

SAAPL President's Report August 2018

The 64th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Professional Landmen in Denver, Colorado was an outstanding event that brought forward a variety of fantastic speakers on topics that are timely to our industry. The beautiful Rockies landscape was the dramatic backdrop for nearly 900 attendees which was hosted in downtown Denver June 20-23.

The conference, led by Chairman Wendy Dalton, CPL, offered land professionals such as yourselves from all across the country the opportunity to earn 15.5 CPL and RPL continuing education credits while also providing multiple chances to visit with longtime colleagues and establish new business partners and friends.

The Welcome Reception featuring "*All Things Colorado*" as its theme was jammed packed with landmen connecting and reconnecting and discussing business. A big buzz surrounded the recent Ballot Initiative 97 initiative that looms over Colorado threatening to dismantle the oil and gas industry and landman profession in the state. In an effort to help our landmen in the Rockies Region, the AAPL Executive Committee and Board approved a \$100,000 donation to Coloradans for Responsible Energy (CRED) in its effort to help inform the public of the economic value of the oil and gas industry and fight the Ballot initiative.

On the lighter side, the Welcome Reception featured a glimpse of the local culture in Denver with specialty food and cocktails. And because Denver is known for its local breweries, a special beer tasting was on tap.

The Opening Session on Thursday began with beautiful renditions of the Canadian and United States national anthems by Catherine Piskurich, daughter of AAPL member Jeanine Haller Piskurich. Chairman Dalton welcomed delegates and highlighted some of the special features of this year's event including the addition of four special hands-on Contract Center Workshops, a Governmental Affairs discussion table and sold-out tickets for our Keynote Session featuring David Lawler, CEO of BP Lower 48.

Mr. Lawler's excellent keynote address on Thursday was followed on Friday by the Education Luncheon with Steve Goreham, author and speaker on the topic of climate change.

Thursday afternoon showcased a JOA Panel for a discussion of the AAPL Form 610-2015 JOA and everything one needs to know regarding the key differences from the previous agreements' iterations. Led by attorney Jeff Weems of Staff Weems LLP, a key contributing author among others on the Form 610 JOA Revision Task Force, this session generated a lot of open dialogue with the audience on the nuances of the new form. The sessions concluded on Thursday with a session overviewing Drilling Engineering presented by Zach Arnold, entitled Petroleum Engineering for Non-Engineers. The topics for discussion were presented with an orientation towards non-engineers.

Friday's education sessions were highlighted with Dorsey Roach presenting the Participation Agreement and this topic highlighted the various provisions to consider when the landman is putting together deals and commercial transactions which require a participation commitment in an oil and gas project. Dorsey is a landman's landman for sure and his shared practical experiences and expertise compiled while working in the oil patches of many basins for thirty plus years is always insightful and educational.

Friday afternoon's sessions concluded with a presentation with a panel on Allocation Wells that included Eli Kiefaber, Fred MacDonald, Wade Mann, Zachary Oliva and Dorsey Roach. The last session of the day covered the topic of Ethics and was hosted by Donald Campbell.

Each of the education sessions were recorded, that will allow our membership to view the recordings from any sessions they may have missed.

Saturday morning concluded the 64th Annual Meeting with a Comparative Law Review panel moderated by George Snell III of Snell Law Firm, along with Tim Dowd of Elias, Books, Brown & Nelson PC, Craig Newman, Law Office of Craig Newman, Greg Danielson, Davis Graham & Stubbs, and Greg Nibert. The panel shared their respective insights on a variety of subjects, including habendum and shut-in clauses, delay rentals and pooling, to name a few. The next iteration of the *Oil & Gas Comparative Law* is in the process of being prepared. This new edition will also include a new section for the first time on Kentucky and West Virginia Oil & Gas Law which was managed and prepared by one of our own members, Mr. George A. Mason, Jr. of George Mason Law Firm in Lexington.

There was a great sense of optimism in the air and the annual meeting is becoming a must-attend event for land professionals. I would encourage each of you who can to try and attend one in future years. Next year's Annual Meeting will be a great opportunity to do so, as it will be held much closer to home here in our Basin, convening in Pittsburgh next June 2019.

I know business is currently slow in our little neck of the woods, with very little opportunities out there for much work, but it is always encouraging to meet with others who do exactly what we do and enjoy it as much as we do. Landfolks who are working in other areas of the country- some just up the road a bit- where the energy industry is booming and there is so much demand and optimism for our profession's future.

I hope to see you in Pittsburgh next June!

Thanks!
Rich

Richard D. Adkins, CPL
President Southern Appalachian Association of Professional Landmen