



# American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers

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## **Report of the President**

For the period March, 2003 – June, 2004

Robert H. Wagoner, 2003 President

The 2003-2004 period includes the most significant and far-reaching changes in AIME's 133-year history. Many of these changes were initiated by past Board of Trustees' actions and were implemented or completed this year. They were undertaken with the goal of insuring the sustainability of the Institute and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its operation, particularly in view of the market setbacks experienced starting in 1999-2000.

Before proceeding to describe the structural changes, it is a pleasure to welcome the Association of Iron and Steel Technology (AIST) as the newest Member Society of AIME. AIST was formed in January, 2004, by the merger of the Iron and Steel Society (ISS) and the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers (AISE). ISS and AISE ceased to exist as separate entities when AIST was born. AIST's mission lies in the advancing the technical development, production, processing and application of iron and steel.

It became clear to the Trustees that, after several years of deficits and precipitously eroding investments, structural changes were needed in AIME to weather the storm and provide for the future. In particular, the annual operating budget had to be slashed in half while maintaining the Institute's high standards of recognition, awards, and service.

Some of the changes have been painful; many involved challenges that have not been faced in AIME's long history. All were deemed essential for preserving the Institute and its mission. It is a pleasure to report that the transition to a sustainable framework is essentially complete, and that AIME now has the resources necessary to carry out its mission and traditions for the long term.

The most painful and challenging change was the relocation of the AIME Headquarters to Littleton, Colorado, after 132 years in New York City. The move was completed in May of 2003 with only one week of down time. The staff was reduced from 4 full-time positions in 2002 to 1-and-1/2 positions. It is a pleasure to report that AIME succeeded in attracting dedicated professionals to take over the daily operations: Rick Rolater was hired as part-time Executive Director in April, 2003, and Michele Gottwald became Executive Assistant in May, 2003.

The reduction of staff dictated that new efficiencies be identified in order to continue carrying out AIME's mission effectively. The Board of Trustees worked closely with Rick and Michele to adopt and implement procedures to improve efficiency while improving the effectiveness of the organization. A few of the more important of these procedure and policy changes are as follows:

- o Change of board meeting schedule to a single face-to-face meeting per year supplemented by several conference call meetings
- o Merging of AIME Annual Meeting with AIME Board of Trustees Meeting in August

### Member Societies

Society for Mining,  
Metallurgy, and  
Exploration  
Littleton, CO

The Minerals,  
Metals, &  
Materials Society  
Warrendale, PA

Association  
for Iron &  
Steel Technology  
Warrendale, PA

Society of  
Petroleum  
Engineers  
Richardson, TX

- o Change of award program and member recognition from once per year to four times per year, in conjunction with annual meetings of the Member Societies
- o Reduction of AIME Board from 12 voting trustees to 8
- o Transition to Web-based document distribution
- o Withdrawal from membership in JETS, ABET, and AAES
- o Appointment of UEF trustees for multi-year terms, currently Robert H. Wagoner, President, and Robert C. Freas, President-Elect
- o Change of AIME fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year
- o Change of legal counsel, auditors, web service providers
- o Creation of new, updated employee manuals and policy procedures

One example of improved efficiency and effectiveness is the new AIME Annual Meeting / Board of Trustees Meeting, to be held in August each year (except for 2004, a transition year). The reduction in meetings saved dollars and cents, but, more importantly, it conserved human resources in terms of travel and time away from work. The conference call Board meetings, held every second or third month, are working extremely well. These, combined with web-based distribution of documents, have improved communication within the Board and insure that all trustees are up-to-date.

Many of these changes required revision of AIME's Bylaws and Certificate of Incorporation, both of which were significantly out-of-date. These have now been modified, ratified by the Member Societies, and filed with the proper authorities. AIME remains *a New York State Nonprofit Corporation organized and operated to advance and disseminate, through the programs of the Member Societies, knowledge of engineering and the arts and sciences involved in the production and use of minerals, metals, energy sources and materials for the benefit of mankind, and to represent AIME and the Member Societies within the larger engineering community.*

### **In Memoriam**

It is with a great sense of long-term loss to AIME that I note the death of former AIME Executive Director (1969-1982), Mr. Joe B. Alford on June 3, 2003. He was the epitome of a professional association leader and mentored many staff members of the institute. Joe was devoted to serving the institute and assuring that it was represented as only he could do. We appreciate his dedication and years of service. Joe will be missed by his many friends and colleagues of the Institute.

### **Personal Notes**

It has been an exceptional honor to serve as your AIME president, and to work with the many outstanding trustees, staff, and associates that make AIME the august institution that it is. I say exceptional first because of the outstanding challenges that were faced, and met, this year. This *year* has also been exceptional in containing 15 months for a smooth transition to the new Board / Annual Meeting schedule. My successor, Bob Freas, made as similarly extended commitment for which I will always be grateful. I would also like to thank my predecessor, George Sawyer, who shepherded the origination of many of the changes which came to fruition this year. Without his guidance, much of what has been accomplished would never have been started.