



**Environmental Division
2024 Annual Conference
Executive Committee Meeting
February 25, 2024
9:00am - 11:30am Arizona Time
Sheraton - Alhambra**

2023-24 Executive Committee

Chair	Jen Pepe	Yes
Vice-Chair	Annelia Tinklenberg	Yes
Secretary/Publications	Omar Smith	Yes
Program Committee Chair	Amar Patel	Yes
Program Planning Committee Chair	Heather Halderman	Yes
Past Chair	Lisa Gonzales	Yes

Meeting Agenda

Jen Pepe, presiding

1. Call to Order, Jen Pepe at 9:03 am
2. Introductions and meeting Roll Call

Taylor Peters (SME)	Leslie Watson
Bernardo Garza	Virginia McLemore
Isabel Casasbuenas	Elham Rahimi
Denise Levitan	

3. Safety Share - Keep hydrated as we have warmer weather than most areas of the country right now. Also, try not to walk alone at night, stay in groups if at all possible.
4. Approval of the Agenda – Annelia motions to approve, Heather seconds.
5. Approval of January and February Meeting – Annelia motions to approve, Amar seconds.
6. Announcements
 - 6.1. Environmental Division Business Meeting, 2/26, 8:00-9:00am, Phoenix Convention Center (PCC) North 227A
 - 6.2. Poster Session, 2/27 Judging starts at 9am, outside the Division Luncheon.
 - 6.3. Division Luncheon, 2/27, Noon-1:30 pm, PCC North 224 - send pictures of auction items to Lisa, will add to luncheon slide show.
 - 6.4. Silent Auction, 2/27, 11:00am-4:00 pm, SME Connection, Exhibit Floor. Isabel Casasbuenas will staff the silent auction during the Division Luncheon.
 - 6.5. 2025 SME Annual Conference Program Committee Meeting - 7:30-9:00am
 - 6.6. Environmental Division Nominating Meeting 2/28, 3:00-5:00 pm, PCC North 226C
7. Program Committee (Amar Patel) –
 - 7.1. Environmental Division sessions will be pretty central and not spread out. The Environmental Division program will consist of 13 sessions. All session chairs are coming and only 2 speakers (out of 100) have cancelled so far. Outstanding Paper to be selected before luncheon.
 - 7.2. Isabel suggested a panel discussion with regards to Environmental regulations in the US versus other countries. There’s a difference on how mining is done worldwide and would be good to have a discussion on gaps and how we can improve our practices worldwide.

8. Program Planning Committee (Heather Halderman) – Two field trips scheduled for Thursday (FMI Sierrita and Capstone Pinto Valley).
9. Student Poster Session (Heather Halderman) – Student poster session will be held on Tuesday morning. We have a total of 19 posters this year. The poster presentations will be judged by Leslie Watson, Nathan Manser, Dale Evans, Heather Halderman, and Mike Hay.
10. 2025/2026 NetZero Symposium (Lisa Gonzales) – Lisa to send out email. Lisa to attend 2025 Program Committee meeting to see if symposium can be on 2025 or gets pushed out to 2026. Virginia will help edit, Executive Committee will be involved with planning and helping Lisa. Naming and abstract brainstorm session.
11. World Gold Conference (Heather Halderman) – impact of World Gold Conference being part of MINEXCHANGE. Heather to get a better update and report back in March.
12. SME Foundation Donation - Vote Needed (Jen Pepe) – We donated \$1000 past year, Lisa suggests we can match that amount. Discussion on raising donation, scholarship awards, and poster sessions awards. Lisa motions to keep donation at \$1000, Annelia seconds, and was unanimously approved.
13. Scholarship Committee - Silent Auction (Emily Schlenker) – awarding \$8000 in scholarships this year. Discussion on poster session award amounts – add to March agenda to discuss and vote on raising award amounts and maybe registration reimbursement.
14. Environmental Division Committee Reports
 - 14.1. ED Membership Committee
(Jen Pepe, Nina Astillero, Trika Graham, Jeff Keller) -Division is up 6% in membership.
 - 14.2. ED Scholarship Committee
(Liane George, Emily Schlenker, James Renner, James Mullen, Irene Montano)
 - 14.3. ED/ADTI Sub-committee
(Patrick Williamson, Denise Levitan, Larry Williams, Dave Williams, Rens Verburg) 1pm meeting today.
15. ED Representatives for SME Standing Committees
 - 15.1. Government and Public Affairs (Denise Levitan, Barb Nielsen, Leslie Watson, Heather Lammers, Andrea Martin) – Open meeting on Monday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.
 - 15.2. Mining Engineering Committee (Larry Williams, Julie Neilson) -Meeting on Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 am.
 - 15.3. Structure & Governance (Omar Smith, Gen Sutton) – Omar, met yesterday. Gen will be Chair for the next two years. Will recommend to the Board that S&G look at how Sections operate and will try and better understand Section needs and how that relationship between SME and Local Sections can be improved.
 - 15.4. Young Leaders Committee (Mackenzie Best, Nina Dawson, Nahomi Cauroro) – meeting today at noon. Look at getting Young Leaders involved in our Division calls.
 - 15.5. SME P.E. Committee (Liane George, Lisa Gonzales, Gen Sutton) – Lisa, meeting this afternoon. Always looking for volunteers to help write/review PE exam questions.
 - 15.6. SME Inclusion & Diversity Committee (Anne Williamson) – meeting on Wednesday.
 - 15.7. MME Special Water Management Issue (Ginger McLemore, Dale Rucker) – Annelia, call for abstracts went out. Abstract deadline is early March, may need to get pushed out, turnout has been low. Ginger, we need to work on getting the Environmental Division to start publishing paper so that our members can become editors.

16. Strategic Committees

16.1. Responsible Mining & Underground Construction

(Kwame Awuah-Offei, Julie Lucas, Jen Pepe) – working on guidance on Best Management Practices.

16.2. Association Growth Strategic Committee (Leslie Watson) – developing strategy on how to best work with other groups. How to expand SME Student Chapters not to be engineering only and more inclusive of other sciences related to mining.

16.3. Industry Workforce – Annelia, working with MEC on how to reach out to states to see how they are reaching out to the mining workforce. Also working on a pathway to get skilled technicians and engineers from other nations to schools and industry here in the US. Finally, working on a social media campaign to develop tactics for SME outreach that focus on the value of the mining industry; will be reaching out to YL to coordinate and get their input.

16.4. Industry Innovation – no report.

17. Other Business

Dave, Marc Le Vier, and Marc Herpfer joined the meeting for an SME update. Phoenix attendance already higher than 2020 final attendance. Financial metrics for MINEXCHANGE are trending well. Registration is currently about 6300, expecting 6500.

18. Next Meeting: EVD Business Meeting, 2/26, 8:00-9:00am, PCC North 227A

19. Adjourn - Lisa motions, Omar seconds (meeting adjourned at 11:47 am).