



## Report of the 2012-2013 President

George Luxbacher

### The Year in Review

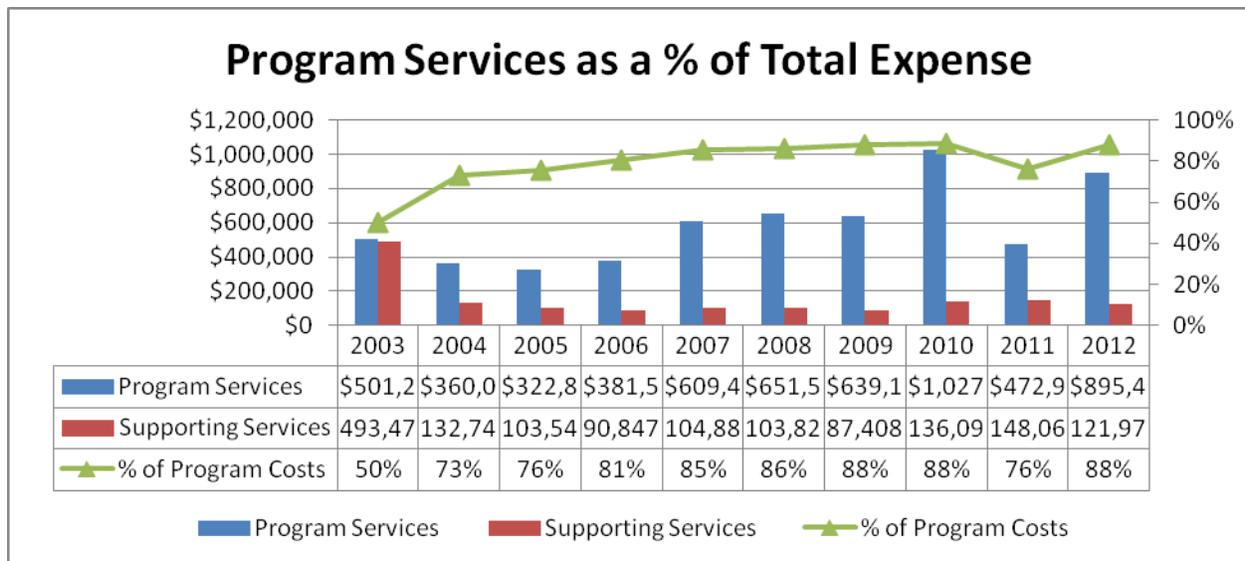
In 2012, AIME continued down its path transitioning to a foundation model and virtual operation. Notably, operating expenses are now in line with income, allowing for 50% of surplus to be directed to its Member Societies to use as they see fit; this totaled \$125,000 per Society in 2013. Of the remainder, 20% is for a matching grant fund to support collaborative efforts; the Board allocated the maximum allowed, \$200,000 for use in 2013. The remainder is retained by AIME for reinvestment.

Subsequently, on April 15, 2013, the AIME Board approved \$100,000 to support development of an inaugural diversity conference in summer 2014 proposed by TMS and supported by SME, honoring the first woman member (1879) of AIME, Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards. They also approved \$34,000 to match a United Engineering Foundation 2013 grant given to AIST to support growth of the [Emerging Leaders Alliance](#) (ELA) soft skills annual conference and On Demand training through enhanced marketing to the engineering and scientific community.

AIME leadership represented the groups at Board meetings of the [United Engineering Foundation](#) (UEF) and [American Association of Engineering Societies](#) (AAES), fully engaging in the latter to help set new strategic direction and establish a new Lifelong Learning working group. We also attended joint events in Washington, DC, including the [National Academy of Engineering's](#) Convocation and [Engineering Public Policy Symposium](#), as well as [eWeek](#) for the first time in over a decade. Finally, we submitted more worthy candidates for joint engineering awards than we have in many years and garnered participation by Member Society representatives on key joint committees.

AIME now relies on its Member Societies (staff and members) to execute its former multi-disciplinary efforts. AIME still hosts discussions, facilitates work, and represents its Member Societies in the overarching areas of education, energy and the environment, diversity, sustainability, international growth, outreach, and recognition via pinnacle awards and scholarships. An example of this new mode is the database on the AIME website developed by the AIME Sustainability Steering Committee as a reference to best practices across the engineering community, to infuse sustainability into engineering education (see [SEEKRR](#)). To enhance the relationships among the organizations, AIME leadership visited headquarters of each of its four Member Societies. In AIME overviews, I emphasized the new mode and streamlined mission to support its Member Societies distributing funds, facilitating interaction, and honoring the legacy and traditions of AIME.

Key initiatives over the past year, related to the latter, have included a legal review of the 38 endowment funds entrusted to AIME to ensure donor intent is being met. We've also focused on enhancing the presidential transition and fiduciary processes, most importantly oversight via new finance and audit committees. We have also effectively breathed life into the AIME archives by uploading historical photos, bios, and annual reports to preserve and promote the rich history of the organization and its esteemed membership. I look forward to remaining engaged in honoring AIME's rich history even after my officer term is done via participation on the newly established planning committee of an AIME Super Conference to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 and authoring a related publication.



### Personal Note

After my prior tenure as President of AIME's Member Society SME (2008), I felt that my contributions to SME were outweighed by those I had received in friendships and an enhanced understanding of our industry. I never expected that the Presidency of AIME would be just as, if not more, rewarding but that is what has occurred. Early and profound guidance from my predecessors, DeAnn Craig and Brajendra Mishra, prepared me well for this role. Brajendra asked me to step into AIME's involvement in the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES) and Mike Karmis (another past AIME President) asked me to serve with his proxy of several United Engineering Foundation (UEF) functions. These two tasks gave me a somewhat unique perspective of AIME's interaction with the larger engineering community that, somewhat surprisingly to me, helped me better realize the benefit AIME provides to the Member Societies. The welcome I found at the Member Society annual meetings and staff offices was truly appreciative.

Among the key aspects of AIME are the awards and distributions we make to our Member Societies. Since the Member Societies became separately incorporated in 1984, AIME has distributed over \$30 million, including proceeds from the UEC building sale and revenue from OTC. For the current fiscal year (2013) that number will be approximately \$ 2.273 million.

The last outreach that AIME did directly to the Member Societies occurred during the Presidency of Dan Thoma in 2007; Dan addressed each of the Member Society Boards to explain what

AIME was and offered. At the time, I was serving on the SME BOD and, while I knew AIME from my initial SME membership days when AIME provided back office (dues payment) support, I had no idea of what AIME provided other than awards. To build off of Dan's concept I developed a presentation which addressed what I consider the three critical aspects of AIME, supported by the facilitated sessions at past AIME Annual Meetings where we have assessed the value proposition: 1) Financial, 2) External and Internal Interaction and 3) History and Tradition. I ultimately gave the presentation 6 times as follows, continuing to develop it further as time went on and my interest grew in the topics:

SPE Staff	Dallas, TX
SME BOD	Denver, CO
TMS BOD	San Antonio, TX
AIST BOD	Pittsburgh, PA
SME Staff	CO
TMS and AIST Staff	Pittsburgh, PA

I will give this presentation one final time to the AIME Board of Trustees at our Annual Meeting at Alyeska Resort in Anchorage, Alaska. I found this presentation to be a very rewarding task, particularly as I delved into the history and development of the Institute. As I begin writing a history of AIME for our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, I plan to continue to update this presentation and offer to present it upon request.

AIME in its very first year established a tradition of visiting mines and facilities of interest to its members as part of its meetings. While AIME has held its recent Annual Meeting in "resort" destination, I've tried to resurrect the tradition by choosing a location for the 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting that could tie to the old tradition. As such, we are meeting in Alaska and visiting the proposed Pebble Mine complex, one of the largest unexploited world-class copper/molybdenum/gold/silver ore bodies in existence. This proposed mine relates to all of our Member Societies as a supplier of raw materials necessary for our industries. I only hope that the Presidents that follow me see value in these field visits and continue this re-established tradition.

At the TMS BOD presentation, I mentioned from my research that Ellen Swallow Richards was the first female member of AIME in 1879; she was the spouse of Richards (for whom the Robert H. Richards Award is named) but a distinguished member of our profession in her own right. TMS was already developing a diversity conference and quickly decided to honor her as an early pioneer. A chance conversation at Penn State with one of my former university professors, Frank Aplan, lead to further information on her early career and illuminated the strength the Institute derived from its members as it became a key component of our industries, ultimately spawning the four Member Societies.

We have initiated planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the institute, planning a meeting tentatively set for the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, the site of many of the New York meeting of the Institute in the past, with a field trip to Wilkes-Barre where AIME was founded in 1872. As I pass my Presidency to Dale Heinz, I feel confident that we are well poised to move forward continuing our service to the Member Societies and our related industries. The relationship between AIME and its Member Societies was captured this year on our Christmas Card, reproduced below.

Our 2012 Christmas Card



“1871-2021 Countdown to 150th”