

## **President's Notes**

August 2015

Back in 1970's, as a student in aerospace and mechanical engineering, I never thought I would work for the petroleum industry and someday preside over the Society of Petroleum Engineers and, eventually, AIME. But my passion for volunteerism and my desire to give back to the younger generations drove me to attain these honors. What I never could have foreseen was meeting so many people on this journey and finding so many great friends along the way.

Since I joined the AIME Board in 2011, I have had the honor of working with some of the most distinguished leaders of the engineering profession. But the past year has been the most memorable of all the years that I have served as a volunteer. This I owe to Dale Heinz, Garry Warren, Nikhil Trivedi, Michele Lawrie-Munro, Ray Petersen, John Speer, Kate Baker, Drew Myers, Dave Kanagy, Jim Robinson, Ron Ashburn, and Mark Rubin. They gave me their full support and, at times, they challenged, debated and offered better alternatives. They provided valuable advice along the way and offered assistance when I needed it the most.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as the 2014 AIME president.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Heinz", with a stylized flourish at the end.



**Behrooz Fattahi**  
2014 President



**Michele Lawrie-Munro**  
Executive Director

# Report of the 2014 – 2015 AIME Leadership

## The Year in Review

### Collaborative Work

In 2014, AIME continued down its path of more of a foundation model and virtual operation. Notably, operating expenses are now in line with income, allowing for 50% of surplus to its Member Societies to use as they see fit; this totaled \$123,750 per Society. Of the remainder surplus, 20% is used to support collaborative efforts; the Board allocated close to the maximum allowed, \$198,000 for use in 2014. The Board also directed half of these collaborative grant funds each year beginning 2014 to support a joint 150th anniversary celebration in 2021. To date, \$123,000 has been set aside for this purpose. The balance is retained by AIME for reinvestment.

AIME Collaborative Grants to date have included:



- \$25,000 matching grant to [National Mining Hall of Fame](#) to renovate their facilities



- \$34,000 grant to match a United Engineering Foundation (UEF) grant given to AIST to support growth of the [Emerging Leaders Alliance \(ELA\)](#) soft skills conference and [On Demand leadership training](#) by enhanced marketing to the engineering and scientific community



- \$100,000 grant to support development of an [inaugural diversity conference](#) in summer 2014 proposed by TMS and supported by SME, honoring the first woman member of AIME from 1879, [Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards](#)



- \$40,000 grant to support a follow-on [sustainability symposium](#) to the 2009 Lausanne multidisciplinary workshop. AIME's Sustainability Steering Committee, led by [2011 AIME President from TMS, Brajendra Mishra](#), organized the event for March 18-19 at TMS' 2015 annual meeting in Orlando, FL with ASCE and AIChE.

AIME leadership represented the groups at Board meetings of the [United Engineering Foundation \(UEF\)](#) and [American Association of Engineering Societies \(AAES\)](#), fully engaging in the latter to help set new strategic direction and establish a [Lifelong Learning working group](#). This group is working with the Department of Labor to develop a competency framework for use by educators, counselors, employers, employees, and students across the engineering profession.

AIME also attended joint events in Washington, DC, including the [National Academy of Engineering's](#) Convocation, where SPE members presented on the Resurgence of Oil and Gas Due to Unconventionals, as well as [National Engineers Week Family Day](#) as part of a new outreach program AIME trialed in 2014 for the Member Societies at functions at which they are not currently represented, such as [NSBE](#) and [SWE](#) diversity conferences.

AIME now relies on its Member Societies (staff and members) to execute its former multidisciplinary efforts. AIME still hosts discussions, facilitates work, and represents its Member Societies in the overarching areas of education, energy and the environment, diversity, sustainability, international growth, outreach, recognition via pinnacle awards and

scholarships, and history. An example of the latter is AIME partnering with the other engineering Founder Societies and Society of Women Engineers to create the [Engineering and Technology History Wiki](#) to encompass information from all disciplines. AIME will upload archival photos and documents and solicit articles, oral histories, landmarks/milestones, and educational outreach material from its Member Societies. AIME also signed an MOU to capture and share member oral histories with University of California-Berkeley Bancroft Library Oral History Center. The first oral history that was published is one captured at MS&T 2014 on [AIST member, Dick Teets](#). We look forward to working with these groups on this important endeavor to preserve and promote AIME and its Member Societies' legacies.

### **Awards**

Finally, the AIME family submitted more worthy candidates for joint engineering awards than we have in many years and garnered participation by Member Society representatives on key joint committees. It also recognized top leaders internally. Notably, AAES conferred TMS members, Julia Weertman and Don Sadoway with the Fritz medal and Norm Augustine Award, respectively, at their annual banquet April 29, 2014 in Washington, DC. Details can be found at <http://www.aaes.org/awards> for details.

All of these efforts align with AIME's mission to support its Member Societies by distributing funds, facilitating collaboration in cross-cutting areas, representing the groups in the larger engineering and scientific community, and preserving and promoting the legacy.

### **New AIME Strategic Plan**

Since fall 2014, the Board has been working on changes to AIME's grants and awards programs and updating its strategic plan and governance model to ensure the organization serves its Member Societies effectively and efficiently going forward. Several AIME Board task forces examined the current processes and proposed a number of enhancements. The Governance task force, in particular, recruited past members of the AIME Board to assist in developing a high level list of key topics for possible inclusion in the new strategic plan. These topics ranged from representation of Member Societies at external meetings/events; advocacy; globalization; legacy/history; organizational security/stability; co-sponsoring/participating in Member Society projects to developing revenue generating projects without competing with Member Societies; marketing; sustaining AIME Board; soft skills; sustainability; carbon capture and sequestration; water management to Knowledge transfer; funding cross-industry/society research/projects; advanced manufacturing; process optimization; recognition awards and scholarships; volunteerism; public engineering education/awareness, and young professionals.

During a special mid-year meeting in February 2015 in Denver, the AIME Board approved the following strategic priorities for the organization:

Priority	Mission Focus Area	Goal Description
1	Interacting with external engineering community  Distributing funds	Validate and implement recommendations of the External Relations Task Force.  Validate and implement recommendations of the Grants Task Force.
2	Interacting with external engineering community	Advocate a position with respect to UEF.
3	Everything else	Develop leadership orientation on training, ensure continuity of direction during board transitions.
4	Exercising fiscal responsibility	Grow corpus
5	Interacting with external engineering community	ELA – manage and grow, partnering with MS.
5	Honoring legacy	AIME to capture MS history – centralize at AIME
6	Everything else	Consider changes to structure and governance of AIME
7	Honoring legacy	Validate and implement recommendations of the Awards Task Force.
8	Honoring legacy	Start planning now for 150 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
9	Honoring legacy	Develop guidelines for recognition from MS.

### Proposal for a New Organizational Structure

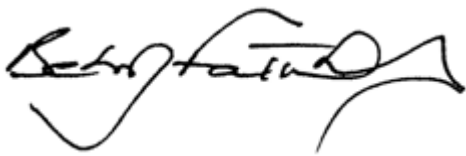
A new organizational structure will be proposed for approval by the AIME Board during the August 2015 meeting of the Board in Newport Beach. The proposed structure consists of the following four Board committees, each chaired by a member of the Executive Committee:

- Investment Committee
- Audit Committee
- History and Heritage Committee
- External Affairs Committee

While these committees report to the Executive Committee, they each may have focused-topic subcommittees made up of volunteers from the four member societies.

If approved, the new structure offers the following advantages:

- Opportunity for the BOT members to remain at a strategic level while members of the subcommittees will be operating at the tactical level.
- Rotation of the officers through the various committees, providing in-depth knowledge of the workings of AIME, and its mission.
- Improve Trustees' engagement, and make meetings more interesting and informative.
- Having more volunteers from the Member Societies on these new committees/subcommittees could be a great recruiting tool for future AIME Trustees and additional advocates/informants within the Member Societies of AIME and its activities.
- Member Societies will also benefit from the cross-fertilization that occurs among these multi-disciplinary groups.



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Behrooz Fattahi  
2014 President



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Michele Lawrie-Munro  
Executive Director