

# THE WILDCATTER

MICHAEL LATE BENEDUM CHAPTER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN



Vol. 1 Issue 5 | August 2020

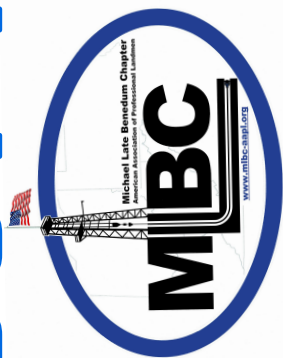
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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The current COVID-19 worldwide pandemic continues to alter our lives in unprecedented ways including canceling our traditional MLBC officer induction. Instead we will announce and introduce you to our new slate of officers via this newsletter. I would like to personally thank the volunteers, committee members, board members, especially Jeremy White, for all you have done and continue to do for our organization. We have been faced with difficult decisions during unparalleled times for our industry and our country, but our volunteers continue to come together for the betterment of our membership. I am honored to be inducted as your President and proud to be a part of this principled organization. I hope to serve you as well as those in the position before me have done during my 2020-2021 term.

Last week Jeremy White and I met at the historic Benedum Civic Center in Bridgeport, WV to memorialize the Presidential changeover. Jeremy was presented with the past President's plaque, and we discussed key functions of the role, including how we can provide opportunities to our members during such erratic times. Jeremy has been a steadfast steward for our chapter, having served since 2011 after years as a dedicated volunteer beginning in 2008. I am confident in my role as President knowing Jeremy will continue to be involved for at least one more year in the position of President Emeritus.

I never imagined while working my way through the ranks of the MLBC that my Presidency would begin during a worldwide pandemic coupled with downturns in our industry. Instead I expected continued fellowship and growth through in-person gatherings like cocktail hours, educational events, golf outings and clay shoots, thus meeting more members, traveling and experiencing new places. Instead, we have shifted gears to work on ramping up our online educational platform, possibly doing Zoom happy hours to make sure we are able to continue to offer our membership the resources they need now, more than ever, to stay

"I ask you to pick up the phone and make a quick call for no reason other than catching up to another MLBC member."



MLBC President, Anthony Romeo

connected. I miss being with everyone in person and look forward to shedding the mask.

I know every one of you has been impacted by our industry's downturn. Keep your eye out this year for continued resources provided by your organization like free educational offerings. When the gathering limits are increased or lifted, we will host a much needed, in person, social gathering to celebrate! I encourage everyone, if able, to take advantage of every single educational event this year. Stay connected, even if it is by attending social gatherings via Zoom when offered. During times like these it is vital to work on self-development by diversifying your skillset, taking advantage of educational events, and staying connected with your fellow landmen. I ask you to pick up the phone and make a quick call for no reason other than catching up to another MLBC member. These phone calls can be more important than any other action we take right now to keep us active and connected.

I look forward to the upcoming year, wish all of you good health and hope to see you in person very soon!



Incoming MLBC President, Anthony Romeo presents outgoing MLBC President, Jeremy White with the Past President's plaque at the Benedum Civic Center.



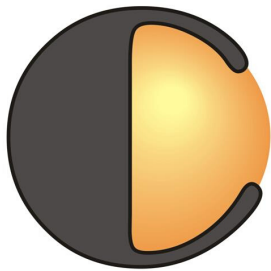
# MLBC CORPORATE SPONSORS <sup>2020</sup>

## PLATINUM

Babst | Calland  
Attorneys at Law



## GOLD



Campbell Development L.L.C.



Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation



## SILVER



KIEFABER & OLIVA  
L L P





# 2020 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

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## PLATINUM: \$5,000 PER YEAR

### Benefits of Platinum Sponsor

- 4 meeting passes for every MLBC event in 2020 (excluding charity events)
- Logo in every membership email
- One full page ad in the Wildcatter
- One half page ad in the Wildcatter
- Recognition at every educational event
- Full page ad on sponsorship page on website
- MLBC swag bag (including 4 polos)

## GOLD: \$2,500 PER YEAR

### Benefits of Gold Sponsor

- 3 meeting passes for every MLBC event in 2020 (excluding charity events)
- Logo in every membership email
- One full page ad in the Wildcatter
- One half page ad in the Wildcatter
- Recognition at every educational event
- Full page ad on sponsorship page on website

## SILVER: \$1,500 PER YEAR

### Benefits of Silver Sponsor

- 2 meeting passes for every MLBC event in 2020 (excluding charity events)
- Logo in every membership email
- One full page ad in the Wildcatter
- One half page ad in the Wildcatter
- Recognition at every educational event

## BRONZE: \$750 PER YEAR

### Benefits of Bronze Sponsor

- 1 meeting pass for every MLBC event in 2020 (excluding charity events)
  - Logo in every membership email
  - One half page ad in the Wildcatter
  - Recognition at every educational event
- 
- 

To secure a corporate sponsorship, advertise in The Wildcatter, or if you have questions, please contact Abby Veigel at [abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org](mailto:abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org). Please contact Harry Heinbaugh at [Harry.Heinbaugh@percheronllc.com](mailto:Harry.Heinbaugh@percheronllc.com) for dinner meeting sponsorships.



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# Michael Late Benedum Posthumously Wins AAPL's Pioneer Award

Submitted By: Christa Dotson, RPL, MLBC Director

Michael Benedum was selected as this year's winner of the AAPL's Pioneer Award. The Pioneer Award is given to someone who has truly made a significant impact on the profession. It is difficult to imagine anyone who has made a more significant impact on the oil and gas business than "The Great Wildcatter." Though Mr. Benedum passed on July 30, 1959, his legacy lives on in those of us who work in this profession and attempt to carry forth the ideals of hard work, integrity and charity. It was my hope in nominating Mr. Benedum for this award that his incredible life and legacy would become known to a broader audience – beyond the Appalachian Basin and throughout the ranks of AAPL. It is also my hope that those of us who are fortunate enough to be members of the MLBC continue to share his story and strive for the ideals that he held true.

*"The Great Wildcatter"*  
(July 16, 1869 - July 30, 1959)

**"Michael Benedum started in the oil business at the age of 20 with \$500 in cash and a million dollars' worth of nerve."**  
-TIME Magazine, 1948.

Michael Late Benedum, namesake of the AAPL's own Michael Late Benedum Chapter ("MLBC"), was born to humble beginnings in Bridgeport, West Virginia on July 16, 1869. As a young adult, Mr. Benedum worked at various local flour mills and also in sales. At age 20, Mr. Benedum had a chance encounter with John Worthington, Superintendent of the South Penn Oil Company, during an early morning train ride through the hills of West Virginia. This casual conversation led to an on-the-spot job offer for Mr. Benedum to work as a landman for the South Penn Oil Company - and changed the trajectory of his life dramatically.

Mr. Benedum rapidly found success with South Penn and later branched out to form the Benedum-Trees Oil Company with Joseph Trees, who would become his lifelong business partner, on September 17, 1900. In 1907, Mr. Benedum moved his offices to what is now known as the Benedum-Trees Building in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There, his oil and gas empire continued to flourish with oil fields developed across the United States and beyond. He drilled his first well in the Cow Run Sands of West Virginia and made his first big oil strike in Illinois. He proved the Louisiana Caddo field, discovered Colombia's "Tropical" field, was the first to probe Romania's Ploesti fields and is also credited with finds in Canada and the Philippines. In Texas, he discovered or developed the Desdemona, Big Lake, Yates, East White Point, Susan Peak and Benavides. In fact, the pioneering vision which conceived the possibilities of the Permian was Michael Benedum. In 1950, the Texas Railroad Commission named a field 50 miles southeast of Midland, the Benedum Oil Field, in his honor.

Mr. Benedum developed companies and corporate holdings including Transcontinental Oil Co. (1919), Plymouth Oil Co. (1923), Hiawatha Oil and Gas Co. (1926), Big Lake Oilfield, (1926) and Bentex Oil Corp. (1936). His storage, transportation, marketing, refining, and conservation practices led to the Interstate Oil Compact Commission in 1933. His businesses were so successful that he even appeared in Fortune Magazine's list of wealthiest Americans during his time. Mr. Benedum never retired and reportedly worked seven days a week late into his life.



# Michael Late Benedum Posthumously Wins AAPL's Pioneer Award

(Continued)



Mr. Benedum's philanthropic endeavors are perhaps equally impressive as his professional accomplishments. He always retained an affinity for his hometown of Bridgeport, West Virginia. He was responsible for the restoration and beautification of the Bridgeport Cemeteries, constructed a Methodist Church, which is known as one of the most beautiful stone churches in the country and had a Civic Center constructed for the citizens of his hometown, located at the site of the home where he was born and raised. In 1944, Mr. Benedum and his wife Sarah established the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, a memorial to his only child who died in 1918 at age 20, for the purpose of grantmaking focused in West Virginia and Pittsburgh, their native and adopted homes. The Foundation, headquartered in the Benedum-Trees Building in Pittsburgh, funds education, economic and community development efforts. To date, the Foundation has authorized grants totaling over \$410 million dollars.

The greatest wildcatter of them all, Michael Late Benedum, died on July 30, 1959 at age 90. Mr. Benedum's Last Will and Testament, written just two years before his death, perhaps best summaries

the reflections of the man himself, his thoughts on his incredible life and his intention in giving back to his community. "Life has been sweet to me...sweet in the loved ones that have been mine, sweet in the friends who have surrounded me & rewarding in the opportunities that have come my way. I could not leave this earth with any degree of happiness and satisfaction if I felt that I had not tried to bring some of these joys to those less fortunate than I have been." Excerpt from the Fifth Codicil to the Last Will and Testament of Michael L. Benedum.

# AAPL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By: Christa Dotson, Esq., RPL

**It is hard to believe that this is my last report as your AAPL Director. It has been my great honor to represent the MLBC at the national level for the past two years. I am thankful to have met so many wonderful people through this organization and AAPL.**

Ten years ago when I first joined the MLBC as a member, I never could have imagined the friendships that would be made and opportunities that would arise out of that simple act. After joining the MLBC, I made an effort to not just be another member, but to actually get involved. I have served on countless committees, including a long stint as Chair of the Education Committee, which led to my appointment as Chair of the AAPL Appalachian Land Institute and later an appointment to the AAPL Education Committee. I developed the proposal for the formation of the MLBC Awards program, assisted with the establishment of the Awards Committee and served as Chair for several years. My work on the MLBC Awards Committee eventually led to my appointment to the AAPL Awards Committee. I served on the task force established to update and rewrite the MLBC Bylaws. I also worked my way up through the ranks of the MLBC Executive Committee having served as Local Director, Sergeant at Arms, Treasurer and Secretary prior to deciding to resign my post on the MLBC Executive Committee to focus on some personal rather than professional goals. However, fate intervened just as I was prepared to take a step back from the MLBC. I was informed that Aaron Yost, MLBC Past President and acting Director was elected to the AAPL Executive Committee and was unable to serve the remainder of his term as Director. Thus, I was presented with a somewhat unusual opportunity to serve as the liaison to AAPL, representing the MLBC as Director. I simply could not turn down the opportunity to represent this incredible organization on a national level, so I agreed.

The consistent message I've heard as I've traveled across the country and met with other oil and gas professionals as MLBC Director is that the MLBC is a top tier organization. The MLBC is highly regarded because of the quality educational and networking events brought to the membership on a monthly basis. But, those of us in the MLBC who have been around for a long time know the real secret – it is the people who freely dedicate their time and energy to carry this organization forward that ensures our success. One can never truly anticipate the opportunities that will arise from being involved in an organization such as this. I know I certainly did not anticipate this trajectory for myself when I first signed up for membership ten years ago. Please seize every opportunity to be engaged, learn and network with the incredible people who make up this organization. We need you to lead us forward!

All the best,

*-Christa*

# AAPL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By: Christa Dotson, Esq., RPL

The AAPL held its Quarterly Board Meeting virtually on June 17, 2020. The Board Meeting was held in conjunction with the AAPL Annual Meeting which was originally scheduled for Huntington Beach, CA, but was held as a virtual conference due to COVID-19.

The AAPL opted to make the Annual Meeting and its education tract free for AAPL members. This event was very well received with over 2,000 registrants. If you were unable to participate in the AAPL Virtual Annual Meeting, individual sessions as well as other educational offerings are available on-demand for purchase [here](#):

The AAPL has a new Executive Committee. This year's officers are as follows:

- Lester Zitkus, CPL, President
- James Devlin, CPL, First Vice President
- Nancy McCaskell, CPL, Second Vice President
- Marc Tate, CPL, Third Vice President
- Kyle Reynolds, CPL, Treasurer
- Andrew Cooper, CPL, Secretary
- Jay Beavers, III, CPL, Immediate Past President

The new Director for MLBC is Jeremy Preston, RPL. Jeremy will serve as liaison between the MLBC and AAPL during what is certain to be a time of great change both in the industry and in the way the AAPL delivers its services and educational content to members. I wish Jeremy all the best during this transformative and exciting time in this business. I know that he will represent us well.

## Education

The AAPL is continuing to offer free streaming educational programming to its members. AAPL members are invited to attend a free webinar on the third Thursday of each month good for 1 CEU. Topics vary, so keep an eye out for emails from AAPL for additional details. AAPL has discontinued in person educational events at this time but is making efforts to increase the number of educational offerings available via webinar. Recently held events via webinar include:

Acquisition of Distressed Assets in Oil & Gas 8/05/2020  
Held by Production and Royalty Issues 8/11/2020

The AAPL has recently added new education pages to the website [www.landman.org](http://www.landman.org) to streamline education options for members. The new pages break down the AAPL's Educational offerings into complimentary, online and in-person programming. Additional educational offerings from AAPL can be found online at <https://www.landman.org/professional-development/education>.

## Summer NAPE

Summer NAPE is going virtual on the new NAPE Network from August 11-27, 2020. The NAPE Network is a new platform for connecting the energy industry online. Highlights include a dealmakers Keynote address by Karl Rove and business conference sessions covering the impacts of the oil price crash and the future of oil and gas capital markets, roundtable discussions from industry experts, networking functions, prospect and producing property listings a career resource center and more. For additional information see <http://napeexpo.com/summer>. AAPL members can access Summer NAPE for FREE on the NAPE Network through the Professional Development Assistance Program!

Did you know? The AAPL has established a Professional Development Assistance Program that reduces the registration cost of AAPL events by up to \$300? The program is designed for AAPL Active Members in good standing for at least two years who have not received financial assistance more than twice in the past calendar year. Visit [www.landman.org](http://www.landman.org) and click the "Professional Development" tab to apply.

## AAPL Quarterly Board Meeting

The next AAPL Quarterly Board Meeting will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa in Acme, MI on September 11-13, 2020. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there are particular topics you would like for the MLBC Director, Jeremy Preston, to bring to AAPL's attention at the next meeting. He can be reached at [jpreston@eqt.com](mailto:jpreston@eqt.com).



1.

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## MLBC 2020-2021 BUDGET

On the proceeding page is the budget for the MLBC 2020-2021 fiscal year. After careful review and consideration, the Finance Committee presented the 2020-2021 budget to the Executive Committee in a virtual meeting held on June 24, 2020 for their review and approval. It was approved by unanimous consent. You will note the budget includes last year's budget along with the approved budget for this year to provide context.

### Key changes to our budget for 2020/2021:

1. Decrease in expected corporate sponsors and active members.
2. Charity events will now be the responsibility of the MLBC Foundation and therefore, we now reflect zero income and zero expenses for these events and programs.
3. Accountant expenses are typically much less than the prior year. However, we included the MLBC Foundation legal fees (legal fees establishing Foundation) in our accountant expenses.
4. We have reduced the anticipated administration costs as Abby will be spending an estimated 50% of her time for the MLBC Foundation and therefore, will be paid by the Foundation.
5. Going forward, the discretionary and miscellaneous expense categories will be combined under a discretionary/miscellaneous line item. This was reduced as last year was inflated due to the 60th anniversary and most of its expenses were allocated to these 2 categories.
6. New line item was created for insurance as we were previously allocating the insurance premium under the previous miscellaneous line item.
7. Anticipated merchant fee expenses reduced to account for the estimated portion of fees charged for charity events that will now fall under the MLBC Foundation.

We sincerely hope that by providing the budget for the upcoming year, you will gain a better understanding of how the MLBC operates. The MLBC relies on its membership base revenue to operate and to make an impact in the community we live and work in every day. We have undertaken many charitable events and made broad investments in community organizations that will now be headed by the MLBC Foundation. We wish them well in their efforts and encourage our members to continue to support their future endeavors. We know our industry has suffered some setbacks in the past year and we are ready to weather the storm together. We are only as strong as our membership will allow and we encourage you to reach out to members who may have not renewed their membership or seek out others who may be interested in joining our organization. We look forward to a new year and an increased membership base in the future.

Sincerely,

*2020-2021 Executive Committee*

**If there are any questions on the approved budget, please reach out to Finance Chair, Justin Nixon at [jnixon@nne-llc.com](mailto:jnixon@nne-llc.com).**

**Want to increase your involvement in the MLBC? We are always looking for assistance on a number of our different committees. Reach out to any Executive Committee Member for additional information.**



# MLBC 2020-2021 BUDGET



	Approved 2019-2020 Budget	Approved 2020-2021 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
4000 Advertisements Revenue	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
4010 Corporate Sponsorships	\$50,000.00	\$12,500.00
4020 Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00
4030 Membership - New	\$3,500.00	\$900.00
4040 Membership - Renewals	\$55,000.00	\$38,325.00
4045 Refund to Membership	\$0.00	\$0.00
Event Revenue	\$60,000.00	\$16,000.00
Golf Outing (Spring)	\$80,000.00	\$0.00
Golf Outing (Fall)	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
Clay Shoot (Fall)	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
4065 Meeting Sponsors	\$10,000.00	\$3,250.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$410,500.00</b>	<b>\$72,975.00</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>		
6000 Accountant	\$3,000.00	\$600.00
6010 Administration Costs	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00
6020 Charitable Contributions	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
6030 Discretionary/Miscellaneous	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
6040 Education Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$5,000.00
6050 Meeting Expenses	\$80,000.00	\$20,000.00
6051 Golf Outing (Spring)	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
6052 Golf Outing (Fall)	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
6053 Clay Shoot (Spring)	\$0.00	\$0.00
6054 Clay Shoot (Fall)	\$35,000.00	\$0.00
6060 Merchant Fees	\$10,000.00	\$6,000.00
6070 Miscellaneous	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
6075 Website Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00
6080 Office Expenses	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00
6090 Scholarship Program	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
6095 Marketing Expense	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00
Membership Expense	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Newsletter Expense	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Cell Phone	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Insurance		\$2,000.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$412,800.00</b>	<b>\$72,900.00</b>

Interested in renewing your membership or know of someone who might be interested in joining the MLBC?  
Reach out to Ben McKinney at [Ben.McKinney@steptoe-johnson.com](mailto:Ben.McKinney@steptoe-johnson.com) for additional information.

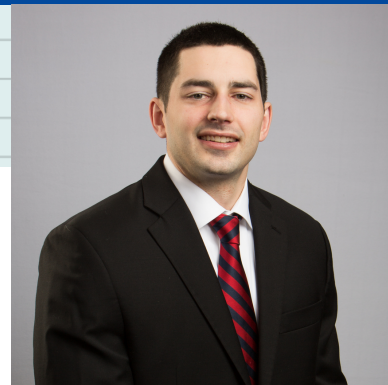




## LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

By Nikolas Tysiak, Legislative and Regulatory Chairman  
and  
Josh Abrams, Lead Attorney – Columbus, Ohio Office,  
Kiefaber & Oliva LLP

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Hello all! As the world stutters back to life amidst on-going turmoil caused by a global turmoil pandemic, the oil and gas industry continues to make the news and be a part of the national consciousness.

Most prominently, the U. S. Supreme Court removed a final stumbling block for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (“ACP”) by finding that the U.S. Forest Service had the authority to grant access to cross the Appalachian Trail. See *U.S. Forest Service v. Cowpasture River Preservation Assoc.*, (Case No. 18-1584, U. S. Supreme Court, June 22, 2018). Unfortunately, only a few weeks later, the ACP project was unceremoniously cancelled by Dominion Energy and Duke Energy, to the disappointment and chagrin of many in the industry. You can see the press release [here](#), with additional links to more information there.

The SAVE Jobs Act was proposed on June 23rd by Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, designed to promote the liquidity and flexibility for domestic energy companies so that they may maintain their workforce through the pandemic’s economic downturn. The bill has not moved from the Senate Finance Committee since it was introduced.

In Pennsylvania, House Speaker Mike Turzai resigned from the legislature on June 10th, and is now serving as general counsel of People’s Natural Gas Company based out of Pittsburgh. The Conventional Oil and Gas Well Act, SB 790, providing standards for protections, plugging of wells and imposing power and duties on the DEP as it relates to conventional wells and well sites only, passed the Pennsylvania House on May 27th. The bill had previously passed the state senate in October of 2019.

In West Virginia, Arsenal Resources, LLC won its request for a preliminary injunction regarding the breach of a surface use agreement. The court found that Arsenal made a clear showing that it is likely to succeed on the merits. See *Arsenal Resources, LLC v. Crim*, Case No. 1:20-cv-84 (U. S. District Court for Northern District of West Virginia, May 18, 2020).

Finally in Ohio, the Supreme Court of Ohio heard oral arguments in *Gerrity v. Chervenak*, Case No. 2019-1123 on June 17, 2020. The issues under review are (1) whether the 2006 version of the Ohio Dormant Mineral Act, Ohio Rev. Code § 5301.56, requires strict compliance and a surface owner must first provide notice of abandonment by certified mail to each holder of a severed mineral interest before resorting to notice by publication and (2) the level of diligence required by a surface owner to identify all holders of a severed mineral interest in order to satisfy due process and utilize the publication provision of Ohio Rev. Code § 5301.56(E). The Court’s decision should provide guidance on the type of search a surface owner must conduct before properly resorting to notice by publication.

On July 8, 2020, the Supreme Court of Ohio heard oral arguments in *West v. Bode*, Case No. 2019-1494. The issue under review is whether there is an irreconcilable conflict between the Ohio Dormant Mineral Act, Ohio Rev. Code § 5301.56, and the Ohio Marketable Title Act, Ohio Rev. Code § 5301.47, et seq. If the Court finds that the two statutes have an irreconcilable conflict, then the DMA, being the specific statute, will supersede and control over the MTA, the general statute, as to the termination of severed oil and gas interests. The Court’s ruling will have major implications for surface owners, mineral interest owners, and operators in Ohio.

Until next time, please stay safe and be careful out there.

Regards,

**Nik Tysiak and the MLBC Legislative and Regulatory Committee, with special thanks to Josh Abrams**



**2020**

**MLBC**

**OCTOBER 02, 2020**

Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve  
Dilliner, PA  
TIME TBD



AUG 11, 2020

## Held By Production and Royalty Issues Webinar

This full-day webinar is designed to address a variety of issues that arise when an oil and gas lease is beyond its primary term. The course is for both the in-house and title landman as it relates to perpetuating a lease beyond the primary term or preparing leases for a potential acquisition or divestiture.

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. CDT

**Credits:** 6 CEU

**Course Level:** Overview

**Speaker:** Robert Kiefaber



AUG 18, 2020

## Royalty Deductions Webinar

Get the full 'how-to' for safely sharing costs downstream of the wellhead with royalty and ORRI owners. Learn which costs are deductible, how to fairly calculate those costs and how to avoid litigation. Find out how to save your company tens of thousands monthly with this proven method.

**Time:** 9 a.m. - noon CDT

**Credits:** 3 CEU

**Course Level:** Intermediate

**Speaker:** Marlin K. Brown, CPL

[REGISTER NOW](#)



AUG 20, 2020

## AAPL Monthly FREE Webinar

At AAPL we believe continuing education is important. We also know that it takes time and money, so we would like to help! As an added benefit to AAPL membership, members are invited to attend a **FREE** webinar on the third Thursday of each month.

This month's featured topic is ***Ethics and America's Landman - Advanced*** presented by Rob Shultz, CPL.

**Time:** Noon - 1 p.m. CDT

**Credits:** 1 CEU



REGISTER NOW



67TH AAPL ANNUAL MEETING

# BANFF

ALBERTA, CANADA

Interested in speaking at the 67th AAPL Annual Meeting in Banff, Alberta?  
AAPL is currently seeking presenters and presentation proposals for its  
2021 Annual Meeting.

 AAPL

For more information visit:  
[landman.org/get-involved/join](https://landman.org/get-involved/join)



AUG 26, 2020

## Surface Use and Access Webinar

This webinar is designed to familiarize land professionals with surface rights and the myriad issues associated with acquiring, exercising and preserving those rights. It focuses on why, when and what rights may be needed, and how to research and protect existing rights. It discusses a variety of surface-related contracts and their use. There is commentary on easement valuation, damage claim investigation and resolution, and the challenges of governmental permitting. Finally, it examines the criticality of building relationships with regulatory agencies and the public.

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. CDT

**Credits:** 5 CEU, 1 ethics

**Course Level:** Basic/Overview

**Speaker:** George R. Shultz, CPL

REGISTER NOW



AUG 26, 2020

## Old and New Issues Involving Joint Operating Webinar

This webinar is designed to address operating agreement issues involving the AAPL Model Form Operating Agreement. This includes issues that have existed for a long time as well as new issues. Several recent court cases from various jurisdictions will also be discussed.

**Time:** 11 a.m. - noon CDT

**Credits:** 1 CEU

**Course Level:** Overview

**Speaker:** Dorsey T. Roach, CPL

[REGISTER NOW](#)

## Professional Development Discount

**Need a little help with registration fees?**

AAPL's Professional Development Assistance Program reduces the registration fee **up to \$300** for all AAPL-operated education events, including institutes, seminars, webinars and Summer NAPE on the NAPE Network.

The program is designed for AAPL Active Members in good standing for at least two years, and who have not received Professional Development Assistance more than two times in the past calendar year.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### CONTACT US

AAPL

817.847.7700

[landman.org](http://landman.org)

[aapl@landman.org](mailto:aapl@landman.org)

### GET CONNECTED





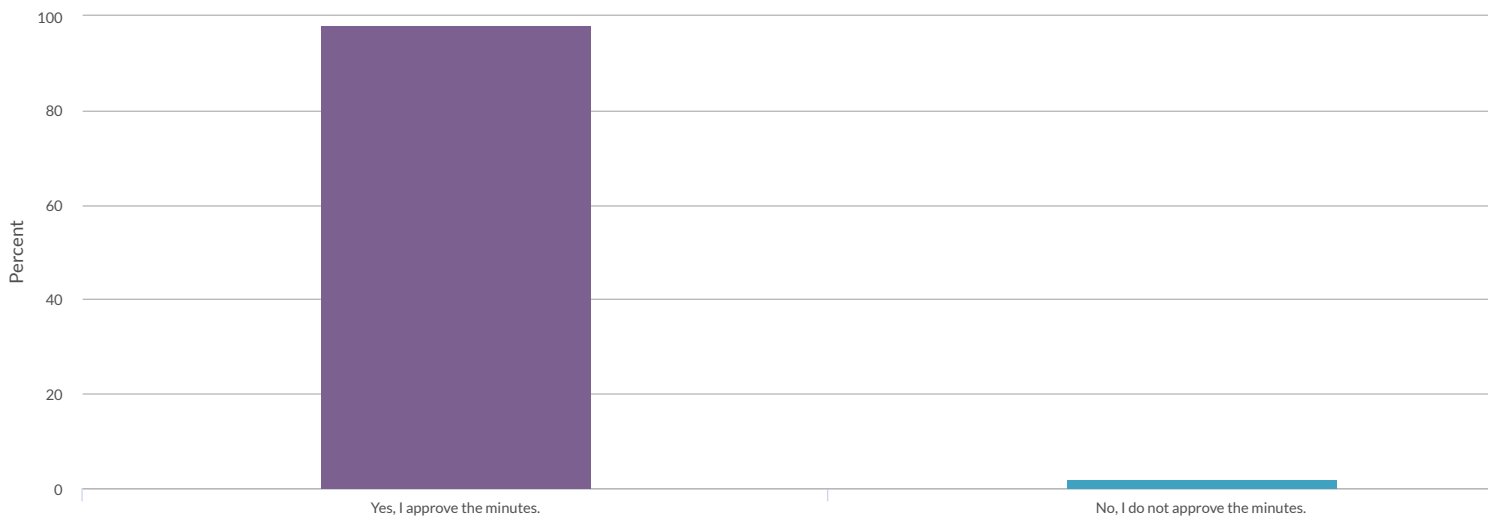
# AAPL

## Report for AAPL 2020 Bylaw Election

### Response Counts

Completion Rate:	100%	
	Complete	1,400
		<b>Total: 1,400</b>

### PROPOSAL TO APPROVE THE 2019 MEMBERSHIP & BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES FROM THE 65TH ANNUAL MEETING IN PITTSBURGH Vote for YES or NO

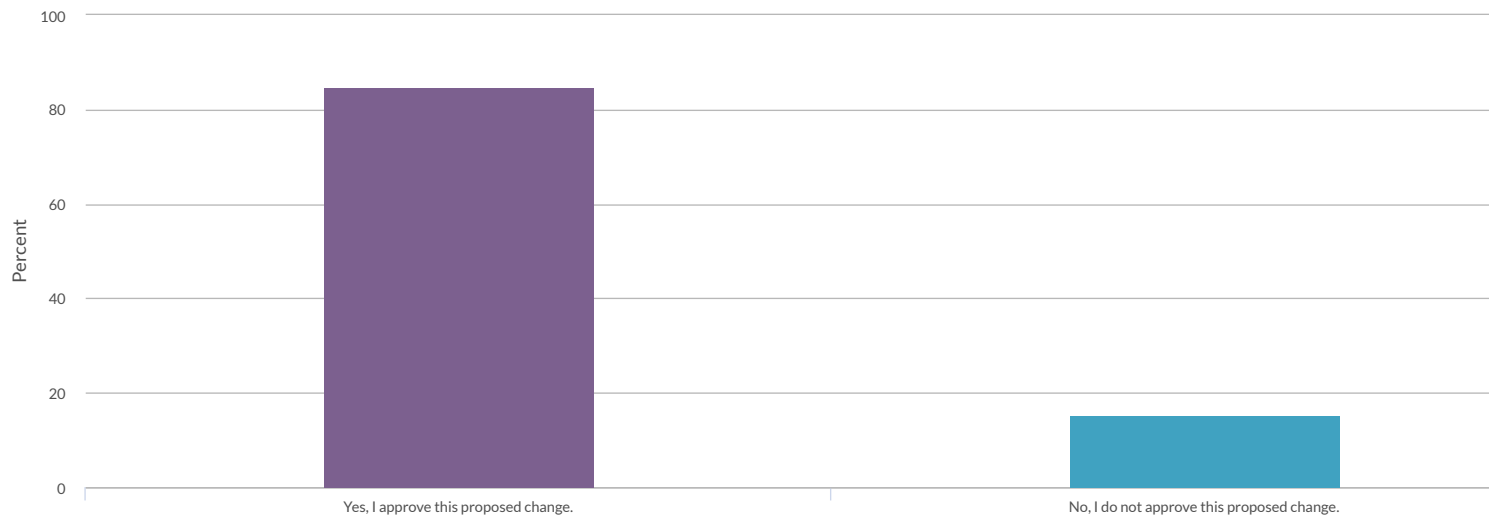


Value	Percent	Responses
Yes, I approve the minutes.	98.11%	1,348
No, I do not approve the minutes.	1.89%	26

### Statistics

Skipped	26
Total Responses	1374

### PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE DEFINITION OF LANDWORK Vote for YES or NO

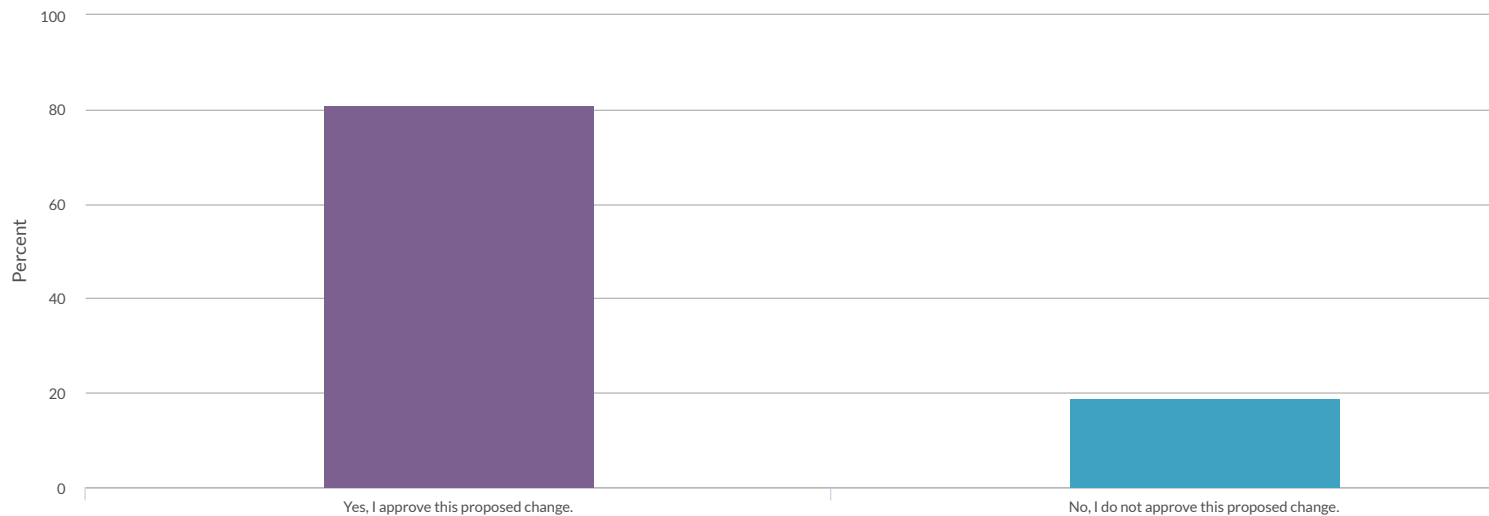


Value	Percent	Responses
Yes, I approve this proposed change.	84.79%	1,182
No, I do not approve this proposed change.	15.21%	212

### Statistics

Skipped	6
Total Responses	1394

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DEFINITIONS OF STUDENT MEMBERSHIP (BYLAWS) Vote for YES or NO



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes, I approve this proposed change.	81.06%	1,130
No, I do not approve this proposed change.	18.94%	264

### Statistics

Skipped	6
Total Responses	1394



# OIL & GAS VS. SOLAR: A LAND OVERVIEW



*Speaker: Phillip Guerra, CPL*  
Forefront Power

Join us for our first  
**VIRTUAL** educational  
event of 2020.

This webinar will focus on how to acquire acreage in solar. You will learn about the different types of solar energy projects (e.g., ground mount, parking canopy, rooftop) and the process of how to find land for a community solar project in New York. Additionally, this webinar will discuss the similarities and differences between acquiring acreage in oil and gas versus solar, including key lease terms and pricing.

Date: August 28, 2020

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Live Webinar-Zoom Link provided after Registration

Cost: Free to MLBC Members

1 CE Available

**REGISTER HERE NOW**



Contact Abby Veigel @abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org  
with any questions

# Upcoming Events

August 28, 2020

“Oil & Gas vs. Solar: A Land Overview.”

Speaker - Phillip Guerra with Forefront Power

**This will be the MLBC's first virtual event.**

October 2, 2020

MLBC Clay Shoot

October 8, 2020

ALI

November 12, 2020

Lunch Meeting

Belle Serra, Canonsburg, PA.

## STAY CONNECTED!

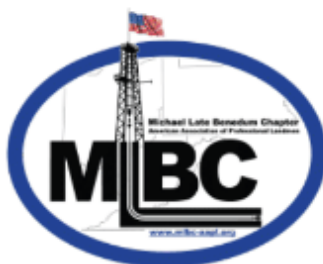
## Follow us on Social Media



@mlbc-aapl



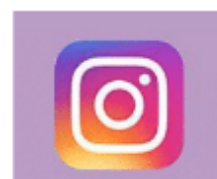
Michael Late  
Benedum  
Chapter  
of AAPL



[www.mlbc-aapl.org](http://www.mlbc-aapl.org)



@mlbc-aapl



@mlbc\_aapl

# MLBC/NALA 2020 Charity Golf Event



**Monday, August 10, 2020**

A sunny and very warm day greeted 144 golfers as they embarked on a trip around the links at the Southpointe Golf Club in Canonsburg, PA to participate in the charity golf tournament jointly held by MLBC and NALA. This golf course, once a Web.com Tour stop when it hosted the Mylan Classic, has been the host of the fall golf tournament for the last few years. Due to the cancellation of our spring golf tournament due to COVID-19, the MLBC decided to join forces with NALA and put on this charity golf tournament. The receiving charities are the NICU at UPMC Magee Women's Hospital, the WVU Children's Hospital and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh. A huge note of thanks goes out to Steve Carr and Jeff Junstrom and for those involved with NALA for organizing this golf tournament. It was a wonderful day and while we may have not been able to provide the charity amounts we have in the past, I am positive we still made an impact with each of these worthwhile charitable organizations. Kudos to all of our sponsor and to all the golfers who participated today! Our first REAL event since March can be counted as a big success!





# MLBC/NALA 2020 Charity Golf Event



Peacock Keller - Aaron Smith, Bethany Anderson, Jenna Marcinkevicius, Linsey Pastorok, and Dan Gustine.



Crimson Resources - Anthony Rasicci, Zane Campbell, Julianne Pelusi and Chuck Gerginski



Halo Land Management - Henry Rafter and Bob Watkins



Campbell Development - Savannah Smilack, Jade Miller and Rachel Cimino



Earth Land Services - Tanner Bechtel, Lauren Hrvatin and Sean Jasionowski



Blue Land Services - John Capner and Jeff Horne



Dudley Land Company - Steve Carr, Tim Jackson, Grant Stetz, Justin Campbell, Karolina Powell, Travis Powell



Back Roads Energy - Perry Cunningham and Bev Jordan



## MLBC/NALA 2020 Charity Golf Event



Anthony Romeo, Matt White, Jeremy White and Phil Griffith



Jim Haas, Jason Lucas, David Stockman and Brian Anderson



Chris Carlson, Ryan Moore, Wade Powell, Sean Haas



Tim Surmick, Caleb Campbell and Mike Holliday



D.J. Tatar, Kevin Pierson, Robert Davison and B.R. Martin



Lauren Oelrich, Anna Campbell, Doug Smith and Todd Fleming



Jacob Lennington, Tom Shields, Dave Davis and Rick Sponaugle



Rick Bell, Adam Davies, Mark Thornley and Matt McCormack



Justin Moroosse,  
Joe Cunningham,  
Chuck Dornetto,  
and Rob Lawson.



# Campbell Development, LLC

*...thirteen years of excellence.*



**CALEB CAMPBELL**  
Partner



**ANNA CAMPBELL**  
Partner

## BETTER LAND SERVICES

### COMPETITIVE RATES

Now in our thirteenth year of business, our corporate vision continues to focus on investing in our employees and contractors; adding value to our clients; and providing insight and innovation to the land and energy industries.

### EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES

Campbell Development, LLC is a nationwide, full service land company that provides better land services to the energy, real estate and utility industries.

### CLEAR COMMUNICATION

We offer upstream, midstream and downstream support, including project management, abstracting, heirships, due diligence, take offs, division orders, mapping, leasing, permitting, curative, drafting, imaging, accounting support, reclamation, CAD, consulting and more.



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Pittsburgh - Gadsden - Midland

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[WWW.CAMPBELLDEV.COM](http://WWW.CAMPBELLDEV.COM)

2020-2021

# Executive Committee



## President

Anthony Romeo, CPL  
Northeast Natural Energy  
aromeo@nne-llc.com

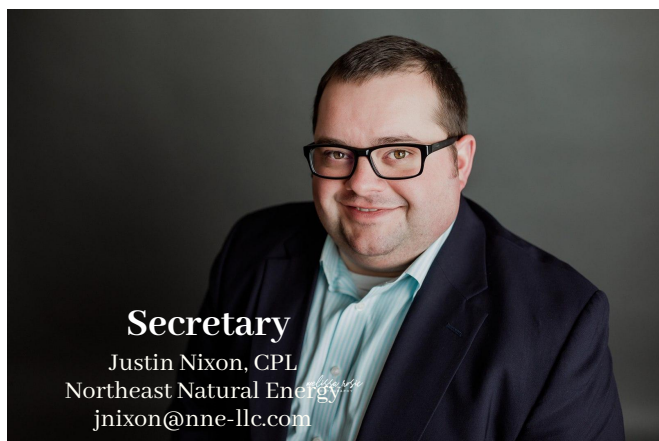
Anthony is currently the Land Manager at Northeast Natural Energy. He received his Bachelor's degree (B.A.) from West Virginia University and his M.B.A. from West Virginia University, with a concentration in Energy Management. Anthony has served the MLBC in some capacity since 2012 and has been a Landman since 2007 providing services to numerous companies throughout Appalachia. Anthony has worked in Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Anthony is a proud U.S. Army Combat Veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom I and IV. His primary role was as a field medic with 1/327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Anthony was born and raised in Charleston, WV, and currently resides in Morgantown, WV with his wife, Jennifer, and his three children: Luna (7), Pete (6), and Sonny (2).



## Vice President

Robert Greiner, RPL  
RKG Consulting Services, LLC  
rgreiner@rkiconsultingservices.com

Rob began his industry career in New York working for Mason Dixon Energy in 2007. He currently runs RKG Consulting Services, an energy consulting firm. He is an active member of both the MLBC and AAPL and is also actively involved in the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). He has been married to his wife, Casey for 13 years and has 2 boys; Camden (11) and Nolan (9). As a family, they are actively involved in the Follansbee Church of Christ and the Steubenville Baseball Association.



## Secretary

Justin Nixon, CPL  
Northeast Natural Energy  
jnixon@nne-llc.com

Justin is an in-house Title Attorney for Northeast Natural Energy LLC, an independent, West Virginia-based natural gas exploration and production company. His role involves risk management, coordination with outside counsel, document drafting, and a wide array of other areas where law and land collide. Justin also serves as the Chair of the MLBC Finance Committee, and currently sits on the board of directors for the MLBC Foundation, Inc. When he's not in the office, he enjoys fly fishing, cooking, and spending time with friends. However, because of the "Rona" he's decided to try new things he can do at home, like welding. He sucks at it and would welcome any advice from a distance of 6 feet or greater.



## Treasurer

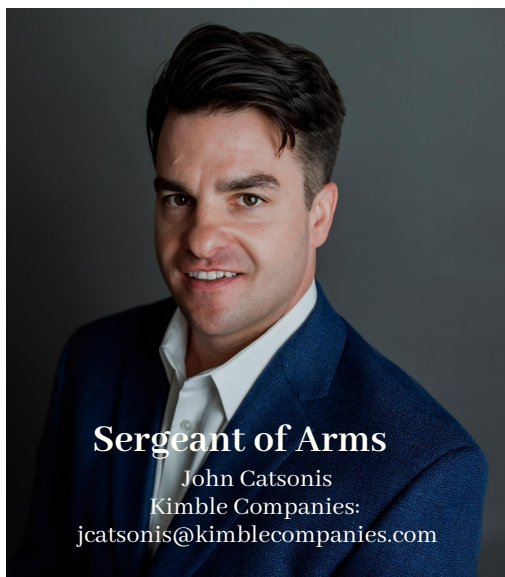
Lhag Bowers, RPL  
Percheron, LLC  
lhag.bowers@percheronllc.com

Lhag is the Managing Director for Percheron, LLC with 15 years of industry experience. He began his career with Percheron as a field landman negotiating and acquiring oil and gas leases on a variety of projects throughout New York in 2004, before relocating to WV in 2005 to pursue additional facets of landwork. In 2009, he accepted an offer to work in house with Percheron to assist with management activities. Lhag is an active member of the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL) having earned his RPL certification. Lhag lives just down the road from Percheron's Bridgeport, WV office with his wife and 2 children, ages 8 and 10.



2020-2021

# Executive Committee



## Sergeant of Arms

John Catsonis  
Kimble Companies:  
jcatsonis@kimblecompanies.com

John is a Senior Landman at RHDK Oil and Gas (Red Hill Development). RHDK is an Ohio conventional operator with assets in Harrison, Guernsey, Tuscarawas and Jefferson counties. He studied at Ohio University and received a BBA in Finance & Management Information systems. John is getting married in 2020 and in his spare time enjoys mountain biking, hiking, traveling, and doing anything outdoors



## Local Director

Kevin Pierson  
Bryson Kuba, L.P.  
kp@bklpland.com

Kevin M. Pierson is a Partner at Bryson Kuba, L.P. currently managing the Appalachian Basin. Kevin holds a B.A. from the University of Texas at Arlington, is an active member of the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL), Fort Worth Association of Professional Landmen, and the Michael Late Benedum Chapter of the AAPL (MLBC). Kevin lives in Morgantown, West Virginia with his fiancé Eve Leombruno, dog Baxter, and cat Benelli. He is an avid skier, mountain biker, runner, traveler, golfer, and enjoys cars & the outdoors.



## Local Director

Stacy Tichy, RPL  
Percheron, LLC  
stacy.tichy@percheronllc.com

Stacy has worked for Percheron, LLC since 2008. She is expected to graduate with her Bachelor's Degree in Jurisprudence with a concentration in Land Management in December. She is currently serving as the President of the West Virginia Chapter of the Women's Energy Network. Stacy resides in Davisville, WV with her husband and 5 year old daughter. She enjoys boating and camping with her family.



2020-2021

# Executive Committee



## Local Director

Ben McKinney  
Steptoe and Johnson  
ben.mckinney@steptoe-johnson.com

Ben is an energy lawyer in Steptoe & Johnson PLLC's Morgantown, WV office. He focuses his practice in energy and natural resources law, with an emphasis on oil and gas law in the Appalachian basin, specializing in transactional due diligence, title, and asset acquisitions and divestitures. A great deal of his practice centers around counseling in-house land and legal teams and assisting with land and operational issues. When he's away from the office, Ben spends the majority of his time traveling with his wife, Nikki, and their two children, Wyatt (age 5) and Hadley (age 3), coaching his son's baseball team, and chasing the family's two Jack Russell terriers, Punky and Roscoe.



## National Director

Jeremy Preston  
EQT  
jpreston@eqt.com

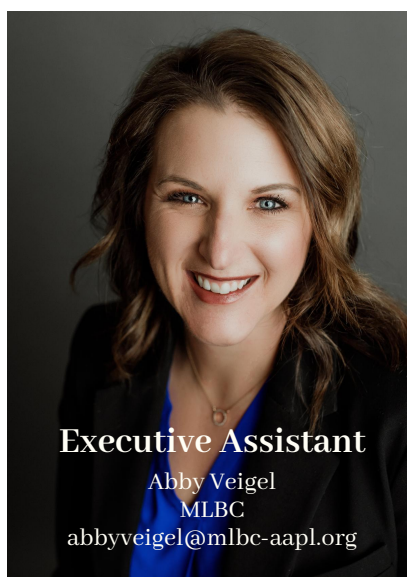
A perfectionist who sees the beauty in chaos, Jeremy has been engaged in various facets of land work over the past 12 years. Originally receiving his degree in Wildlife & Fisheries from West Virginia University and working various roles as a biologist, he decided to shift gears and enter the oil and gas industry as an abstractor in 2008. Jeremy is currently employed as a Landman with EQT Production Company working out of Bridgeport, WV and specializing in acquisitions. After first taking on the modernization of the MLBC's online platform in 2011 he has served various roles within the MLBC and AAPL, including as president of our organization (2017-18). Ask him about deer, we dare you!



## President Emeritus

Jeremy White, RPL  
EQT  
jwhite@eqt.com

Jeremy is a Regional Land Supervisor for EQT Production and has been with EQT for 14 years. Prior to his career in land, he was Vice President of a graphic design company. He and his wife Tara have been married for 20 years and have 2 children-Brody and Kylie. Jeremy enjoys traveling and the outdoors-particularly snowboarding, backpacking, fishing, as well as being an avid Mountaineer fan.... LET'S GO MOUNTAINEERS!



## Executive Assistant

Abby Veigel  
MLBC  
abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org

Abby serves as the Executive Assistant for both the Michael Late Benedum Chapter and the MLBC Foundation. She is also a certified health and nutrition coach. She is married to Bill and they have two girls, Addison 12 and Anniston, 9. Abby enjoys anything fitness related, reading a good book and spending time with family.

# Committee Chairs

2020-2021



Technology:  
Jeremy Preston  
jpreston@eqt.com



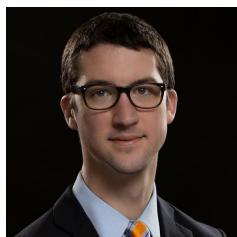
Education:  
Chuck Saffer  
CSaffer@babstcalland.com



Ethics:  
Britney Crookshanks:  
bcrookshanks@infinitynr.com



Finance:  
Justin Nixon  
jnixon@nne-llc.com



Spring Golf:  
Jeff Junstrom  
junstrom@cassidy.com



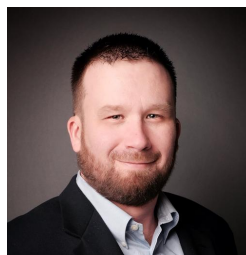
Historian:  
David Aman  
David.W.Aman@dominionenergy.com



Legislative:  
Nikolas Tysiak  
ntysiak@babstcalland.com



Marketing  
Kelly O'Bryan da Mota:  
kdamota@cimmaronland.com



Newsletter Committee:  
Daniel Cooper  
daniel.cooper82@gmail.com



Membership:  
Ben McKinney  
ben.mckinney@steptoe-johnson.com



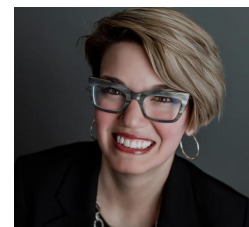
AAPL Director:  
Jeremy Preston  
jpreston@eqt.com



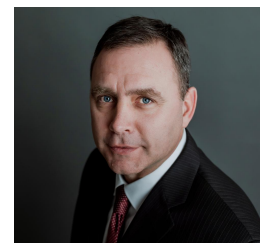
Scholarship: & University  
Liason:  
Seth Jarvis  
srjarvis89@gmail.com



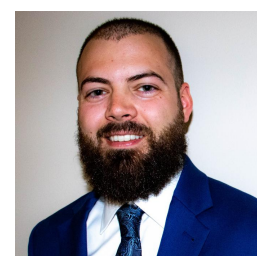
Scholarship/University  
Liason:  
Michael Rodriguez:  
mikerod.bklp@gmail.com



Women of the MLBC:  
Amber Buric  
ABuric@babstcalland.com



Sponsorship:  
Harry Heinbaugh  
harry.heinbaugh@percheronllc.com



Clay Shoot Committee  
Tyler Murray  
tylerrmurray.land@gmail.com

# NEW MEMBERS

and CERTIFICATIONS



## August 2020

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type	Sponsoring Member
Michael	Holiday	CNX Gas Company, LLC	Active	Anthony Romeo

New members are approved on a monthly basis. If the need arises to move along membership approval (ex. Ohio Landman Registration), please email Abby Veigel - [abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org](mailto:abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org)

## SHOUT OUT!

Congratulations to the following members recently gaining their Certification through the AAPL:

**RL**

**Tyler Compston, RL**

**Kyle Roudebush, RL**

**Total Members: 705**

Active: 460  
Active PP: 30  
Honorary: 10

---

**Total Active: 733**  
**% Active: 69.84%**  
Associate : 122  
Student: 83



# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



*\*The Photograph, Jennings Randolph with Michael L. Benedum on the occasion of the latter's seventieth birthday, 1939. Jennings Randolph Collection, West Virginia State Archives has been reprinted with the permission of the West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries*



The MLBC membership application is located on the website at [www.mlbc-aapl.org](http://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 cannot find yours or others information in the directory. Please report any errors or omissions to Abby Veigel at [abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org](mailto:abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org).

Application for membership in the Association shall be subject to the approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting and shall require the signed approval by the acting President of the Executive Committee, as evidence of the Committee's approval.

Notice of the approved application(s) of all potential Association member(s) shall be printed in the next regularly scheduled publication of the Association. Members shall have the opportunity for a period of thirty (30) days following the publication to object to the potential member's 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 consideration in the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting. A decision regarding the objection shall be made after consideration and by a majority vote at such meeting. The Executive Committee shall notify the applicant in writing of rejection.

The names of any and all newly approved members shall be added to the membership roll after the thirty (30) day period.



## LANDMAN EDUCATION SERIES

# Application of the Ohio Marketable Title Act to Severed Oil and Gas Interests

**September 9, 2020 | 1:00 PM EST**

CLE, AAPL CEU, NADOA point & NALTA credit pending

Kiefaber & Oliva LLP attorney Josh Abrams will host a complimentary, one-hour webinar addressing the latest developments with the Marketable Title Act and the Dormant Mineral Act.

**Register at [kolawllp.com/events](http://kolawllp.com/events)**

**CONTACT: Josh Abrams • Lead Attorney – Columbus • [jabrams@kolawllp.com](mailto:jabrams@kolawllp.com) • 614-349-4525 | Licensed to practice in OH, WV, PA**

Attorney Advertising – Kiefaber & Oliva LLP, Houston (principal office): 815 Walker Street, Suite 1140, Houston, Texas 77002, 713-229-0360; Columbus: One East Livingston Avenue, Suite B, Columbus, Ohio 43215, 614-349-4525. Prior results do not guarantee similar outcome.