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February 2024 Volume 52, Number 2



THE ALASKA MINER

Journal of the Alaska Miners Association

Where will we see you this spring?

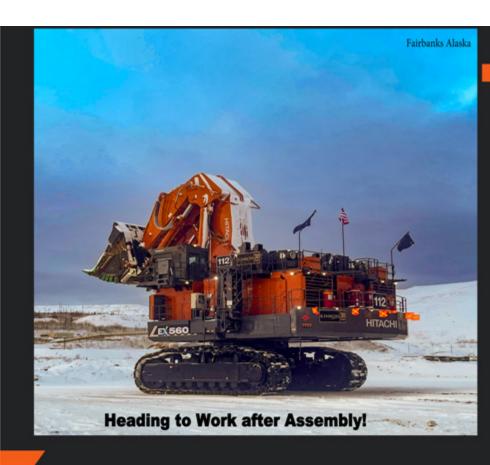




Juneau Mining Forum: Feb. 27
Fairbanks Spring Convention: March 25-29

OTZ TAZA9 Bostage OIA9 Anchorage, AK TSZ# timr99

Alaska Miners Association 121 W Fireweed Ln. Ste. 120 Anchorage, Alaska 99503



Dear AMA Members and Friends,

If you had any doubt, 2024 is in full swing!

Between addressing a number of issues and advocating on policy, to engaging in or holding events across the state, all the work before us as Alaska miners is keeping us in overdrive!

We often talk about the need to tell our story, and I think we're putting that in action this spring. After a booming start to the year with Alaska Night at the Roundup Convention in Vancouver and visits with policymakers and partners in Washington D.C., we rolled right into Juneau and participated in the Southeast Conference midsession summit, to tell our story on a regional stage. Here, with two large mines and a number of potential opportunities right in their backyard, we were able to join our partners at the Alaska

Oil and Gas Association, Resource Development Council. Alaska Forest Association, and Alaska Chamber on the Resources Roundtable panel. discussing our role in the Southeast economy.

I shared a story with the Southeast Conference audience that, on my flight down to Juneau, my seatmate and I struck up a conversation that wound its way, as it usually does, to occupations. He ended up telling me he didn't approve of mining but was forced to chaperone his middle schooler's field trip to Greens Creek Mine and it turned his opinion around. He said he couldn't believe a



mine was even there, as he had been boating and flying over it for years and was blown away at what he saw at the mine site.

Well done Greens Creek, and all of you, who take the time and invest the resources in getting people out to your site. As this story shows, it makes a tremendous positive impact on members of the public and they leave with a real understanding of what happens at a mine, and they tell

Up in Anchorage, I am absolutely thrilled to share that we had our first in-person Anchorage branch meeting in FOUR YEARS this month! We had a great turnout at Gallo's and got a lot of positive feedback, and it was so, so good to see so many faces again. Thanks to all of you who attended and to Scott Habberstad with Alaska Airlines for speaking to our group. If you're in Anchorage on alternating Thursdays, please join us!

This month, we worked to bring three mining-related sessions to the Alaska Forum on the Environment. A huge thanks to Karen Matthias, who did the lion's share of the planning, and to Anna Atchison and Bartly Kleven from

Kinross, and Bob Loeffler and Brett Watson from ISER. We had some spectacular panels and were able to reach a wide, diverse audience with which we do not normally engage.

We're nowhere near done! We have two great spring events in the coming weeks. Our Juneau Mining Forum is happening for the second year in a row, and this time we've got some great items added on. Monday, February 26, at 6 p.m. the Juneau Branch and Senator Click Bishop will host Juneau Mining History Night at the Juneau Yacht Club.

Then, on Tuesday morning, we will kick off the Juneau Mining Forum with a breakfast and have panels through lunch on a number of important mining topics geared toward Legislators, and then, at the end of the day we'll hold our Annual Legislative reception with the Associated General Contractors and Alaska Trucking Association.

In March, we'll hold our first Fairbanks Convention in SIX YEARS! (So many new starts around here!). Join us for an amazing event at the Carlson Center March 25-29 (much more information elsewhere in this issue).

Thanks for all that you do to be involved in these events, whether it is sponsor, speak, help plan, attend, anything, Together, we are doing an amazing job telling our story.



Deantha Skibinski. **Executive Director**

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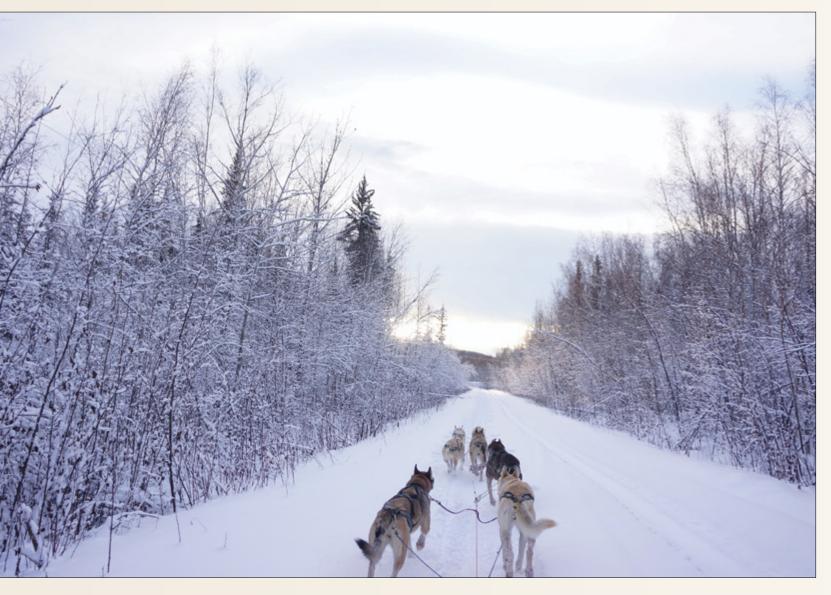
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From Our Branch Chair: Welcome to Fairbanks!



First, I would like to welcome everyone who has already committed to attending our Fairbanks Alaska Miners Spring 2024 Convention!

It has been many years since we last held this convention in Fairbanks, and we are excited about this opportunity to get together, share, network and celebrate!

Fairbanks has a deep history that revolves around mining. The initial establishment of Chena City trading post in 1901 by E.T. Barnette and Captain Charles Adams, and Felix Pedro's discovery of gold north of this trading post started and fostered the "Fairbanks Gold Rush." Today, Fairbanks is the "Golden Heart" city of Alaska maintains that strong focus on mining as a "modern mining town."

So why come up north to Fairbanks in March?

To me, it is one of the best times of year. Yes, it may be dark with a little snow and a slight chill in the air, but it will be warmer and lighter than it is at the time of writing this! Spring in Fairbanks is a spectacular



time. It is when we start to peel back out of our hibernation caves and can start to enjoy the spring outdoors! People coming to Fairbanks can enjoy looking out for the Northen Lights, schedule a dog sled ride through the hills or even enjoy a dip at Chena Hot Springs!

While the agenda and

the intent of the Fairbanks Spring Conference is the same as the State AMA Conference in November, there are slight differences that we are looking to tap into.

Fairbanks also has a very large and active placer mining population. From pretty large scale to small "mom and pop" operators, our Fairbanks convention facilitates our AMA members who may not want to

travel way down south to Anchorage. In addition, it is my hope with the conference in Fairbanks to broaden our reach to some of the companies supporting mining and exploration as well as companies and individuals that don't know how much mining in Fairbanks enriches their lives.

As the "Golden Heart" city, Fairbanks truly is a heart that pumps logistics through the state, however, Fairbanks is diversified economically. While the majority of us reading this know the importance of mining in Fairbanks, there are many who do not.

Along with mining, Fairbanks relies on tourism, military, our oil/gas brothers, the university, state and federal government to sustain our economy. I view all of these pillars of the economy tied together and hope to show during the Fairbanks convention the importance and future importance of mining in not only sustaining, but improving the Fairbanks, and northern Alaska communities.

The Fairbanks convention is underpinned and has always been driven by our vendors and the trade show! In addition, we are setting up our technical presentation sessions with a strong focus on permitting and regulators, advanced projects, and mining updates focusing (but not limited to) Interior and northern Alaska.

MINE TOURS! Both Usibelli and Fort Knox have confirmed their support for on-site tours of their operations! AND CURLING!!! The planning committee is putting together a social curling event at the start of the conference. So, if you are an expert curler or entry level noob (like me) mark your calendar and let's chuck some rocks on ice!

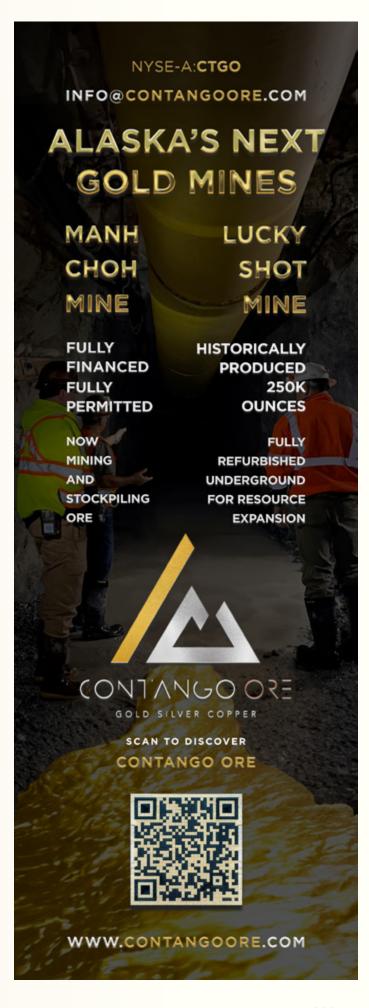
As I mentioned above, Fairbanks in March is a unique place. As we pass through the spring, daylight will be coming back and fast. This time of year, it is not uncommon to gain six to seven minutes of daylight a day, during the week of our Fairbanks Convention you will notice the gain in daylight while you are here.

I'm hoping and have put in a request for warmer weather for the conference and am shooting for temperatures above zero, but there is no guarantee. But never fear, there are still plenty of coffee and tea shops to keep you warm! There's a strong chance you will get a glimpse of the Northern Lights. For those interested I recommend looking at the University of Alaska Geophysical Institute's Aurora forecast app while up here to plan your evenings.

Additionally, this is the time of year for the World Ice Art Championships in Fairbanks and encourage all to check it out during their visit here!

See you in Fairbanks!

Dave Larimer, Fairbanks Branch Chair



Thanks for Making Our Spring Convention Possible!

We want to give a huge Thank You to all the generous sponsors and trade show vendors listed below, whose contributions in time, money, staff and support make all of AMA's programs possible, including our spring convention in Fairbanks March 25-29!

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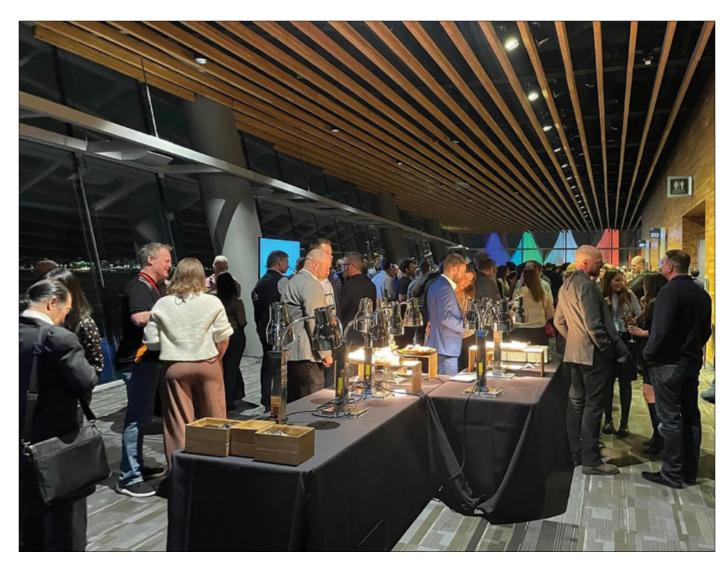
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Alaska Night at the AME-Roundup in British Columbia is the state mining industry's opportunity to showcase the power and rich potential of Alaska mining, as well as meet and network with mining representatives from both the Lower 48 and Canada. Alaska Night was a huge success, as these photos testify, made possible by our many generous sponsors.





Thank you to the Alaska miners who sponsored the Alaska Night reception at the Roundup Convention!

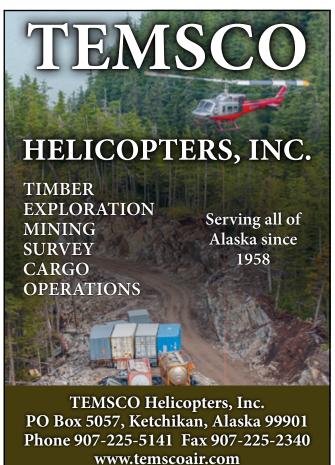
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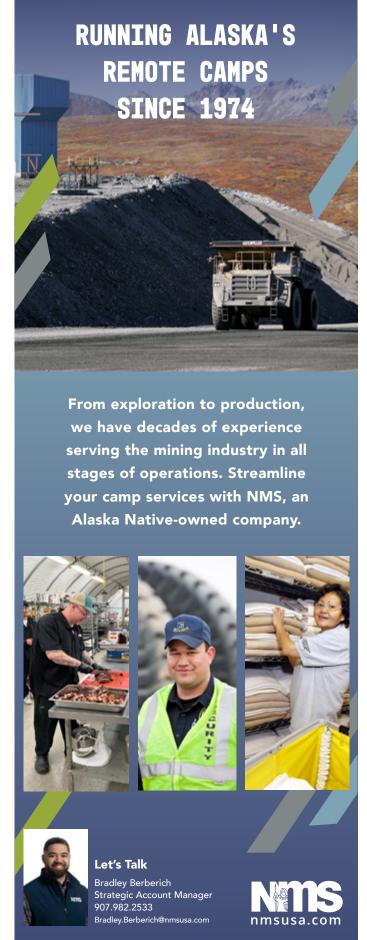












In Memoriam: George Seuffert Sr. In Memoriam: Donald Stein

George Seuffert Sr. passed away Dec. 13, 2023, in Scottsdale, Ariz., with his grandchildren holding his hands.

George was born in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from Fordham University and New York Medical College. During his junior year, he met and married the love of his life, Ingrid. They were together for 65 years. He obtained his medical degree and went on to do an internship at the University of Virginia and a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. He served in the Public Health Service and was stationed in Charolette, North Carolina, Staten Island, New York, and finally Anchorage, Alaska.

He arrived in Anchorage in summer 1967, after driving from Staten Island with his wife, three children, motherin-law and dog. George decided to stay in Alaska and go into private practice after the Public Health Service.

George was part of a team of doctors that would travel throughout Alaska doing surgical clinics for Alaska Natives. He was also one of the original members of The Heart Surgery team with doctors Arndt Von Hippel, George Rhyneer and Jim Baldauf. The first open heart surgery was done on a black bear. In case George didn't give the bear enough anesthesia, all the doctors were strapped with guns. One of his greatest honors was

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becoming a member of the Academy of Anesthesiology. Membership of the Academy is by invitation only and he always joked that he was invited to be a member because he was from Alaska and the only anesthesiologist that anesthetized a black bear.

After retiring from medicine, George decided to go in a

totally different direction and became a gold miner. He spent the last 30-plus years mining with his son. He loved being in remote Alaska and was respected by the mining community. For many, it was beneficial having a medical professional among them. He was always willing to help them out and saved many lives over the years.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Frank; and daughter, Cynthia. He is survived by his wife. Ingrid; son, George (Anna); daughter, Laura (Jelle); grandchildren, Maria, Johan and Hans; brothers, Ed (Ginny) and Peter (Clair); and many nephews and nieces. He will be forever missed.



We celebrate the life of Donald Stein of Fairbanks, who recently passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Dec. 8, 2023, at the age of 96. He died peacefully at home with his family.

Donald was born in Buffalo, New York, to George and Matilda Stein on Oct. 13, 1927. He was a member of a close and loving family of four brothers and one sister who passed at an early age.

After high school near the end of World War II, he followed his older brother Norm into the Navy where he served as a boilerman aboard the fast oiler USS Chemung. Soon after his honorable discharge in 1947, he was lured north to the rugged territory of Alaska and its promises of freedom.

Donald followed his passions and earned bachelor's degrees in geology and chemistry from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1954. His career as state assayer in Fairbanks in 1956 followed, where he soon became well respected by miners for his competence, friendly nature and discretion. He worked actively in support of miners around the state and with the Alaska Miners Association.

Don developed many friendships in the mining industry, one of the earliest being Leo Mark Anthony. As best man at Leo's wedding, the maid of honor, Evelyn Fikse, caught his eye. Donald and Evelyn were married in 1956 at the First Methodist Church in Fairbanks, with Leo and his wife Beverly serving as best man and maid of honor in turn.

Donald and Evelyn were adventurous and enjoyed traveling, visiting places around the world with family history. He was an avid bowler and participated in league competitions. Armed with a talent for construction, he built his own home where he raised his family and infused his children and grandchildren with a loyalty and respect for each other that strengthens the family to this day.

After retiring in 1981, he set out to realize his dream





of placer mining on his own claims. Together with his wife, his son Robert, and son-in-law Brad, Donald worked his placer properties on Twin Creek, and later on Gilmore Creek, for many seasons. He enjoyed vigorous health well into his 90s. An avid storyteller, Don always had an interesting tale at hand to tell from his life experiences.

Sadly, he was preceded by his beloved wife and best friend of 59 years, Evelyn. He is survived by his two brothers, Norman and Raymond; his three sons, George, Nicholas and Robert; and his two daughters, Andrea Snow and Kathleen Hardenbrook. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Sarah, Joseph, Benjamin, Michael, David and Lucas, as well as his great-grandchildren, Asher, Mackenzie, Gideon and Evelyn, and a fifth one on the way, Owen Michael.

Donald will be remembered by his family and friends for his generosity, hard-working nature, kindness and

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Make your plans and join us!

AMA and Alaska Metal Mines will host the second Juneau Mining Forum on Feb. 27 in the Baranof Hotel.

The Forum, which educates members of the Legislature, staff, administration, and Juneau public on mining issues, will kick off at 7 a.m. with a breakfast and run through a keynote luncheon featuring the general managers of Alaska's operating mines.

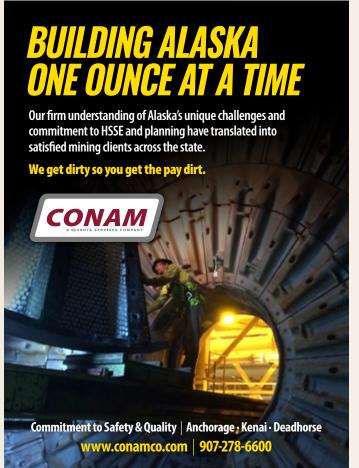
This is a unique opportunity to have conversations with the policymakers who can impact Alaska's mining industry and businesses. Topics covered will include federal issues, environmental standards, economic and community benefits, building

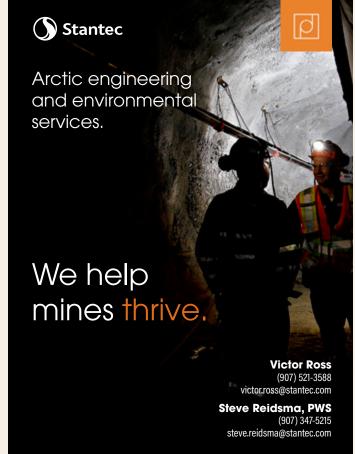
the local workforce, and critical minerals.

And, there is FUN! Feb. 26, the night before,
a Juneau History Night will be held, with
members of the Juneau Branch organizing.

And the evening following the forum, our annual Legislate Reception sponsored by Alaska Miners Association, Associated General Contractors of Alaska, and Alaska Trucking Association will start at 5 p.m. at the Baranof.

Registration will be coming soon, but don't hesitate to contact our AMA staff with any questions. Be sure to use the Alaska Airlines discount code for 10 percent off airfares using code ECMK355.











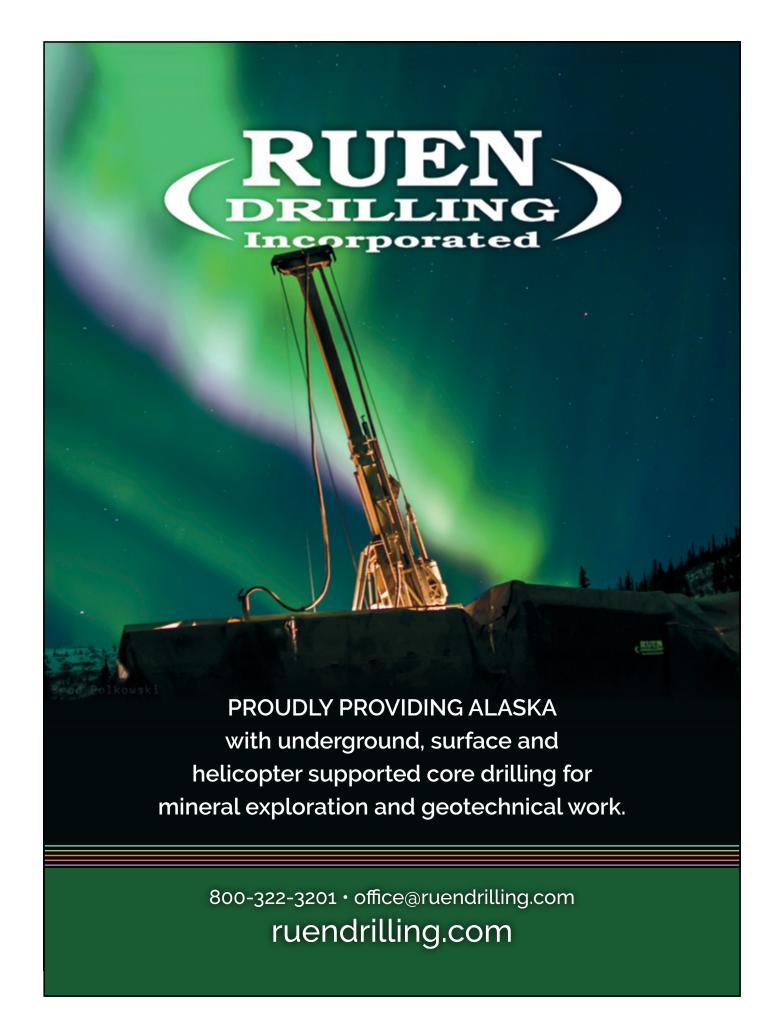












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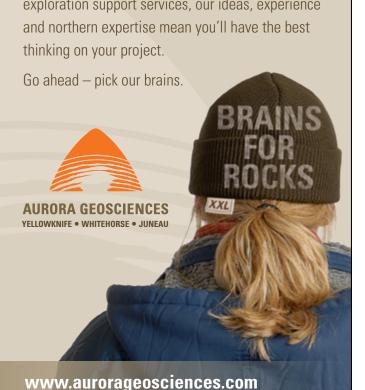
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Thank you for all the AMA corporate and individual members who joined or renewed their membership to the association in Novemer and December. You make AMA possible!

Corporations

Alaska Business Bobcat of Juneau

Colaska

NovaGold Resources Inc.

South32

Sundance Mining Group

Professionals

Ezekiel Baye Zachary Garcia

MacNamara Shoulders

Thor Stacey

Individuals

Meadow Bailey Charles Bell

Curtis Bernard

Jeff Boehm Jennifer & Nikolai Bolshakoff

Vernon Chimegalrea

Robert Dun

Suzanne Fairbanks

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Dale Henkins Melanie Hennessey

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Utilizing Deswik and Ventsim 3D software

Exploration to FS Mine nderground Mine Sur laintenance Planning

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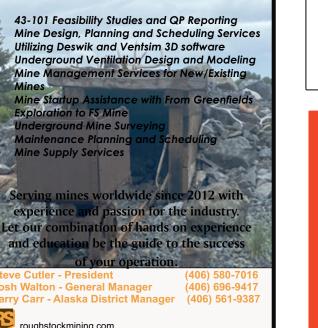
Kristina Woolston Kenneth Yockey

Not yet a member of the Alaska Miners Association? Or have not yet renewed your membership? Renew today so you don't miss a single issue of The Alaska Miner or the 2024 Alaska Miners Handbook and Service Directory, available only to AMA members. Call or email Jennifer Luiten, Membership and Fundraising Director at

907-270-9232; jennifer@

AlaskaMiners.org.









In early February, AMA President Lorali Simon and Executive Director Deantha Skibinski visited a number of key offices and stakeholders in Washington D.C. including the National Mining Association.



Alaska Mining Calendar

- Feb. 25-28: Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration MINEXCHANGE in Phoenix
- Feb. 27: Juneau Mining Forum hosted by AMA and Alaska Metal Mines: Baranof Hotel
- Feb. 27: Legislative Reception hosted by AMA, Associated General Contractors, and Alaska Trucking Association: Baranof Hotel
- March 3-6: Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Conference Toronto
- March 22: Alaska Support Industry Alliance Meet Alaska Conference in Anchorage
- March 25-29: AMA Fairbanks Convention at Carlson Center
- May 10: Alaska Mining Day
- May 20-23: Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, Anchorage; alaskasustainableenergy.com
- Sept. 24-26: MineEXPO International, Las Vegas, Nev.
- Aug. 4: AMA's 85th Anniversary
- Nov. 4-7: Annual Convention and Trade Show, Anchorage

AMA Branch Meetings

- AMA Statewide Branch meetings have resumed! These meetings are held biweekly on Zoom.
 For meeting schedule and Zoom link, visit www. alaskaminers.org
- AMA local branches are meeting in person.
 Contact your branch chair or visit alaskaminers.org for your local branch schedule
- Contact Jennifer, jennifer@alaskaminers.org, with any questions.

Anchorage Branch Meetings

- Meeting dates are biweekly on the off weeks of the statewide Zooms. Meetings will be at noon at Gallo's Mexican Restaurant (upstairs) located at 8615 Old Seward Highway.
- Meeting dates are Feb. 22, March 7,
 March 21, April 11, April 25, May 9 and May 25.





















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