. The volunteer webpage will link to your Division Website and Community page.
  + Update your [Division’s Community page](https://community.smenet.org/communities/allcommunities?DisplayBy=3&OrderBy=0&CommunityTypeKey=13ea1289-6607-445a-a623-78aa0f3465b4&FilterBy=) so potential volunteers know who you are, what you do and how to get involved
    - Home – list your Division’s staff liaison and/or officers
    - Discussions – communication to your Division members
    - Library – documents to share with members
    - Blogs – share more about your Division
    - Events – posted to the Internet, this is searchable to everyone
    - Contact Rachel Grimes with other suggestions or for assistance: [Grimes@smenet.org](mailto:Grimes@smenet.org) or 303-948-4247
* Video for Divisions
  + We would like to utilize video to grow Division membership with a personal appeal in a 1-2 minute video on your Division website
  + SME staff will record your Chair or other Division representative in a BRIEF introduction video
* Community Pages
  + We would like to see the Division create regular engagement with members on the Community. Would someone on the Committee or perhaps a subcommittee take on the responsibility of creating a monthly post on the C&E Community page?

C&E Pain Points – Karin Harrington (included in the packet)

* Discussion on the C&E Industry pain points (included in the packet) was opened by Karin Harrington
* Ray Donelick suggested that companies attend the conference and discuss their problems. Challenge the students/researchers/young leaders in attendance to come up with feasible solutions. That will spur innovation.
* Sekhar Bhattacharya outlined the conflict of interest with Academia for such an approach.
* Ray Donelick further suggested C&E/SME organize forums for the industry to voice their problems and issues.
* Heather Trexler suggested an Industry roundtable.
* Rachel Boothby suggested the model opted by the Kentucky Crushed Stone conference for addressing and engaging the industry.

Member engagement outside of Conferences – Karin Harrington

* Ray Donelick proposed site visits to increase engagement.
* Ryan Murray stressed on the importance of local sections and suggested the sections holding local events to engage members (PDH credits might be a useful tool to attract members).
* Coffee breaks and online webinars can be utilized to engage with the international members and young professionals.

C&E Auction Items – Karin Harrington

* Online auction available through the SME Conference app.
* Date of Auction is Tuesday, March 1, 2022.
* Ryan Murray thanked the matching sponsor, Wolverine Fuels.

Review of incoming executive committee position duties – Ryan Murray

* Ryan Murray recognized the incoming executive committee members – Ed Zeglen, Brett Ashley and Vaibhav Raj.

New Business

* Ryan Murray asked the committee if the current contribution of $10,000 is sufficient?
* Discussion led to postponement for a later time after reviewing the division financials.
* Barbara Arnold mentioned that the coal division was founded in 1930 and the centennial is just a few years away. Committee discussions led to suggestions that a committee be formed to start planning for the event.
* Steve Schafrik brought up the issue of “Mine Rescue” competition contributions. C&E contributed $500 each for 4 participating schools for a total of $2000 previously.
* Mike Trevitz moved the motion for C&E contribution for the Mine Rescue competition, Sekhar Bhattacharya seconded.
* George Luxbacher modified the motion to increase contribution amount to $1000 per school for a total of $4000 for 4 schools. John Gefferth seconded and the motion passed. Ayes were unanimous.