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November 2022 Volume 50, Number 11



THE ALASKA MINER

Journal of the Alaska Miners Association

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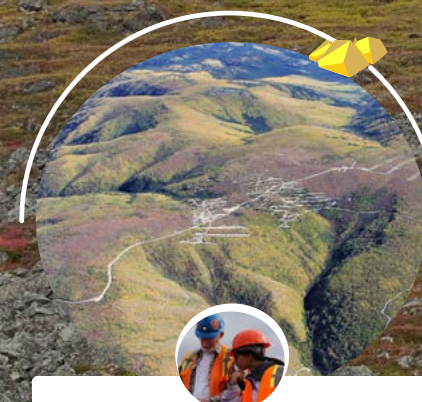


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By Lorali Simon
Treasurer, AMPAC

The Alaska Miners Association Political Action Committee (AMAPAC) works to elect pro-mining legislators to the Alaska State Legislature. As the chair of AMAPAC, I ask you to join me in helping protect our way of life as miners, businesspeople, environmental stewards, and Alaskans.

It has never been clearer that elections matter.

In past years, multiple pieces of legislation attacking miners and burdening our businesses were attempted, and thankfully, with advocacy from AMA and strong leaders in the legislature, none were successful.

AMAPAC made a significant impact in last year's election cycle:

- \$14,350 raised
 - \$15,650* Contributed to 26 Candidates
(23 Republicans and 3 Democrats)
- (*carry forward from 2019)
- 41 Individuals Donated to AMAPAC
(10 were AMA Board Members)



The Legislature's attitude toward mining will change for the worse or for the better, depending on mining-friendly lawmakers being elected next year.

Please help us support candidates that support us. Individual contributions of up to \$1,500 per calendar

year can be made to AMAPAC. Please join us at the AMAPAC Icebreaker Nov. 6. Or you can donate directly at our website at: alaskaminers.org/take-action/ or you can mail a check to:

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DESTINATION: FAIRBANKS

ETA: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11



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Photo Courtesy KTOO

Former State Senator Ben Stevens with the iconic status of his father Sen. Ted Stevens, at the airport that bears his name. Ben Stevens died suddenly in October.

Alaska lawmakers and leaders have offered heartfelt praise for former Alaska Senate president Ben Steven, who died suddenly in October while hiking on the Kenai Peninsula.

Stevens was most recently working as the vice president of external affairs and transportation for ConocoPhillips, after a long stint as chief of staff for Gov. Mike Dunleavy. He was formerly president of the Alaska Senate and is the son of the late U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens.

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski described Stevens as a friend who she said will be “genuinely missed.”

“Ben was a friend of mine, a great dad and husband, and one who made Alaska a better place for us all,” Murkowski said on Twitter. “His sudden passing leaves a hole in our Alaskan fabric. Ben Stevens will ... be genuinely missed.”

ConocoPhillips President Erec Isaacson said in a statement released Friday that Stevens was a “valued leader” at the company and “leaves a significant legacy” in Alaska.

“The entire ConocoPhillips family is deeply saddened by the sudden passing on Thursday evening of our friend and colleague, Ben Stevens. Our sympathies are with his

family and loved ones during this difficult time.”

“Ben Stevens was a good friend of mine,” Gov. Dunleavy said on Twitter. “I will always cherish the time he was my Chief of Staff. His knowledge and political acumen were significant assets in my administration. Rose and I offer our prayers to Ben’s wife, Elizabeth, and the kids during this difficult time.”

Stevens was a strong advocate for Alaska resource development and Alaska resource associations were unanimous in praise for him.

“We are incredibly shocked and deeply saddened by Ben’s passing,” said Kara Moriarty, President and CEO of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. “Ben loved Alaska and it didn’t matter if he was working in public service, on a commercial fishing boat, or as the VP of external affairs for ConocoPhillips, he was passionate about building a better, brighter future for our state. He will be sorely missed but leaves a legacy that will endure. Our heartfelt prayers go out to his wife Elizabeth, their children, the entire Stevens family, and his coworkers and colleagues.”

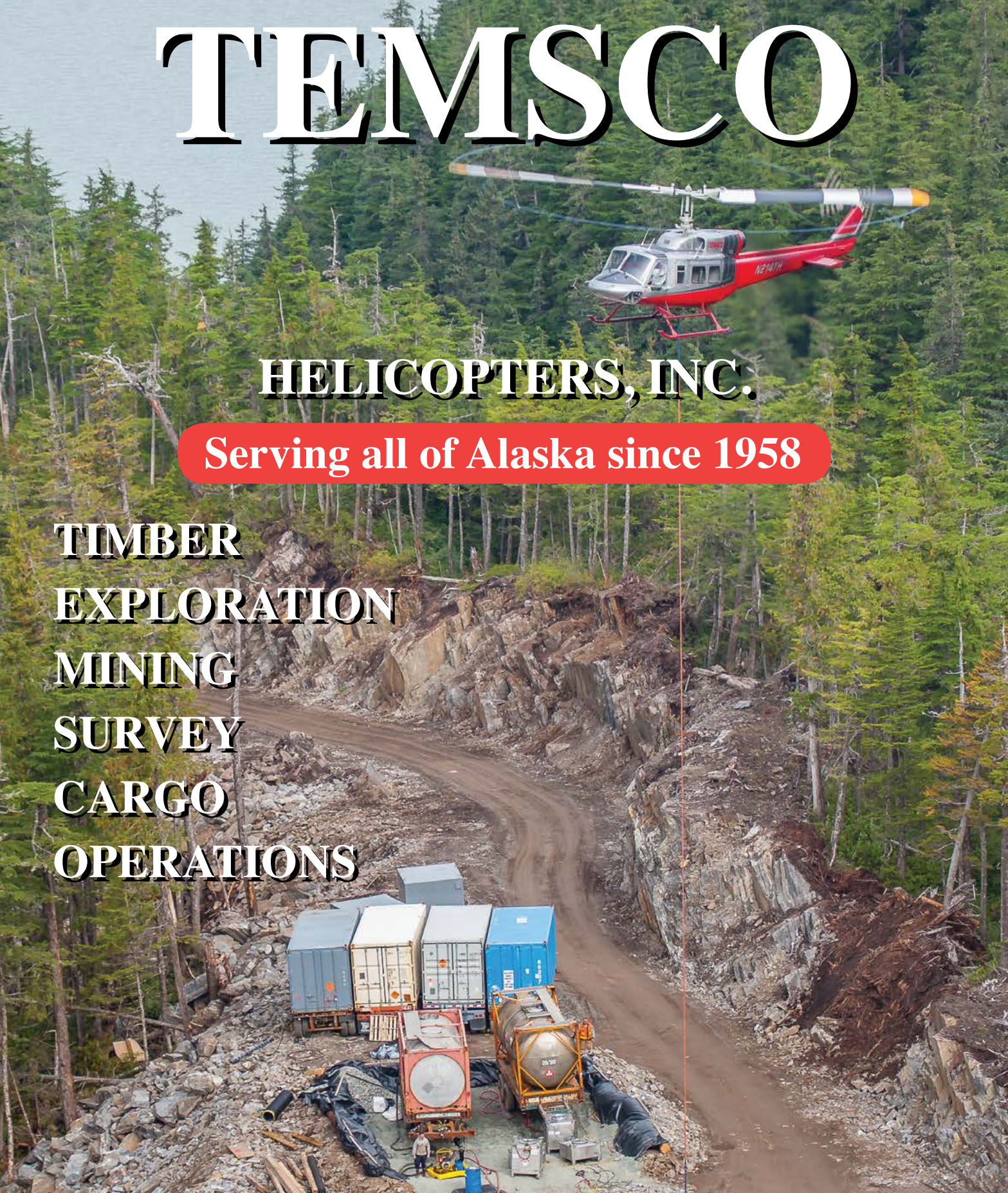
— **Ashlyn O’Hara of the Peninsula Clarion contributed to this story**

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ALASKA MINING: ROCK ON!

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE: NOV. 7 - 10, 2022

	7 a.m.	8 a.m.	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 p.m.	1 p.m.	2 p.m.	3 p.m.	4 p.m.	5 p.m.	6 p.m.	7 p.m.	8 p.m.	
MONDAY NOV 7		SHORT COURSES 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.										AMAPAC ICEBREAKER 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.			
								TRADE SHOW VENDOR SET-UP 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.							
TUESDAY NOV 8	BREAKFAST 7 - 8:00 a.m.	GEOSCIENCE 8 - 9:00 a.m.	BREAK	GEOSCIENCE 10 - 11:00 a.m.	BREAK	LUNCHEON 12 - 1:00 p.m.	BREAK	EARLY EXPLORATION 2 - 3:00 p.m.	BREAK	EARLY EXPLORATION 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.					
				POLICY 10 - 11:00 a.m.				POLICY 2 - 3:00 p.m.				SUPPLIERS RECEPTION 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.		YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MIXER 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	
			TRADE SHOW, CORE SHACK, and PROSPECTORS TENT (DAY 1) 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.												
WEDNESDAY NOV 9		ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLORATION 8 - 9:00 a.m.	BREAK	ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLORATION 10 - 11:00 a.m.	BREAK	LUNCHEON 12 - 1:00 p.m.	BREAK	ADVANCED EXPLORATION 2 - 3:00 p.m.	BREAK	ADVANCED EXPLORATION 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	BOD MEETING 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.				
	BREAKFAST 7 - 8:00 a.m.			POLICY 10 - 11:00 a.m.				POLICY 2 - 3:00 p.m.			TRADE SHOW, CORE SHACK, and PROSPECTORS TENT (DAY 2) 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.		HISTORY NIGHT 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.		
THURSDAY NOV 10		ANCSA 8 - 9:00 a.m.	BREAK	ANCSA 10 - 11:30 a.m.	BREAK	LUNCHEON 12 - 1:00 p.m.	BREAK	OPERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT 2 - 3:00 p.m.	BREAK	OPERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.			BANQUET & AWARDS 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.		
	BREAKFAST 7 - 8:00 a.m.	TRADE SHOW 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.					VENDOR TEAR-DOWN 2:15 - 5:00 p.m.								
FRIDAY NOV 11		MSHA SURFACE REFRESHER COURSE 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.													
SATURDAY NOV 12		MSHA UNDERGROUND REFRESHER COURSE 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.													
	7 a.m.	8 a.m.	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 p.m.	1 p.m.	2 p.m.	3 p.m.	4 p.m.	5 p.m.	6 p.m.	7 p.m.	8 p.m.	

ROOM LEGEND:	TRACK 1		TRACK 2	
	DENA'INA CENTER FIRST FLOOR Exhibit Hall		DENA'INA CENTER SECOND FLOOR Kahtna 1-2	
	DENA'INA CENTER SECOND FLOOR Tubughnenq 3-5		MARRIOTT HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM(S)	
	TRACK 1		TRACK 2	

Dear AMA Members and Friends:

In May, AMA adopted a position of opposition to holding a Constitutional Convention. While we shared this then, recent public narrative has called our decision into question, so we'd like to further communicate how and why AMA arrived at this position.

In addition to this email, this Friday's Statewide Zoom meeting will focus on AMA's position and include a discussion on this topic. Information on that meeting may be found [here](#).

By way of background: Alaska Constitution requires that every 10 years, if a Constitutional Convention has not been held, the Lt. Governor of Alaska must place on the General Election ballot a question to voters on whether a Convention should be held.

In May, the State Oversight committee put this issue on its agenda for discussion. As a reminder, the committee consists of over 60 AMA members, representing all eight of our statewide branches and has miners from large mines, placer mines, exploration and development projects, contractors, consultants, and other professionals that support our industry. The committee carefully considered the upcoming ballot question on a Constitutional Convention, and we concluded that the risks of upheaval to our existing regulatory system are simply too high. After, the State Oversight Committee recommended to AMA's Executive Committee that AMA adopt a position of opposition and AMA formally adopted the position. Our position has been on AMA's website since early this summer, and you can see it [here](#).

Article VIII of the Constitution contains language we live by in our industry: "It is the policy of the State to encourage...the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest...shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people."

Article XIII, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution gives unlimited power to a constitutional convention to amend or revise the constitution, which could result in an arbitrary and unpredictable rewrite to any part of the document. A rewrite of the areas that govern resource and economic development, multiple use, equal access, sustained yield, public domain, mineral and water rights, and access to navigable waters could be disastrous.

There is nothing in the Constitution or law that governs the selection of Constitutional Convention delegates. Therefore, it is unknown who would hold the immense lawmaking authority that a Convention would bring. What is known is that this would no doubt bring outside

"A convention would create years of economic, legal and regulatory uncertainty, and would inhibit or prevent investment in Alaska industries ... AMA opposes the establishment of a new Constitutional Convention as unnecessary, expensive, and dangerous, with the risks outweighing the reward." — Alaska Miners Association

special interests and considerable funding to influence the required election of Convention delegates, creating an opportunity to influence the drafting of the new constitution to promote special interest agendas.

We have seen special interests target the resource development industries before. Tens of millions of dollars have been spent defeating destructive policies proposed in 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2018, and 2020. If ballot measures have taught us anything, it is that Alaska law is best deliberated in the open and transparent Legislative process, and establishing law by alternative means creates the uncertainty that inhibits investment in Alaska.

For instances in which there may be a need to change a section of our Constitution, Article 13, Section 1 provides for that to be accomplished through the legislative process that is both targeted and transparent. Of the 40 times this legislative process for amendments has been used, 28 amendments have been successful. This specific process can and should be used to address any issues needing the attention of Alaskans, rather than the blunt instrument of a Convention that fully opens the whole document to scrutiny and potentially creates years of uncertainty that would inhibit or prevent investment in Alaska industries.

We know that some are advocating for a Constitutional Convention to address issues like the Permanent Fund Dividend, a spending cap, and social issues. AMA has not and will not address these issues. Our position is solely based on our desire to have regulatory certainty, which we believe is provided for in the existing Constitution. Our position is not partisan, and it is not political. It is business. Alaska's miners have too much at stake to risk an overhaul of our regulatory process, and that is solely our basis for opposing a Convention.

If you have questions or wish to further discuss this issue, please direct your inquiries to Deantha Skibinski, AMA Executive Director, and she will distribute them to the AMA State Oversight Chairs and the AMA Executive Committee.

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In October, Kinross Alaska employees wore pink in observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness. The week was filled with awareness activities, including a pink-themed breakfast with information tables, an employee-led fundraiser for the Breast Cancer

Detection Center of Alaska, and an investment in the next BCDC mobile mammogram truck. The site also welcomed seven local women affected by breast cancer to a special pink blast!

Breast Cancer Awareness Month runs through October.



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After years of anticipation and preparation, the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Museum opened in a great new location at 406 Cushman in Fairbanks.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy was on hand for the grand opening celebration in October.

Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation president Tom Bundtzen officiated at the grand opening and played a key role in making the new museum a reality.

The new location provides more space to display and celebrate the rich history and contributions of Alaska’s miners. It includes biographies of 130 Alaska mining pioneers.

The museum will be open to the public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



By Shane Lasley
North of 60 Mining News

With the latest batch of assay results showing the drills are continuing to cut broad layers of high-grade gold at Ellis Zone, it appears that HighGold Mining Inc. is beginning to outline a second gold-rich polymetallic deposit at its Johnson Tract project in Southcentral Alaska.

JT, the first deposit outlined on the 20,942-acre Johnson Tract property, hosts 3.49 million metric tons of indicated resource averaging 5.33 grams per metric ton (598,000 ounces) gold, 6 g/t (673,000 oz) silver, 5.21% (400.8 million pounds) zinc, 0.59% (43.1 million lb) copper, and 0.67% (51.5 million lb) lead.

When you calculate the value of all the metals into gold equivalency, this comes to 1.05 million oz of indicated resource averaging 9.39 g/t gold-equivalent. Situated about 2.5 miles north of JT Deposit, Ellis Zone is shaping up to be part of an emerging second deposit with similar potential.

“While still very early days, it appears we are well on our way to defining a second deposit at Johnson Tract to complement the existing high-grade (plus-1-million-oz) JT Deposit mineral resource that is also open to

expansion,” said HighGold Mining CEO Darwin Green.

“A priority of our 2022 drill program was to follow up on last year’s late season discovery at the DC Prospect to determine if the mineralization continued to depth and laterally along strike. This has been confirmed in our initial step-outs which have returned multiple intersections of high-grade mineralization, including subintervals of multi-ounce grade,” Green said when this first batch of Ellis Zone results was announced.

The company says the systematic step-out drilling at the Ellis Zone discovery has cut additional strong mineralization to the west and down-dip of the intercept in hole DC22-043.

“The Ellis Zone discovery continues to deliver excellent results with some of the strongest and widest intersections to date coming from the western limit of our drilling,” said Green. “We are very encouraged by the persistence of the Ellis Zone mineralization along strike and plan to keep stepping out in all directions as we continue expanding the known extents of the zone.”

So far this year, HighGold has completed 4,935 meters of drilling in 36 holes at Ellis Zone. Assays are pending for 22 of these holes.



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Alejo Sfriso, corporate consultant and practice leader with SRK Argentina, has been appointed board chair of SRK Global. Alejo succeeds Mark Noppé, who is becoming director of the W.H. Bryan Mining Geology Research Center with the Sustainable Minerals Institute at The University of Queensland.

“My becoming chair of the SRK group of companies is a demonstration of our culture. I am a geotechnical engineer coming from a small consultancy located in a country with a limited mining footprint—but with a lot of potential. I was given the opportunity to build my practice within SRK. In doing so, I was exposed to challenging projects worldwide, working with many SRK colleagues from whom I learned so much,” said Alejo.

Alejo joined SRK in 2009 and co founded SRK’s practice in Argentina, where he served as managing director until 2019. He served on SRK Global’s board of directors from 2016-19 returning in 2022. Alejo is expert in the application of numerical methods for design, analysis, and risk evaluation of geotechnical structures with an emphasis in construction procedures. He continues his professional practice through which he has contributed to projects in over 25 countries.

“Alejo’s long history of leadership in SRK exemplifies the positive contribution and opportunities he and his team



have made through development of the Argentinian practice and ongoing involvement in the Latin American practices—as well as technical teams globally,” said Tim McGurk, group CEO of SRK Global. “I am looking forward to working with Alejo, helping to bring his natural team building and collaboration abilities to support further collaboration and growth in our global teams.”

Alejo belongs to professional associations including the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, where he served as vice president for South America from 2017-22. He served as an executive committee member for the Argentinean Society for Geotechnical Engineering from 1997 to 2015 and as president of the society from 2011-15. Alejo has been professor of soil mechanics and geology at the University of Buenos Aires since 1989. He has authored or co-authored over 90 publications.

SRK is a longtime corporate member of AMA.

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Photo Courtesy Clarise Larson / Juneau Empire

Jerry Harmon accepts his Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the Juneau community as a founder and the president of Juneau Gold Rush Days, a miner for more than 40 years and a volunteer across numerous projects and boards in Juneau.

Juneau Chamber Honors Jerry Harmon, Alaska Miners

With a mining theme and décor honoring the capital city’s long mining heritage, the Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce recently held its first annual awards banquet since 2019 with a crowd of more than 300.

The chamber also awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award to Jerry Harmon who is well known in the Juneau community as a founder and the president of Juneau Gold Rush Days, a miner for more than 40 years and a volunteer across numerous projects and boards in Juneau.

“I love to volunteer, I get a lot out of it,” he said after receiving the award. “It’s not an ‘I thing,’ it’s a ‘we thing.’”

Harmon’s has been involved with the popular Juneau Gold Rush Days since it was founded in 1990 and this year it celebrated its 30th year after missing the past two years.

The event —which celebrates Juneau’s long mining and logging history — has made a significant impact in the community for decades and during its peak years, it attracted more than 10,000 people to a variety of contests, vendors, fair foods, gold panning and children’s activities.

Harmon said he is grateful for the award and for the other people and volunteers who don’t get this recognition.

“I accept this award for all the volunteers in the city of Juneau,” he said.

Incoming president John Blasco, business project manager at Alaskan Brewing Co., was sworn in at the event.

Dick and Candy Behrends, married couple and co-owners of Behrends Mechanical Inc., were surprised to be named Citizens of the Year for their contribution to the Juneau community both charitably and through their volunteer work over many years.

Blasco described the pair as “true pillars” in the community, each for their individual work and their contribution as a duo.

“They are some of the nicest and friendliest people you will ever meet,” Blasco said about the pair.

Candy said she was honored and surprised to receive the award and gave a short thanks to the chamber and people in the crowd.

“We are deeply honored to be recognized this way, thank you very much,” Candy said on behalf of them both.

— **Courtesy Juneau Empire**

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- **RDC 43rd Annual Conference:** Nov. 16-17, Dena'ina Center Anchorage
- **AEMA's Annual Meeting:** Dec. 4-9 Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, Nev.

AMA Branch Meetings

- AMA Statewide Branch meetings are scheduled bi-weekly through December 2022. These meetings are hosted on Zoom and take place at 7 a.m. Friday. For meeting schedule, please visit www.alaskaminers.org/ama-member-branches
- Branches are meeting in-person! For your local branch schedule, please visit www.alaskaminers.org/ama-member-branches or contact Jennifer at jennifer@alaskaminers.org for information


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