

Welcome to the Great Debate; It's time to decide who is the most important



Douglas B. Silver

In 3,000 B.C., the not-so-famous Roman geologist Sulphurius Emanaceous said, “Without geologists, there would be no civilization.” To which the equally unknown miner Ignominious Terriblus replied, “Pone pecuniam tuam ubique os tuum es” (Put your money where your mouth is.). This began a multimillennium-year debate about which sector of the mining industry is the most important to civilization. It is time to finish this debate!

Why, you ask? The mining industry is a fraternity of men and women dedicated to advancing society — and the U.S. National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum (NMHFM) is the penultimate organization that celebrates those miners who have made significant and lasting contributions to the industry. Its museum is a world-class educational venue for all ages with fun, interactive exhibits, such as walk-through mine replicas and a lunar exhibit, dioramas of mining techniques, historic maps, photographs and tools. The museum houses thousands of precious mineral, metal, and gem specimens. NMHFM educates the public on why the extraction of minerals and metals is necessary to support life in the 21st century and how modern mining has embraced responsible mining and ecological processes and is utilizing advanced technology to ensure the safety of its employees. It needs our collective support. One of the goals of the museum is to be able to present to the public some of the new, game-changing technology that has been developed. In order to do so, the museum needs significant funding.

Our industry is also a business where life-long friendships are forged through the nature of what we do — and we like to have fun. So why not integrate fun with fundraising? This debate, sponsored by SME and NMHFM and

published in the pages of *Mining Engineering*, will support this vital organization telling mining’s national story while also allowing us to share a smile or two.

Enter the Great Debate, where teams of the world’s leading braggarts from seven different mining sectors have been enlisted to brag, roast, cajole and otherwise humorously make their case. Each month in 2020, *Mining Engineering* will publish a sector’s position statement on why it is the most important. In return, we ask you to prove the value of your sector by making donations in any amount, and as often as you can, on the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum website. The winning sector will be determined based on the number of donors (points) and the amounts raised by the sector (dollars). Develop teams to enhance your sector’s chances of winning, challenge your colleagues in other sectors to match or exceed your donation, utilize your employer matching gift programs to double your impact and ensure your sector wins perpetual bragging rights. You will make a difference no matter how much you send in.

Team Sector Leaders include:

- Douglas Silver: Representing geoscientists, geologists, geochemists and geophysicists (dugag@aol.com).
- Tim Arnold: Representing miners, engineers and equipment operators (midasminer@gmail.com).
- Marc LeVier: Representing metallurgists and processing people (marc.levier@comcast.net).
- Ruby Barickman: Representing emerging leaders — those under 40 (ruby.barickman@gmail.com).
- Ann Carpenter and Kelly Ward: Representing women in the mining industry (ann.carpenter57@gmail.com and kward@haleyaldrich.com).
- William Lipps: Representing environmental, safety and governance professionals (wclipps@shimadzu.com).

We encourage you to get involved and send your best ideas to these thought leaders to fortify your sector’s position. Challenge

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The Great Debate is intended to be a good-natured debate about the mining industry with a goal of raising funds for the U.S. National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum. The opinions expressed here are those of the author and not necessarily of SME or *Mining Engineering*. Each edition of the Great Debate will be available on *Mining Engineering*’s website. To get involved in the debate, visit <https://me.smenet.org/greatdebate/>.

Great Debate: Your vote counts in this age-old mining debate

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your friends (even those outside the industry) to donate. Watch for periodic updates in *Mining Engineering* and check the museum's website (mininghalloffame.org) frequently for updates during the challenge to keep abreast of sector rankings. The two finalists will hold a final smackdown debate at

the National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet in the fall, where the winner will be announced. "The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum invites members of the mining industry's sectors to have fun writing persuasive, inspiring and even humorous arguments about why their sector is the most important," coaxed

NMHFM executive director Stephen Whittington.

Visit the NMHFM website at <https://mininghalloffame.org/page/great-debate> for more information on the 33rd Annual National Mining Hall of Fame Induction Banquet where tickets are still available for this phenomenon. ■

The Great Debate will continue through 2020 exclusively on the pages of *Mining Engineering* magazine and online at <https://me.smenet.org/greatdebate/>. To donate in the name of your favorite sector, go to bit.ly/Gr8Deb8 to make your vote count.