



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAIMATIONISTS

<http://www.crc.siu.edu/naslr.htm>

October 2008

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lou Neuman

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining and Minerals Regulation**

If you ever wondered whether you should attend a NASLR conference, it is probably because you haven't been to one recently. What can you expect to learn at a NASLR conference? In a word... plenty. Thanks to the staff in Pennsylvania, especially Mike Smith and Tammy Cree, the 2008 meeting was a productive conference. The technical presentations and field trip stops were very timely and useful. It seems there was something for everyone. The presentation on Indiana bats was particularly interesting as I am processing an application for a mine that is being used by bats. The presentation on stream restoration was also helpful as it revealed important factors to consider when trying to restore a stream. In my opinion, knowing what doesn't work is as important as knowing what does. Between the field trip and presentations, coupled with the state reports, we learned history, saw active mine sites, reclaimed sites, the Flight 93 Memorial (did you know it was on a mine site?), had updates on bio-solids, reforestation, learned about reclamation in other states, and much more.

It was my pleasure to recognize the past presidents of the organization, especially Rocky Parsons (West Virginia) and Dennis Baker, Ph.D. (Kansas) as they will be retiring. They will be missed. Rocky was also received the Reclamationist of the Year award. I hope recognizing the past presidents will become a tradition at our meetings as they have a wealth of knowledge to share.

As president, I appointed a NASLR Reclamation Specialist Certification committee, composed of Joe Hager (West Virginia), Ed Haigler (South Carolina), and myself. I believe certification is something our membership needs to seriously consider. It is forward thinking that keeps our organization vital and from becoming stagnant. The advantages of certification are obvious. Joe Hager gave a presentation on certification. A separate e-mail was recently sent to the membership for your input. This certification proposal can affect all of us so I urge you to read it and provide your comments to Joe.

Thanks to Dean Spindler (IL) for serving as chairman of the Public Relations committee. Also serving on this committee with him was Mike Kromer (WV) and Judy Wehner (NC). Judy also served as chairperson of the awards committee. Mike Kromer, Judy Wehner, and Joe Hager also served on the executive committee. Thanks to Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Hiltabrand, for her behind-the-scenes work. It is a vital job and she gave many hours to NASLR.

I greatly appreciate the award you presented me. It is an honor to serve this fine organization.

The organization is in great hands with Floyd Williams (North Carolina) serving as president and Mike Smith (Pennsylvania) as vice-president. Please give them your full support. See you at the next meeting.

The next newsletter will feature articles from Arkansas, Indiana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Washington. Deadline for copy to be received at the Coal Research Center is December 31, 2008.



INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Floyd Williams

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural
Resources

I would like to thank outgoing president, Mr. Lou Neuman, for his hard work and dedication to the Association during the past year, Linda Hiltabrand for her work as Secretary/Treasurer, Anna Harrington Caswell for keeping the Web Page updated and the work she does as the editor of the newsletter. As many of you know, Anna was elected Secretary/Treasurer for year 2008 – 2009. Dean Spindler attended this year's conference and as always helped keep the business meeting on track. Thank you, Dean. Dean has been an icon for NASLR and due to his hard work over the years the Association has developed into an entity that we can be proud of.

I would like to thank everyone that attended this year's conference. A special thanks to Michael Smith, Tammy Cree, Joe Pizarchik and all the other folks with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that had a part in making the 2008 NASLR CONFERENCE such a success. The technical presentations, field trip, annual banquet, and the Laurel Highlands Barbeque were all outstanding events. Also a special thanks to Scott Roberts, Deputy Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Mineral Resources Management for giving us a very informative overview of the history of the great state of Pennsylvania.

As the incoming President, I would like to continue the effort of recruiting more states to become members of NASLR and to establish a committee to review and make recommendations on updating the Constitution, Bylaws and Policies of the National Association of State Land Reclamationists. Recruiting new states may be difficult during my tenure as President due to most states having budget problems. We will continue to work on establishing the NASLR RECLAMATION SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM. Thanks to Joe Hager for his efforts in putting a draft proposal together for the Certification Program.

The 2009 Conference will be our 37th annual meeting and will be held in Tennessee. We all need to be involved, giving Bruce Ragon our support and input during the planning stages for the next meeting. We need to be thinking about potential speakers for the technical sessions and potential sponsors. Tennessee hosted the annual meeting in 2000 and I was able to attend. If I remember correctly, Dean Spindler of Illinois has agreed to host the 2010 meeting.

I would like to congratulate Michael Smith on being elected Vice President, Anna Harrington Caswell being elected Secretary/Treasurer along with her other duties, and Lou Neuman, Judy Wehner, and Joe Hager for being elected to serve on the 2008-2009 Executive Committee.

I look forward to working with each of you during my time as President of NASLR. Please feel free to contact me at Floyd.Williams@ncmail.net or call 919-733-4575.

STATE NEWS/REPORTS

KANSAS

Dennis Baker

Kansas Conservation Commission

Due to the increasing costs of reclaiming, the Kansas Conservation Commission is reviewing the reclamation bonding requirements. We are obtaining cost estimates from independent dirt contractors and mine operators across the state to arrive at an average cost analysis. These averages will be compared to the costs of completed reclamation projects to arrive at a bond requirement that is in line with today's actual dollar amount needed to reclaim. The "Financial Security Calculation Form" presented by Steve Potter at the NASLR conference has been a great help to work out the cost estimates. This form allows each estimate to be calculated the same from the example reclamation site given. Thanks, Steve.

The following data reflects the current status of the Kansas Mined Land Reclamation Program (non-coal):

- 131 private producers and 59 counties are licensed to conduct surface mining.
- 464 private sites and 651 county sites are registered for a total of 1,115 sites.
- 39,638,651 tons of material produced was reported in CY2007.
- 1,493 acres were disturbed for mining in 2007.
- 471 acres were reclaimed and released from bond in 2007.
- Over 5,000 acres have been reclaimed since the program began in 1994.
- One-half of the registered sites are crushed limestone and building stone quarries.
- Sand and gravel ranks second in the number of sites registered.
- Other minerals include: Clay, shale, silica, caliche, quartzite, volcanic ash, and gypsum.
- Two underground salt mines and four underground limestone quarries are registered.

