

# **The American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers, Inc. Report of the 1996 President Donald W. Gentry**

The year 1996 marked AIME's 125th anniversary. In addition to the annual meeting celebration, 1996 also saw important milestones reached in the implementation of AIME's Long Range Plan and further implementation of AIME's Member-Direct policy. I am pleased to report to the AIME Community on the significant progress made in these areas and on other pertinent developments.

## **1996 Annual Meeting**

AIME celebrated its 125th anniversary at its Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California, February 4-8, 1996 hosted by The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS).

The annual meeting activities included a Keynote Session, chaired by 1997 President Leonard G. Nelson, and featured three distinguished speakers. The annual banquet served to recognize the recipients of honorary membership as well as other prestigious AIME awards. The banquet celebration included an AIME 125th anniversary salute and champagne toasts on behalf of both US and International engineering societies.

I wish to thank both the TMS and AIME staffs for organizing these anniversary events and to express my appreciation to TMS leadership for creating such a memorable host environment.

## **Government Affairs through AAES**

AIME government affairs activities continued during 1996 through the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES) located in Washington, DC. These efforts involved a total of ten volunteers, each representing a member society, serving on various AAES councils, commissions and task forces. However, at its spring meeting the AAES Board of Governors decided to focus limited AAES resources on the engineers public policy activity, curtailing all other efforts. This was done in an attempt to bring expenses in line with revenues projected for 1996. This restructuring effort has been ongoing during 1996.

Consequently, the AIME Board of Trustees at its August meeting decided to defer action concerning continued membership in AAES until the February 1997 Annual Meeting of the Board. By deferring the decision on continued membership in AAES, the AIME Board of Trustees benefited from the additional time available to thoroughly evaluate progress of the AAES restructuring and refocusing efforts.

## **Overarching and Member-Direct Programs**

At the August 1994 Board meeting, the trustees adopted a policy that provides funding to AIME's overarching programs and member-direct programs. Overarching programs are defined as those that carry out the purposes of the Institute and may include participation by one or more of the member societies;

member-direct programs are those carried out by the Member Societies. Approval of specific programs are limited to those that clearly carry out the purpose of AIME, as described in its bylaws (Article I, Section 2). The selection of specific projects and the balancing of programs is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees.

During 1996, the AIME Program Evaluation and Review Committee reviewed all 1996 projects submitted and made its recommendations to the Board. The committee is to review and evaluate progress made at year's end on projects funded in 1995 and report back to the Board at the February 1997 meeting. For 1996, the Board approved total funding in the amount of \$651,720 for overarching and member-direct programs.

### **Long Range Plan**

The AIME Board of Trustees, at its November 1995 meeting, approved a Long Range Plan, together with a plan to implement the goals and objectives in the areas of (1) maintaining and enhancing the tradition of AIME, (2) facilitating the sale of the United Engineering Center, (3) developing policies to use income from AIME endowment and formalizing the implementation strategy for the overarching and member-direct program initiatives, and (4) strengthening the interactive working relationship among AIME Member Societies.

I am pleased to report that significant progress was made in all these areas of our plan.

- In the area of maintaining and enhancing the tradition of AIME, the Board approved the recommendation that the hosting of AIME annual meetings will rotate among the member societies to coincide with the presidential rotation, e.g., SME in 1997, ISS in 1998, SPE in 1999 and TMS in 2000.
- As to facilitating the sale of the United Engineering Center (UEC), the United Engineering Trustees decided at its May 1996 meeting that the UEC be sold and established a trustees planning committee to evaluate the various bids. This effort is ongoing.
- Formalization of implementing the strategy for overarching and member-direct program initiatives also has made major strides, with an evaluation and review committee providing added checks and balances to the system.
- Working relationships among AIME member societies were strengthened by frequent teleconferences and face-to-face meetings where needed. With assistance from the executive directors of our member societies, arrangements were made to publish an AIME Newsletter quarterly in the journals of the member societies. This communication vehicle and the development of an AIME Web site, coupled with our e-mail address, have greatly enhanced our communication links with the member societies and other professional organizations.

### **Finance: Funding Methodology, Business Plan and Audit Committee**

A formal methodology was approved by the Board to determine the level of funding available for overarching, member-direct and special programs while preserving the endowment corpus. Based on this methodology, a three-year business plan was subsequently approved, which will provide the basis for implementing the long range plan.

In addition, the Board approved an Audit Committee of AIME to annually review the performance of the independent auditor and the audited financial statements of the AIME Corporation and to report their recommendations and findings to the Board of Trustees in a timely manner.

You are invited to review the audited financial statement for the AIME corporation for 1996 (ending November 30, 1996), which includes required new reporting for the endowment funds of not-for-profit organizations, contained on pages 16-24 of this report. In spite of only moderate market conditions, AIME assets increased from 2.6% from the end of fiscal year 1995 to \$15,093,481 at the end of fiscal year 1996.

## **Inter-Society Affairs**

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### **United Engineering Trustees (UET)**

I am pleased to report that AIME continues its effective involvement in the governing of the UET, with members of AIME member societies serving as AIME representatives on the Board of the United Engineering Trustees. In this respect, I welcome the new AIME trustees, John K. Hammes and J. Keith Brimacombe, who are replacing Drs. Joklik and Ansell respectively on the UET board. I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the out-going trustees.

### **Founder Societies**

I am pleased to report our continued effective interactions with the Founder Society officers and executive directors in matters of common interest. This interaction has provided the president-elect, the executive director and me with an important opportunity to become cognizant of the broad spectrum of issues affecting the engineering profession. This continuous dialogue has proven to be highly beneficial in the formulation of UET bylaws 127 and 128, which provide for the distribution of assets upon the dissolution of the UET or upon the sale of the United Engineering Center.

### **ABET**

The Institute also retained its relationship with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), as an affiliate body, and is represented by its Executive Director who serves as an official observer at ABET board meetings.

### **Australian Interchange**

AIME and AusIMM (Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy) have had a long standing exchange program of distinguished lecturers from both countries taking turns each year visiting each other's country. During late April and early May, 1996, I had the pleasure of visiting a number of branches of AusIMM and mining camps in remote locations delivering my lectures titled **Major Issues Facing the US Mining Sector and US Mining Technology: An Assessment and a Vision.**

I wish to thank the AusIMM staff for making the necessary arrangements and to

express appreciation to all those who so graciously extended their hospitality and friendship to my wife and to me.

### **In Appreciation**

It has been an honor for me to serve as your AIME president, to have had the opportunity to associate with and be assisted by the many fine people who comprise the AIME family, and to have had the privilege of representing AIME on many auspicious occasions. I reflect with great affection on my visits to the local sections and on the opportunity to strengthen AIME's ties with its member societies and with the other Founder Societies.

I appreciate the cooperation of the Board of Trustees of AIME. I also extend my sincere appreciation to the member societies' boards of directors and executive directors, the staffs of AIME and the member societies, committee members and others for their dedicated support during the past year. I also congratulate and pledge my full support to 1997 President Leonard G. Nelson and the new Board of Trustees, all of whom are depicted on the following pages.

*Donald W. Gentry*