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## THE ALASKA MINER

Journal of the Alaska Miners Association





#### **Dear AMA Members and Friends,**

This is such an amazing season for us, filled with hard work, activities, and memories. There are the holidays to celebrate and time to be thankful for our many blessings. But first, there's the joy and satisfaction of another great Annual Convention in the books. And after, there's the reality that in a just a month, we will start another year in the neverending adventure of Alaska mining!

First the thanks: I am incredibly thankful for the more than 1,300 miners and support companies who attended the convention, another new record! We're so appreciative for the 156 companies who exhibited at our sold-out trade show, an event so popular we got to add booths to the lobby! Our convention would not be possible if it weren't for the generous support from our vendors and sponsors. People wouldn't be interested in the event if we didn't have great speakers and presentations arranged by talented session chairs, fun events attended by fun people, and interactive experiences that we are all a part of.

Support of the AMA Convention not only helps us put on a fantastic event, but it is one of our largest fundraisers, meaning, support helps sustain our year-round mission. Our comments and testimony, Action Alerts, advocacy events like Alaska Mining Day, Alaska Night at Roundup, Juneau Mining Forum, and the dozens of presentations given throughout the year, our social media presence, and so on. Your generosity ensures we can advocate for Alaska's



Deantha did not win the rock fight!

mining industry, and we couldn't be more grateful.

If you attended, you know it's impossible to see and do and take in all of the biggest week in Alaska mining. There was so much to share from that incredible convention that there isn't room in this month's journal! So, watch for much more in the winter issue of The Alaska Miner magazine and the December issue of this journal.

Elsewhere in this Journal you'll see some of the highlights, including our 2024 AMA Rock Stars of Alaska's Mining Industry awardees.

Thankful is an understatement when it comes to our incredible convention committee and our amazing team of volunteers: Kevin Adler, Steve Teller, Sue Karl, Zoom Szumigala, Traci Hartz, Raesha Hartz, Vanessa Larimer, Bonnie Broman, Miles McDonald, Varina Zinno, Eric

Cannon, Doug Kriner, Wescott Bott, Dave Hedderly-Smith, Tom Bundtzen, Wendie MacNaughton and Lisa Cassino.

This talented group spends hours and hours planning, reviewing, arranging, and perfecting our amazing event. I know you are thankful for their efforts, too.

I also want to point out our contractors who annually join our team and understand the mining family: Christy Andresen with Logistics, Brian Bayless at IMIG, Joe and Debra from Alaska Event Services, Malia that does all of our graphic design, MAPTS for doing MSHA refreshers, PIP Printing — and so many more!

This time of year and always, I am so thankful for the AMA Staff. Jennifer, Carin and Darlene. They truly make AMA go and make the organization look good every day, and especially convention week.

We care about what you think! If you haven't done so already, please respond to our convention survey, to let us know what we can do better for 2025.

Again, thank you, from the bottom of my heart for your role in maing our Convention a success, and your involvement in AMA all year long. I wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving and upcoming holidays, and look forward to celebrating with you soon and in 2025!



Deantha Skibinski, Executive Director

The Alaska Miner is the official journal of the Alaska Miners Association, published eight times a year exclusively to our members. It is published in partnership with the Alaska Miners Association by Fireweed Strategies LLC, 4849 Potter Crest Circle, Anchorage, AK 99516.

We actively seek contributions from our members and the mining industry. Please email story ideas and photos to Lee Leschper.

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National Mining Association President Rich Nolan recently made his first trip to Alaska and was the keynote speaker for the Alaska State Chamber's Alaska Business Summit in October in Fairbanks. Rich and his wife, Heather, were able to spend time touring the Contango Ore Johnson Tract Project, Usibelli Coal Mine, Fort Knox and Fairbanks Creek Mine. Thank you to the AMA members and the Alaska Chamber for rolling out the red carpet for our NMA friends!

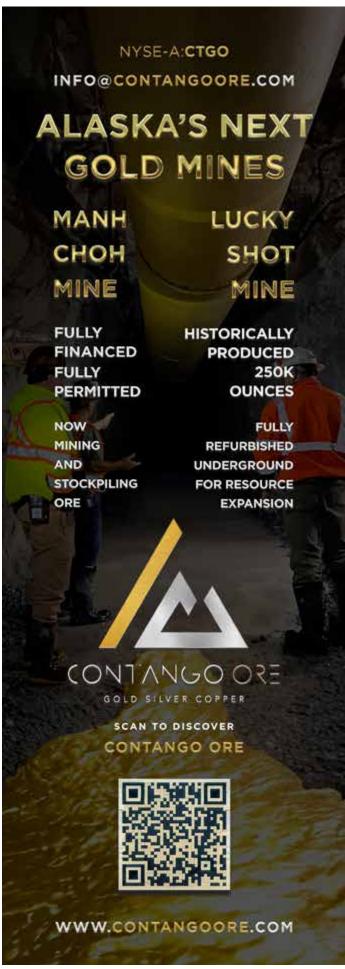














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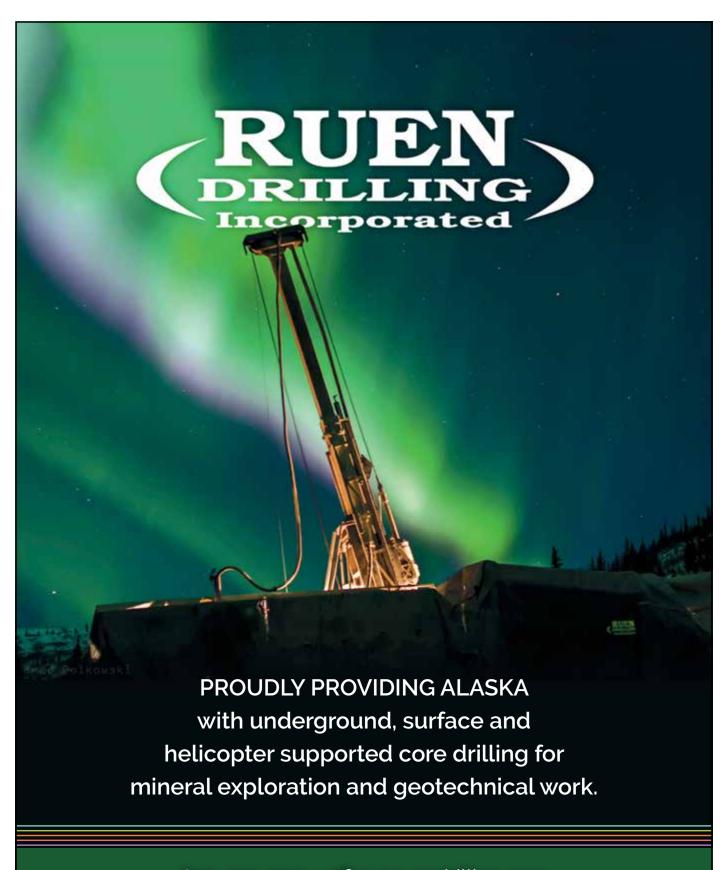




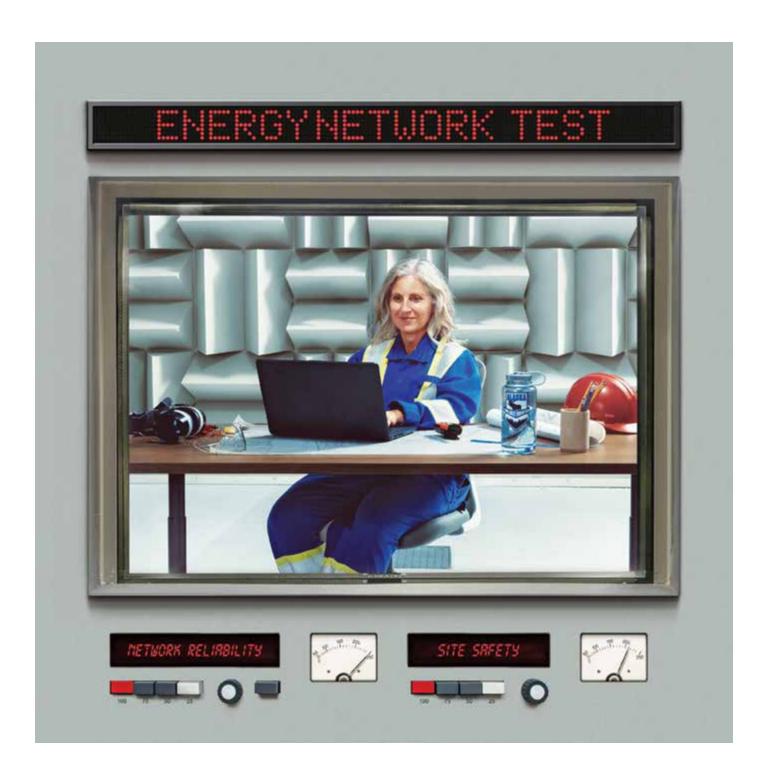




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Each year the Alaska Resource Education's biggest fundraiser is during the AMA convention and at the annual banquet. Please support ARE at the convention and all year long. This year ARE is now taking a key role in the Academies of Anchorage program with AISD. Here ARE is leading students who are learning in the Natural Resource Management class at Dimond High School.













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## Convention 2024 Was a Resounding Success!



The AMA Convention was a success on all levels, thanks to you, our Alaska Mining Family! From our sold-out trade show to exceptional corporate support, the 2024 edition of the Convention was one for the books.

Among the highlights was the honoring of our Alaska mining superstars during the annual Awards Banquet. This year's prestigious honorees are:

- Corporate Member of The Year: Usibelli Coal Mine
- New Mine Award: Kinross Alaska and Contango Ore
- Hard Hat Safety Award: Black Gold Transport
- Rock Star of Public Service: John Hoppe, BLM
- Volunteer Member of The Year: Vanessa Larimer, Contango Ore
- Chuck Hawley Lifetime Achievement Award: Meg Smith, Kinross Alaska

We will provide detailed recognition of each honoree, and extensive Convention coverage, in the next issue of The Alaska Miner Magazine.









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Let's Talk

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#### Red Dog Mine Honored by NMA, Federal Agencies for Safety

Teck Alaska's Red Dog Mine in Alaska has been honored for a stellar record in safety during 2023.

In a ceremony in Las Vegas, Nev., the National Mining Association (NMA), the U.S. National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) honored outstanding achievements in mine safety, technology and reclamation nationwide.

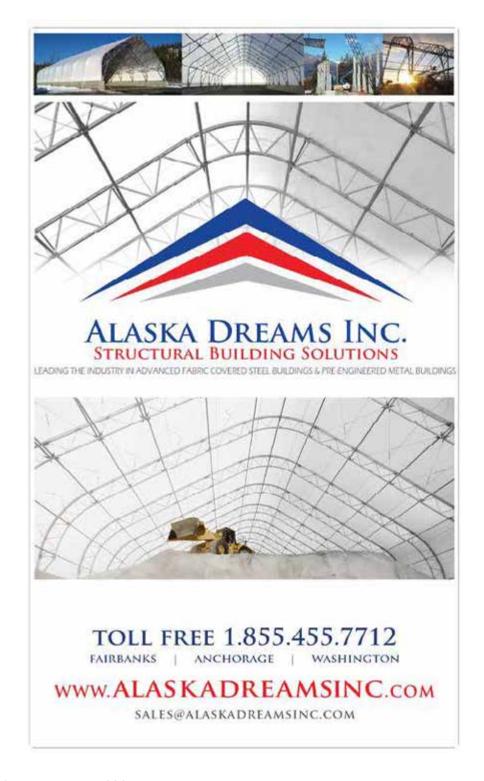
Teck Alaska Inc.'s Red Dog Operations in Kotzebue was honored in the Large Metal/ Nonmetal Mill category.

The NMA's Sentinels of Safety Award recognizes coal and mineral mining operations in 10 categories for recording the most hours in a calendar year without a single lost-time injury. A minimum of 4,000 hours is required for award consideration. The award categories reflect the safety accomplishments of both small and large mines.

Twenty American mining operations – six coal mines and 14 mineral/metal mines – were honored for their extraordinary safety performance in 2023.

"No matter the size of the company, or the material mined, these awards show that safety is of the utmost importance across this diverse and vibrant industry," said Rich Nolan, NMA president and CEO. "As the demand for mined materials continues to grow, so does our industry's unshakeable focus on safety, and the innovative ways that modern mining utilizes advanced technologies to reduce risks across the mine environment."

Initiated in 1923 by then
Commerce Secretary Herbert
Hoover, a former mining engineer,
the Sentinels of Safety Award
program remains the nation's most
prestigious recognition of mine
safety and has helped foster a
strong safety commitment on the
part of U.S. mines.





### **Thank You to Our 2024 Convention Sponsors!**

Support of the AMA Convention not only helps us put on a fantastic event, but it is one of our largest fundraisers, meaning, support helps sustain our year-round mission. All the work we do — our comments and testimony, Action Alerts, advocacy events like Alaska Mining Day, Alaska Night at Roundup, Juneau Mining Forum, and the dozens of presentations given throughout

the year, and our social media presence — is possible through their support. Your generosity ensures we can advocate for Alaska's mining industry, and we couldn't be more grateful.

If you are appreciative of AMA's efforts throughout the year, please take the time to read the names of companies and individuals that make it all possible.

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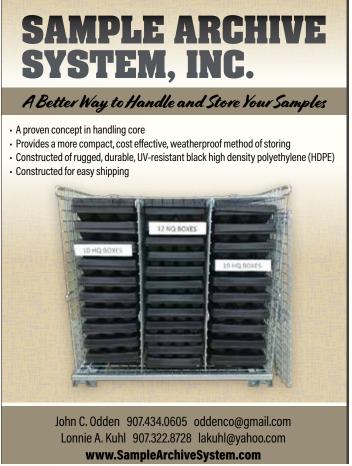
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#### **Thank You to Our Trade Show Exhibitors!**

We want to give a major Thank You to all of our exceptional 2024 Convention Trade Show Exhibitors!

The Trade Show is no doubt the foundation (literally, on the first floor) of our event, and the participation by our vendors brings a significant amount of revenue to the Association. They are the lifeblood of the industry's support needs for goods, services and expertise.

The goods and services supplying our mines are present throughout the Exhibit Hall and we greatly appreciate you visiting these booths, seeing what they have to offer and thanking them for their support of our industry.

We hope you also found that the booths have great swag, delicious food and maybe a Bloody Mary offering or two.

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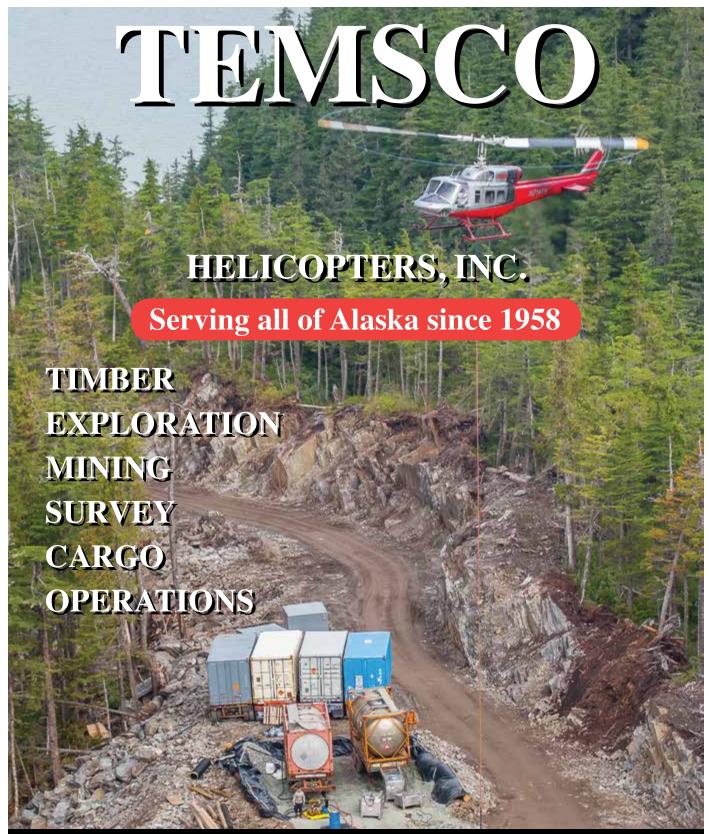
The AMA Board of Directors gathered for its annual board meeting at the 2024 convention, including time for a quick team photo!



Jennifer Luiten, Membership and Fundraising Director, welcomed her baby boy, Bennett Andrew Luiten on Sept. 26, 2024. Bennett was 8 pounds, 12 ounces and 20.5 inches long. Big brothers Lucas and Jace are over joyed with their new brother. Welcome to the AMA family, Bennett!







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#### In Memoriam: Lee Clune, Distinguished Leader in Resource Education

Long-term Alaskan resident, Leland Arthur Clune, 78, died Sept. 9 at Alaska Regional Hospital following a heart attack at his home in Anchorage, where he was surrounded by loved ones.

Lee was born Jan. 7, 1946, in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Jeanette and Arthur Clune. He first moved to Alaska at three months of age, on an Alaska Airlines flight piloted by his dad, He lived in Alaska until he was six. He attended schools in Idaho, Oregon and graduated from Sammamish High School in Washington in 1964.

Lee married the love of his life, Debbie Kersey in 1966 in Fruitland, Idaho. Lee was a member of the Army National Guard in Washington and Idaho until honorably discharged in 1968. He graduated from Boise State University in 1972, earned his Master of Education at the University of Alaska in 1975, and worked on obtaining his doctorates in Hawaii.

The staff of Alaska Resource Education shared their thoughts on Lee's early work in resource education here.

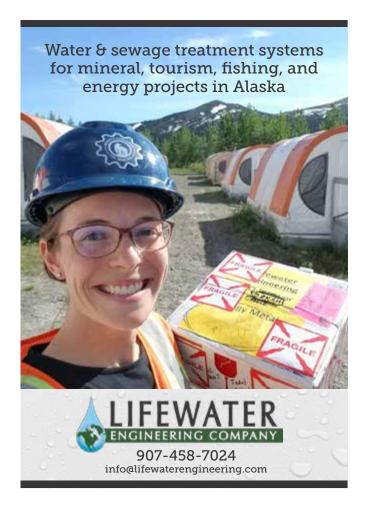
"The team at Alaska Resource Education and all our resource industries were sad to hear of the recent



passing of Lee Clune, previous executive director of ARE (at that time known as the Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund). During his career, Lee worked towards the development and expansion of preparing Alaska K-12 students for the world of work. "

He began his career in education in the early 1970s with the then Fairbanks City School District as a career education teacher and program coordinator. He joined the State of Alaska Department of Education in 1980 as a program manager and eventually State Director of Career and Vocation/Technical Education.

The remainder of his K-12 public school career (24 years) was spent as an assistant and Superintendent of School in Nome, Yakutat, and the Delta/Greely School Districts. After his "retirement" in 1996 he served as an adjunct faculty member of UAA's Department of Educational Leadership. He was the executive director of the Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund (AMEREF) from 2006-2008.





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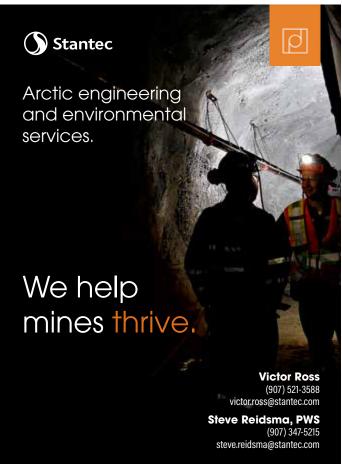
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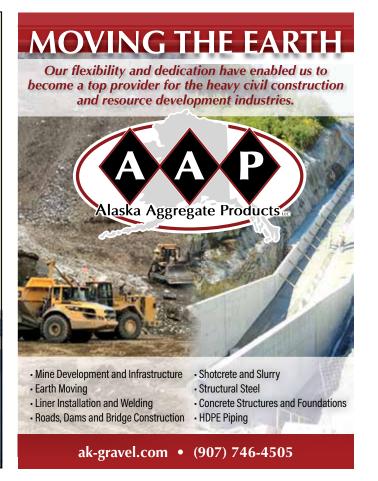
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Thank you to all the AMA corporate and individual members who joined or renewed their membership to the association in July. You make AMA possible!

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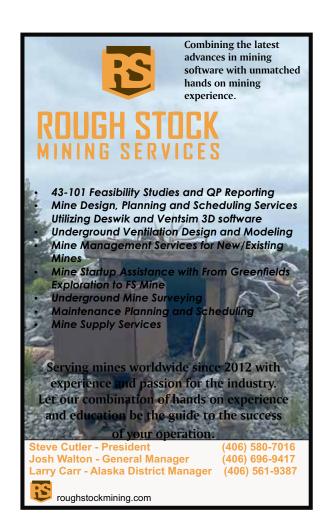
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#### Alaska Mining Calendar

- **Dec. 6**: National Miners Day
- Jan. 20-23, 2025: AME-BC Roundup, Alaska Night Wednesday Jan. 22
- Feb. 25, Juneau

#### Mining Forum

■ Feb. 25. Legislative Reception with AMA, AGC, and Alaska Trucking Association, Juneau

#### Statewide Zoom Meetings

Fall 2024:

■ February 28

■ December 13

■ March 14

Beginning 2025: every two

■ March 28

weeks, so

■ April 11

■ January 17

■ April 25

■ January 31

■ May 9

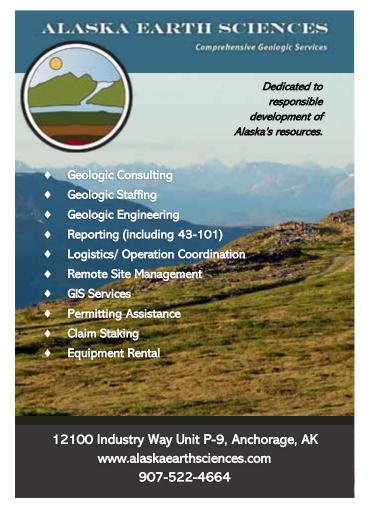
■ February 14

See all details at the AMA website!

#### In-Person Branch Meetings

■ Your branches are starting up again for the fall! You will receive emailed notices, and

schedules will be posted on the AMA website under Branch Meetings.









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