

# **Mine Metallurgical Managers' Association**

**25 Years**

**COUNCIL : 2007/2008**

**President**

G A Cormack  
Central Rand Gold

**Senior Vice-President**

E A Dhlamini  
Anglo Operations Ltd – Kleinkopje Colliery

**Junior Vice-President**

GJ Jonck  
  
Exxaro - Technology

**Immediate Past President**

C J Dunne  
Impala Platinum – Mineral Processes

**Elected Members (until 31 August 2008)**

N G C Blackham  
De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd

K de Wit  
Xstrata Coal

T T Ndlovu  
Sasol Mining

**Elected Members (until 31 August 2009)**

CC Horsley

Rand Refinery

K McMillan

Anglo Operations

R E L Pobe

UraMin Inc

**District Representatives**

**Central District**

C J le Roux - *resigned*  
Kloof Gold Mine

R Vorster  
GFL Mining

**Eastern District**

K Martin  
Arnot Colliery, Exxaro

**Northern District**

N Kumalinga - *resigned*  
Marula Platinum Mine

A McClelland - *resigned*  
Motololo – Anglo Platinum

**Rustenburg District**

L Nyandeni  
Anglo Platinum - WLTRP

**Southern District**

L T van Niekerk  
Beatrix Gold Mine

**Co-opted**

C A Roode  
Metenco

MM Valenta

Metallicon Process  
**Secretary**

M Mason  
S Geere

**Offices**  
Chamber of Mines of South Africa

**REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2008**

Presented to members of the Association on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting held at the Oppenheimer Golf Course, Welkom on Friday, 24 October 2008.

**FINANCE**

**Financial Statements**

The financial statement appended to this report shows that revenue for the year amounted to **R971 476**, made up of subscriptions received from members during the year, interest earned from funds invested with First National Bank and revenue earned on the sale of Association memorabilia, plus the surplus arising from the seminars, social events and other functions held during the year under review.

Expenditure amounted to **R891 816**. Accumulated funds at the beginning of the financial year amounted to **R347 063** and, with the transfer of the current year's net surplus; an amount of **R 426 722** will be carried forward to the new financial year.

**Subscriptions**

In terms of the powers vested in it by the Association's Constitution and Rules, Council fixed subscriptions for the year under review at **R 640** for Ordinary Members, **R 605** for Associate and Affiliate Members and **R 85** for Retired Members. Council made a unanimous decision not to charge Students subscription fees.

Council's decision to increase membership fees in line with inflation was taken in order to maintain the Association's strong financial base. It is considered that members receive extremely good value for their annual fee, which includes costs associated with attendance at General and Annual General Meetings and compares extremely favourably with other bodies.

Subscription collection, which has been a major cause of concern in recent years, has become an extremely slow and onerous process. The Association relies on this income for its monthly operating costs and members are requested to assist in this

process by personally ensuring their subscription has been paid, and also by informing the Secretariat of any change in their contact details.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the Association as at 31 August 2008 was **546** (533) members, made up of **142** (136) Ordinary Members, **84** (83) Associate Members, **297** (290) Affiliate Members, **0** (1) Student Member, **11** (11) Retired Members and **12** (12) Honorary Life Members. This represents a net increase of **13** members.

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 and long-term survival of the Association. Council urges all members to assist in its ongoing endeavours in identifying and recruiting prospective new members.

## **SAFETY**

This item continues to be taken as the first item for discussion at Council meetings and, with its many safety interventions, Council believes that the Association makes a valuable contribution to continued safety awareness in the metallurgical mining industry.

MMMA had their first Safety Summit on 22 August 2008 at the AngloGold Ashanti Village Club. This seminar attracted an excellent attendance of 89 delegates and MMMA wish to thank Anglo Platinum for their talented choir who sang a selection of safety songs which were thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. We also wish to thank Anglo Operations Limited for their kind sponsorship of the Seminar.

### **Safety Flashes**

As part of Council's proactive approach, informative "Safety Flashes" are regularly circulated to members. These are compiled from incident reports given at the monthly Council meetings.

### **Chemical and Allied Industries Association**

Your Association maintains close links with this forum and continues to receive reports of meetings, which are subsequently circulated to Council. Any safety items of particular interest are then disseminated to the membership at various Association meetings.

### **Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee**

Council would like to thank the Chamber for making documents emanating from this Committee, which is the main employer caucus for the Mining Regulations Advisory Committee, available to Council as, in this way, it can keep abreast of developments

in the area of Health and Safety in the Mining Industry and take up any issues of concern with individual Mining Groups.

### **Safety Achievements**

As well as incident reports, any safety achievements are also recorded at Council meetings. Congratulations are extended to those mines/plants that have attained noteworthy achievements. Safety achievements by mines/plants, with representation within the Association, that are brought to the attention of Council, are duly noted and acknowledgement of these achievements is given to them by letter. Association members are also kept informed electronically of these achievements.

### **SAFETY COMPETITION AWARDS**

Since its inception 13 years ago, the popularity of this competition has not waned, which can be recognised by the large number of entries received each year.

The Safety Sub-Committee of Council has evaluated the entries, the measurement period being July 2007 to June 2008, and the awards will be made at the Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting.

At the 2007 AGM, the annual Safety Awards were awarded to the following:

#### Category 1 - + 150 tpm

Anglogold Ashanti – South Uranium Plant

#### Runners-up

Anglogold Ashanti – East Gold, Acid and Float Plant

Anglogold Ashanti – Mponeng Gold Plant

Anglogold Ashanti – Vaal River Tailings

Anglogold Ashanti – West Wits Tailings Plant

Anglo Platinum – Waterval UG2 Concentrator

Aquarius Platinum – K2 PSA Concentrator

Harmony One Plant

Geita Gold Process Plant

Greenside 4 Seam Plant

Goedehoop Bank 2 Plant

Minopex Marikana Plant

Sadiola Hill Gold Plant

Siguri CIP Plant

Siguri HL Plant

#### **Category 2 - - 150 tpm**

Anglogold Ashanti – West Gold Plant

#### Runners-up

Anglogold Ashanti – Nufcor Plant  
 Barberton Mines – Sheba Gold Plant  
 Greenside Seam 5 Plant

Category 3 – Assay Laboratories

Anglo Coal Central Laboratory

Runners-up

Anglogold Ashanti – Vaal River Chemical Laboratory  
 Beatrix Assay Laboratory  
 Northam Platinum Laboratory  
 RPM – Amandelbult  
 RPM – PF Retief Laboratory

**AWARDS FOR BEST PAPER PRESENTED**

Council has been concerned in recent years at the shortage of papers available for publication and, as it would like to continue the established tradition of publishing the annual circulars, appeals to members to forward papers they may have written to the Secretary for consideration by the Editorial Sub-Committee. Alternatively, members could consider adapting presentations they have made at various meetings into paper format.

**PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

The prize for academic achievement was awarded to Mr B Edmond, who achieved an aggregate of 74% in his examinations at the Tshwane University.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Council would like to place on record its appreciation to the Chamber of Mines for its annual publication subsidy, which enables it to continue with publication of these prestigious Circulars. These publications, as well as being useful reference documents, are a permanent record of the Association's achievements throughout the years.

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

Your Council, in its efforts to fulfil the function for which it was elected by members, i.e. to represent and promote the interests of metallurgical professionals in the mining industry, has initiated many projects, with the objective of improving the operational effectiveness of the Association.

## **MPA Steering Committee**

During the year the MPA Steering Committee met on a regular basis to deal with the issues that arose regarding the new qualifications. The MMMA enjoys observer status on this committee.

Most of the work relating to the original mandate is nearing completion and it is hoped that the mandate will be finalised within the next few months.

Once the mandate has been completed it is envisaged that the steering committee will remain, albeit with a different focus. A grouping of Mining Industry Professional Associations/Institutions will be established to ensure that mining industry professionals are adequately represented with a common voice within ECSA structures.

## **ECSA**

Council is hopeful that, during the coming year, the Association will meet the criteria fixed by ECSA to ensure its recognition as a Voluntary Association and urges members to submit their registration form as a matter of urgency.

The new draft legislation to identify what type of engineering work was required to be carried out by a registered person was put out for comment by ECSA. The MMMA, as well as the MPA steering committee itself, gave feedback regarding areas of concern and arranged, in conjunction with the Chamber, to have an “acid test” performed by an independent grouping in order to ascertain the effect of the implementation of this legislation. Feedback has been given and the steering committee will continue to play a role in the development of the legislation to ensure minimal impact on the industry.

## **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

Those MMMA members who are registered with ECSA will by now be aware of the requirements regarding CPD. The MPA steering committee will assume the function of establishing and overseeing a common CPD policy for the participating Associations.

As part of its service to members, an annual statement of CPD credits in Categories 1 and 3, applicable to attendance at the various meetings of the Association, will be prepared and will be available to individual members on request. Please take note that credits can only be awarded if members have signed an attendance register, which will be archived in the MPAS offices in the event of audit.

In line with the Association's declared objectives, that of addressing issues relevant to the metallurgical profession within the mining industry, focus has been directed towards many topical and pertinent matters at the many diverse meetings held during the year.

The Association's continued viability and success depends to a large extent on active participation by members at the many diverse meetings and functions which, despite difficulties currently being experienced in the Industry, have attracted good attendance levels. Council would like to stress that members, rather than feeling obligated to take part in Association activities, should actively enjoy their participation.

In addition to the regular monthly Council meetings, the following meetings were also convened:

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting was held at the Kloof Country Club, on 26 October 2007 and was attended by 61 members and guests.

### **General Meeting**

The General Meeting, incorporating technical visits, was held at the Sasol Secunda Club on 23 May 2008 and attracted some 36 members and guests. Several very diverse presentations were delivered at this meeting.

### **District Meetings**

Council is pleased to report that for the most part these meetings, held regularly during the current year and incorporating technical visits, attracted good attendance levels despite, in many instances, the long travelling distances involved.

Your Council acknowledges the hard work of the District Representatives in organising these meetings and relies heavily on them to disseminate information to the membership on Association matters and activities.

Council would like to place on record its thanks to the hosts for providing the venues for all Association meetings.

### **Meetings with other Professional Associations**

As has become the practice over recent years, meetings of the Association Presidents and Vice-Presidents were held during November and July. These meetings serve the purpose of fostering an *esprit de corps* amongst the Associations and provide an excellent forum where matters of concern and mutual interest to the 11 Mines Professional Associations (MPAs) may be discussed at an inter-Association level, as well as with senior officials of the Chamber of Mines.

## **MPAS Committee of Management**

Many concerns have arisen over recent years regarding the management of MPAS and its relationship with the Chamber of Mines, which had never actually been formalised.

Discussions on these concerns led to the formation of the Committee of Management, comprising representatives of the 11 MPAs. The Committee is addressing many issues such as MPAS functions, tightening-up of accounting practices, etc.

The MPAs have long valued their relationship with the Chamber, although no formal agreement has ever been made regarding being under its auspices for functions such as staff conditions and salaries, HR functions, etc. Representatives of the Committee recently met with the Chief Executive of the Chamber, subsequent to which a memorandum of agreement between the two bodies has now been drawn-up.

## **Seminars / Workshops**

An extremely successful seminar on “Protecting our Environment” was held on 28 March 2008, at the Randfontein Estates Sports Club, and attracted an attendance of 45 delegates.

As previously mentioned a second successful seminar entitled “Safety Summit” was held on 22 August 2008 at the AngloGold Ashanti Village Club.

A Workshop on Metal Accounting took place on the 1 August 2008 and 92 attended and special thanks to the three sponsorships of the day, Citec, Mincom and Csense.

All of these seminars were accredited and all delegates received CPD certificates.

Council wishes to place on record its appreciation to all involved in the organisation of these interesting and informative seminars, which have long been a highlight of the Association’s calendar.

## **Presidential / Technical Visit: 2008**

15 members plus the Secretary and Travel Guide participated in a very successful technical visit to the Tanzania from 27 August to 31 August 2008. Members participated in extremely interesting and informative visits to Geita Gold Mine, Bulyanhulu and Buzwagi. The weekend concluded with a very enjoyable two night stay in Dar es Salaam.

Council wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation to the hosts of the technical visits and their staff members, as well as to all others who contributed towards the success of the visit.

It should be pointed out that, although the technical content of these visits is of great interest and value, networking and information sharing, as well as the sense of camaraderie that is generated during such visits are also of paramount importance to participants.

### **Golf Day**

The eleventh annual golf day was held on Sunday, 3 August 2008, at the Randfontein Golf Club, with 21 four balls, and all **84** participants having enjoyed an extremely successful day.

Special thanks to Metenco for the donation of the trophy as well as to Mr Roode for all the arrangements.

### **Race Day**

The eighth annual race day was held in conjunction with the Gommagomma challenge at Turffontein Race Course on Saturday, 3 May 2008 and despite the inclement weather, attracted a reasonable number of members and guests.

### **Association Dinner**

The eighth annual dinner was held in the Oppenheimer Room, Gold Reef City on 20 September 2008. A convivial evening was enjoyed by the 240 guests, with entertainment having been provided by *Luan De Beer and dancers* as the after dinner entertainers. Guests then danced the night away to the sounds of *Duane Rockwell and his Disco*. This new entertainment format has proved immensely popular with dinner guests.

### **Sponsorship**

Council would like to express its appreciation to all those companies who generously sponsor these social functions and would like to stress that any surplus funds arising from them are used to the benefit of young metallurgists by way of Council's many educational initiatives.

Council also wishes to place on record its grateful thanks to all who contributed to the success of the three social functions. It would also like to encourage those members who have not yet participated to take advantage of Council's efforts to promote social interaction.

## **LIAISON WITH OTHER BODIES**

### **SAIMM**

The good working relationship, established some time ago with this Institute is ongoing, with the Association being represented on the SAIMM Council and

Technical Committees. A reciprocal agreement is also in place, whereby an SAIMM Council member attends the MMMA Council meetings.

The two bodies complement each other well and keep each other's members informed of forthcoming conferences, seminars, etc.

### **Coal Processing Society (CPS)**

Members from collieries situated in the Eastern District enjoy their liaison with the CPS, with District meetings taking the format of joint meetings of the two bodies.

## **EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES**

It has now become a tradition to utilise surplus funds, generated throughout the year from social events, seminars, etc, for the benefit of young metallurgists. During the current year, the following initiatives have been undertaken.

### **Bursary / Award**

Mr A Ramburan currently studying at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal was awarded a bursary to cover tuition fees for the 2008 Academic year.

Noted that despite Ms K A Mogapi performing very well in her experiential training in 2007 she had been awarded a full bursary by Sishen (Kumba) and therefore could not accept the MMMA bursary.

The Strategic Planning Sub-Committee therefore identified second candidates, however due the fact that the students had not responded timeously, the Committee had decided to hold over the bursary award for 2009.

### **Travel Grant / Technical Visit**

The 2008 travel grant, to participate in the Presidential Visit, was awarded to Mr T B Maiwashie from Impala Platinum. He will deliver a presentation on the visit at the AGM.

### **Donation of Technical Books**

The annual book donations, in the amount of R 2 500 each, which are offered to the nine recognised Institutions of Higher Learning on a three year rotational basis, were this year offered to the Universities of Johannesburg, KwaZulu Natal and Stellenbosch.

### **Educational Institutions**

Your Association enjoys a good relationship with the Institutions of Higher Learning situated throughout South Africa and, whenever possible, visits these Institutions in

order to inform students about the Association and bring their attention to the prospect of metallurgy in the mining industry as a career choice.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Website**

The website, which is considered to reflect the status and professionalism of the Association, is updated regularly. The website gives members valuable information on Association activities, as well as the displaying the presentations given at various meetings and seminars. Members are invited to visit the site at [www.mmma.org.za](http://www.mmma.org.za).

### **Electronic Mail**

The membership database contains email addresses of members and, as a cost saving initiative, the Secretariat is utilising this preferred method of communication as far as possible.

However, Council stresses that for this initiative to be fully successful, the responsibility falls on individual members to keep the Secretary informed of current e-mail addresses and contact details.

## **REPRESENTATION**

The following internal, as well as external, Sub-Committees were formed to assist and advise Council in its deliberations:

### **Standing Committee**

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| G A Cormack     | President             |
| E A Dhlamini    | Senior Vice-President |
| G J Jonck       | Junior Vice-President |
| C J Pearson     | Imm-Past President    |
| R Vorster       | Central District      |
| K Martin        | Eastern District      |
| A McClelland    | Northern District     |
| L Nyandeni      | Rustenburg District   |
| L T van Niekerk | Southern District     |

### **Editorial**

C C Horsley (**Chairman**)  
 G Cormack(**Vice-Chairman**)  
 K De Wit  
 K McMillan  
 T T Ndlovu  
 M M Valenta

**Membership**

E A Dhlamini (**Chairman**)  
N G C Blackham (**Vice-Chairman**)  
C J Pearson

**Safety**

N G C Blackham (**Chairman**)  
K McMillan (**Vice Chairman**)  
K de Wit  
G J Jonck  
R E L Pobe  
L T van Niekerk

**Seminar/Workshop**

M M Valenta(**Chairman**)  
K McMillan (**Vice-Chairman**)  
A McClelland  
R Vorster  
T T Ndlovu  
K Martin  
L Nyandeni  
REL Pobe

**Strategic Planning/Budget**

G A Cormack (**Chairman**)  
E A Dhlamini (**Vice-Chairman**)  
C J Pearson

**Educational Institutions (Liaison)**

C A Roode (**Chairman**)  
N G C Blackham  
CC Horsley  
M M Valenta  
L T van Niekerk

**Presidents and Vice-Presidents**

G A Cormack  
E A Dhlamini  
CJ Jonck

**MPAS Committee of Management**

G A Cormack  
E A Dhlamini

**MPAS Budgetary**

G A Cormack  
E A Dhlamini  
CJ Jonck

**SAIMM**

N G C Blackham  
CC Horsley  
M M Valenta

**MQA-ECSA**

C A Roode  
R E L Pobe  
M M Valenta

**MPA Steering Committee**

K de Wit (Representative)

**(Observer Status Only)**

R E L Pobe  
C A Roode (Alternate)

**Standing Committee on Security**

G A Cormack (Representative – only when required)  
N G C Blackham

**Tshwane University of Technology Advisory Committee**

C A Roode ( Representative)  
TT Ndlovu (Alternate)

Your Council wishes to place on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to all those members who gave of their time and effort to represent the Association on the various committees.

**APPRECIATION**

Finally, the Council wishes to express its appreciation to all members, both old and new, for their continued support, and especially to those who have provided input in one form or another, as well as to mining groups and metallurgical companies for their continued support of the Association.

The Council also wishes to record its appreciation, on behalf of the Association, for the Administrative services and other facilities rendered by the Chamber of Mines and to extend its gratitude to the Secretariat and its staff for their good management of the Association's affairs.

**G A CORMACK**

**PRESIDENT**