



# ASSOCIATION OF MINE RESIDENT ENGINEERS

## From the Presidents Desk

The Association of Mine Resident Engineers of South Africa currently have 654 members.

During 2008, the council at the strategic session agreed to re-vamp the website. This has been done and members can visit and access more technical information (as members).

From the beginning of 2009, the Association held various activities that members were able to participate in. The Safety Seminar in Rustenburg in April was attended by 200 members. An enlightening speech by Warren Beech, CEO of Leppin Beech was given (See Legal update comments).

District meetings take place regularly and I am pleased to announce that Council wishes to strengthen the involvement of members and to ensure that all Districts have AMRE representation.

The annual dinner dance took place in February 2009 was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The annual general meeting was held at Gold Reef City on 15 May 2009 and the new council for the ensuing year was elected.

On 29 May 2009, the Council held a Strategic Session at Mt Grace in Magaliesburg. The Council's main focus will be on

their members and will include a drive to get members more involved and accommodate their views and interests in their daily encounters.

A concern of the Association is the total involvement of AMRE Engineers in the mining industry and to remain focused on the advancing market conditions that affect all of us.

AMRE members are able to involve themselves in upcoming calendar events scheduled for the remainder of the year. The Safety Seminar on 23 July 2009 at Kloof and the Joint meeting of the AMRE / SACEA Associations on the 11 August will add to your collection of CPD points if you are registered with ECSA.

As President and on behalf of the AMRE council, we urge all of our members to register with ECSA as a matter of urgency and to take personal responsibility in that arena for the benefit of yourselves and Engineers as a whole.

Due to the untimely death of the president of Gabon, the Association is currently sourcing a new destination for the presidential visit and will inform members accordingly.

Have a safe year ahead.

Obed Letsholo

President

## Inside this issue: June / July 2009

**From the President Desk...** Page 1

**Annual Dinner Dance ...** Page 2

**New Members...** Page 2

**Districts Reports ...** Page 2

**Annual General Meeting...** Page 3

**AMRE Website...** Page 3

**Upcoming Events...** Page 4

**Strategic Session...** Page 4

**Safety Seminar - Legal Update...** Page 6



# ASSOCIATION OF MINE RESIDENT ENGINEERS

## Annual Dinner Dance

The AMRE Association black tie Dinner dance was once again hosted at Gold Reef City with a great turnout of over 200 members and guests. The purpose of this prestigious event is to raise funds for the sponsorship of the Association's bursar students, studying towards the attainment of a Mechanical or Electrical degrees.

At this event, council made a special award to its bursar student Robbie Theron, who thus far has been a model AMRE bursar.

In 2007/2008 Robbie was privileged to receive 50% of his first year's fees back from the University, and also received a prestigious award for obtaining an average of 75% for his subjects. He achieved 12 Distinctions during this period.

Robbie has also been nominated and chosen to serve on the board of the Engineers Student Body, and has been inducted as the Head of Industry Relations for the Potchefstroom University for the 2008/ 2009 period.

AMRE made sure that the event was not all about formalities, and had enlisted one of the top South African comedians, Barry Hilton for the hilarious entertainment on the night, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was a wonderful evening, which included dancing the night away to the DJ, Ryan Rockwell, who provided an upbeat range of music. Once again a word of thanks and appreciation to all the sponsors that made the event possible.

## New Members

AMRE is currently the second largest Association next to the Mine Managers, and boasts a membership as at 30 July 2009 of 654 members. This includes 51 unknown addresses which are reflected on the database.

Difficulties arise when members relocate internally or externally and do not provide the Secretariat with current contact details. Every bit of information that is new is vital to keep the data-

base up to date and to ensure that you receive valuable information from AMRE and are invoiced accurately to remain an active member. We appeal to you to nudge other members that you are aware of, to provide us with their new details.

Also vital are your current mobile numbers to ensure that you receive our new sms notifications.

It is pleasing to note that, despite the many fluctuations currently being experienced in the mining industry, the stability of the Association has not been compromised, however it is considered that a strong membership base is essential to the continuing success of the Association and Council appeals to all members to assist in identifying and recruiting prospective new members.

## Districts Reports

Rustenburg District (Kevin Willemse)

- Rustenburg district had a meeting on 4 June 2009. About 100 members attended the four visits arranged and the meeting. A presentation done was on the rehabilitation of a winder .

West Rand District (Leon Neveling)

- The West Rand district had a meeting in March / April, the next meeting is scheduled for 8th July 2009.

Klerksdorp District (Jappie Harmse)

- Meetings are held on a quarterly basis

Northern District (Jappie van der Berg)

- One meeting had been held so far but not active district.

Free State District (Frans Heynecke)

The Eastern district has no representative



# ASSOCIATION OF MINE RESIDENT ENGINEERS

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place on 15 May 2009 at Gold Reef City followed by a dinner. It was attended by 150 members. The new council was elected into office.

A special meeting was held where the constitution was ratified by inclusion of the 2nd vice-president. This made a provision that the council will have a president and two vice-presidents, this is to ensure a spread of work and can have representation where necessary.

## AMRE Website

Our new website has officially been launched bringing something new to all. To stay in touch with new technology and developments around the world and the trend to move away from reading traditional paper literature it was long overdue to bring our web site in line with current demands. What can be easier these days than to click and relevant information is instantly available.

A lot of work still has to be done to bring it to the required standard, but you will find it much more user friendly with links to related web sites.

The following features are included:

- Meet your council members
- Know your district representatives
- Members login
- Updating of personal information
- Upcoming events
- Safety flashes
- Answers to GCC papers
- Sharing ideas – this is a

online chat facility to question fellow engineers or just share an idea

- Finding an fellow engineer
- Leaving specific messages for individuals
- Photo gallery
- And much more.....

It will also be appreciated to know that certain functionalities will only be available to members section thus ensure that you and all your fellow engineers become members of this prestigious association.

I would also like to invite anybody to let me know what you would like to see featuring on the web site. Remember this is our window to the world bringing a new dimension to effective communication and sharing of ideas and milestones.

**Visit us at:**

**[www.amre.org.za](http://www.amre.org.za)**

**Contact me at:**

**[derikb@gbgold.co.za](mailto:derikb@gbgold.co.za)**



# ASSOCIATION OF MINE RESIDENT ENGINEERS

## Upcoming Events

The following events will be taking place:

- AMRE Safety seminar—23 July 2009 @ Kloof Country Club
- AMRE / SACEA Combined meeting 11 August 2009 @ Kloof Country club
- Presidential visit—14 October 2009
- AMRE Golf Day— 15 November 2009

## Strategic Session

**EXTRACTS OF THE NOTE FOR THE RECORD** of the Strategy Planning Session held at the Mount Grace Hotel, Magaliesburg on Friday 29 May 2009 at 13h00 pm.

Mr, Obed Letsholo, President in the Chair for the first time, officially opened the first meeting of the newly constituted Council, and welcomed all present and commented that he hoped that this meeting along with all future ones, would result in fruitful discussions.

'What do we aim to achieve this year for AMRE Council' was the Theme to take home.

### COUNCIL MATTERS SEMINAR: 23 July 2009

Noted that the second seminar of the year the —AMRE Safety Seminar would be held at the Kloof Recreation Club on Thursday, 23 July 2009.

Noted that an announcement would be made at the Seminar of the change in 4.4.1 of the Constitution to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting in 2010.  
Membership

Noted at the meeting that 8 new membership applications had been received and approved.

### Ordinary Membership

Mr V J Thomsen - Driefontein Gold Mine

Mr A Greef - Anglo Platinum  
Mr P Moodley - Anglo Platinum  
Affiliate Membership

Mr P Seyanund - Anglo Platinum

### Student Membership

Ms H Kamedza - Harmony Gold Mine  
Mr R J Vogt AngloGold Ashanti  
Mr M Zibani AngloGold Ashanti  
Mr S Mgxoba Harmony Gold Mine

### STRATEGIC PLANNING Input into DRMs

The President confirmed that a letter concerning the Conveyor Regulations had been circulated to all members and that feedback had been forwarded to Council.

### GCC Examinations

Council confirmed that a draft GCC Examination procedure, had been sent by the DME to Mr Koos Pearson, President of SACEA.

### Constitution Changes / Definitions

Noted that Council had acknowledged the changes to the Constitution on the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents as was previously agreed and ratified in the amended Constitution.

6.2 The **First Vice-president shall on**

*appointment assume the duty to act as Honorary Treasurer*

Noted that Council considered the adjustment to 4.4.1 in the Constitution and that the announcement would be made at the Safety Summit on the 23 July 2009 to be ratified at the AGM in 2010.

### Utilisation of Accumulated Funds

Noted that Council requested that the Secretary inform MPAS Manager of a budget facility increase to accommodate another Bursar for AMRE.

Council suggested that the children of members be considered for selection as bursars and in those cases the parent membership number should be provided.

Noted that any new applications for bursars would be tabled by the Secretary for the Bursary Committee to consider in the future.

### Young Engineers

Debate ensued on Council as to whether young engineers could be groomed for Council - as the Council was seen to be made up of older more mature individuals, and there was a need to close that gap.

Council suggested that District Representatives should select individuals that can be recommended to serve on Council.

### District Representatives.

District Representatives were encouraged to inform members in their districts about the AMRE Council and its functions.

Noted that it had been suggested to discuss the appointing of Alternates, who were not



# ASSOCIATION OF MINE RESIDENT ENGINEERS

## Strategic Session

Engineering Managers, to the District Representatives, and to further discuss the marketing issues related to the AMRE at the August Council meeting.

Council stressed the need for District Representatives to ensure that District Meeting attendance lists be faxed or scanned and emailed to the Secretary or to Ms Mason to ensure that members receive their CPD points for attending.

### **Forthcoming Functions:**

*Joint AMRE/SACEA General Meeting: 11 August 2009.*

The President informed Council that the Joint AMRE / SACEA meeting would take place with AMRE at Kloof Country Club, Glenharvie, as host this year and encouraged all Council members to make an effort to support this opportunity.

Mr Ben Potgieter would convene the meeting .

### **Presidential Visit: 14 - 19 October 2009**

Noted that due to the demise of the country's leader, the visit to Libraville, Gabon would not take place. An alternative destination was being sought and members would be notified in due course.

### **Golf Day: 15 November 2009**

Noted that the Golf Day would take place at Randpark Golf club.

### **Annual Dinner Dance: 27 February 2010**

Noted that the Annual Dinner and Dance would take place on the 27 February 2010 at Gold Reef City.

### **Memorabilia**

Noted that as previously agreed the new AMRE ties would be sold at R100.00 and that the Association would carry the cost of the remaining R30.00

### **AMRE Newsletter**

Noted that Council agreed to forward quarterly Newsletters to members.

### **Bulk SMS**

Noted that the Bulk SMS project had been successfully sorted and that members would be informed of events both by email and sms.

### **Miner's Choice**

Noted that Council approved of the article on AMRE to be published in Miner's Choice under —Lets Meet AMRE'.

Part of the service to the industry would include the Associations published with a free subscription to all members.

Website

### **ASSOCIATION OF MINE RESIDENT ENGINEERS : REPRESENTATION**

During the year under review, the Association has continued to be represented with distinction on numerous Committees, on which it plays a significant role.

### **District Representatives**

East Rand VACANT

Free State F P Heynecke

Klerksdorp J J C Harmse

Northern J Van Der Berg

Rustenburg K L Willemse

West Rand L J Neveling

### **Editorial Sub- Committee**

J F Jansen van Rensburg

C D Swanepoel

### **Honorary Treasurer ( Vice – President)**

G Bullen

### **Presidents and Vice- Presidents**

O N T Letsholo

G Bullen

### **MPAS Committee of Management**

O N T Letsholo

G Bullen

### **CM & EE**

O NT Letsholo

G Bullen

### **Bursary Selection Committee**

J C Kruger

O N T Letsholo

### **AMRE Webmaster**

F K Botha

### **ECSA : Registration Committee**

BP O'Connor -Representative

C D Swanepoel - Alternate

### **MQA / MPA Steering Committee**

O N T Letsholo

B O'Connor

### **MPA Sub- Committees**

M&M SGB (Alternate Eng Representative) B

O'Connor / J Kruger

Eng 5-8 Working Group (Alternate) - B P

O'Con-nor/ G Bullen

ESGB – Stage 2 Technologists (Rep) - B

O'Con-nor

### **Commission of Examiners**

### **Certificates of Competency**

F K Botha - Representative

G B Bullen C Swanepoel

### **SIMRAC Expert Panel**

C D Swanepoel (R K Wardle)



# ASSOCIATION OF MINE RESIDENT ENGINEERS

## Safety Seminar - Legal update

### Summary of Lecture given by Warren Beech 21 April 2009

Warren during his introduction indicated that communication between the various departments, mining and service departments, is critical to enable a safe environment. This has become evident from more than 600 fatal enquiries which Warren has been involved with.

The current number of fatal accidents for 2009 is already showing a worse trend than that of the previous three years.

Warren advised that all engineers including all junior engineers should at least once in a career, if and when the opportunity arises, attend a fatal enquiry in order to understand the mechanism, procedure and personal grief experienced during such an enquiry.

The general trend in the past year has been for the principal inspectors to target the 4.1 appointees and 2.13.1 appointees with the aim of prosecuting individuals.

The most recent amendment to the mine health and safety act which is currently in version 54 D came about since 10 August 2008 after meetings were held between the principal inspector and mine managers as well as mine managers representatives as part of the public participation process. The amendment was signed by the president on 15 April 2009.

If one considers the statistics of accidents resulting in fatalities there are generally three main categories in which they can be divided. They are falls of ground, machinery and other.

**Falls of ground (FOG)** are generally as a result of unsupported ground and support standards not being complied to.

**Machinery** accidents are generally as a result of rail bound equipment (RBE), conveyors, trackless mining machinery (TMM) and winches.

**Other;** the single biggest cause of fatalities in this category is falling from heights. Slip and fall being a secondary cause.

Warren then shared the story of a site visit to a construction company which he had undertaken recently. He was invited to inspect the site from the highest most point and subsequently issued with the necessary safety equipment. He questioned why the full body harness with which he had been issued only had a single lanyard. He was assured that this was standard practice on the site. When reaching the top walkway they attached to a horizontal lifeline, however when travelling along the walkway they arrived at a point where the lanyard had to be disconnected for a few seconds to pass by a vertical upright and then reconnected to the lifeline. The end result of this practice is that everyone travelling along the walkway is exposed to the danger of falling from height every time the lanyard is disconnected. It was evident that all the employees working on the platform were accustomed to the practice. After returning to ground level the site supervisor and manager were questioned about this practice. **The moral being** that if you want to ensure your employees are working safely you need to visit the workplace.

A question was raised as to how a senior engineer in a more administrative position can mitigate his liability. Legal appointments such as 2.7 and 2.13.1 (engineering manager) There are a number of aspects that a senior engineer needs to ensure are in place.

**Firstly** the appointment structure must be in place and correct. **Secondly** the competency of the people appointed

should be appropriate as well as various skills needed to carry out the work. **Thirdly** feedback and communication is of utmost importance and systems should be in place to facilitate communication. **Fourthly**, the importance of over inspections cannot be emphasised enough.

When carrying out over inspections check the log books. Read what is written in the log books and check whether or not actions that have been recorded have been followed up.

**Stored energy:** Do not believe that stored energy only acts in a vertical plane.

**Code for rail bound equipment (RBE).**

Errors which have come to light during enquiries. Codes of practice are not reviewed correctly / formally and tirelessly.

Do not put items in your COP with which you cannot comply to or do not comply with.

Engineers regularly forget to consult Chapter 20, "Machinery: Special safety Measures" of the Minerals Act And Regulations (MA&R). It has to date not been repealed and is thus still in force. Chapter 20 has to be read in conjunction with the new Chapter 8, "Machinery and Equipment" of MSHA.

**Code of practice for trackless mining machinery (TMM) - points of concern.**

Do you have a vehicle population register and is it up-to-date? Does the vehicle population register reflect all the contractors' vehicles? Due to the fact that these registers change regularly, do not insert them in your COP, rather refer to a register.

Do you have a visibility diagram for every vehicle?

Authorisation of operators: Regulation 18.1.1 (MA&R) has been repealed many years ago. Authorisation of operators should be done in accordance with clause 8.5 of the mandatory COP guidelines.

**New conveyor regulations.** How many are aware of the changes, and how many have actually implemented all the requirements of



# ASSOCIATION OF MINE RESIDENT ENGINEERS

## Safety Seminar - Legal update

the new regulations.

It is well known that the new regulations are under review however in a court of law the current regulations as they stand are valid and binding.

The interpretation of the regulations regarding the working on moving machinery is extremely onerous and in most cases not practical. For example the alignment of a conveyor belt in the new regulations appears to be impracticable. However, Regulation 20.6 (MA&R) does allow you to permit persons, to work on moving machinery.

Take note that there are two types of code of practice.

Firstly a section 9.(1) cop where the employer may prepare any COP on any matter affecting healthy and safety.

Secondly, a section 9.(2) cop is a mandatory code of practice required by the Chief Inspector and has to conform to a guideline.

### Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)

MHSA section 21.1 requires that the supplier of a machine is bound by the act to comply with the requirements of the act and regulations. However, when a mine requires modifications alterations to the machinery the responsibility in terms of these modifications could revert to the mine.

### Management of contractors

Codes of practice implemented by contractors must be approved by the mine.

Very little is said in the MHSA regarding the management of contractors, therefore, when it comes to the management of contractors attention should be paid to the occupational health and safety act and regulations with specific reference to construction and the general machinery regulations. Although this

act is not regularly referred to in the mining industry it should generally be complied with. In a court of law when mitigating the reasonable practicable person, the use of all available knowledge is critical.

### Lessons learnt.

#### Appointment structures-

- must be made by the correct people

#### Know what is in your appointment-

- in some cases people can carry dual appointments

#### Know your responsibilities- five key possibilities for any appointed engineer

- Hazard identification and risk assessment;
- Put in place measures to address the hazards and risks;
- Health and safety training as well as communication;
- Ensure that all appointments are in place and the competency of the appointed people and
- Conduct over inspections and record your findings.

#### Changes to the mine health and safety act

There are numerous changes and one should refer to the Government Gazette No. 32140, notice No. 428 dated 17/04/2009, however, the most important for the Engineer and Manager are as follows.

#### First change is to section 10:

**(4) The employer must keep a record of all formal training pro-**

**vided in respect of each employee in terms of subsection (2).**

The employer shall keep records or formal training even to employees.

#### Second change is to section 11:

**(aA) commence an investigation referred to in paragraph (a) within 10 days from the date of such accident, serious illness or health threatening occurrence**

Requires that an employer investigates all incidents and accidents and then generate a report with all possible actions required prevent further occurrence

#### Fourth change to section 20

**Section 20 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition of the following subsection:**

**(7) An employee lodging an appeal under subsection (1) may not be the outcome of the appeal.**

The employer may not prejudiced or dismiss until an appeal has been heard.

#### Fifth change is to section 50(7) A

**(7A) The Inspector may impose a prohibition on the further**

The inspector may prevent access to a site of any accident by blocking or barricading.

#### Sixth change is to section 86A

#### **Criminal liability**

A task team is busy reviewing this change

#### In Conclusion

It is important to ensure a conscientious review of all codes of practice, procedures and standards.

Changes to these standards must find a way into training schedules. Changes should also be communicated to all employees that are affected. Record-keeping of communication is of vital importance.