



Michael Late Benedum Chapter

American Association of Professional Landmen

The Take-Off

June 2016

MLBC
P.O. Box 955
Bridgeport, WV 26330

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The year was 2005, or maybe it was 2006, and I was back in the saddle after a brief hiatus from landwork. My mentors (and past MLBC Presidents) Greg Zerkel and Asa Bowers encouraged me to join the MLBC. Little did I know that within only a couple years after joining, I'd have the opportunity to be active in the association and help promote the MLBC and the landman profession. The opportunity came when Brad McPherson, then Executive Committee member and organizer of the spring golf tournament, asked me to take the wheel and organize the 2009 event. From there I was nominated as a Director and then was fortunate enough to work my way up through the Executive Committee.

This tenure required a commitment over the past seven years which included attending monthly meetings, planning, collaborating and trying to make good decisions on behalf of the MLBC. Sure, there have been some challenges associated with trying to balance work, home life, and MLBC matters, but it's been a great ride and one that I hope many others will take advantage of. The experience and wisdom passed down by the members who go through the serving line first (Past Presidents), the support of the members of the Executive Committee, the networking and interaction with the membership, and the friendships that were garnered are priceless.

Special thanks to the following for putting in some heavy lifting this year: Dave Aman (Historian) – for helping to preserve and share the MLBC's past; Jeff Junstrom (Spring Golf) – for taking over the event and doing a great job in this tough environment raising money for charity; Steve Carr (Fall Golf) – for continuing to organize what I like to refer to as “the second best MLBC golf event” ☺ and also raising money for charity; Jeremy White (Finance) – for developing a much-needed budget for the association; Rob Greiner (Marketing) – for some great new ideas to spread the MLBC name and purpose; Mark Mudrick (Education) – for putting together great speakers and educational events; Sharon Kyle (Newsletter) – for being creative and constantly reminding me that my article is past due; Justin Nixon (Scholarship) – for working with the schools, developing criteria and vetting applicants; Anthony Romeo (Veterans) – for organizing our first-ever charity sporting clays event benefiting a local veterans' organization; Tara White – for being a positive influence and bringing organization and assistance to all our hectic lives; and finally to the Executive Committee and the entire membership for your friendship and support.

The MLBC will be in good hands during the 2016-2017 year led by John Kimbleton, as President. He will be assisted by an experienced and hard-working Executive Committee as well as 18 committees and their members. Please join me in supporting their efforts to further the purposes of the MLBC.

As we navigate the challenges brought on by low crude prices, I'll leave you with something my mother told me as a teenager, “perseverance pays off.”

Aaron Yost, CPL
2015-2016 MLBC President

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Upcoming events

[Click Here to Register](#)
[MLBC Luncheon](#)
[July 14, 2016](#)

2ND ANNUAL TOP GUN CHARITY CLAY SHOOT

SEPTEMBER 23rd
HUNTING HILLS, DILLINER, PA

Registration: 1PM

Shoot Starts: 2PM

Food, Beverages, and Prizes After the Shoot



SUPPORTS



TEAM
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IT'S OUR TURN

Entry - \$100
Red Sponsor - \$1500
White Sponsor - \$1000
Blue Sponsor - \$350

CONTACT:

Anthony Romeo
a.romeo@mkeystone.com

Tara White
twhite@mlbc-aapl.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jeffrey J. Horne



MLBC Active Member Jeffrey J. Horne was born and raised in Princeton, WV and currently resides in Morgantown, WV with his 11 year old son Alex. Mr. Horne is a WVU graduate and is currently a Project Manager with Complete Title Solutions in Morgantown. His hobbies include golf, calling it the best and worst game ever created. He also enjoys fishing, photography and all shooting sports. He is an NRA Certified pistol instructor and participates in IDPA shooting matches.

As an avid golf player Mr. Horne enjoys the MLBC's annual golf events and the opportunity to give back to the area Children's Hospitals. "In this industry, we are often so busy that we forget to take the time to yield to our more altruistic senses or to spend time at leisure. These events let us accomplish all three things at the same time. It fills me with a great sense of pride to be involved in them."

In his little free time he also volunteers to the Mountain State Youth Football League based in Monongalia County. They provide an opportunity for children in grades 3-6 to participate in a safe and educational football and cheerleading program. In addition to coaching for one of the leagues teams, Mr. Horne also assists with fund-raisers benefitting a scholarship fund for the children who want to play, but cannot afford the fees. Over the past four years Mr. Horne has been successful in raising nearly \$200,000 to pay for youth football and cheerleading equipment.

Professionally Mr. Horne has been working with Complete Title Solutions for five years on everything from lease acquisition projects for small buyers to reviewing massive amounts of title for large due diligence projects. He enjoys the collaborative and dynamic nature of his team where they all work together to achieve the best outcome.

As an Active MLBC member Mr. Horne is interested in serving the MLBC in any way he can. We look forward to seeing him on a committee and at our events.

Daniel Germain
Marketing Committee

MLBC – QUESTIONS FROM THE FIELD



Dear Morgan,

My company is preparing to build a well pad in Ritchie County, West Virginia. We ordered a surface title, and an oil and gas title. We did not order a coal title. We will begin construction in the next month. I hear coal titles take months to get. Do you have any advice?

Thanks – Samuel

Dear Samuel,

It is important to figure out who owns the coal and whether there are any leases on your drill site tract because you do not want to build a \$10 million dollar well, and then discover your tract is a part of Big Coal Company's 5 year mining plan. You also want to know if there has been any previous mining, as you will have concerns about drilling through an abandoned mine.

The best practice is to order a fee title on your drill site – which would include the surface, coal, and oil and gas, and anything else out there (gravel, CBM, etc.). In your case – that ship has sailed. What alternatives exist when you do not have a coal title? (I assume that you have already inspected the site – and located no evidence of coal mining.) My suggestion is to first determine if you are in a coal producing county. (You can google your county's production for the past couple of years.) As it turns out, Ritchie County has produced very little coal – so the likelihood of there being coal activity on your tract is diminished. Second, check with the West Virginia DEP and determine if there is a permit on your tract. If there is not, you don't have to worry about being in Big Coal Company's current (and future) mining plan. Finally, contact the mine engineer in your tract's area, and ask him or her to check Tagis and old quad maps to determine if there is any indication of past mining. If there is no indication that your tract or surrounding area have been previously mined, then your worries about drilling through an abandoned mine is lessened. If the answers to all of these questions are negative, your company must decide whether it wants to take the risk (and the liability) of building a well pad on this site. If it appears that the likelihood of the tract being impacted by coal development is remote, you may wish to make the business decision to proceed without a coal title.

Morgan Griffith, Esq., RPL
MLBC Member

www.mlbc-aapl.org

June Dinner Meeting Sponsors

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Thank you for your support!



APRIL SOCIAL EVENT



2016 MLBC Spring Charity Golf Outing Benefitting WVU Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

TUCKER ARENSBERG
Attorneys

Babst Calland
Attorneys at Law



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On Friday, May 13th, the Michael Late Benedum Chapter ("MLBC") of the American Association of Professional Landmen held their annual charitable golf event benefitting WVU Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Once again the event was held at the beautiful Oglebay Golf Resort in Wheeling on both the Palmer and the Jones courses. The weather was terrific, and over 200 people were in attendance to enjoy a day filled with golf, fun, friends, and a BBQ dinner. At the end of the day, the MLBC was proud to present a donation of \$22,000 to be split between the two hospitals. Over the past eight years the organization has been responsible for raising over \$170,000 for the hospitals.

The donation provided to WVU Children's Hospital will be used for renovation plans; as of early 2016 the hospital was still deciding between a renovation of the existing hospital near the football stadium or the construction of an entirely new building near the interstate for easier access by patients and their families. Whichever direction WVU Children's Hospital chooses, MLBC is strongly committed to supporting them every step of the way, and we're glad that this year's donation can make that process a little easier.

In Pittsburgh, the MLBC donation that was given to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh will be used by the Child Life department, which ensures that the patients in the hospital have high spirits in the face of sometimes difficult days. The hospital is always considering new Child Life ideas, and some of those presented to MLBC include the creation of an oversized "I Spy" mural to keep the children entertained, as well as VPod machines, a state-of-the-art technology that allows the children to be distracted during more



invasive procedures.

During the event, golfers were treated to some great on-course sponsors, another fantastic slate of prizes, and new this year a Million Dollar Shootout, where one lucky golfer was given the chance to win \$1,000,000! Unfortunately it didn't happen this year, but we'll try again next year to give away a million bucks. After golfing, the golfers, sponsors, charity representatives, and other attendees gathered for the winner announcements, prize distributions, and check presentation. Mr. Bobby Nicholas from WVU Children's Hospital once again serenaded those in attendance with a moving rendition of *God Bless America*.

MLBC would like to thank everyone in attendance, from golfer to sponsor and everyone in between. A special thanks goes out to our Miracle Sponsors - Tucker Arensberg, Babst Calland, Mountaineer Keystone, and Bounty Minerals; the Golf Committee - Jim Kane, Brian Jett, Marc Acree, and Danny Cooper; the event volunteers - Tara White, Sharon Kyle, Morgan Rich, Tricia Baldrige, Bridget Sedlock, and Shawn Verdekal; and everyone else who helped make this event a tremendous success!

Make A Difference in Your Organization



As the MLBC moves into a new year beginning in July, we are looking for dedicated members who would like to be more active in the organization. The MLBC belongs to our members and we would like for as many members as possible to become involved. Specifically, the Education Committee is seeking volunteers to assist in planning upcoming education opportunities. A list of committees and committee chairs are available by [clicking here](#). Please contact Tara White at twhite@mlbc-aapl.org or calling 304-476-2240 if you are interested in joining the education committee or any other committee. I hope to hear from you!

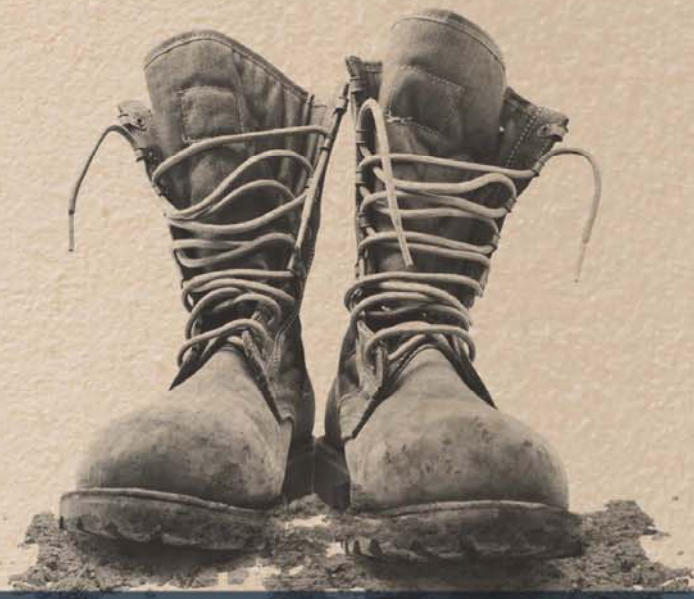
Miracle Sponsors:



MLBC Spring Charity Golf Event



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New WV Law Regarding Decedents' Real Estate

Posted on May 23, 2016 by Babst Calland

Posted By [Nicholas Habursky](#)

On May 13, 2016, West Virginia Governor Early Ray Tomblin signed into law [Senate Bill No. 702](#) which amends §44-8-1 of the Code of West Virginia dealing with the real estate of decedents. Under this amended law, if a decedent devises the proceeds of the sale of real estate to certain individuals, but the real property is never sold, then those individuals entitled to the proceeds would automatically acquire title to the real estate upon the closing of decedent's estate, absent contrary testamentary intent. If the decedent's estate is not closed, then title would vest with such individuals five years after the death of the testator. Senate Bill No. 702 provides a title examiner with greater certainty in determining current ownership of decedents' oil and gas property and will serve to reduce title risks to oil and gas companies in leasing or acquisition activities.

As published on Babst Calland's [ShaleEnergyLawBlog.com](#) on May 23, 2016. Shale Energy Law Blog provides timely legal and business information on issues impacting the energy industry and specifically natural gas development, as well as articles published by the attorneys of Babst Calland.

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New MLBC Members – April 2016

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type
Dustin	Jamieson		Active
Susi	LeMaire		Active
Alec	Schulberg	Alec Shulberg LLC	Active
Erin	Kuehn	Complete Title Solutions	Active
Benjamin	Taylor	Independent	Active
Karen	Ansbaugh	Lynch Law Group	Active
Staci	Thornsbury	Thornsbury Law Office, PLLC	Active

New MLBC Members – May 2016

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type
Joan	Pitzer		Active
Jason	Atkinson	Bryson Kuba L.P.	Active
John-Paul	Henry	Cimmaron Field Services	Active
Jacob	Young	Complete Title Solutions	Associate
Chelsey	Greaser	Complete Title Solutions	Associate
Jonathon	Rollyson	Midwestern Land Services, LLC	Active
Shannon	Tucker	Orsovi Title LLC	Active

New MLBC Members – June 2016

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type
Josh	Gautreau	Chevron	Active
Phillip	Guerra	Turner Oil & Gas	Active
Michael	Rowe	Complete Title Solutions	Active
Cory	Thompson	Turner Oil & Gas	Active
Jessica	VanGilder	SWN Production Company	Active

OIL AND GAS VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDING

PITFALLS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAYING OUT OF THE DESERT OF DEFAULT AND DEFEAT

PAULA FLEMING, CPL
FLEMING LAND, LLC

VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDING is and has been a necessary and vital component of the oil and gas industry's growth for many years... as is the investor's reasonable and timely return on investment dollars in oil and gas exploration and exploitation ventures.

Almost any landman who has worked with companies seeking venture capital funding, for purposes of this article, a Requesting Entity (hereinafter, "**RE**") or with the Venture Capital Firm (hereinafter, "**VCF**") has witnessed or experienced the undesirable effects of the general lack of due diligence, to one degree or another, on the part of the VCF. Although every Requesting Entity's portfolio of properties or exploration prospect areas differ greatly and thus the review parameters will also differ, the common review pitfalls usually fall within one or more of the areas outlined below:

- (i) obtaining background information and verification of the expertise and ethics of RE's company's management and personnel;
- (ii) confirming strength and accuracy of RE's underlying title reviews and curative obtained as well as the status either the revenue payments and related state production reporting, as well as confirming that RE has or can readily and economically employ personnel who are qualified to handle such payments when production is commenced in the future;
- (iii) obtaining confirmation, evaluation, and economic parameters of RE's base geological, geophysical, and target formation(s) for RE's existing and/or planned developments;
- (iv) reviewing status of existing and projected annualized overhead costs, as well as joint interest billings and payments, governing agreements, after payout obligations, insurance coverage, existing mortgages and liens, pending or threatened lawsuits, environmental issues, and complaints filed by all governing regulatory agencies, including an evaluation of whether RE's existing staff is adequately qualified to meet current and projected work demands; and
- (v) status of production sales contracts; and
- (vi) review of ownership, age, and condition of all flowlines and pipelines currently utilized or to be utilized by RE.

In short, the VCF should review as thoroughly as if the firm was purchasing the properties or partnering on an inflated cost basis with RE for what could be an extended period of time prior to realizing any return on investment or possibly never receiving any return at all. Depending upon the geographical location of RE's current or projected properties and activities, VCF's rights and remedies for handling the repercussions of a bad transaction should be thoroughly reviewed by VCF's internal counsel and local counsel unaffiliated with RE. **A lesson landmen and energy bank managers learned in the 1980's was that if the asset(s) would not look good in the bank lobby as a part of the bank's own portfolio, they would likely not fund the project or purchase.**

While VCFs usually have very strong transactional legal and financial backgrounds, it is less common for the firms to have or utilize experts in the oil and gas field to fully review either the expertise of a company's management and personnel, the title processes which have been or will be utilized to clear title to the properties, or the geological data associated with target formations. In many cases, all that is relied upon are personal meetings and brief reviews of sometimes vague experiential resumes with purported accomplishments of company management and a sampling of hand picked title reviews rendered on a small percentage of the properties which comprise the portfolio of properties for which the company seeks funding. Sometimes, even these basic steps are omitted.

Further compounding the high risk involved for the VCF in uncontrolled venture capital funding is the fact that there are usually no actual reviews of the county property records which should be, at the very least, an 80% sampling of the title records to determine if existing opinions are guaranteed by the issuing attorney. A current and normal practice in today's oil and gas environment is for most title opinions to clearly and repeatedly state that they make no guarantee of correctness and even if the opinion is touted as a "certified" opinion, there are no guarantees of correctness. In some established producing areas, there are not even surveyed unit boundaries, and lease tract acreage is estimated. Further, some leases deemed to be held by production from other zones may not contain adequate shut-in or pooling provisions, and production may not have been adequately verified. Few titles are insured and fewer still have a final division order title opinion prepared for use in confirming revenue payments to mineral and/or working interest owners.

Issues such as the ones discussed in this article can, and often do, spell disaster both for the VCF and for the RE, particularly in challenging economic times. However, there is a simple solution.... and that solution will, at a minimum, include some combination of additional reviews and risk assessment. The following suggested reviews and actions are not meant to be inclusive of every inquiry or action which might be prudently made by or on behalf of VCF, the following will give a broad view of areas which could possibly cause delays in or loss of capital funding returns to VCF. It is recommended that additional research, reviews, and associated risk appraisals be undertaken early in the approval process:

RE MANAGEMENT AND KEY PERSONNEL APPRAISALS:

Engage the services of independent industry experts who are totally unaffiliated with RE and who are experienced in the evaluation of the strength, knowledge, and prior performance of RE's upper and middle management as well as certain key personnel identified by RE. A lack of industry experience in any area will be magnified in the press of efforts to develop properties and meet deadlines. Do management, officers, and key personnel have track records of adhering to ethical standards, successful completion of projects, and in-place and well-functioning procedures which enhance the flow of work and information to other company departments? Is the RE overstaffed or understaffed? Who within RE's organization is responsible for negotiating and drafting agreements with other industry entities? Will those contracts be subject to overview by the VCF and if so, on what time frame?

RE'S EXISTING PROPERTY REVIEW:

Engage independent AAPL certified landmen and board certified attorneys with sufficient local expertise in title and curative matters to perform the following tasks and supply VCF with adequate reporting:

- 1 evaluate RE's existing properties representing at least 80% of the requested venture capital funding value allocated to RE's existing properties;
- 2 review all exposed challenges to title and revenue payments for a recommended period of three years prior to RE's request for funding, noting any reversals of interests, over or under-payments, and reporting on any properties for which any substantial amounts of revenue are being held in suspense or subject to any state's escheat laws;
- 3 full review of all time limitations and termination of any rights associated with existing leases and contracts;
- 4 whether there are environmental or safety factors which will affect any critical time frames or add costs to the projects;
- 5 whether future drilling or unit development is contingent upon cooperation of third parties not yet committed to the projects; and
- 6 if there are existing drilling, completion, rework, or repair proposals which, if not answered within some prescribed period of time will result in a temporary or permanent loss of interest.

RE'S PROPOSED EXPLORATION AND/OR EXPLOITATION PROJECTS:

Engage independent AAPL certified landmen and board certified attorneys with sufficient local expertise in title and curative matters to perform the following tasks and supply VCF with adequate reporting on the following issues:

- 1 Engage independent AAPL certified landmen and board certified attorneys with sufficient local expertise in title and curative matters to perform the following tasks and supply VCF with adequate reporting on the following issues:
 - a. a full review of the company's ability to acquire adequate acreage for exploration, its ability to accu-

rately estimate exploration costs, including all costs associated with leasing, drilling, completion, marketing, and operations;

- b. insist upon and obtain a full review of all time limitations inherent with existing leases and contracts, including the following matters:
 - i. determine when prospect exploration and exploitation will begin, reach completion, and turned to sales;
 - ii. if all required drilling cannot be finalized within the maximum lease terms, acquire estimate of minimum of re-leasing costs, i.e., bonuses and contractor costs;
 - iii. although not typically a problem in early 2016 environments in the oil and gas industry, ascertain whether sufficient drilling and completion rigs are available to complete development of all the acreage to be drilled within the desired time frames;
 - iv. whether all planned wells are currently permitted or can be permitted with no issues or partial rejections from the governing regulatory agency in order to drill and complete within the projected time frames;
 - v. whether there are environmental or safety factors which will affect any critical time frames or add costs to the projects;
 - vi. whether drilling and development is contingent upon cooperation of third parties not yet committed to the projects;
 - vii. whether the funding requested is adequate to insure completion to some minimum or sufficient level of the entire exploitation project; and
 - viii. whether projected economics for production estimates and associated revenues are sufficient to merit the risks and costs associated with the project.
- 2 Whether there a readily available gas market and infrastructure in place for all production or if there are expected delays for building infrastructure or if the markets available can take on added production volumes;
- 3 Whether the RE is sufficiently but not overly staffed with qualified personnel, with the goal being that all management and personnel are adequately trained in multiple functions, i.e., drilling, completion, and operations, in-house landman, field, and pipeline/field, title reviewer and curative acquisition; and
- 4 Whether the compensation packages of current personnel (and particularly key personnel) are competitive and sufficient to attract and retain the highest qualified personnel in the market.

VCF IMBEDDED REPRESENTATION IN RE'S OFFICES:

FINALLY, and perhaps most importantly, every VCF should strongly consider imbedding at least one qualified representative inside RE's offices to attend all management, land, drilling, and operations meetings, and to review and report, as necessary, on company scheduling, performance, status, and updates, as well as issues or matters which may arise and require the evaluation by the VCF to determine what effect, if any, such matters might have on VCF's return on investment.

In taking these or similar steps to insure that basic due diligence is timely secured and insuring that necessary reviews are completed and evaluated before interim or subsequent funding occurs, a more favorable result and return on investment will likely be obtained both for both the VCF and the RE.



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2016 Fall MLBC Charity Golf Event



It is again time for the 5th Annual MLBC Fall Charity Golf Outing! This year, we are holding the event at Valley Brook Country Club in McMurray, PA on Monday, August 08, 2016 www.valleybrookcc.com. We will again be raising funds to help Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh. Over the past four years, the MLBC, with the generous support of our sponsors and members, has been able to donate \$130,000 to this great charity, and we look to grow on that number this year! To take a look at what our sponsorship dollars are doing for local children, visit www.bbbspggh.org.

Schedule of Events:

10:00am - 11:30am	Registration and Cook-Out Lunch
12:00pm	Shotgun start
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Cocktails and Prize pickup
5:30pm – 7:00pm	Steak Cook-Out / Awards / Presentation to charity

Please consider one of the below sponsorships for this great event. **Prices Reduced for 2016!!!**

CPL Event Sponsor - \$2,500.00

Foursome of golf, Lunch, Dinner, Hole Sponsorship (see below) and Signage Recognition throughout the day

RPL Event Sponsor - \$1,500.00

Foursome of golf, Lunch, Dinner, Tee Sponsorship (see below) and Signage Recognition throughout the day

Flag Sponsors - \$1,250.00 (three available)

Nine (9) flags with your company logo imprinted on them displayed on nine holes of golf. Notify the MLBC if you would like us to save the flags for you to take with you

Hole Sponsor - \$750.00

Company logo on one (1) tee box sign with a cooler of beer/nonalcoholic beverages and the ability to put up tents/music/games for the players and distribute other golf swag your company has to give away. This option will allow you to promote your company while getting to meet other industry professionals throughout the day. It is suggested that each Hole Sponsor come up with a game to help raise additional funds for BBBS! The Hole Sponsor with the highest amount raised at their hole will receive a Free Hole Sponsorship for the event in 2017!

Tee Sponsor - \$375.00

Your Company name/logo will be posted on a sign in a visible location on one of the tee boxes as well as recognition at dinner. (You must obtain a Hole Sponsorship to “set up shop” at a tee box)

Thank you for your continued support and you can email stevecarr@tsdudley.com with any questions or call at (724) 745-4717 x103

***General Registration will open online on June 27, 2016 and will be \$200 per golfer to include Golf, Cook-Out Lunch, Steak Cook-Out, Logoed Microfiber MLBC Towel and prizes after golf.**

Please make your Sponsorship check payable to “MLBC” and mail to:

Steve Carr
Dudley Land Company
375 Southpointe Boulevard, Suite 210
Canonsburg, PA 15317

2015—2016 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards	Arnold Schulberg	aschulberg@schulberglaw.com
Bylaws	Chris Elswick	chris.m.elswick@gmail.com
Certification	James E. 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	Jeremy White, RPL	jwhite@eqt.com
Historian	David Aman	davidaman@consolenergy.com
Legislative	Steve Perdue	steve.perdue@steptoe-johnson.com
Marketing	Robert Greiner, RPL	rgreiner@mwlandservices.com
Membership	Lori Naser	naser.lori@gmail.com
Directory	OPEN	
Plate Program	Ben King, RPL	benjaminking@suddenlink.net
Photography	Mike Kalany, RPL	mkalany@eqt.com
Spring Golf	Jeffrey Junstrom	jjunstrom@tuckerlaw.com
Scholarship	Justin Nixon	jrnixon@eqt.com
Sponsorships	Lhag Bowers	lhag.bowers@percheronllc.com
Website /Job Bank	Jeremy D. Preston , RPL	jpreston@eqt.com

MLBC SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
July 14, 2016	Pete Dye Golf Club	Past Presidents Bridgeport, WV	Surviving as Landman in a Down Market
August 8, 2016	Valley Brook Country Club	Fall Charity Golf Event Canonsburg, PA	
September 15, 2016	Marriott Town Center Charleston, WV	TBD	TBD
September 23, 2016	Hunting Hills Dilliner, PA	Charity Clay Shoot	
October 6-7, 2016	Doubletree Hotel Washington, PA	TBD	Appalachian Land Institute
October 6, 2016	Doubletree Hotel Washington PA	TBD	Joint Dinner Meeting
November 10, 2016	Waterfront Hotel Morgantown, WV		Luncheon

MLBC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

The MLBC awarded three scholarships this year to area students. The committee felt three qualities set the recipients apart from other applicants; experience, work ethic, and professionalism.



Morgan Rich
Marietta College



Gary Short
West Virginia University



Ryan Ulam
Marietta College

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 – 2016
MLBC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**

MLBC AWARDS



The award for Best Member Communication was established to recognize the best single communication by a MLBC member each year, either written or oral.

The award this year went to Paula Fleming, CPL for article titled “Ethics, What’s for Dinner?” published in the December 2015 *Takeoff*. The article embodies the spirit of our association by highlighting the importance of ethics and professionalism in our business and inspiring our membership to strive for the highest standards.

Accepting the award on behalf of Paula is Mark Acree



The Friend of MLBC Award was established to recognize a company or individual that has made significant contributions to the betterment of the MLBC in any way deemed worthy of recognition.

This year’s recipient is EQT Corporation, including EQT Production and EQT Midstream. EQT has been a supporter of the MLBC’s activities and events for many years, including sponsorships and speaking engagements. EQT currently employs 120 members of the MLBC, many of whom volunteer on the executive committee as well as other committees.

Accepting the award on behalf of EQT is Chuck Heilmann and Sam Smallwood



The J. W. Findley Lifetime Achievement Award was named after the organizer of the inaugural MLBC meeting held on July 17, 1959, and the organization’s first President. The award is the highest and most distinguished honor of our association. The award was established to recognize a MLBC member who has demonstrated excellence and integrity in contributing to our association and our profession.

In recognition of the leadership, excellence and integrity with which he has served our profession, association and community for more than 38 years, the MLBC is pleased to award Rick Elswick, CPL with the 2015-2016 J. W. Findley Lifetime

Achievement Award. Rick recently retired from CONSOL Energy as Vice President – Joint Asset Development, CNX Gas Company, LLC and was responsible for the integration of Dominion’s land assets, consisting of over 1 million acres, 25,000 leases and 9,000 wells. Additionally, he directed the land and leasing activities associated with CNX Gas’ Marcellus and Utica ventures with Noble Energy and Hess. Prior to joining CONSOL, Rick held various positions in other companies including Dominion Exploration & Production, Stonewall Gas Company and Bojacque, Inc. Rick is a graduate of Marshall University, a Certified Professional Landman, and a past President of the MLBC. Rick is currently the owner of West Fork Energy, LLC, an energy consulting firm located in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 – 2016
MLBC AWARD RECIPIENTS!**

2015-2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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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 @ twhite@mlbc-aapl.org. Please contact Jeremy White at jwhite@eqt.com for dinner meeting sponsorships.

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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 for 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.