



SOME THINGS CHANGE, OTHERS STAY THE SAME

Your Board Officer composition has changed a bit. Vice President Glenn Maxham has decided to retire after 25 years of service. Dan Rau, a past board member, has returned and taken Glenn's VP position. I will take on the duties of Editor of the Newsletter with Sally Munger assisting with the distribution which is no small task. Our goal remains to create and distribute an informative and interesting letter to you that helps fulfill our mission of protecting and restoring the waters and watershed of the lake.

Familiar challenges of pollution from mining and shipping around the entire lake remain. The EPA was legally forced into adopting the IMO standard for the treatment of ballast water dumped from foreign ships into our harbors. Reliable data indicates that this standard is not strict enough to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive organisms and viruses such as VHS, mussels and small fish. This meager improvement will not be effective for years and doesn't apply to the giant Lakers that dump millions of gallons of untreated ballast water into the harbors on each visit.

We have included the obituary of Verna Mize, a pioneer in the environmental movement. She was instrumental in stopping the pollution of the lake by Reserve Mining Company beginning in 1967. We continue to fight the battle against asbestos and sulfate pollution from the taconite industry and the similar threat from the proposed copper-nickel mines.

LeRoger Lind

My years on the board of directors of SLSA: wins and losses.

With no small measure of regret, I recently made the decision to resign my position as vice-president after serving in that capacity for more than two decades. I will, however, retain my membership. The regrets are twofold: despite years of effort to convince the Minnesota DNR that it must employ basic scientific logic and quit rearing and stocking the non-native steelheads, Kamloops, brown trout, cohos and other exotic salmonids in Lake Superior or, alternatively, conduct research that, against all odds, might justify excepting these species from the list of other introduced exotics which this agency struggles to eliminate.

Members who have read my frequent explanations in the newsletter on the chronic environmental harm to native fish and destruction of waterfalls and draining of wetlands to accommodate the "foreign" fish can understand my frustration with this travesty. Equal or even greater concentration on keeping up pressure on the federal government to remove the 1440 barrels of potentially harmful chemicals lying perilously close to Duluth's water intake remain as a festering problem.

While these and other threats to the integrity and rehabilitation of Lake Superior continue, the dedicated board members, for whom I have great respect, will continue their relentless campaign to rectify past degradation and inform the public of the vital mission each of us must vigorously support to prevent, or at least greatly minimize, further pollution.

Finally, as an octogenarian, I feel it's incumbent upon me to recognize the benefits SLSA can realize with an infusion of "young blood"---a qualified person with newer ideas, dedication and ambition to fill the vacant position of vice-president. I wish him or her well.

By Glenn Maxham



Dear Glenn,

At the March SLSA board meeting, the board had an extended discussion about your many positive contributions to the Save Lake Superior Association over the many years you served our organization and worked with devotion for its objectives of maintaining the purity and integrity of Lake Superior.

Your contributions as editor of the SLSA newsletter over the course of those years has been an important part of your service, but your extensive work on the Army barrel dumping in the Lake, your vast experience with the wildlife of this region, particularly your concern about and work against the intrusion of exotic salmonids into the Lake Superior watershed, and your work to publicize the dangers of the pollution from sulfide mining in our watershed, have been indispensable contributions to the objectives of Save Lake Superior Association.

As a result of that discussion and your contributions, the board formally resolved to recognize your decades of dedicated service to Save Lake Superior Association with this letter, and also with a formal acknowledgement at our next annual meeting. Thank you.

Verna G. Mize
January 5, 2013
The Daily Mining Gazette

BETHESDA, Md. - Verna G. Mize, age 99, passed away Jan. 1, 2013, at Manor Care in Potomac, Md.

She was born in Houghton, on Apr 25, 1913, the daughter of the late John and Ann (Ghena) Grahek.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, C.W.O. Alton McLeen Mize, U.S.M.C., who passed away Oct. 2, 1975; and a brother, John M. Grahek.

She was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Bethesda, Md.

Verna attended public schools and the College of St. Theresa in Winona, Minn.

Her federal career included service in the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, between 1935 and 1980.

Verna Mize was a pioneer in the environmental movement. In 1967, she initiated, and for several years, led a successful national citizen effort to stop the pollution of Lake Superior by the Reserve Mining Company of Silver Bay, Minn., which was totally owned by the Armco and Republic Steel Corporations. Her "Save Lake Superior" campaign, as she called it, was a classic confrontation between citizens and powerful giants of industry. It brought the federal government, the states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota and environmental groups into a lawsuit against Reserve. It was the longest, most costly, most bitterly fought environmental case in history. As a result, Reserve was forced to end its discharge. In his book, "The Great Pains States of America," Neal R. Peirce wrote of Mrs. Mize's campaign as "an amazing demonstration of woman and citizen power."

Over the course of her campaign, Verna Mize testified before the Subcommittee on the Environment of the Senate Commerce Committee. She made numerous radio appeals and television appearances, including Ted Koppel's "Nightline" on NBC.

She received the awards and honors. Verna was given the title, "First Lady of Lake Superior" by Michigan Governor William G. Milliken. She received an American Motors Corporation Conservation Award in 1976 "in recognition of



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exceptional service in the cause of conservation." She also received a U.S. Department of Commerce bronze medal award for "superior federal service." The people of her hometown, Houghton, honored her with a park dedicated in her name in 1981.

There will be no calling hours.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church Chapel, 9200 Kentsdale Dr., Potomac, Md. on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013, at noon. Interment will be in private in Arlington Cemetery.

TACONITE WORKERS HEALTH STUDY RESULTS MIXED

After spending \$4.9 million and conducting extensive research for four years, the University of Minnesota has finally admitted to a link between employment in the taconite industry and mesothelioma lung disease. For inexplicable reasons they have not found a major link in other than general terms. They are however creeping toward the same conclusion reached by many research teams since the 1980s. Short fibers often referred to as "asbestos-like" fibers play a major role in causing mesothelioma and other lung diseases encountered on the Iron Range and North Shore of Minnesota.

The USEPA has identified factors such as toxicity of fibers, surface area of fibers, length of exposure, amount of exposure and age at time of exposure as major ingredients in causing lung disease from these fibers. These studies began as early as the 1970s during the Reserve Mining Case. The "Control City Standard" still protects residents of the North Shore from excessive exposure to fibers such as ferro-actinolite and crysotiles. One must ask why this protection isn't afforded the residents and workers on the rest of the Iron Range. Very simply the health standard says that residents in NE MN should not be exposed to more amphibole and crysotile fibers than residents in a control city such as St. Paul. To this day the state has not funded research to replace this venerable, valuable standard with a health based standard for exposure to harmful mineral fibers.

More recent studies at federal agencies are aimed at identifying the additional risk of exposure to multiple fiber types as well as other compounding factors. This is important work since particles and fibers from copper-nickel sulfide ore mining and processing may soon enter the mix in the Duluth Complex in the same areas now hosting iron mining and processing. This is complex, difficult research and input from all resources should be used to protect the public. The Taconite Workers Health Study may be a good start but certainly should not give one a false sense of security.

LeRoger Lind



Dear Alice Pierce

In the last issue of the newsletter you mentioned James Newland. I'm assuming that he is the same Jim Newland who at one time was my supervisor at the old Minn Highway Dept (later a division of the MN Dept of Transportation) I never knew he was associated with the SLSA, much less a charter member.

In the '60s a group of guys (including myself) from the road design section made reservations on a charter fishing boat out of Bayfield, Wis. We were barely out of the bay onto the main lake when we went into a milky colored area about a mile wide. The captain said this was coming across the lake from Silver Bay (Reserve Mining Co.). He said we won't catch any fish until we got out of this tailings flow. This is how I became aware of and interested in doing something to help clean up "our Lake".

Under president Arlene Harvell (her name at the time) I joined SLSA and worked as the treasurer and my wife was the membership secretary. Bernie Brommer from our office (later to head the state AFL, CIO) was I believe on the board at this time.

Membership Dues

Your membership fees are overdue and need to be updated. See address label for expiration year. Membership dues increased January 1, 2010.

Repeat of new dues structure:

ALL CATEGORIES ARE PER PERSON PER YEAR.

\$10 Fixed income	\$50 Sustaining	\$200 Lifetime
\$20 General	\$100 Benefactor	

Please designate your choice when you renew.

We appreciate your interest as well as your support.

Some of us attended the different hearings held in Duluth involving the alleged pollutions affecting Lake Superior. The asbestos issue was brought up around this time as a result of the tailings dumping.

Our attendance was criticized by some of our supervisors (not Jim) for our taking time off for this activity.

Later on while working at the MN Highway Dept I was asked to help Glenn Maxham make a film depicting methods we were using in road construction which were environmentally friendly. I never got to see the film. Later my nephew said he was surprised to see me in a movie he saw while attending UMD in one of his classes.

As a further coincidence my family and I grew up nearby and were familiar with the Willard Munger family. I believe my brother Bob went to school with Will Jr, and my older brother Ron went to school with his sister. I also had the good fortune to meet Arnold Overby. So you can see I have fond memories of the SLSA and the people working to save "our Lake".

Sincerely, Roger Shelerud

"SOCIAL LICENSE TO MINE"
NEEDS SCRUTINY

When do mining companies have it and when is it at risk? One might be callous and say that permits to mine and pollute constitute this license. After all, the state and federal governments issue the permits and represent the citizens. However the virtues of the process are neutralized by its being long, complicated and expensive. In places like New Guinea the permitting process has ended in bloody conflict. The affected "Community" was ill-defined. The national government could not successfully grant a "social license to mine".

Global mining companies have become much more sophisticated in dealing with "communities" surrounding Lake Superior where every mineral deposit somehow becomes ranked as one of the so-called "largest in the world". The steps in this process should be straightforward: recognize and respect those affected; create long term economic growth; operate below key environmental standards; be transparent in your dealings; do what you say and cleanup when you go. Unfortunately the process somehow morphs into violation of key environmental standards, being far from transparent in dealing with the public, inability to do what is said and being far from willing or able to cleanup when they go. We have asked that the state require permittees to "prove it first" before obtaining a license to mine but instead we are relegated into spectators following the money.

LeRoger Lind

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