



Michael Late Benedum Chapter

American Association of Professional Landmen

The Take-Off

February 2017

MLBC
P.O. Box 955
Bridgeport, WV 26330

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY MLBC 2017 SEMINAR

On March 9th, the MLBC Executive Committee is expecting a large turnout for the annual, all-day seminar. This year’s seminar, to be held at the Bridgeport Conference Center, will be entitled “On the Road to Recovery.” Hopeful for the future, we are beginning to see an uptick in new project proposals as the new year begins. The March seminar will provide a wonderful networking opportunity for members to learn of exciting new opportunities for 2017.

With the assistance of our hard-working and dedicated education committee, the MLBC has been able to obtain commitments from an impressive lineup of speakers covering a wide-range of prevailing industry topics. Our topics for this year are as follows **(AAPL CE Credits as well as Attorney CLE Credits are being applied for):**

- Mineral vs Royalty Interest Interpretation / Computation
- Landman Ethics
- Dealing with “Atypical” Property Owners
- “Held by Operations” Lease Clauses
- Legislative Update
- Tax Assessments 101
- Heirship Research Hints / Tips

Following the all-day seminar, we will be hosting Tim Knobloch of James Knobloch Petroleum Consultants at our regular dinner meeting. Tim will be providing a recap of the major Mergers and Acquisitions that occurred in 2016 as well as a brief production analysis for the year; **(Members must register separately for the seminar and dinner meeting.)**

I hope that many of you will take advantage of this low-cost, high-value event. I can’t stress enough the importance of continued networking as our industry begins to rebound. I hope to see many of you on the 9th!

Mark A. Mudrick, Esq., RPL
MLBC Education Committee Chair

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UPCOMING EVENTS

*February Dinner Meeting
Blennerhassett Hotel
Parkersburg, WV
February 9, 2017
[Registration Link](#)*

*March Full Day Seminar
Bridgeport Conference Center
Bridgeport, WV 26330
March 9, 2017
[Registration Available Soon!](#)*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On December 10-11, 2016, I attended the Quarterly Board of Directors meeting at Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Again, much discussion involved budgetary matters, annual meeting projections/costs, and education initiatives.

Following is my summary of the Board meeting.

AAPL Staff:

~Per Melanie Bell, Executive VP, current headcount is 28 plus 1 long term contractor. Six Vacancies – Certification Coordinator, SR. Accountant, Personify Database Administrator, Electronic Media Administrator, Business Development Manager and Publications/Marketing Manager.

NAPE

~Summer NAPE - Expectations were exceeded with 2,780 attendees on hand. Financial results were strong, partly due to reduction in costs.

~Denver NAPE - Held on October 12-13, the event attracted 913 attendees; down from the previous year. Sponsorships were also down.

~NAPE Summit - February 13-17, 2017 - Early numbers are encouraging. The expanded NAPE week will include IPAA, AIPN and OCS coordinated events.

It appears that regional NAPE events will be suspended for now. The focus will be on strengthening NAPE Summit and Summer NAPE.

AAPL 63rd Annual Meeting - Seattle, June 21-24, 2017 - The host hotel located in the Emerald City is the Sheraton Seattle.

~Note that rooms are limited and reserved for registered Annual Meeting attendees.

Link: <http://www.landman.org/events/annual-meeting>.

~Earn up to 15 CEUs, including 1.5 ethics credits.

~Hot Play **Happy** Hour Socials is new this year and will include **Marcellus/Utica**, Eagle Ford, Permian, Bakken, Scoop/Stack and Mississippi/Alabama/Georgia/Louisiana/Gulf of Mexico/East Texas. These socials will be held at local hot spots within walking distance of the host hotel.

~Landman Bash - The venue for this always popular event will be the Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP).

~Annual Golf Tournament will take place at Gold Mountain Golf Club.

It is strongly recommended that Annual meeting reservations be made early.

Membership and Certification: As of November 14, 2016 Total Membership count stood at **14,691**. Active Members; 1,657; Associate Members, 1,341; Senior Members; 111; Student Members: 507; Golden Lease / Lifetime Members 46; Retired CPLs 29.

There are 2,853 CPLs; 2,201 RPLs; 440 RLs; and 29 Retired CPLs bringing the total of land professional designees to **5,523**.

~Online Certification Application (OCA) - Testing has been completed and this feature is expected to rollout in Quarter 1.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

OCA's will continue to be reviewed/vetted through the Certification Committee.

~**Note:** As mentioned in my previous director report, the Certification Committee continues to regularly review applications. There have been instances of applicants being denied due to sponsor verification issues. I believe it's worth repeating for those of you who are considering applying or sponsoring, I quote from Part IV / Application Procedure / B. Verifications,

“All verification forms must be completed by the sponsor in their own words. If any question, blank or page of the verification form is prepared by the applicant, the application will be returned and will not be considered again for one (1) year. In addition the signatory sponsor and/or the applicant may be subject to referral to the AAPL ethics committee.”

Technology:

~**Contract Center** - AAPL's new Contract Center was launched in October 2016. Forms-on-a-Disk has ceased new sales. Access to all AAPL forms will be provided exclusively through subscription to AAPL's Contract Center.

~**Electronic Ballot System** - AAPL will contract with Intelliscan to conduct the 2017-2018 AAPL Officer Election via online ballot system. Welcome news!

~**Connect/Online Communities** - Per Christopher Halaszynski, AAPL Director of Education & Member Services, in addition to LandNews and other existing communities of practice, the following initiatives are planned for 2017:

- Hire our Own Campaign (led by Marc Strahn and Trinidad Hernandez)
- Modern Mentoring Program (led by Jim Dewbre)
- Enhanced Student Job Search

Treasurer's Report (for period ending September 30, 2016):

~**Balance Sheet:** As compared to September 30, 2015 total assets decreased from \$30,713,741, to \$30,411,521 a change of \$302,220 or .98%. Total liabilities have decreased from \$3,067,022 to \$1,806,390; a change of \$1,260,632 or 41.10%. This was due primarily to the repayment of the \$1,000,000 building note payable, and also a decrease of \$244,401 loan; a result of unearned long term 3 and 5 year dues.

~**Revenues** (exclusive of investment revenue) decreased 7.59% from \$598,033 to \$552,651. The decrease in revenue is due in part to a reduction in publications revenue of 58.54% from \$82,900 to \$34,371. This is due to having eliminated the Landman 2 and to timing of issues.

~**Expenses** have decreased 22.19% from \$1,819,050 to \$1,415,395. The decrease in expenses is primarily a result of cost reductions related to publications, educational seminars, board of director meetings and general/administrative expenses.

~**Investments Accounts:** As of September 30, 2016 investments are \$23,972,460 a decrease of \$255,990 or 1.06% as compared to the same period last year. The decrease has been the result of transfers of cash of \$100,000 to the AAPL operating account; however this has been partially offset due to unrealized and realized gains in the AAPL investment account in the amount of \$776,613.

Education:

Since September's BOD meeting 13 seminars have been facilitated with 623 attending registrants. The new virtual delivery model launched in July 2016 is proving to be very successful for onsite seminars hosted at the AAPL office and the virtual seminars.

~AAPL is now seeking volunteer speakers for new and existing topics. You can submit an application at www.landman.org/education. You may also send the form to Ingrid Rivers, Education Chair, at Ingrid@riverslandservices.com.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

AAPL Upcoming Local Events:

- **Oil and Gas Land Review, CPL/RPL Exam** - May 2nd -5th Moon Township, PA, 18 CEU, 1 CEU Ethics credits available.

Presenters: Curtis T. Horne, CPL; Dorsey T. Roach, CPL; and Thomas M. Rucker II, CPL

Note: YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE BEFORE TESTING!

- **Oil and Gas Lease Fundamentals** - July 27, 2017 Pittsburgh, PA.

Speaker: Mark A. Acree - 6.00 CEU (webinar available).

- **Additionally** there are numerous educational opportunities available. Members receive discounted rates on all in-person courses, webinars and videos. You can find a current list of education events on the website or contact education@landman.org with any questions.

Accreditation Committee:

Mark Acree, committee chair, reported that accreditation for seven university undergraduate programs will expire during 2017. On site evaluations are in progress in order to ensure policy and procedural compliance. The board approved funding in the amount of \$10,000. The funding will essentially go toward site visits to programs including Oklahoma University, Texas Tech, Tulsa, Western States, Calgary, ULALA and Wyoming. The alternative would have been to significantly increase application fees.

Field Landman Committee:

Randy Nichols, committee chair, reported on the challenge of being self-funded due to budget cuts. The goals of the committee include outreach, networking and education for Landmen. The board saw fit to approve \$12,500 for the remaining seminars. The cost will cover primarily food and non-alcoholic beverages along with some miscellaneous items like security, clean up, AV, etc. Most of the venues are free. Randy mentioned approximately 60% of AAPL members are Independent Landmen.

The next quarterly board meeting will be held March 10-12, 2017 in Santa Barbara, California at The Fess Parker by Hilton Resort. If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions I should address to the AAPL Executive Committee or Board of Directors, please contact me at bruce.turner@steptoe-johnson.com. It is a privilege to serve as MLBC's representative to AAPL. I'm grateful for the support of the MLBC, the AAPL and my employer, Steptoe & Johnson.

WE ARE: AMERICA'S LANDMEN!

Bruce Turner

National Director

OIL & GAS MUSEUM UPDATE

On April 24, 2015, the MLBC organized a very successful fundraiser to support the Oil & Gas Museum located in Parkersburg, West Virginia. As we look forward to returning for a dinner event in Parkersburg, it would be a good time to review where all the money raised went. As 2016 wound down to a conclusion, Paul C. Hoblitzell III provided the MLBC with an update on the progress of the renovations at not only the museum located at 119 Third Avenue, Parkersburg, but also the facilities they maintain at Burning Springs. We'll outline the accomplishments they have made in the year and a half since the fundraiser below.



First the museum located downtown –

The window panes were repaired and replaced, along with the main roof, and they also installed a roof over the skylight. Three new furnaces were installed as well as new LED lighting. A board room and new office was constructed, as well as hiring 3 interns from Marietta College for the Summer of 2016. No doubt those students learned a lot from all the history contained there!

The large items have been addressed, but there are still repairs needed. Those would include repainting of the signage and wall mural on the building, replacing timbers for the yard equipment mounts, a new roof for the rise engine, and foundations for various yard equipment to preserve them better.

Next the facilities at Burning Springs –

A new porch and roof deck, along with new work and repairs to the overlook walk and steps were completed. Trees were cut and trimmed to provide a better view, but also to protect the actual museum building. The museum roof was coated. Water, gas, and electric was installed to the cabin, yard, and museum and the electric to the park was upgraded. All the needed parts for the Jack Limings standard rig were located and obtained. Finally, they gave the cabin a good cleaning and upgraded the kitchen cabinets and counter tops.

While a lot has been accomplished, the Burning Springs facilities still need a few upgrades. New timbers to mount the equipment on are needed here – just like at the downtown museum. New signage and descriptions for the equipment, as well as painting the equipment is needed. The displays in the museum portion need reworked and updated. Finally, they would like to develop trails and an equipment display on the hillside, which would be a nice addition for all visitors.

The MLBC would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Oil & Gas Museum for the progress they've made and for all their hard work in preserving the history of our industry. It's nice to see the money that was raised being put to good use. Chances are that if you are reading this, you are in the oil and gas industry. If you are, and you haven't visited the museum, you owe to yourself to check it out. Make a day trip or weekend out of it! Stay at the historic Blennerhassett Hotel, get a little adventurous and eat some of the best authentic Lebanese food you can find at Chams Lebanese Cuisine, and grab a local craft brew just down the street at Parkersburg Brewing Company. It's worth the trip.

If you would like to help out the Oil & Gas Museum, either by funding or volunteering, feel free to contact the President of the museum, Paul C. Hoblitzell III at 304-481-0332. Or, catch him at the February MLBC dinner in Parkersburg at the Blennerhassett Hotel. See you there!

Jeremy White
Sergeant-At-Arms



AAPL CERTIFICATION OPTIONS

AAPL offers three certifications that are proven to enhance a member's credibility in the industry and to increase earning potential for landmen.

Certified Professional Landman (CPL) – The highest designation offered in the energy management industry, CPL certification is the standard by which landmen demonstrate their comprehensive competence, proficiency and professionalism in the landman field.

Registered Professional Landman (RPL) – The mid-level designation offered by AAPL, RPL certification distinguishes a landman as knowledgeable, experienced and professional.

Registered Landman (RL) – The initial level of certification, RL certification signifies a fundamental knowledge of the land industry as well as a landman's commitment to furthering their education.

For more information on why becoming a [certified landman is important, click here.](#)

February Dinner Meeting Sponsors

Contract Land Staff

Percheron Survey

Steptoe & Johnson

Strategic Land Services

Upshur Agency

Thank you for your sponsorship!



Michael Late Benedum Chapter

American Association of Professional Landmen

9th Annual MLBC Spring Charity Golf Outing

Friday, May 12, 2017 @ 11:30am

Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, West Virginia

More than \$175,000 has been donated to WVU Children's Hospital over the past 7 years and we hope to make a significant donation again this year. This year's event will once again feature a MILLION DOLLAR SHOOTOUT, along with some other fantastic prizes.

Please consider sponsoring this great event at one of the sponsorship levels below, and remember that our donations continue to enrich the lives of the children of our communities and their families during their stay at the hospitals. Let's continue to support this great cause!

Miracle Sponsor - \$3,000

Includes: Four (4) golf/dinner registrations, PRESENTING SPONSOR signage during registration, dinner, and awards, additional signage on course and resort grounds, and program, website, and newsletter recognition

Flag Sponsor - \$1,750

Includes: Nine (9) flags that are always standing out to reveal your company's logo, which will be sent to the sponsor after the round, and program, website, and newsletter recognition

Hole Sponsor - \$1,000 (space limited)

Includes: Company name or logo on one (1) tee box sign and the ability to put up and man a tent with drinks, music, and/or games for the players and distribute other golf swag your company has to give away, and program, website, and newsletter recognition

Tee Sponsor - \$500 (space limited)

Includes: Company name or logo on two (2) tee box signs, one on each course, and program, website, and newsletter recognition

Registration for the event will open soon, but you can sign up now for any of the sponsorship levels to reserve your spot! If any sponsor would like to provide additional material, please don't hesitate to contact Jeff Junstrom at jjunstrom@cassidyperc.com.

Please indicate sponsorship choice and make your check payable to "MLBC" and mail to:

Jeff Junstrom

Sean Cassidy and Associates, P.C.

118 North Main Street

Greensburg, PA 15601



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Leshia Balderson

Leshia Balderson, primary shareholder of Balderson Law Office, PLLC, is a proud MLBC member and has been working in oil and gas since graduating from West Virginia College of Law. She started off as an abstractor running title for Mason Dixon Energy (now Percheron) in New York back when the shale was hot up there. Moving into an in-house position with a larger company gave her valuable experience with oil and gas transactions and title projects.

Balderson Law Office practices in Morgantown and Leshia is admitted in Pennsylvania and West Virginia but her staff can handle requests in Ohio as well. Her primary focus is on title and transactions for mineral buyers or large operators and she handles due diligence projects for leasehold acquisitions as well.

When asked about what she enjoys most about the MLBC she responded “The educational events! Our industry is constantly changing so it is important for us to keep up with the new developments with regulations and case law.”

Leshia lives in Pennsylvania with her husband Rob, her two daughters Leyton, Harper and their German Shepard Zoe. They enjoy attending WVU football games and can be found at their tailgate before and after the games. She also serves on the planning board and is a volunteer for the biannual children’s consignment sale to benefit Christian Help, a Morgantown Non-profit.

Daniel Germain
Marketing Chair



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Platinum \$5,000.00 per year

Benefits of Platinum Sponsor

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at every meeting along with the meeting sponsor board.
- Logo on the back of every Takeoff and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive three meeting/dinner passes for each meeting for one year.
- Receive one free Full Page advertising ad.
- Receive free Half Page ad in the takeoff per year.
- Logo on Golf Outing sponsorship boards.



Gold \$2,500.00 per year

Benefits of Gold Sponsor

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at every meeting.
- Logo on the back of every Takeoff and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive one free Half Page advertising ad in the Takeoff per year.
- Logo on Golf Outing sponsorship boards.



Silver \$1,500.00 per year

Benefits of Silver Sponsor

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at six meetings.
- Logo on the back of every Takeoff and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive one free Half Page advertising ad in the Takeoff per year.



Bronze \$750.00 per year

Benefits of Bronze Sponsor

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at three meetings.
- Logo on the back of every Takeoff.



Advertising in The TakeOff

Full page ad \$500.00 per month

Half page ad \$250.00 per month

Dinner Meeting Sponsorship

Cost \$250.00 per meeting. Companies will receive advertising at the dinner meeting as well as your logo displayed on our website for the month of the meeting you sponsor.

To secure a corporate sponsorship, advertise in the Take-Off, or if you have any questions please contact Tara White at twhite@mlbc-aapl.org. Please contact Jeremy White at jwhite@eqt.com for dinner meeting sponsorships.

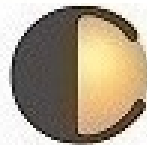
MLBC Corporate Sponsors

Platinum



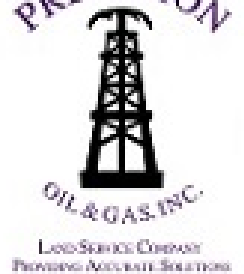
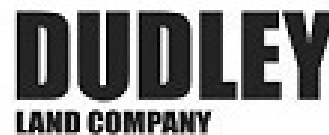
Higher standards make better lawyers.®

Gold



Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation

Campbell Developers L.L.C.



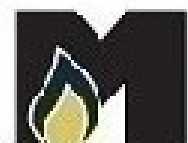
Silver



Lewis Glasser Casey & Rollins PLLC
LAW OFFICES



Bronze



MORSE BLENKLEWIS LLP

2016-2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



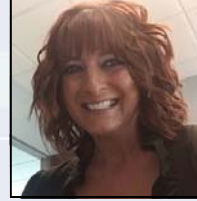
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twhite@mlbc-aapl.org

2016—2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards	Christa Dotson	cdotson@eqt.com
Bylaws	Chris Elswick	chris.m.elswick@gmail.com
Certification	James Talkington, Jr., CPL/ESA	jeta@frontier.com
Education	Mark Mudrick, RPL	mark.mudrick@percheronllc.com
Ethics	Justin Nixon	jrnixon@eqt.com
Fall Golf	Steve Carr, CPL	steve.carr@tsdudley.com
Finance	Adam Morgan	adam.morgan@cabotog.com
Historian	David Aman	davidaman@consolenergy.com
Legislative	Steve Perdue	steve.perdue@steptoe-johnson.com
Marketing	Daniel Germain	daniel.germain@completetitlesolutions.com
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Spring Golf	Jeffrey Junstrom	jjunstrom@tuckerlaw.com
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Website /Job Bank	Jeremy D. Preston , RPL	jpreston@eqt.com
University Liaison	Mark Acree, CPL	macree1959@yahoo.com

MLBC SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
February 9, 2016	Blennerhassett Hotel Parkersburg WV	Greg Wrightstone
March 9, 2017	Bridgeport Conference Center Bridgeport, WV	Full Day Seminar
April 21, 2017	Bartini Morgantown, WV	Spring Social
May 12, 2017	Oglebay Resort Wheeling, WV	Spring Golf Outing
June 1, 2017	Lakeview Resort Morgantown, WV	Awards Ceremony, Officer Induction

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Michael Late Benedum



“The Great Wildcatter”

The MLBC membership application is located on the website at www.mlbc-aapl.org. Please check your information on the website prior to submitting your renewal. The MLBC website has an updated version of the membership listing. Please use this resource if you can not find yours or others information in the directory. Please report any errors or omissions to Tara White at twhite@mlbc-aapl.org.

Notice of the application(s) of all potential Chapter members shall be published in the next regularly scheduled monthly Chapter “Takeoff” newsletter. Active members shall have the opportunity during a period of thirty (30) days following the first publication to object to the potential members’ application. Such objections to membership approval may be submitted to any member of the Executive Committee and shall be in writing. The Executive Committee shall take any such objection under counsel in the next regularly scheduled monthly Executive Committee meeting. A decision to accept or reject the membership application shall be determined by a majority vote at such meeting. The Executive Committee shall notify the applicant in writing of rejection.

Application for membership in the Chapter shall be subject to the approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting, after the aforementioned thirty (30) day newsletter publication period, and shall require the signed approval by the acting President of the Executive Committee, as evidence of the Committee’s approval. Names of any and all newly approved members shall be read at the following regularly scheduled general meeting of the Chapter.



MLBC WEBSITE

If you experience any problems using the website or if you have any suggestions, please contact Jeremy Preston via e-mail at JPreston@eqt.com.



JOB BANK

The direct link for MLBC Job Bank is www.mlbcjobbank.com. If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Preston via e-mail at JPreston@eqt.com.



PHOTO ALBUM

We would like to share our Photo Album with you to show you what MLBC has been doing throughout the year. The direct link for MLBC Photo Album is www.mlbc-aapl.org/VPhoto.php.