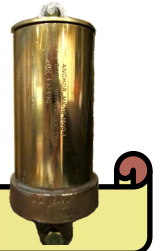




The DASHPOT



The Official Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

From The President

MNI Charles Humbard, USN (Retired)



My sincerest condolences to the families of recently departed shipmates and family members. I'm sure that their loss leaves a void in each of you. If you or a family member is on the Binnacle list and is suffering from medical issues, know that your shipmates are wishing you a speedy recovery. Each of you remain in our thoughts and prayers throughout your recovery.

Congratulations to the 2022 Mineman of Year recipients. A well deserved "Bravo Zulu to you all.

The 2023 Reunion plans are complete. I would like to thank David and Shirley Badger for setting up the Nashville Reunion, great job. This Dashpot issue includes Reunion dates, hotel accommodations and reservation number, and the 49th Annual Reunion registration form. I am excited about our upcoming Reunion in Nashville; I have driven through but have never vacationed there. I look forward to seeing everyone there. Please pass the word about the Reunion to our Shipmates so we can keep the sea stories going.

Please do not forget about the AOM Scholarship Award, all applications need to be submitted to the AOM Secretary by June 1st. Donations to the Scholarship fund is always needed and gratefully accepted.

God bless and protect our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

God bless the USA!

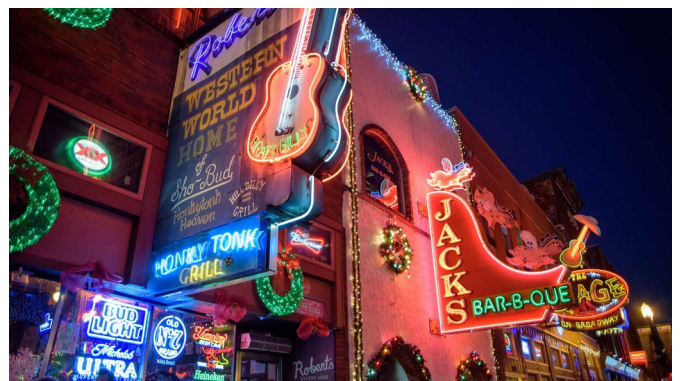
Charles



Association of Minemen
REUNION 2023



For more about Nashville, go to;
[www.https://nashville.com](https://nashville.com)



NOTABLE QUOTABLE

"Friendship is everything. Friendship is more than talent. It is more than the government. It is almost the equal of family.- Don Corleone"
Don Vito Corleone, The Godfather



Association of Minemen

DEDICATED TO SERVING THE U. S. NAVY MINE FORCES

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen (AOM), a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of South Carolina...to perpetuate the knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense.

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COMING UP &

NOTE WORTHY



Coming up on our 248th Birthday
October 13th

U.S. NAVY



MINEMAN



Establish in 1943 - 2023
80 Years of Commitment!



COMMITTEE REPORTS



Secretary Treasurer Report

As you know, we are in full swing with the planning for the 2023 Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. Not only am I looking forward to receiving your registration forms, I also look forward to meeting and speaking to new and old shipmates in person!

As a reminder, please note that the Post Office will not forward the Dashpot to your new address. Instead, they charge us \$.55 for returned mail and additional \$1.40 to resend the Dashpot to your new address! Your attention to this matter will ensure that you receive the Dashpot in a timely manner and it will save the association money! Send your change of address to:

assocminemen@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

Nate Miranda

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Committee Report

In the last 12 months, the membership stats are 11 new and 3 reinstated members, bringing our active membership to total to 255. Of that 255, we have 194 members that are current with their dues. Here are the past due stats on that. 3 from 2020, 19 from 2021 and 39 from 2022. Please check the address label on your Dashpot newsletter to verify your dues status. If you find that there might be an error on the due date, please let me know and we'll fix it. Remember, there are two ways you can send in your dues. 1) you can mail it to; Association of Minemen, P. O. Box 2180, Temple City CA, 91780 or 2) electronic transaction by going to;

<https://form.jotform.com/90215855401148>.

As always, thank you for your support!
Membership Chairman,

Nate Miranda

Visit the A.O.M. Ship's Store



<https://minemen.org/wp/memories/aom-ships-store/>



**From The Desk of the AOM
Scholarship Chairmen**

The 2023 School Year is coming to a close. This means it's time to start thinking of the new school year next Fall. It is never too early to start planning on how you are going to pay for all your next year's tuition and school supplies.

This brings us to the AOM Scholarship Fund. A scholarship is a good way to help with all your school year's financial needs. The Association of Minemen would be honored to be able to help you with some of these expenses.

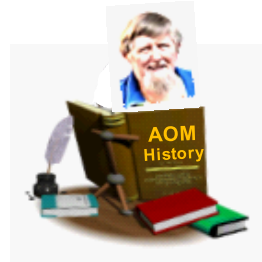
An Application for a AOM Scholarship can be found on the AOM Web Page. (minemen.org/wp). A word of caution when filling out a AOM Scholarship Application. The rules for completing the application MUST be Strictly Adhered to as they were written in the application instructions. The application must be submitted to the AOM Secretary by July 1. Mail to; Association of Minemen, PO Box 2180, Temple City, CA. 91780

I would like to thank all of the Minemen and their families for all their most Generous Donations at the Minemen reunions and throughout the year. Without their support the AOM Scholarship could not exist.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU One and All.

Scholarship Chairmen

Ronald Glasen



Historian and Communication Report

These are the items that I worked on since the last report.

1. Tribute videos: 4
2. Minemen News: 25
3. Website: 53 updates and improvements, 275 manhours work
4. FB MN: 47
5. Departed reported: 8
6. MN Boxes of stuff received: 4
 - 3 from Norm Singleton's wife
 - 1 from Don Jones

See you in Nashville, TN

Don Moody

2022 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (SHORE)

MN1 (SW) Juan-Gabriel Brucelas



Summary of personal and professional achievements:

- Master Training Specialist (MTS).
- Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education (SEJPME).
- Primary Professional Military Education (PPME).
- Awarded Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.
- Senior Sailor of the Quarter Second Quarter for FY 22.
- Graduated with his Bachelors of Fine Arts, from the University of Nevada.
- Basic WC 18 Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) Operator and Maintainer NEC: 799B.

As Naval Military Training Instructor (NMTI) and Mineman "A" School Leading Petty Officer, MN1 led a team of 13 instructors in the indoctrination, student management, and training of 293 new accession students, spanning 31 Mineman "A" School course convenes. He oversaw 12,480 hours of instruction for 293 new accession students. His efforts resulted in an overall grade point average of 89.9%, ensuring the fleet received fully trained Sailors.

MN1 exhausted 120-man hours in establishing and overhauling the MWTC and SCSTC SD Naval Military Training Instructor program. His efforts resulted in increased military bearing by developing a revised student handbook encompassing 65-line items to include: Phase requirements, General Military Training Requirements, Room Inspection

Requirements, PMK-EE, Watch standing principles, watch standing qualifications, SAPR and Suicide prevention resources, and 12 assigned mentorship topics. Not only is MWTC using this for the 293 students, but it was also adopted by SCSTC SD to use for over 600 new accession Sailors. His attention to detail and dedication to ensure the success of all has made a vast impact on initial entry training for the MN community and SCSTC SD.

In an effort to raise standards of professionalism and military bearing, MN1 oversaw the implementation of daily march outs, personnel inspections, barracks inspections, and board etiquette. He chaired seven Naval Military Training Instructor boards, resulting in a 100% pass rate. He oversaw 320 march outs, 288 personnel inspections, and 120 barracks inspections. MN1 chaired 13 Standard of Conduct Boards, resulting in a 65% reduction of cases pushed to Disciplinary Review Board. His efforts have drastically impacted the overall health of the Mineman Rate by ensuring the fleet receives Sailors with good character and conduct.

MN1 participated in the effort to align the MN "A" School course curriculum with the future of Ready Relevant Learning (RRL) and the Sailor 2025 Initiative. He oversaw the complete revision of MN "A" School, implementing seven critical learning blocks to include: Indoctrination, Mine Warfare Core, Aviation Mine Countermeasures Core, Surface Mine Countermeasures Core, Littoral Combat Ship Core, Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures Core, and Naval Munitions Command Core. His efforts ensured the MN "A" School has a foundation for the future of RRL block learning. His team developed 1,000 new training slides and 24 new tests, ensuring the "A" School course of curriculum represents the most relevant and accurate information.

He oversaw the development of 265 training slides, one post mission analysis trainer, one pre-mission and mission lab, and three tests for Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures training topic. Additionally, he cross-trained nine instructors in the B,K18 Family of Systems (FOS) Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures Measures MN "A" School block. His efforts resulted in the successful implementation of EXMCM MK18 FOS to the MN1 "A" School curriculum.

MN1 worked relentlessly to implement the new software upgrade of AN/SSN-2-V (5) Precise integrated Navigation System (PINS) to the Combat Information Center (CIC) lab at MWTC. He dedicated 40 hours conducting the system upgrade and system operability verification tests in support of PINS, AN/SLQ-48, and AN/SQQ-32-(V) 4 Through the Sensor (TTS) courses. His efforts resulted in MWTC having the most up-to-date software and providing improved training to the fleet. As PINS Course Supervisor, MN1 qualified two instructors, one course supervisor, and awarded seven critical NECs for two course convenes.

As Command Fitness Leader (CFL), he generated the fitness training plan for 54 staff and 293 students at MWTC. He implemented and led 216 separate workouts for staff and students. His efforts resulted in a 96% pass rate during the Physical Readiness Test for staff and new accession students. Additionally, he served as the CFL for one additional command. His expertise in fitness, spanning multiple commands, ensured a seamless transition to PRIMs Two and accurate performance of 429 administrative inputs.

As Master Training Specialist (MTS), he mentored and trained fourteen staff members to include one JO, four CPOS, and nine FCPOs in the MTS program. He chaired nine of the 14 MTS boards, resulting in 14 NECs being awarded. His efforts increased command-wide MTS qualifications by 32%.

2022 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (SHORE)

CONTINUATION

MN1 (SW) Juan-Gabriel Brucelas

As Vice President of the First-Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA), he was present for all meetings and brought great leadership and insight to the mess. He chaired three Junior Sailor of the Quarter boards for Q1, Q2, and Q3 of FY22, one Instructor of the Quarter board for Q2 FY22, and the FY21-22 E-5 Evaluation ranking board. Furthermore, he aided in the sale of FCPOA memorabilia, generating \$2,000 in sales.

As the Drug and Alcohol Program Adviser (DAPA), MNI was integral to ensuring MWTC's adherence to Navy guidelines for all DAPA cases. He provided counseling to five students, ensuring each case was reported and resources were provided to members. Additionally, he provided mandatory command training to over 54 staff members and 293 students. His efforts resulted in 100% completion of command-wide training requirements. His mentorship and training provided integral support to the 293 new accession students while at MWTC. His efforts have ensured the on-time transition of new accession Sailors in support of 3rd, 5th and 7th fleet operations.

Commanding Officer's endorsement:

MN1 Brucelas is one of the most talented petty officers I have work with during my career. He continues to raise expectations and is the standard for all Mineman to follow. MN1 has made a resounding impact at the command in all facets. MN1 Brucelas continually demonstrates an unmatched work ethic that motivates his students, peers, and leadership alike. The rigorous NMT program he developed and leads has significantly reduced student discipline issues, improved military bearing, and instilled a sense of professionalism amongst accession Sailors. His efforts overseeing the future of Ready Relevant Learning for the Sailor 2025 initiative will ensure our curriculum continues to reflect fleet requirements well into the future. MN1 Brucelas's dedication to students and the command sets him apart. He has my highest recommendation for selection as the Fiscal Year 2022 Mineman of the Year!

Congratulations



2022 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (SEA)

MN1 (SW/AW) KRISTINE N. CURTIS



As the Departmental Leading Petty Officer for NAV/ADMIN, MN1 Curtis has led 10 Sailors in the administrative support of a minimally manned crew of 68 Sailors. As Ship's Secretary, MN1 worked directly for the Executive Officer to ensure all executive correspondence, directives, and instructions were completed in a timely and professional manner, despite no previous administrative experience. MN1 Curtis demonstrates high quality character, serving as an inspiration and mentor to her fellow Mineman, First Class Petty Officers, and Junior Sailors on USS ST. LOUIS (LCS 19) Gold. Her accomplishments include:

MN1's dedication and attention to detail resulted in her completing 556 pieces of executive correspondence, tracking of 35 pay transactions, 30 directives and instructions, 13 awards and 43 evaluations, streamlining the administrative process with 100% efficiency and zero discrepancies. As an Anti-Terrorism Training team member, she trained and evaluated 17 Sailors on 10 different watch stations for 15 drills resulting in a 94% score for the commands Antiterrorism/Force Protection Certification. The only 1st Class qualified onboard as Anti-Terrorism Tactical Watch Officer (ATTWO) and Gunnery Liaison Officer (GLO), her efforts permitted more flexibility on duty section watch bills and during Crew Certification supervised 24 Sailors through 120 hours of training and drills, receiving a score of 96% on the assessment. She continued to work out of rate by joining the Medical Training Team to train and prepare STL Gold Crew for FSO-M certification events. She trained 53 personnel, leading STL Gold Crew to achieve a 99.57% score on the certification. She participated in damage control drills, accumulating 30 hours of watch standing, helping STLG pass MOB-D certification events.

2022 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (SEA)

CONTINUATION

MN1 (SW/AW) KRISTINE N. CURTIS

During STLG on-hull period, MN1 Curtis completed 100 hours of maintenance on Navigation and Medical equipment. During the 3-M Certification, MNI Curtis received 100% on her spot check with assessors. She completed Start-Up maintenance on 10 pieces of vital equipment, bringing them out of IEM to prepare the ship for departing dry dock once repairs were completed. As MHOI (Medical) Work Center Supervisor, she completed one Force Revision. She observed 12 spot-checks for other departments, and provided training to 10 maintenance personnel. She responded to medical emergencies as Emergency Medical Response Team, treating patients and ensuring a safe environment for all personnel onboard. As a Watch Bill Coordinator for Duty Section 3, she organized and maintain an accurate watch bill adhering to Force protection and IET requirements. Her direct personal and professional development of 16 Sailors yielded 30 CDBs, 2 MAPs, retention, 11 USMAPs, 13 PPME completions, and 85 PQS qualifications. As the FCPOA COMREL Coordinator, she led 15 FCPOs in three COMRELS/fundraisers in conjunction with the Chief Petty Officer Mess and MWR, raising \$13,000. She completed 30 hours of volunteer service at the Jacksonville Humane Society. She completed one college course maintaining a GPA of 3.8 and completed all BPME and PPME courses. MN1 volunteered as the Recreation Funds Custodian for MWR and conducted one audit with zero discrepancies. As an integral part of MWR, she managed a budget of \$12,500 dedicating 40 hours to the planning of the crew's Holiday party, helping boost morale and strengthening camaraderie in the crew. MNI Curtis was selected as USS ST. LOUIS (LCS 19) Gold's first Senior Sailor of the Year FY21 and was selected as the FY21 Senior Sailor of the Year runner up for MINEDIV TWENTYTWO at the ISIC level.

Taking on Command Sponsor and Indoctrination Coordinator, she tracked 15 incoming enlisted and officer Sailors, ensuring each new Sailor was assigned a sponsor and facilitated sponsorship training to 60 Sailors. MN1 completed requirements to become an Assistant Command Fitness Leader, leading six personnel through departmental physical training. As STLG's SNOOPIE Team and VIPR Team Lead, she became the Intel Warfare Program Manager in preparation for the INT assessment. She qualified three personnel in 10 PQS qualifications and conducted 14 OPS/INTEL briefs to the crew and assessors. Her devotion to the intelligence program resulted in STLG achieving a 94% grade during the Intel certification. As an ambassador for the command, was hand selected to join the very first namesake visit to St. Louis, MO for STLG. She helped grow a personal relationship with the LCS Commissioning Committee and educate the city about the USS ST. LOUIS.

Qualifications/Awards: DC 301-310; 3M 301-305; ATTWO; ATTT*, MTT; OOD*, POOW*, SENTRY; M9*, 500; M16; M240; M250; Clearing Barrel Supervisor; Chief of the Guard; SNOOPIE 301-304; VIPR 301-304; Senior Sailor of the Year (FY 21); one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (Seventh Award).

Commanding Officers Endorsement:

Petty Officer Curtis is the model for what I expect in all First Classes; she is professional beyond reproach, an unmatched expert in her trade, and a leader that inspires, trains, and challenges Sailors to reach their fullest potential. Her commitment to this command and attention to detail has been an integral part of USS ST. LOUIS (LCS 19) Gold crew successfully achieving every milestone and completing every certification thus far. Although the USS ST. LOUIS has not been outfitted with the Mine Warfare mission package, she has thrived in working completely out of rate while maintaining her mine warfare expertise. As our first Senior Sailor of the Year, she has proven her dedication and commitment to excellence and has without a doubt set the standard for all of my Sailors to strive for. She has my strongest recommendation for the Association of Mineman Sea Duty Mineman of the Year.

Congratulations



2022 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (RESERVE)

MN1 Joseph William Plant



MN1 Plant is a critical and integral part of mission success for MOMAU FOUR serving as Leading Petty Officer. His degree of oversight and knowledgeability was pivotal in the cohesion of three units during Navy Munitions Command Atlantic Unit Charleston's 2022 Mine Readiness Certification Inspection. In this role, his efforts allowed for the successful upgrade and downgrade of 62 MK-62/63 and 27 MK-65 Quick Strike Mines with reliability rates at 100%.

MN1 Plant successfully completed three quarterly mine assembly builds at Navy Munitions Command Charleston, SC and Seal Beach, CA. Through his leadership at these builds, he was able to successfully mesh three units together for the training at hand. This group was able to collectively and successfully upgrade and downgrade a total of 84 MK-62/63 and 54 MK-65 Quick Strike Mines. Throughout these builds, MN1 also directly impacted the successful boarding of 1 Quality Assurance/ Safety Observer, 3 Team Leaders, and 5 Team Members.

MN1 Plant's known qualities of leadership and knowledge caused him to be hand-picked as an additional Quality Assurance/ Safety Observer for Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division Unit Guam's Mine Readiness Assist Visit. In this role, he oversaw the successful upgrade and downgrade of 27 MK-62/63 and 9 MK-65 Quick Strike Mines with reliability rates of 100%. During the MK-65 build he served as the Red Hat maintaining overall control of the overall operation with zero incidents.

MN1 Plant and his leadership style has been a crucial measure for retention and morale among subordinates in his unit. He has directly inspired three members of his unit to reenlist who previously were opting to leave the Navy Reserve. This has helped greatly to keep up unit level strength as well as to maintain expertise in the mine assembly community as a whole. This has also aided in personal achievement with one member of his unit obtaining a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Commanding Officer's Endorsement:

Petty Officer Plant has my highest and unwavering recommendation for Mineman of the Year. His leadership, knowledge, and positive attitude is a model for all of those in his unit. He consistently steps up and is able to assist both his own unit and other units often being asked for specifically to take on tasks and participate in trips where he is a great asset. This has allowed for an environment in which morale is high and the skills of all unit members are allowed to flourish and expand skillsets, knowledge, and opportunity all while retaining Sailors at a time when retention is at historic lows.

Petty Officer Plant's dedication and professionalism among this community and his sailors has earned him my highest consideration for Mineman of the Year. He has my utmost recommendation.

Congratulations



2023 AOM Reunion Hotel



Quality Suites Nashville Airport
2615 Elm Hill Pk., Nashville, TN, 37214
(629) 276-0103



Hotel: Quality Suites Nashville Airport

Reservation Special Instructions: Make reservation by going to
<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/QA25I9>
or call (629) 276-0103.

Be sure to mention Association of Minemen Reunion

Rate - \$122.36 - (includes taxes & fees) Hotel will honor rate from Sept. 9-17

Breakfast - Included - see website for details

Free Parking - Free Airport Shuttle





The Nashville Nightlife is located at 2416 Music Valley Drive in Music Valley Village



VOTED NASHVILLE'S #1 DINNER SHOW!



Join other AOM members and their spouses on this Dinner & Theater Outing
Tuesday, Sept. 12th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Our nightly all-you-can-eat dinner buffet includes entrees such as fried chicken, ribs, swedish meatballs, sausage w/peppers, fish, pasta, an array of vegetables, baked potatoes, salads, hot rolls, and cobblers for dessert with Full Bar.

To learn more about this activity, go to;

<http://www.nashvillenightlife.com/>

Registration for this event needs to be recieved by Sept. 1st,
If not received by then, tickets at the door are \$54.95, space permitting!!



**ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN 49th
ANNUAL REUNION & MEETING
SEPT. 11-14, 2023 NASHVILLE, TN
REGISTRATION FORM**

DATE

NAME

FIRST

LAST

CELL PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

AREA
CODE

BUFFET STYLE DINNER - Wednesday Sept. 13th (Includes tax and gratuity)

Brisket & BBQ Pork with Mac & Cheese - \$35.00

BBQ Pull Pork & Grill Chicken with Mac & Cheese - \$32.00

Grill Chicken with Mac & Cheese - \$30.00

Summer Vegetable Salad Vegetarian Plate - with Mac & Cheese \$15.00

Sides - Baked Beans / Steamed Veggies

(All Plates Includes, 2 sides, rolls and assorted desserts)

Water and assorted beverages provided by AOM

Join other AOM members and their spouses on this Dinner & Theater Outing

Tuesday, Sept. 12th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Tickets are \$40.00 per person *(Includes Tax)*

Our nightly all-you-can-eat dinner includes entrees such as fried chicken, Ribs, Swedish meatballs, sausage w/pepper, fish, pasta, and array of vegetables, Baked potatoes, salads, hot rolls and cobblers for dessert.

To learn more about this activity, go to:

www.nashvillenightlife.com

Registration for this event needs to be received by September 1, 2023

If not received by then, tickets at the door are \$54.95, space permitting.

Auction Picnic Luncheon on Site – Thursday Sept. 14th.

Pizza and Assorted Sub Sandwiches

Individual Assorted Bag of Chips & Cookies

Assortment of Beverages

\$15.00 Per Person



"The most fun you will have spending money for our Scholarship Fund!"

BUFFET STYLE DINNER		COST EA.	QTY.	AMOUNT
	Brisket & BBQ Pulled Pork with Mac & Cheese	\$35.00		
	BBQ Pulled Pork & Grilled Chicken with Mac & Cheese	\$32.00		
	Grilled Chicken with Mac & Cheese	\$30.00		
	Summer Vegetable Salad with Mac & Cheese	\$15.00		
	Auction Picnic Luncheon	\$15.00		
	Dinner & Theater Outing	\$40.00		
	Membership			
	Reinstatement or New Member Fee	\$5.00		
	Annual Dues	\$15.00		
	Reunion Fee	\$20.00	1	\$20.00
	Scholarship Donation			
TOTAL DUE TO AOM				

MEMBERSHIP SECTION

There is a \$5.00 fee for new or 3 years past dues members. You can pay up to 5 years in advance.

REUNION FEE

Member approved for Incidental Reunion Cost

Attach this form with your check payable to the
Association of Minemen

P. O. Box 2180

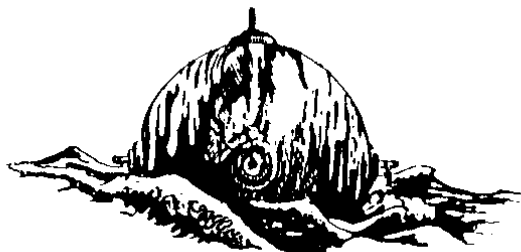
Temple City, CA 91780-8180

Or if you prefer to submit and pay on line, go to;

<https://form.jotform.com/90268038916160>.

You do not need to have a PayPal account to utilize this method.

Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 2180
Temple City, CA 91780



Association of Minemen

1974 - 2023

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ RANK/RATE/TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - _____

DATE _____ EMAIL _____

TEL _____ SIGNATURE _____

ELEGIBILITY _____ APPROVED _____

Application Fee: \$5.00 - Annual Dues: \$15.00 - NOTICE: To maintain membership, dues must be paid annually by the month of October. The dues expiration date is printed on the mailing label above your name. Mail checks to the Association of Minemen, P.O. Box 2180, Temple City, CA 91780 Our on-line member application link- <https://form.jotform.com/90215855401148>. If you have any questions about your membership, please send an email with your question to: assocminemen@yahoo.com.