

The American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers, Inc.

Report of the 1997 President

Leonard G. Nelson

The year 1997 recorded several milestones pertaining to the sale of the United Engineering Center and the future of the United Engineering Trustees. In addition, further progress was made in the implementation of AIME's Member-Direct policy and AIME's Long Range Plan. I am pleased to report to the AIME Community on the significant progress made in these areas and other pertinent developments.

1997 Annual Meeting

A highly successful AIME Annual Meeting was held in Denver, Colorado in February hosted by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration. The AIME Keynote Session, moderated by Robert W. Schafer, Vice President for Exploration at Kinross Gold, featured three distinguished speakers and was very well received. The annual banquet served to recognize the recipients of [Honorary Membership](#) as well as the other prestigious [AIME Awards](#).

Tradition

As part of the AIME Long Range Plan, the Board approved the recommendation that the hosting of the AIME Annual Meeting 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. I thank all Member Societies who have so graciously hosted AIME and acknowledge their cooperation in planning for the future.

Government Affairs through AAES

AIME government affairs activities continued during 1997 through the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES), located in Washington, DC, after the AIME Board decided at its February meeting to continue its membership in AAES. This decision was prompted by a successful turnaround of AAES' financial position achieved through its Get-Well Stay-Well Plan.

AIME efforts in AAES involved a total of ten volunteers, each representing a Member Society, serving on the various AAES Councils, Commissions and Task Forces. During 1997 the Founder Society Presidents, Presidents-Elect and Executive Directors met with members of Congress (leadership in the Science and Technical Committees in both the House and the Senate) as well as with the President's Science Advisor.

I wish to thank Franklin B. W. Woodbury and his Committee for their continued efforts and express AIME's gratitude to all Washington-based volunteers for their active participation in AAES.

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 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. For 1997, the Board approved total funding in the amount of \$685,710.

Long Range Plan and Board Retreat

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

- maintaining and enhancing the tradition of AIME,
- facilitating the sale of the United Engineering Center,
- developing policies to use income from AIME endowment and formalizing the implementation strategy for the overarching and member-direct program initiatives, and
- strengthening the interactive working relationships among AIME Member Societies.

I am pleased to report that with the impending sale of the United Engineering Center, the 1995 Long Range Plan has been completed; and on December 16, 1997 the AIME Board held a retreat to commence the next cycle of planning. A follow-up retreat is scheduled for March 1998 at the Toronto annual meeting to complete the strategic thinking and finalize those recommendations to be acted upon by the Board.

Inter-Society Affairs

United Engineering Trustees

I am pleased to report that on July 30, 1997 the agreement was signed to sell the United Engineering Center and on September 25, 1997 the Supreme Court of the State of New York approved the sale and the distribution of proceeds to the Founder Societies. The Court also approved the reconstitution of the UET into the United Engineering Foundation.

Founder Societies

As part of the plan submitted to the Court, the [Founder Societies](#) have concluded that the building at 3 Park Avenue in New York City will be able to house all five Founder Societies. It is planned that such move will be concluded by September of 1998 at which time closing on the UEC sale will take place.

ABET

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

Finance

You are invited to review the audited financial statement for the AIME Corporation for 1997 (ending November 30, 1997), which includes required new reporting for the endowment funds of not-for-profit organizations. In spite of moderate market conditions, AIME assets increased 2.6% from \$14,767,535 at the end of fiscal year 1996 to \$15,152,031 at the end of fiscal year 1997.

In Memoriam

It is with deep personal sorrow as well as a great sense of ongoing loss to AIME that I note the untimely death of J. Keith Brimacombe, who had recently been designated as the 1999

AIME President. Dr. Brimacombe, a member of the United Engineering Board of Trustees, 1995 ISS President and 1993 TMS President died at age 54 on December 16, 1997, the day of the AIME Board of Trustees Retreat which he was instrumental in organizing.

He was recognized as one of the innovative giants of 20th century metallurgical process engineering. An AIME News interview with Dr. Brimacombe appeared in the October 1997 issues of the Journals of the AIME Member Societies.

Perhaps Charles E. Slater, retired ISS executive director, said it best: "Keith possessed a rare combination of intellect, energy and engaging personality, which made him extremely popular and effective as a leader."

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 1998 President Roy H. Koerner and the new Board of Trustees.

Leonard G. Nelson