

## **Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc.**

Health and Safety Division Meeting  
SME Health and Safety Division Executive Committee Annual Meeting  
Sheraton Grand Phoenix, North Mountain

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016

**Attendees:** Jürgen Brune, Lee Saperstein, R. Larry Grayson, Jake Seiter, Tom Hethmon, Lori Guasta, Mick Routledge, Mark Ellis, Joe Zelanko, Ros Hill, Eric Lutz, Raja V. Ramani, Ali Lashgari, Tim Austin, Pratt Rogers, Susan Moore, Bill Gleason.

**Guests:** Tim Arnold, Steven Gardner, Dave Kanagy

1. **Safety Share** – Division Secretary Jürgen Brune began the meeting with a safety share noting that he had seen many people walking on city streets and not paying attention to the cross walk lights, or jaywalking as they hurried from hotels to the convention center and encouraged the group to follow the rules when crossing the road. Lee Saperstein offered a second safety share when he noted that those who traveled to Phoenix from colder climates will have a jacket and other winter clothes in their hotel room and told those people not to forget those when checking out. Division Chair Eric Lutz reminded everyone of the need to stay hydrated and Gleason encouraged the group to email safety shares as often as possible so that SME can continue to build on the repository of safety shares that can be used by SME members, an initiative that was started by 2015 President Steven Gardner.
2. **Division growth and recruitment plans** – 2015 Division chairman Eric Lutz began the meeting by explaining that despite great programming and successful numbers for the 5K Fun Run and Division Breakfast the membership numbers were failing. Lutz reported that the Division began the week with 38 members and noted that because of problems that SME was experiencing with its transition to a new management system, the division had not been able to reach out to SME members, or others, to promote its existence. Former SME President Raja V. Ramani noted that the Environmental Division also struggled to fill its ranks early on, but said that the strength of the Health and Safety Division is its programming and that members will fill in if the Division provides something of value. Member at large Joe Zelanko asked what the actual plans to recruit new members are and said the Division must come up with action plans. Lutz noted that efforts were made to build relationships with sister organizations such as the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) and the International Society for Mine Safety Professionals (ISMSP). The outreach efforts with ASSE are promising as that group provided speakers to the SME Annual Conference while the efforts to build synergy with ISMSP continued to not bear fruit. Lutz noted that while the membership numbers are disappointing, the division was successful in its other endeavors, including programming, the inaugural 5K Fun Run and

Division Breakfast which raised significant funds for the division that would be calculated in the weeks following the meeting.

When discussing outreach plans, Lori Guasta suggested the division explore ways to target a champion within corporations that can help recruit from health and safety departments that previously were not involved with SME. By offering high-level programming those health and safety professionals now have a reason to be part of SME, and if they are encouraged to present at SME meetings, it could help swell the numbers of the division.

Brune talked about the International Mine Rescue Body, a group that was once represented by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health and Administration as a potential target for members and Larry Grayson suggested the division reach out to the mining schools as well the mine rescue teams to make them aware of the programming now taking place at SME.

There was significant talk about reaching out to younger professionals, to that end, Jake Seiter and Ali Lashgari were tasked with being liaisons to the SME's Young Leaders .

Another outreach effort that was talked about is creating a mentoring program for undergrads and tabbing a guest speaker to talk to students about career opportunities in health and safety.

Because health and safety cuts across all SME Divisions it was suggested that the Division explore the possibility of conducting its executive committee meetings (at Midyear and future SME annual meetings) in a different time slot than the other division's executive meetings so that H&S Division representatives can participate in other SME Division meetings to find their needs for health and safety programming and to find ways to collaborate.

3. **President's message** – 2015 SME President Steve Gardner, 2016 SME President Tim Arnold and SME Executive Director Dave Kanagy visited the meeting. Kanagy assured the group that getting the website in working order was of the highest priority for SME and Gardner and Arnold spoke about their initiatives, which include the safety share in each President's column, a practice started by Gardner that will continue through Arnold's leadership.
4. **Awards** – In 2016, the Division presented all three of its awards for the first time. Gleason encouraged the group to get nominations in so that there are many qualified candidates to choose from. Tom Hethmon said he would continue to discuss the possibility of the SME H&S Division working with the National Mining Association on the Sentinels of Safety Award, the most prestigious safety award in the mining industry. It was previously sponsored by MSHA.
5. **Programming** – the 2016 Annual Meeting included 10 sessions and more than 56 papers. Program chair Guasta was recognized for her great efforts and she said the success came from the programming meeting that took place in 2015. Brune will be 2017 program chair and Susan Moore will be program planning chair.
6. **Fundraising** – the 5K Fun Run was a success. It was limited to 50 people because of the number of seats on a bus taking participants to Papago Park from the Sheraton Hotel. An additional eight participants joined at the site of the run. In 2017, the numbers are expected to increase and it was suggested that in addition to the run, a walk be offered during the run and that the Division also host a "Step counting contest" in which participants can join a

group that will track the steps taken during the annual conference with prizes for those who walk the most. Gleason will work SME's IT department on this.

7. Committee positions are as follows:

**2016 Health & Safety Division Executive Committee**

Past Chair ..... Eric Lutz

Chairman .....Tom Hethmon

Chair elect ..... Lori Guasta

Program chair ..... Jurgen Brune

Program planning chair ... Susan Moore

Secretary ..... Pratt Rogers

Member at large ..... Mick Routledge

NORA Rep ..... Lee Saperstein

Nominating/Awards Committee ..... Mark Savit

Recruitment/Outreach ..... Tom Hethmon and Josh Savit

Fundraising ..... Eric Lutz

Young leaders liaison ..... Jake Seiter, Ali Lashgari