

# Education Update

By Cheryl Allison

Education Director

"Being Thankful and Hopeful in Challenging Times" – What a wonderful theme for the newsletter. This year has definitely been a challenging year for the TMRA teacher workshops. In the past, TMRA has offered six teacher workshops during the summer. Due to COVID 19, we were able to partner with TACA and host an Industrial Minerals camp. The remaining five camps were cancelled leaving teacher applicants, TMRA education staff, and mining partners feeling perplexed and saddened. During the COVID shutdown, I read an article "11 Ways to Stay Positive During Difficult Times." This is the perfect time to revisit some of the mood-boosting strategies.

1) **Remind yourself of reasons to be grateful.** As Education Director, I am extremely grateful for my staff, my mentor for the past two years, Francye Hutchins, TMRA Board and Executive Director, Ches Blevins, and our mining partners for their continuous support of the education program. This educator professional development opportunity is invaluable.

2) **Learn from negativity.** With all of the cancellations, it was very easy to be negative. I must admit many tears were shed. Negativity happens, but positivity is a choice. After many conversations with Ches, Francye, Robert Gentry, and education staff, we simply accepted that it is what it is and that we needed to focus on what we can do instead of what we can't do.

3) **Make changes to things that are within your control.** The ability to host camps was definitely out of our control. Some of the education staff and I worked during this time to reorganize, change, edit, etc... some of the educational materials used during each of the camps. Facilitator and participant guides were updated. We are ready for 2021. I am truly thankful for the staff that worked tirelessly to help get this project completed.

4) **Make something better.** Updating the facilitator and participants guides and adding the state standards will definitely benefit everyone in the future.

5) **Be the change you wish to see.** Simply put do good, feel good; it really works. I know that I have huge shoes to fill as Education Director. Francye has done a fantastic job building the TMRA teacher workshops and now she has passed the torch to me. I am extremely grateful for all of her support and guidance. As a retired educator, I am thrilled to step into this leadership position and still work in an industry that is near and dear to my heart...**Educating others.**