Opening:

The regular meeting of the M and E Division was called to order at 9 AM on 2/24/2013 in Denver by Steve Holmes.

Present:

Steve Holmes  James Humphrey  Eunhye Kim
Jess Kindler  Jami Dwyer  Daniel Rosenbach
Catherine Dreesbach  Don Dwyer  Will Wilkinson
Sam Shoemaker  Thomas Camm  Madan M. Singh
Richard Diaz  Scott McCue  Jon Price
Ronald Parratt  Sam Wiley  Steve Kral
Shaun Graber  Tim Arnold
George Sanders  Todd Wakefield
Mike Armstrong  Bill Warfield

Guests:

Drew A. Meyer
Jessica Elzea Kogel
John Marsden
David L. Kanagy
A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Steve Holmes welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table. Steve started the meeting with a safety share regarding the snow fall event happening outside and cautioned everyone to take care with their footing on ice, and slippery sidewalks, reminding everyone that they probably were not used to walking in snow and ice in dress shoes. Jami Dwyer also shared advice regarding crossing streets and to take care not to jaywalk when walking in downtown Denver. Sam Shoemaker also cautioned everyone not to jaywalk at the airport since it is having some serious road construction right at the entrance to ticketing and departures and buses are hard to stop!

C. Approval of Minutes

Steve summarized the bylaws of the division, and explained the process of approving the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting (mid-year meeting in Las Vegas, NV in September 2012) were unanimously approved as distributed.

D. Update on 2013 Technical Meeting (Catherine Dreesbach)

Catherine proceeded to update the attendees on 2013 technical programming for the annual meeting. Highlights included lots of technology, management, operations, and geology sessions. There are 29 sessions total, with 5 dedicated to Health and Safety. US Federal Government employees are currently being affected by sequestration issues in Washington, DC and are unable to attend. The division has 3-4 papers affected by this. Catherine asked everyone to look carefully at the program and see what talks were of interest, because sessions are full and time schedules will be maintained. Steve encouraged folks to go to as many sessions as they could especially the Hot Topics session put on by Tim Arnold covering the sustainability issues facing Mining Schools in the US. Catherine recognized her Program Area Managers (PAM’s) for their great work in preparing this year’s program. Steve explained the programming system, and solicited any interested member to approach an executive committee member with their particular interest, and encouraged them to volunteer as session chairs or PAM’s at future meetings.

Jim Humphrey informed everyone that weather and flight dependent, the attendance for this year’s meeting could easily top 7000 attendees, and with more than 800 exhibitor booths, and 500 tech papers, the 2013 meeting is shaping up to be the biggest ever.

Tim Arnold informed the meeting than more than 170 flights were cancelled coming into Denver International just this morning. Steve again encouraged everyone to see both show and sessions.
E. Update on 2014 Technical Meeting

Sam Shoemaker informed the group that a theme had been selected for the 2014 Annual meeting in Salt Lake City is “Leadership in Uncertain Times.” M&E Division programming will again include four program areas, Geology (Richard Diaz PAM), Mine Operations (Shaun Graber PAM), Mine Technology (Tom Dyer PAM), and Mine Management (currently without a PAM).

Richard Diaz was present and indicated that he was making good progress on his sessions, and Shaun Graber, also present, indicating that he will work to finalize his six session chairs this week.

Sam went on to explain that there will be some exciting and new sessions for 2014 including an open pit software session and an underground software session. Sam will have a session wholly dedicated to mining in Turkey.

Steve suggested that Scott Shields would be an excellent PAM for Mine Management and agreed to approach Scott with the idea. He will put Sam in contact with Scott, who is with JoyGlobal.

F. Division Financials

Steve Holmes presented the division financials and indicated that there was not much change in the balance. He also pointed out that the luncheon is the main fundraising event for the division, and that the division strives to distribute its revenues in the following year through the scholarship program. Bill Warfield reminded everyone of the effort Bob Washnock continues to make towards the Silent Auction, and that everyone should be reminded that 100% of the silent Auction proceeds go directly to the M&E Scholarship Fund. Bill Warfield made a motion to approve the financial report, and Sam Shoemaker seconded that motion. The division financial report was approved unanimously.

G. Scholarship Awards

Steve summarized the Scholarship award winners, briefly discussed the fact that SME’s new online scholarship approval system overwhelmed the scholarship team this year. Bill, Jess and Steve had to review more than 150 applications, and with each applicant having up to 9 pieces of data that had to individually down loaded in order to view, it took a total of 25-30 hours per committee member to adjudicate the result. Steve indicated that the division was proud to award the Wallace Scholarship for the first time this year and its recipient is Erica Key.

Bill Warfield indicated that the new scholarship program will be discussed in a special committee this afternoon. One of the key issues was that many of the candidates did not meet the basic criteria for the scholarship they applied for. On top of this many of those same candidates applied for more than one award.
H. Awards update

Steve pointed out a few highlights on the awards, including the fact that Bill Warfield is receiving the Distinguished Service award this meeting, Ed Dowling is receiving the Jackling Award, and the fact that we have a new award this year called “Miner of the Year”. Bill and Steve summarized the new award, and what the committee is looking for in nominations of candidates. The award was developed by an Ad-Hoc committee lead by Tim Arnold. It was noted that Atlas Copco has agreed to sponsor this award for the next 10 years. Steve pointed out that anyone can nominate someone for any one of the M&E awards, and encouraged everyone in the room to do so. Ask for help from a current or past executive committee member, sit down at your keyboard, and write a nomination!

I. 2013 Luncheon and Auction

Steve gave an update on Bob Washnock’s health; Bob received a new heart last Wednesday night and appears to be recovering on schedule. Bob and Bill put together the biggest scholarship auction ever and have more than 80 items. the Colorado School of Mines Student SME Chapter will help out with the logistics of the auction and we look forward to raising a significant amount of money for the scholarship funds. Bill indicated that he had received cash donations in lieu of donated items totaling more than $2,000. Barrick alone donated $1,000.00 thanks in part to Don and Jami Dwyer’s’ efforts in Nevada.

Steve noted that his company, KGHM International, would match the funds raised by this year’s auction.

The division plans to expand sponsorship of the luncheon beyond just the historical title sponsor Hitachi, and is for the first time offering company sponsorship of tables. M&E got two $500.00 table sponsors and one $1,000.00 table sponsors this year. Next year it will be a choice available on the SME online meeting registration form, to make it easier to sponsor a table at the luncheon. M&E will pursue additional title sponsors as well.

J. Visit from the Presidents and Executive Director

The meeting agenda was paused in order to receive a visit from the Presidents and Executive Director of SME. Drew Meyer, outgoing President, thanked everybody for their support. He indicated that the society is in great shape financially, and that SME has experienced significant membership growth in regards to the numbers of students, women, and all other categories. SME can do things today that were not possible 5 years ago, and more resources are being added every year. "You've got help from SME" was the message Drew wanted to leave the Division with.

Jessica Elzea Kogel, incoming 2013 SME President, indicated that next year we will be focused on Health & Safety and that the Division should continue to push the programming for that. The second focus should be Sustainable Development-- SME is taking the lead on this and providing guidance to many organizations and governments. The third focus is communication- embracing the use of Social Media. Jessica asked who in the room was using SME Community, and she got a mixed response. Please
continue to use SME Community, Facebook, Twitter, and any other new social media that comes out, to keep in tune with our members. SME must continue to be relevant, progressive, and forward thinking.

Bill Warfield pointed out that Catherine has 5 stand-alone Health & Safety technical sessions this year, and at least one Health & Safety paper in every other session.

John Marsden is looking forward to supporting Jessica as the incoming President-Elect for 2014.

Drew made special recognition of Jim Humphrey’s 30 years of service to SME, and indicated that Dave Kanagy and the Society will now give awards when a member meets membership longevity of 30, 35, 40, and 45 year increments (previously there was a gap in recognition between 25 year and 50 year awards). Jim Humphrey became the first member to receive a 30 year award, since it was at his urging that this milestone be recognized in the first place.

K. AGI Liaison Update

Steve asked Jon Price to give an update as the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) liaison. AGI is an umbrella society much like SME that provides a home for different geological societies. Its newest members are the geographers and the soil geology societies that were added just this year. Mave Bolland (Murry Hitzman's wife), is working closely with SME's John Hayden on government affairs topics of mutual interest to SME and AGI.

On March 12th and 13th, AGI will be in Washington, DC visiting Congressional offices, and giving information updates on critical mineral industry issues. AGI has put together some good oil industry-funded educational videos called "Big Ideas in Earth Sciences". These are shown on “Discovery type” channels as well as YouTube. AGI has 2 meetings a year. AGI is helping SME in the fight to keep mining schools open. SME worked with AGI last year to fix a negative article on artisanal mining in Africa. Wayne Pennington, Michigan Tech, is an SME member and is the current AGI President.

L. Responsibilities of Executive Committee Positions

Steve explained the responsibility of M&E Executive Committee members and indicated that it is important for new members to understand the commitment necessary to serve. SME now requires that the Divisions send a formal letter of acceptance, on the SME letterhead, for any new committee members. This is meant to help the volunteer gain their employer's support by having something tangible to back up the request to serve.

M. Strategic Committee Updates

Steve explained the Strategic Committee structure of SME and then asked several members to update the group on what was discussed at the Strategic Committee meetings on Saturday.
Government Affairs – Catherine Dreesbach is the incoming chair. This committee is going to present what they have done through a session and discussion panel scheduled for Tuesday afternoon. The Government Affairs Committee strives to be "current & relevant", and to make sure SME provides “fact-based information” through Technical Briefs. SME is a 501(c)(3) organization giving it a general exemption from paying income and other taxes. Because of this status, SME cannot lobby, nor advocate for particular political parties or candidates. We are a technical organization; we are to provide unbiased information about science and engineering issues need for policy makers and other entities to make informed decisions. SME will continue to advocate (not lobby) for mining-related research & education. Jon Price noted that there are 14 schools which provide mining-related curriculums, and 12 are ABET accredited. Tim Arnold mentioned that three schools are "on the edge" and Tim's M&E Session on "Hot Topics" will deal with the sustainability of mining schools in the USA.

Outreach group – Shaun Graber indicated that this committee had discussions on where SME should we be reaching out to other organizations and other societies. They discussed international alliances especially in South America. They will shortly produce a matrix to prioritize the alignment with other societies (i.e. which societies to target first).

Finance – Steve gave the finance update and told the members that the Littleton SME building is sold, the society had approximately $12m in revenues last year, and its investments returned a respectable 11.4%.

Education and Professional Development – Jess updated the members on the issues being tackled by this committee including the low pass rate of Mining Engineers on the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, scholarship issues, and support of mining schools in the US.

Governance and Structure – Madan Singh gave the update. SME wants the divisions to self-assess themselves on how their activities are aligned with the strategic goals of the Society. M&E was supposed to have received an analysis form and filled out prior to the meeting and discussed it this week.

**ACTION ITEM: Madan to send Steve the form and we will try to get together and discuss yet this week, and if not very shortly after the annual meeting.**

Health and Safety – Tim Arnold gave an update on the joint SME/CIM Safety & Reliability Conference in Minneapolis held November 2012. This was the second such meeting, first one was in Calgary. Programming was exceptional, and Joe Driscoll's closing session was very good. The Minneapolis venue led to a very poor showing, less than 100 people. This may be an issue moving forward with the annual meeting in Minneapolis in 2018. Tim's wish is that companies send their H&S professionals to participate in these Safety & Reliability meetings.

N. Old Business
Catherine pointed out that the publications chair should verify all of the information on the website about the M&E division is correct and up to date. It is in the job description of the publications chair.

Bill Warfield reminded the Committee that there is still no health and safety award in the Society, and that M&E Division is ready to step-up and propose one if H&S doesn't. The Health & Safety Initiative Committee is proposing 3 awards at today’s SME board meeting. This will remain an old business item pending the results of the board meeting.

O. New Business

Scholarships -- Bill Warfield said that we must have a way to filter the many, many applicants the new system is generating. We have to have a system that prescreens the candidates and ensures all criteria are met. We need a filter that allows the committee members to quickly rank the applicants, and we need some Internet optimization of the files so that it is not so time consuming to download all the data.

George proposes a simple cover page that certifies the person meets the criteria.

George had comments about the SME community, and how M&E Division has morphed into "MED" in several online places, because the Society's Oracle-based software cannot handle using the ampersand (&). We are losing this important "branding". The organization of M&E Division, the names of our Awards and Scholarships, and even the inability to easily add session chairs to Abstract Central, are all points which need to be addressed as our "public face". Several other members agreed with these comments, and stated that the Society must improve its online presence.

SME is reviewing the SME web site for improvements.

Steve updated up on the SMART standard communications and open data protocols committee (joint with CIMM). Tim Skinner and Mark Bartlett are attempting to develop standards of data reporting between major equipment manufactures and customer data managers over and above proprietary standards. SME gave the effort $25k a year for 2 years, and M&E Division has oversight responsibility, to track and make sure the money is spent correctly.

*ACTION ITEM - Steve to get an update from Mark, send to Jess, and Jess will send it out with the minutes.*

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 by Steve Holmes. The next meeting will be immediately following the M&E Division luncheon on 27 February 2013 in the Four Seasons Ballroom (2 and 3) at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO.

Minutes submitted by: Jess Kindler

Approved by: Steve Holmes