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|  | **Coal & Energy Division**  **Executive Committee**  **2023 Annual Conference**  Sunday, February 26, 2023  9:00 AM - 11:30 AM MT  **Hyatt Regency Denver**  650 15th St  Denver, CO 80202  Centennial G |

**Attendees:**

Susan Bealko Tom Gray

Tathagata Ghosh Sukumar Bandopadhyay

Steve Schafrik Jim Haughey

John Gefferth Paul Conrad

Mike Trevits Josh Brady

George Luxbacher Sam Baker

Rich Wagner Ed Zeglen

Barb Arnold Jason Todd

Vlad Kecojevic Bob Kudliewac

Vaibhav Raj Mike Keener

John Behr Jason Todd

Heather Trexler Joe Zelanko

Bob Kimutis Brijes Mishra

Elham Rahimi Brett Ashley

Ed Shereda John Gefferth

Ashish Kumar

**Visitors:**

Josh Brady

Leslie Watson

Mark LeVier

Ron Parratt

Dave Kanagy

**Meeting Commenced at 9:00am**

**Conducting: Susan Bealko, C&E Division Chair, 2022-23  
Notes taken by Paul Conrad**

1. Safety Share. John Gefferth – Carrying heavy items can lead to knee strains and sprains. Make sure that you are stretching at home to prevent injury as people are not moving around as much working from home.
2. Mine Rescue Operations.

Josh Brady discussed the Eastern Collegiate Mine Rescue Competition. Currently, three teams compete in the competition: University of Kentucky, West Virginia University, and Virginia Tech. Student participants gain employable skills, in addition to technical skills they build teamwork and communication skills. Josh requested that the Coal & Energy division donate $1,000 for each team to participate in the upcoming competition. The cost for supplies to compete is significant and the C&E Division has been a great supporter of the competition.

Mike Trevits stated that the Pittsburgh Section of SME is willing to provide financial support, but they must be asked. George Luxbacher stated that future requests for financial support from the C&E Division should be submitted in writing before the meeting.

Steve Schafrik revised the request for financial support to $2,000 per team. Sam Baker made a motion to increase the donation amount to $2,000 for each team participating in Mine Rescue competitions. Ed Zeglen seconded the motion. Motion passed. Follow-up discussion suggested that teams should approach NIOSH to use their facilities for competitions.

1. Leslie Watson and Tom Gray SME G-Pac Committee stated that SME’s G-Pac committee creates technical briefs for products that can be made from coal and coal by-products, including recovery of rare-earth elements. Every division of SME can have two representatives on the G-Pac committee. Information developed by G-Pac is provided to United States Congressional representatives. Each SME division can have two representatives on the G-Pac Committee. The G-Pac committee requested that the C&E Division provide a second member to be on the committee. John Gefferth is already on the committee. Tom Gray stated that G-Pac committee members work time is about 3 to 4 hours per month.
2. David Kanagy, Ron Parratt (SME President), and Marc Le Vier (incoming SME President) visited the meeting. David said that about 6,500 people are attending this year’s SME meeting. Ron Parratt said that mining is not going away, but that mining companies need to get more involved in communicating the positive impacts of mining. Marc Le Vier said that SME members need to mentor more students about mining. He believes that coal is not dead and that it actually has a bright future. Marc also stated that the 2023 Midyear SME meeting will be held in coal country in Lexington, KY.
3. C&E Division minutes for the 2022 Midyear Conference Meeting. Steve Schafrik made a motion to accept the minutes and Paul Conrad seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The C&E Executive Committee Midyear Meeting Minutes were read and approved.

The C&E Division treasurer’s report for 2022 was read by Paul Conrad. Mike Trevits made a motion to accept the report and Jim Haughey seconded the motion. There was a motion to approve the Division Finance Report as is. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Additional discussion on the C&E Division’s finances followed approval of the report. A question was raised on the Negative Unrealized gain/loss of -$199,771.46. George Luxbacher stated that the loss was due to the decline in the Stock Market and that the loss will be recovered as the market recovers. He stated that the Division has been the longest participant in sharing in the gains and losses of the market. As a result, the long-term returns have made the C&E Division Fund one of the largest funds at SME.

George also mentioned that AIME currently has excess money from the Eavenson Fund that belongs to the C&E Division. George suggested that when the money is given to the C&E division, that it be designated for scholarships. While no vote or decision on George’s suggestion was made, the general discussion seemed to agree with George’s suggestion.

1. Josh Brady discussed the SME Mentoring Program and encouraged the C&E Division to be active in the program.
2. The C&E Division Scholarship Committee Report was presented by Sam Baker. Sam thanked the committee members for their work. Fifty-six students applied for scholarships and scholarships were awarded to 28 applicants. Sam noted that only ten of the applicants were attending schools in the United States. He also noted that only one scholarship can be awarded to students attending the same school. Discussion was also held on awarding of scholarships to students attending colleges in some foreign countries. The Executive Committee wants to research the intent of these scholarships and propose a recommendation at Midyear about the number of scholarships per school and eligible dollar amount.

Sam noted that at some schools in foreign countries, e.g. India, the cost of tuition in those schools may be as little as 10% of the cost to attend United States schools and are highly subsidized. It was noted that at the SME Midyear meeting, that Barb Arnold had made a recommendation on how many scholarships should be accepted from students attending international low-cost schools. The number that she recommended was not mentioned. After discussing the scholarship application process in detail, Sam Baker made a motion to limit C&E Division scholarships to students attending international schools with a true financial need to $500. Jason Todd seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

1. Steve Schafrik is Chair of C&E’s Technical Sessions Program for the 2023 Annual Conference. He said that SME is pushing to limit the number of technical sessions for future meetings. For this year’s C&E Technical Program, Steve planned a 3-track program with 15 total technical sessions, 5 in each track. The tracks are Operations, Energy Programming, and Research &Development. The C&E Division abstract submissions were up from the 2022 meeting. Steve noted that we need to have good attendance at the C&E’s technical sessions and that we need to have an accurate count of actual attendees at the sessions.
2. Steve Schafrik noted that people who agree to serve on SME committees need to make sure that they will actually have the time to serve on those committees.
3. For the C&E Division’s 3-Year Strategic Plan, Susan Bealko is planning on pushing for more people to get involved in the C&E Division’s activities. A suggestion was made to convert papers into M&E Magazine Articles. The Pittsburgh Section has 32 Sessions.
4. C&E Auction. Karin Harrington stated that if you have more donated items for C&E Division’s Scholarship Auction to please let her know. The C&E Division Lunch is on February 28th from 12:00pm – 1:30pm in the Convention Center Four Seasons 2-3.
5. Bylaws Update. The SME Board of Directors approved a change to Division Bylaws. The change states that if a SME section is dissolved, that the funds of the section must stay with SME. This update has gone into effect.

* Old Verbiage: Section 3. Disposal of Funds on Dissolution. On the dissolution of this Division all funds remaining after payment of its debts and obligations shall be turned over and paid to an organization exempted under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. This section of the Bylaws is not amendable during the existence of the Division.
* New Verbiage: SME’s Board of Directors shall select the 501(c)(3) organization to receive the funds of the Division upon its dissolution. SME’s Board may, in its sole discretion, select another Division of SME, new or existing, that in SME’s judgement best matches the purposes, goals and mission of the Division.

1. George Luxbacher stated that we need to get more people involved with managing the C&E Division’s scholarship auction. He said that when he started the C&E Division’s Scholarship Auction that is used to raise $80,000, considerably more money that is does now.
2. Discussion was held on the upcoming 2023 Midyear SME Meeting. It was mentioned that SME should provide an option for attending the meeting remotely. Several people mentioned that the cost of attending is expensive for a one day meeting and it can be difficult to justify the cost to an employer. Karin Harrington said that the cost for offering a hybrid meeting is cost prohibitive and results in a poor meeting experience. Paul Conrad suggested that SME investigate using Teams to provide remote access for people to attend the meeting. The Division would like to meet virtually in the future if a quorum cannot be achieved like last Midyear.

**The Meeting was adjourned at 11:49am**

**Secretary, C&E Division**