

The Annual Joint Meeting of SME Pittsburgh Section and the Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute of America (PCMIA) will be held October 21 and 22, 2004 at the Hilton Garden Inn – South Pointe, Canonsburg, PA. The new location is easily reached right off Interstate 79 (Exit 48), about 15 miles south of Pittsburgh.

The joint meeting has a long tradition: It is the 118th Annual Meeting of the PCMIA and also constitutes the 59th Annual Off-The-Record Meeting of SME Pittsburgh Section.

This Year's keynote speakers are Dr. Stan Suboleski, Commissioner, Federal Mine Safety And Health Review Commission, Colin M. Kelly, President, Prairie State Generating Co., LLC, Rita Bajura, Director, National Energy Technology Lab and SME President Art Schweizer. SME Executive Director, Dave Kanagy, will be in attendance as well.

Dr. Jürgen Brune, SME Pittsburgh Section Chair, notes that having an outstanding, diverse group of keynote speakers combined with a strong, up-to-date technical program is attractive to representatives from the mining industry, government, academia, mining equipment manufacturers, mine service industries and consultants. Approximately 200 attendees are expected.

The technical program encompasses three technical sessions: "Mine Emergency Response Planning, Preparedness and Mine Rescue", "New Technology in Mining" and "Factors in Longwall Operation" with 10 technical papers representing operating experience and new findings from research and development.

An additional student session will give the winners of Student Design Awards an opportunity to present their work. Program details will be available at www.smepittsburgh.org in August.

The conference also presents a great forum for the presentation of awards such as the PCMIA Stephen McCann Educational Excellence Award, the PCMIA Student Design Award, the PCMIA Donald S. Kingery Student Award and the PCMIA/SME Regional Science Fair Award (Teacher & Student). SME Pittsburgh Section presents the SME 25 Year Member Recognition, a special award for the SME 50 Year Member Recognition, the SME Pittsburgh Section Young Engineer Award (that leads to a nomination for the J.W. Woomeer Award), SME Pittsburgh Section Distinguished Member Award and SME Pittsburgh Section Service Awards.

The meeting ends on Friday with another highlight: The PCMIA 12th Annual Night at the Races at the Meadowlands Race Track near Washington PA where attendees and guests have an opportunity to apply their "horse sense" and socialize among colleagues and friends.

The new venue at the Hilton Garden Inn presents excellent conference facilities and a large vendor exhibit space. The organizers hope to attract several vendors and exhibits to complement the technical session and provide background information for the attendees.

The Annual SME/PCMIA Joint meeting is a great opportunity to network with colleagues from the coal and other mining industries, state and federal government agencies and universities (Penn State, West Virginia University, University of Kentucky and Virginia Tech are regulars and to exchange opinions about current issues and future trends in the mining industry.

For further information contact Dr. Jürgen F. Brune, Chair, Joint Meeting Organizing Committee NIOSH Pittsburgh Research Lab, (412) 386-4922 or jbrune@cdc.gov