

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

PAGE 2
SPRING MEETING
MEMBERS' FORUM

PAGE 3
NCCI SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PAGE 4
SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE
EDITOR'S NOTE



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and welcome to the inaugural issue of *Coal Matters*. With this newsletter we hope to keep you informed of all the activities of the Coal Institute. Look for coverage of past meetings, details of upcoming meetings, guest articles by industry leaders, membership issues, educational funding, sponsorships, and links to speaker's presentations, pictures and more. We hope you find this newsletter useful and informative and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

As we begin 2013 there are still many significant issues and challenges facing the producers, transporters and users of coal. Power plant retirements, production cuts, the ever changing regulatory environment, low cost natural gas and the continuing weak economy all contribute to the uncertainty surrounding the coal industry.

In 2013, The Coal Institute will bring some clarity to these issues during our three conferences with an impressive panel of industry leading speakers who will offer their insights and thoughts on the issues facing our industry.

The Spring Meeting will be at the Ballantyne Resort in Charlotte, NC (April 10-12), the Summer Trade Seminar will be at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, NC (July 14-16) and the Fall Meeting/Education and Engineering Seminar will be at the Mid Pines Resort in Southern Pines, NC (October 23-25). We have planned these conferences to be not only topical, thought provoking, and informative, but to be fun and cost effective as well. As always, any ideas or suggestions you may have to help us improve our service to the coal industry and our membership are welcome.

Thank you for your continuing support of The Coal Institute. Our groups of dedicated volunteers have been working diligently to support the vision and mission of The Coal Institute. We are always looking for new ideas and assistance and if any of you have an interest in serving The Coal Institute, please let us know.

Finally, as you consider the value we provide to the coal industry and to our members, please suggest to any of your coal related friends and associates to consider joining The Coal Institute.

Sincerely,

Jim Beauvais
President

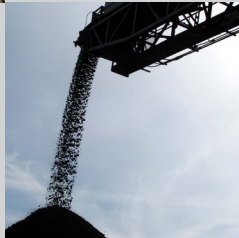
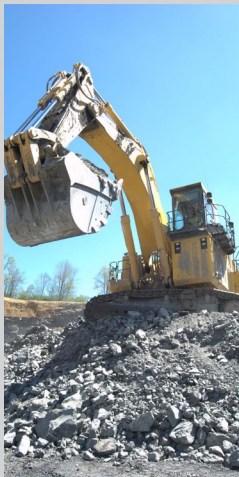
IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

PAGE 2
SPRING MEETING
MEMBERS' FORUM

PAGE 3
NCCI SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PAGE 4
SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE
EDITOR'S NOTE



SPRING MEETING

Please make plans to join The Coal Institute at Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge in Charlotte, NC for the 2013 Spring Meeting. The meeting will open Wednesday, April 10, 2013 with a 6:00 pm reception. Following dinner, Ted O'Brien, President of Doyle Trading Consultants, will give a view of the domestic and export market supply and demand picture. Ted's presentation should be a great way to kick off the meeting and provide everyone with plenty to think about and discuss.

After the business meeting on Thursday morning, Scott Spears, President of White Oak Resources, will provide a look at the challenges around the construction and start up of White Oak's new operation in Southern Illinois and his thoughts on the Illinois Basin marketplace. Jeff Wozek, Director of Coal Purchasing & Logistics, SunCoke Energy, Inc, will discuss the metallurgical coal market and the challenges in front of both metallurgical coal producers and buyers.

To round out the educational part of the meeting David Owens, VP of Fuels and Business Planning with TVA will represent the utility industry and a member of the transportation community to provide their input on the present and their view of the future of our industry.

The Spring Meeting golf tournament will commence after the speakers' presentations. Golf Chairman Donnie Peake has promised fair skies and balmy temperatures for the event. The Spring Meeting will conclude on Thursday evening with a reception, dinner and the presentation of the golf tournament awards.

The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge can be reached for room reservations at (704) 248-4020. The room rate for a single or double room is \$179.00 per night. Make sure you mention the NCCI when you reserve your room to assure you receive the conference rate.

MEMBERS' FORUM

By Rick Meade

It only took me basically my whole career – thirty five years and counting – to realize the importance of The Coal Institute.

I wanted to express what inspired me to finally volunteer some time to an organization that has dedicated its entire existence to the coal industry – The Coal Institute. All of us that are standing members of this institution and those who are not but use the meetings as a web to comeingle with coal people already have a commitment to the organization.

All of us have something we can contribute that will allow the institution to successfully survive and continue its endeavour of supporting the coal industry and educating those who misunderstand the coal industry. It is up to us, the coal people, to do this, you are already committed.

As I mentioned, I've been employed more than thirty five years within the coal industry, all while living in the same county I was born, Wise County, southwest Virginia of the Appalachian Mountains. It's a beautiful slice of God's country. It's also coal country. It's populated with God fearing, hardworking, honest as the day is long, coal people.

Where I choose to live, raise my family; earn an honest day's pay for an honest day's work depends on coal. It really doesn't matter the occupation you chose, either directly or indirectly coal is the life line to most all of the businesses in this area.

Coal people don't shy from the rhetoric stirred up by our neighbors who may or may not have direct roots to our raising but who chose to paint the coal industry as a villain threatening our lives. But while coal people have an ingrained heritage of understanding the importance of coal, they also understand the coal industry's challenges – not just today's environmental regulatory

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

PAGE 2

SPRING MEETING
MEMBERS' FORUM

PAGE 3

NCCI SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PAGE 4

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE
EDITOR'S NOTE

challenges, or the much needed safety imposed challenges, but the challenges their fathers and grandfathers faced during the early years of coal mining.

The last year and the recent coal production realignments have demonstrated just how important coal is to this area. Thousands of direct coal mining jobs have been eliminated; hundreds more indirect jobs will be impacted with the downsizing of central Appalachian coal mines. Families have become displaced and jobless, while coal counties have lost coal tax revenues.

Coal people will adjust – they always have. It's a cyclical life style that reflects the highs and lows of the coal business. Coal people aren't just the ones with coal under their finger nails; it's also the people that have collectively but respectively lived among coal people.

Our coal miners and families have been perceived and generally regarded as uneducated, unruly, and dirty overpaid hillbillies with a 52" flat screen hung in the double wide, a four wheel drive parked out front, the bass boat out back and a couple of four wheelers scattered amongst the chicken coops.

Well I can't dispute all of that, but overall, coal miners are educated – most coal companies provide training and educate their miners, most coal miners abide by very strict alcohol and drug testing, being unruly isn't an option.

The rest I honestly can't argue.

Coal people deserve respect. The job of mining coal isn't for everybody. It's more of a family "in the blood" occupation passed through generations. For those in the family that just can't cut the mustard or make the grade as a coal miner, well, they become coal sales people. The rest become coal buyers.

We as coal people have a commitment to our coal miners and their families. The task for us isn't to operate a coal mine just to employ miners, but to understand why we can't and how we can improve on the conditions that are presented.

The Coal Institute is a conduit for this purpose. The Coal People is the resource, and *Coal Matters* is our voice.

Coal Matters welcomes member comments or observations about our coal industry. Feel free to email **Ed Spiker** at espiker@oxfordresources.com for inclusion in a future edition of *Coal Matters*.

NCCI SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As the NCCI Sponsorship Chairman, I would like to wish a Happy Spring to all current and prospective NCCI members. We have an exciting and informative schedule of events for 2013, and I hope all of you will take advantage of the educational and networking opportunities our fine organization provides.

2012 saw a generous outpouring of support from our membership. On behalf of the NCCI, I want to thank all of you for your past support of NCCI sponsorship. We hope we can count on your continued generosity as we go forward in this challenging business climate.

If any of you have any ideas on how to improve the NCCI's sponsorship service to our membership, please do not hesitate to let me know. I look forward to seeing each of you at an NCCI event. If you are a prospective member who is considering joining the NCCI, come talk to us and let us show you why it makes sense for your company to become an NCCI member.

Tim Carr
Sponsorship Chairman



IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

PAGE 2

SPRING MEETING
MEMBERS' FORUM

PAGE 3

NCCI SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PAGE 4

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE
EDITOR'S NOTE

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

When the NCCI began awarding scholarships to two-year schools in 2006, the first school to receive funding was Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands, VA. The Mining Technology program at SWVCC, which was overseen by Assistant Dean Peggy Barber, was designed to prepare students to immediately go into the coal industry, but also to provide them with the basic classes needed to continue their education in programs such as Bluefield State's Mining and Electrical Engineering program. The initial recipient of our scholarship was **Jeffrey Hubbard**.

Jeffrey is a 4th generation coal miner and worked 3rd shift underground while in school at SWVCC. Upon receiving his Associate's Degree, Jeffrey attended and graduated from Bluefield State College with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, and he is now in the MBA program at King College, and will graduate in May 2013. Jeffrey is proudly employed by Consol Energy, and worked as a Longwall maintenance/ section foreman at their Buchanan #1 mine. He currently is a shift supervisor at the Buchanan #1 Mine Water Treatment Plant.



I had the opportunity to talk with Jeffrey about his education and the NCCI scholarship, and several times he mentioned his gratitude for receiving this financial assistance. "The NCCI scholarship made it possible for me to get an education. Not only did it cover books and tuition, it helped defray the travel cost from work to school" he said. Jeffrey also stated that he "would not have been able to finish school without the scholarship". From a struggling young community college student to an MBA candidate with a career in coal, Jeffrey exemplifies the type of student that we hope takes full advantage of our scholarship opportunities. As members of the NCCI, we should all take great pride in helping not only Jeffrey but all recipients of our scholarship awards reach their potential and their career goals. Congratulations Jeffrey.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please direct any comments, questions or concerns about *Coal Matters* to either

Jim Beauvais
NCCI President
james.beauvais@constellation.com

Ed Spiker
Editor
espiker@oxfordresources.com

