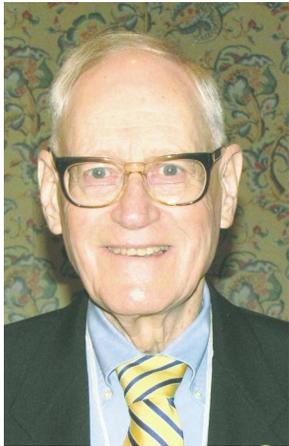




West Virginia Coal Mining Institute Spring Meeting



Royce Watts



Bill Raney



Mark Luxbacher



Doug Fala

The 2016 Joint Spring Meeting of the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute, West Virginia Coal Association, and the Central Appalachian Section of SME was held May 11-13, 2016, at the Resort at Glade Springs, Daniels, West Virginia.

The general program began with the Evening Reception on the Wednesday. This was followed by Technical Session I which took place the following morning. The meeting was opened by Doug Fala, President, WVCMI, who welcomed attendees. Session Co-Chairmen were Mike Smith, General Superintendent, Enlow Fork Mine, CONSOL Energy, and Barrett Justice, Manager of Underground Engineering, Marfork Coal Company, Alpha Natural Resources. The Keynote Speaker was Thomas L. Clarke, CEO, Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, who spoke on the subject [Reshaping Coal as a Fuel Source](#).

Six presentations followed, which included the following:

[The Future of Mining Engineering Education in the U.S.](#) by Chair Rick Q. Honaker, University of Kentucky.

[Increasing the Value and Professional Reach of New Mining Engineers](#) by Chair John Herbst, West Virginia University.

[Status of the WV Coal Industry](#) by Bill Raney, President, WVCA.

[Research in the Central Appalachian Region](#) by Zacharias Agioutantis, Mining Engineering Foundation Professor, Rock Mechanics, Numerical Modeling, Mining Systems, Department of Mining Engineering, University of Kentucky.

[Recovery of Rare Earths](#) by Roe-Hoan Yoon, Professor, Mineral Engineering, Coal Preparation, Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering, Virginia Tech., presented by Aaron Noble and Rick Honaker.

Asteroid Prospecting From a Mining Engineering Perspective by Aaron Noble, Assistant Professor, Department of Mining Engineering, WVU.

The Reception and Banquet took place in the evening with the Installation of the Nineteenth Class: West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame. The Class of 2016 comprises:

**William B. "Bill" Raney
Jimmie Brock
James L. Laurita
Steve Walker**

On the Friday morning after the Officers and Executive Board meeting took place, Technical Session II followed, which was introduced by Mark Luxbacher, Chairman SME/CAS. Session Co-Chairmen were Pat Damron, Southern District Manager, Sales Manager, J.H. Fletcher & Co. and James M. Dean, Head of the WVU Extension Service, Morgantown, WV.

The Keynote Speaker was J. Steven Gardner, President and CEO, Engineers, Consultants, Scientists, International, and 2015 President SME, who spoke on [Mining Around the World: an Industry in Turmoil](#).

This Technical Session included the following presentations:

[Changing West Virginia Power Generating Landscape](#) by John F. "Jeff" Herholdt, Director, West Virginia Division of Energy, State of West Virginia.

[Mining Management in 2016](#) by Douglas "Doug" Fala, Black Hawk Mining, LLC.

[The Mining Healthy Workplace Program \(MHWP\)](#) by Martin G. Cherniack, Professor of Medicine and co-Director of CPH-NEW, UCONN Health Center.

[West Virginia Legislative Agenda](#) by Chris R. Hamilton, Senior Vice President, and Jason Bostic, Vice President, West Virginia Coal Association.

There were 80 persons present for the meeting with 125 attending the Hall of Fame Dinner. Officers of WVCMI include President Doug Fala, Comfort, WV; Secretary-Treasurer Royce J. Watts, Morgantown, WV; Vice Presidents: Donald R. Vickers, Morgantown, WV; James (Jay) Johnson, Bluefield, VA; Ryan A. Toler, South Charleston, WV and Gary M. "Joe" Davis, Culloden, WV.

The Executive Board comprises Benjamin R. Hardman, Huntington, WV; Keith Hainer, Julian, WV; Jimmy A. Brock, Morgantown, WV; J. Rodney Poland, Morgantown, WV, and James M. Dean, Morgantown, WV. Arrangements and activities at the meeting were by Dennis Richards, and Royce J. Watts.

The meeting management was by Wendy Spaw and Nancy Ireland. Audio-visual arrangements were by Josh Murphy.



Mike Smith



Barrett Justice



Tom Clarke



Rick Honaker



John Herbst



Zach Agioutantis



Aaron Noble



Pat Damron



Jim Dean



Steve Gardner



Bill Raney receives Hall of Fame plaque from Gary White



Jimmy Brock is inducted into WV Coal Hall of Fame



Bill Raney presents Hall of Fame plaque to Steve Walker



Jim Laurita is presented his plaque by Calvin Kidd



Jeff Herholdt



Martin Cherniak



Chris Hamilton



Jason Bostic