

# Report of the 1984 Executive Director

## Robert H. Marcum

Since its founding 114 years ago, AIME has undergone almost constant change to meet the changing needs of its members. Despite this dynamic past, the changes made in 1984 may be the most significant in the history of the Institute.

Culminating actions begun several years ago providing for an increasingly decentralized mode of operations, the AIME Board of Directors, at its meeting on February 28, 1984, gave final approval to AIME Bylaw revisions permitting the separate incorporation of the Constituent Societies, contingent upon approval of such action by the membership of each Society. During the same meeting, the AIME Board voted initial approval of a new set of AIME Bylaws to replace the existing AIME Constitution and Bylaws. These new Bylaws, which deal with the governance of the Institute in the separately incorporated structure, also required approval of the AIME-wide membership. The balloting on these matters was completed in November 1984 with the membership being solidly in favor of both issues.

As set forth in the new bylaws, AIME will function as a separate corporation, controlled jointly and severally by the Member Societies through equal representation on the new AIME Board of Trustees. AIME will serve as the unifying forum for the Member Societies to associate and cooperate to the extent that they choose. Concurrently, separate incorporation of the Societies not only brings the legal structure in line with the current functioning of the Institute, but also provides greater autonomy to the Societies, thereby enhancing their ability to respond to the needs and technical interests of their members. While much still needs to be done to insure the effective functioning of AIME in its new structure, the basic framework laid in 1984 should insure the continued growth and prosperity of the entire Institute.

As addressed in the reports of the Constituent Society Executive Directors, the challenges confronting the minerals industry continued to affect the operations of the Societies in varying degrees in 1984. The increase in AIME-wide membership of 1.7%, to a year-end total of 100,147, is considerably less than the average annual growth rate over the past several years. Total financial resources of the Institute increased by 1.7%, ending the year at over \$22,000,000.

The Institute is indebted to President Severinghaus for his dedication and contributions throughout the year, and to the Institute and Constituent Society Boards of Directors and many thousands of members who worked on committees and meetings, presented papers, and served in the general operation of the Institute.

Respectfully submitted, Robert H. Marcum  
Executive Director