

SPOTLIGHT

on the Vaal Triangle Branch

by D. WILSON*

The Vaal Triangle Branch of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy was established on 20th November, 1986, at a meeting enthusiastically supported by local members. In attendance were special guests Dr H. Wagner (President, SAIMM) and Dr O.K.H. Steffen (Junior Vice-President, SAIMM).

In his welcoming address, convener of the meeting, Mr Dieter Rümelin, listed the following factors as constituting the motivation for establishing a Vaal Triangle Branch:

- Concentrated primary and secondary metallurgical industries
- Significant mining activities
- Two tertiary academic institutions offering education for engineers and technologists in the field of metallurgy (Vaal Triangle campus of the PU for CHE and the Vaal Triangle Technikon)
- Relatively large numbers of SAIMM members and potential members.

He reported that the intended activities of the Branch included the following:

- organizing technical seminars, visits to industry, and social functions;

- satisfying the needs of local members regarding professional interaction and the exchange of technical information;
- stimulating interest in the Institute and its activities.

The opening address was delivered by Dr O.K.H. Steffen in his capacity as Chairman of the Regional Development Committee of the SAIMM. On behalf of the Council of the Institute, Dr Steffen said it was a great pleasure to welcome another Branch into the Institute fold. He stressed the potential role of the Branch in promoting group unity and professional pride.

Dr Wagner, after a short address, supervised the election of the inaugural committee. The following members were duly elected:

Mr Dieter Rümelin (Chairman), Prof. Kobus van der Colf (Vice Chairman), Mr Nick Kock (Secretary), Prof. Olaf Celliers, Dr Bernd Ströhmeier, and Messrs Frank Abbot, William Barrett, Kenny Beard, Robert Burger, Andries Meyer, Jan Smit, and Darryl Wilson.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance, the PU for CHE for the use of their facilities, and Iscor for the refreshments. He then declared the meeting closed.

Refreshments were served after the meeting.

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The Committee members of the newly established Vaal Triangle Branch of the SAIMM are from left to right: Messrs W. Barrett, K. Beard, A. Meyer, F. Abbott, D. Wilson, Prof. O. Celliers, Mr J. Smit, Dr B. Ströhmeier, Prof. K. van der Colf, and Messrs D. Rümelin, N. Kock, R. Burger