



February 21, 2013

Dear St. Louis Section Members and Associates,

The St. Louis Section of SME recently held a joint meeting with the Illinois Mining Institute (IMI), on the Carbondale Campus of Southern Illinois University. The president of IMI, Michael Caldwell, made a statement that roughly paraphrased was, “*sure, we face challenges today, but it’s nothing new.*” The Mining Industry today is faced with higher production demand, lower grades/quality, more stringent safety regulations, and near-zero environmental impacts. But this is nothing new. We successfully met the demands of the first Mine Safety and Health Act; the Clean Air Act; the Surface Mine Reclamation Act; etc., all while supplying needed materials to grow our economy. We faced the challenges of the past by inventing new innovations, developing creative solutions, and thinking fresh ideas; and our **people** were the driving force for solving these problems. It is a stark fact that the average age of the mining industry workforce is edging closer to retirement. New young engineers, scientists, and geologists are needed now to replace those that are leaving. However the rising cost of higher education proves prohibitive for many bright young minds.

In the STL Section, we strive to assist students in meeting those financial demands by offering our St. Louis Section scholarship each year to several students enrolled in mining-related fields at the Missouri University of Science & Technology and the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. But we could not even begin to assist these students without the generous help and support of our members. We plan to raise funds through the proceeds from our **President’s Night Dinner**, being held on **Saturday May 4th, 2013, at 7 pm**, at **Andre’s Banquet Center** on Telegraph Rd. SME Past-President Drew Meyer will be joining us as our guest of honor, and we will once again be entertained by the music of **THE FEUD**, featuring our very own Joe Hatfield.

I would like to request contributions from our members and/or their employers again this year, with a goal of raising \$9000. Tax deductible donations made out to the St. Louis Section of SME can be sent to my attention at:

**The Doe Run Company, SEMO Division
C/O Genevieve Bodnar
PO Box 500
Viburnum, MO 65566**

We will also accept any donations (cash or check) brought to any of the remaining meetings. Tax receipts will be sent out after the fundraising event in May.

So help us help the future of the industry. I look forward to seeing many of you at our President’s Night Dinner.

Sincerely,

Genevieve M. Bodnar
STL Section Chair