

Carrying Forward!

Farewell Message from the Outgoing President:

By Mike Haney

I'll begin this outgoing president's message with a grateful acknowledgment to everyone on the NASLR executive and officer boards. These people have given much of their spare time, effort, and talents to make this organization a great networking platform from which to share information, contacts, resources, and experiences related to the discipline of land reclamation and I am grateful for the journey thus far. I onboarded with NASLR in 2018 as a member of the public relations and education committee and have enjoyed every year since as I have had several career-enriching opportunities that have been a real blessing to me. Although my involvement as vice-president and then president have been markedly different in historical context due to pandemic conditions and limitations, NASLR has, along with myriad others these past two years, adjusted in real-time as best as we knew how to maintain the professional standards to which we have always aspired.

In addition to learning much about effective reclamation methods, streamlining bonding and bond-release processes, and trouble-shooting processes of administrating, planning, and enabling effective land reclamation, I learned a lot from this group about determination, teamwork, effective delegation, ingenuity, and perseverance. We continued and expanded upon our professional development hours awarded to conference participants despite doing so entirely by remote coordination and have hosted two consecutive highly successful annual conferences online. We have garnered more attention from members and have a freshly stocked roster of wonderful people on board to continue the work of maintaining NASLR at a high standard of quality and experience.

What's more, the internal discussions and efforts I have been privileged to be a part of continue to not only focus on maintaining a quality organization, but a

distinct focus of this group is to continue to improve our impact to members and expand our capabilities to help others. And we're all also really looking hopefully



toward an eventual end of the pandemic restrictions where we can again meet in person to share in the wonderful experiences of annual conferences and meetings. I can tell you all with absolute confidence the group of professionals involved at NASLR now will produce some impressive achievements such as updated and expanded newsletter content, a more user-friendly and relevant website experience, and an expanded repertoire of reclamation-specific topics and presentations that will continue to help us all do what we do better. Let me close by encouraging all who read this to plug in to the National Association of State Land Reclamationists this coming year. See what we have to offer. Help out and let students and professors know of our scholarship opportunities. Keep your colleagues in mind for nominations for reclamation awards and special recognition through our website and newsletter announcements and send us an email and reach out with your own success stories to share. And if you have an interest in joining us as a member of one of our committees, we would love to have you.

The deep gratitude, respect, and friendships I have from my experiences in NASLR are treasures I am happily carrying forward with me, so again – thank you for being a part of it all!

Sincerely, Mike Haney