

OCTOBER 2019

# The TAKE-OFF

MICHAEL LATE BENEDUM CHAPTER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN



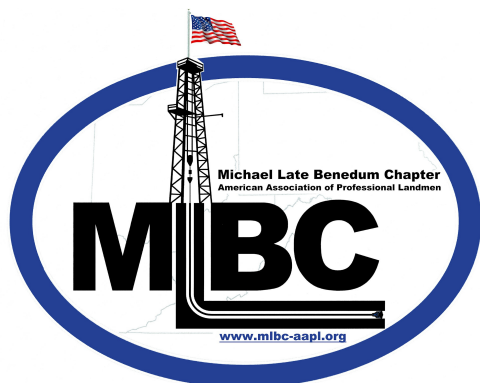
Jeremy White, MLBC President and Steve Carr, Fall Golf Chairmain present  
Blaise Jenkins and Jan Glick from BBBS Pittsburgh with a \$33,000 check

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Upcoming MLBC 60th Anniversary Celebration
- Fall Golf Tournament Highlights

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# OCTOBER ISSUE



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# State of the Organization & Foundation

With a couple months of serving as your President under my belt, I have come to realize there are some things we can do better as an Executive Board. I have openly welcomed feedback from the membership of the MLBC, and several of you have let me know your thoughts. Some with a great deal of candor, which is also welcome. A few things that seem to be themes of that feedback are – communication, transparency, and membership value. I would like to let all members know that as a Board, and as smaller breakout groups, we have discussed some of these topics and are actively trying to determine the best way to address them. In this market, we are trying to find ways for all members to get the biggest bang for their membership buck. As those ideas start to come to fruition, we will make sure to communicate them to you either in the pages of this newsletter or an email blast.

One topic that has come up recently is the MLBC Foundation. As a Board, we could have done a better job communicating to the membership what the Foundation is, why it is necessary, and how it will be funded. Heck, my guess is that some members have no idea that there is even a Foundation to talk about. Well, I'd like to take this opportunity to give you an overview right now. As most of you know, MLBC hosts two charity golf outings throughout the year, a clay shoot to benefit charities supporting our veterans, a scholarship fundraiser, and for the first time last year – a charity gala benefiting Habitat for Humanity. All of these individual charities are near and dear to various members of our organization and are worthy causes. Taking matters further, these events are some of the most anticipated events of the year by our members.

As you know by the articles and reports, these events raise an enormous amount of money – which is great. The money raised at these event, however, does not benefit our individual members. The MLBC is a MEMBERSHIP based non-profit organization. Truthfully, we have no business funneling that much money through our organization and giving it to charity – no matter how worthy that charity is. That being said, our members love the charity events and most everyone involved feels good that we are able to make these types of donations and also hand out student scholarships to accredited ELM programs. Enter The MLBC Foundation...

Following many other non-profit professional organizations' leads, including the AAPL, we as the Executive Board decided to establish a true 501c3 Charitable Foundation. This accomplishes several key benefits. First, as a 501c3, it creates a vehicle to offer true tax deductible donations when our members and members' companies sponsor events or donate in any way. It also makes the MLBC truly IRS compliant as a membership based organization.

"This is my first effort at creating a little more transparency, which is one of the things you as members are looking for."



MLBC President, Jeremy White

Let's face it, this is a volunteer organization and none of us that I know are tax attorneys. We want to make sure we are doing things "by the book." Finally, and probably most importantly to you as a member, it creates a clear separation that is much easier to manage. The Foundation keeps the membership's money separate from the revenue and subsequent donations to charity and awarding of scholarships.

One of the common misconceptions I believe that exists is that MLBC membership dues and funds will be used to fund this Foundation each year. Let me be clear. That would not be in the best interest of our membership, and we as a Board would not commit funds to do that. The Board does plan to put a little bit of seed money in the Foundation to begin with, one time, in order to get it up and running. However, this will certainly not be a recurring cost to our members.

Hopefully that hits the high points and explains what we as a Board have been working on in that regard. There have been many volunteer hours put in over the course of the last year and a half or so to make this a reality. Why did it take so long? Because we wanted to make sure we were doing things the right way as well as what would be best for the organization moving forward. This is my first effort at creating a little more transparency, which is one of the things you as members are looking for. Rest assured that none of us have intentionally been secretive about these things. We just could have done a better job communicating them to you as members, and I'm as guilty as anyone.

This is a monumental year. This organization is now celebrating 60 years. I can't wait for the 60th Anniversary Celebration in Pittsburgh on October 11th. It is going to be a memorable occasion, and of course, a great opportunity to network. We have some cool swag lined up as well. I know of several members who do not get a chance to attend many of our regular meetings that are planning on being there – and you should too! I hope to see everyone there.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

# MLBC CORPORATE SPONSORS 2019

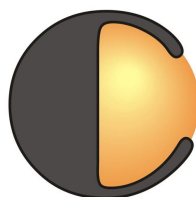
## PLATINUM



**ARSENAL**  
RESOURCES

human energy™

**GOLD**



Campbell Development L.L.C.



Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation

**DUDLEY**  
LAND COMPANY

**SILVER**



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TERRA SERVICES AGENCY, INC.



**Bryson Kuba, LP**  
Oil & Gas Land Services



ASSOCIATED RESOURCES INC.

**BRONZE**



**BRIGHTON**  
LAND MANAGEMENT INC.





# 2019-2020 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

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## PLATINUM: \$5,000 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 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 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.

## SILVER: \$1,500 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 free Half Page ad in the Takeoff per year.

## BRONZE: \$750 PER YEAR

### Benefits of Bronze Sponsor

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

## Dinner Meeting Sponsorship

Cost \$250 per meeting. Companies will receive advertising at the dinner meeting as well as their logo displayed on MLBC website for the month of the meeting sponsored. Contact Harry Heinbaugh for more information.



# 2019 Annual Membership Drive Sponsored by Steptoe & Johnson

Held at Tropics in Morgantown, WV



Abby Veigel and Stacy Tichy welcomed everyone at the Member Drive.



Justin Moroose, center accepts the grand prize Yeti cooler from Ben McKinney, left and Jeremy White, right at the Member Drive event at Tropics .



Attendees enjoying some great weather and good conversation



Those who attended were also well fed!





## WVU ENERGY LAND MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM UPDATES



### By Shawn T. Grushecky, Ph.D – Program Coordinator

It has been almost five years since the West Virginia University Energy Land Management (ELM) program was officially launched in the spring of 2015. During this time, it has grown to be one of the largest AAPL accredited programs and continues to attract great students from the Appalachian region and beyond. Since its inception, the WVU ELM program has worked closely with its advisory board to help shape the program's direction. The advisory board is made up of a group of founding partners that had a vision for a land program at WVU and financially supported its creation. The MLBC chapter of the AAPL is one of our founding board members.

Each year the advisory board meets during the fall and is updated on the status of the ELM program. During the meeting, board members and WVU faculty discuss the ELM curriculum and student demographics, internship and hiring trends, and the future direction of the program. A large portion of this discussion focuses on individual course learning objectives and how each of the courses fit into the overall curriculum. This allows our industry partners to have a voice within the content of the program and the skillsets students gain upon graduation.

Over the past two years, the advisory board has recommended that the ELM program update its curriculum to include coursework in land administration as well as other topic areas. We have taken these suggestions seriously and have officially launched new courses and industry partnerships that address these subjects.

One of these courses, Land and Lease Analysis, was taught as a special topics course last year and will be officially taught during the spring of 2020. Students that successfully complete this course will be able to research, analyze, critique, compile, and interpret title reports that are aligned with current industry standards. They will also be able to create and research genealogical heirships, develop division of interest using this data, and be able to manage complex land records using software systems. A large part of the course's development is centered around the integration of the Pandell Landworks comprehensive land management software. Pandell Landworks has donated its software system to the WVU ELM program and has become one of the newest members of the advisory board.

This land system not only can be used for the Land and Lease Analysis course, but modules of the program can be integrated into every course offered in Energy Land Management. The web-based system provides students with a greater understanding of leases and property management at the corporate level. It is fully integrated with ESRI ARCGIS and is currently being used by students in several classes. ELM faculty have also engaged undergraduate students outside of the classroom, hiring them to populate a database of leases, analyze and interpret database records and complete honors projects using the system.

These new additions to the ELM curriculum would not be possible without the input of our advisory board. The input we receive ensures that we are developing and delivering relevant content that is important to employers. It also ensures that our courses do not become 'stale' and that our graduates are competitive and sought after for positions in energy land management. Our next advisory board meeting is Oct 11, 2019. If you would like to learn more about the program and perhaps offer your input into curriculum, please feel free to reach out to me for more information. We welcome our advisory board as well as guests to these meetings!

IN HONOR OF  
OUR 60TH  
ANNIVERSARY

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



THE MLBC RECOGNIZES  
PAST PRESIDENTS  
AARON YOST  
&  
RICHARD ROBB



# PAST PRESIDENT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



AARON YOST

It's an honor for the MLBC to share with our membership a brief conversation with our organization's 55th President, Mr. Aaron Yost, CPL. Aaron is a familiar face to many of us from his dedication to our industry from a national and regional level where he has served on the executive board of both the AAPL and MLBC. His contributions to our organization, profession and industry are significant and deserve the utmost appreciation. Please enjoy our brief Q/A with Aaron as we feature him in our October newsletter of the MLBC Takeoff.



**MLBC:**

When were you President of our organization? What years did you serve in office?

**AARON YOST:**

2015 – 2016 term.

**MLBC:**

Are you still actively involved in our organization?

**AY:**

Yes. Last year I chaired the Awards Committee and I still try to attend most meetings.

**MLBC:**

How long have you been a member of the MLBC? How long have you held your CPL designation?

**AY:**

I think I joined the MLBC in 2006 and obtained my CPL in 2011.

**MLBC:**

How has our organization changed over the years?

**AY:**

The most obvious are the growth of our membership and also charitable contributions we now make in the communities. One other thing I'll point out is we have a bunch of volunteers on committees who are very active. Many more committee members than we've ever had. It takes a lot of work by a lot of people to show our members the value of membership while also keeping them engaged.

**MLBC:**

Tell us a little bit about your career, your current position, past positions and some of your land work experience.

**AY:**

I've been an independent my entire career. Started in 2001 with Mason Dixon Energy in upstate New York. In 2008, I started managing land/title projects in several states. In 2012 Mason Dixon acquired a few other firms out of Texas and we merged them together...the surviving entity is Percheron. I've been President of the company since we merged. My career has taken me from doing landwork to overseeing and managing others doing landwork, while also running a company. I miss doing the landwork.

**MLBC:**

Do you have a favorite land story, project, area of interest in the oil and gas industry?

**AY:**

I do, but it's not appropriate for this publication, so how about a second favorite land story? Back in the mid to late 2000s we had a client from Colorado that was drilling a well in downtown Parsons, WV. We had acquired all the leases and ROW with the exception of the ROW from the town. So one day I'm at work and feel miserable, fever, aches, you name it. I get a call from our client and he says the town of Parsons was having some sort of town hall meeting that night and he was hoping to be there. Unfortunately, he was stuck in Colorado and asked if I would go to the meeting. Well of course I'm going to go since he's a client, but I didn't know anything about the details of the ROW through town. Fortunately, he assured me that I wouldn't have to speak at the meeting, just to be there. I make it to the meeting and at

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Interview by:  
John T. Catsonis  
MLBC Marketing Committee

this point I'm pretty much incapacitated, I couldn't even hold my head up it hurt so bad. But wouldn't you know it and just as luck would have it, I get called up in front of everyone to speak about the pipeline. It was not good. I really have no idea what questions were asked or how I replied to them. To make matters worse, I left the meeting and mother nature had dropped about six inches of snow for me to drive my Honda Accord in back over the mountains. I made it to Deep Creek, MD and found a motel. The next week someone showed me the front page of the Parsons newspaper where I was quoted during the meeting as saying, "We have a discovery here." Really? What does that even mean? To this day I have no idea why I would have said that. I wasn't qualified to make a statement like that and heck I'm not sure the well was even completed yet. I think that was fake news before there was fake news.

**MLBC:**

Are there any particularly memorable areas you have been able to visit due to your land career?

**AY:**

I've been blessed with so many opportunities to travel all over the country, either for my job or with AAPL engagements, it's hard to pick just one, but what pops in my mind is driving south on route 414 on the east side of Seneca Lake, New York with the sun setting over the lake on an early autumn evening. Windows down, seeing and smelling the vineyards near harvest... absolutely beautiful.

**MLBC:**

What do you see happening in the future of oil and gas and in the Appalachian Basin?

**AY:**

"Whatever is has already been and what will be has been before...." Ecclesiastes 3:15

**MLBC:**

If you could offer advice to a young land professional, or peer, what would you say?

**AY:**

It's a small industry. You never know when you'll be working for someone or that someone will be working for you. Do what you want with that advice, but don't forget it.

**MLBC:**

Are there any ways the MLBC can improve as an organization and offering service to our members?

**AY:**

None that I can think of. We have strong MLBC leadership each year who tries to make membership valuable to all members.

**MLBC:**

Who has been your biggest influence/mentor? Tell us about him or her.

**AY:**

It's equally Greg Zerkel and Asa Bowers. Both saw the potential to turn a golf bum into an average landman. They took the risk and I think I've rewarded them with being very average. Often times I thought these two were cut from the same cloth. Early on, during my manager days both of them wanted to review any correspondence I wrote before it went out the door. Things like cover letters for completed projects, not emails and such. Anyway, I'd give either of them a printed copy and they'd bleed all over it. I'd make the changes and save a copy for future use. Then I'd give them the redacted letter (the one they had previously re-written) to review, and guess what...blood bath again. SMH!

**MLBC:**

What are your plans for the future?

**AY:**

In the near future, I see work staying about the same for me, assuming I don't get busted for watching too much Netflix at the office. Outside work, I'll hopefully be coaching youth basketball and spending lots of time on the golf course with my boys.

**MLBC:**

Is there anything additional you would like to share?

**AY:**

Running through all the positions on the Executive Committee is a commitment. To the tune of 8 – 10 years. That commitment resulted in friendships with clients, competitors and associates. Absolutely worth it.



# PAST PRESIDENT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## RICHARD ROBB

The MLBC is pleased to introduce our readers to Richard Robb, the 52nd President of the MLBC. Richard has a diverse background in oil and gas in the Appalachian Basin and has been involved in our organization since the 1970's. Many of you know Richard from his involvement in our Charity Clay Shoots where he has been a participant and a coordinator of the events. Get to know him a little better as we feature him in our October edition of the MLBC Newsletter.



### MLBC:

When were you President of our organization? What years did you serve in office?

### RICHARD ROBB:

I had the honor of being president June 2012 until June 2013 and first became an officer in 2007.

### MLBC:

Are you still actively involved in our organization?

### RR:

Not nearly as much as I would like, but I still attend a couple meetings each year

### MLBC:

How long have you been a member of the MLBC? How long have you held your designation?

### RR:

I first attended meetings in the late '70s.

### MLBC:

How has our organization changed over the years?

### RR:

Member services and education events are now light years ahead of when I first attended meetings in the late 1970's and it's been great to see the growth in membership and involvement of our members.

### MLBC:

Tell us a little bit about your career, your current position, past positions and some of your land work experience.

### RR:

I relocated to western Pennsylvania from Southern Illinois in 1978 to become a contract Landman for Consolidation Coal Company. In 1985, CONSOL went from about fifty contractors down to just three. I managed to work another 3 years before next down turn when I started selling real estate and providing bank appraisals. In 1992, Kriebel Resources hired me to acquire gas leases in Greene and Fayette counties in Pennsylvania and that was my first true gas work. I returned to CONSOL Energy in 1996 to begin a coalbed methane project. In 2008 Tanglewood Energy came to Pennsylvania to begin securing acreage in Greene County and I was fortunate to be included in their development. In 2012, Tanglewood sold to Vantage Energy and in 2016 Vantage sold to Rice Energy. After the sale to Rice, I became a mineral buyer for Three Rivers Royalty and remain there today. It has been fun and rewarding with several twist and turns.

### MLBC:

Do you have a favorite land story, project, area of interest in the oil and gas industry?

### RR:

One story would include becoming an officer for the MLBC. Rick Elswick called asking me to become an officer in 2006 and I explained how busy I was then asked, "Why?" Rick's answer was that we get free drinks during the officer meeting and we go first to the buffet. Today the MLBC has great people volunteering for those jobs and we don't use such deceptive techniques.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

**MLBC:**

Are there any particularly memorable areas you have been able to visit due to your land career?

**RR:**

I have attended a couple AAPL national conventions and would recommend everyone to try and include that on your to-do list. As Land Manager for Consol I had a CBM project that allowed me several trips to Montana/Wyoming area that were great.

**MLBC:**

If you could offer advice to a young land professional, or peer, what would you say?

**RR:**

Get your C.P.L. and don't be discouraged during the slow times; they don't last. Attend as many MLBC meetings as possible for the educational and the social benefits.

**MLBC:**

Are there any ways the MLBC can improve as an organization and offering service to our members?

**RR:**

The MLBC is doing such a great job now; I would just say keep up the great work.

**MLBC:**

Who has been your biggest influence/mentor? Tell us about him or her.

**RR:**

Denny Stanhagen hired me in October 1978 as a contract Landman and we still work together today. I have had the pleasure of working with so many it's hard to name just one but Aaron Yost, Brittany Crookshanks, Rick Elswick and Anthony Romeo have all helped make the MLBC the organization it is today.

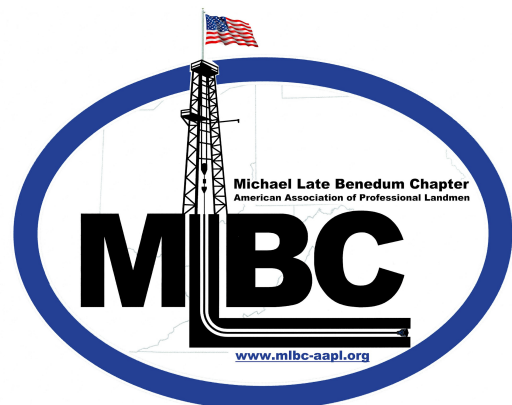
**MLBC:**

What are your plans for the future?

**RR:**

I plan to continue to work in the industry and enjoy every day.

Interview by:  
John T. Catsonis  
MLBC Marketing  
Committee





**We had 184 golfers this year with \$33k going to the BBBS of Greater Pittsburgh.**

Winners of the AM flight were:

1. Perry Cunningham, Jared Detweiler, Ryan Mather and Nate Russell (score of 54)
2. Randy Littlecott, Michael Holiday, Kyle Stefancik and Martin Leehr (score of 57)
3. Joshua Andrews, Lou Weilacher, Carl Taylor and Zach Buck (score of 60)

Winners of the PM flight were:

1. Travis Edmondson, Keith Zabela, Kevin Pierson and Brent Evans (score of 51)
2. James Senk, Cass Burkett, Adam Hoffer and Philip Thomas (score of 56 – scorecard playoff)
3. Sean Jasionowski, Andrew McLain, Ian Lang and James Elsen (score of 56 – scorecard playoff)

## **Special Thanks to:**

- Club House Cards for donating the items for the Silent Auction.
- Southpointe Golf Club and its staff for the wonderful day.

## **Sponsors of the Event**

**Presenting Sponsor: Appalachian Mineral Partners**

**Halfway House Sponsor: Backroads Energy**

**CPL Sponsors: Crimson Resources, McDonald Land Services, Mark A. O'Neal and Associates, Prosper Mineral Brokers and DMC Bradley**

**RPL Sponsors: Blue Land Services, Earth Land Services, Campbell Development, Babst Calland, Dudley Land Company and National Field Services**

**Flag sponsors: Nationwide Heirship and Wrangler Land Services**

**Tee Sponsors: Holland Services, Percheron, DPS Land Services, Layne Leasing and Title, Brighton Land Management and Sean Cassidy and Associates**

**Babst Calland for their donation of the YETI Beverage Coolers and DPS Land Services for the Titleist golf balls for all players.**



# Fall Golf Photos



(Left to Right) Amanda Gongos, Jessica Bahr, Jamie Wright and Madeline Fitzgerald



Golfers in morning flight plan their strategy before heading out to course



The afternoon flight of golfers gets ready



Michael Hooper poses for a candid shot on course



Golfers head out to their respective tees to start the day



Left to Right - Zac Watters, Brandon Erwin; Corinne Poduch; Trista Bonomi; Randy Ketcham



L to R - Jim Crockard, Evan Gelacek  
Bruce Rudoy, Scott McKernan



# *60th Anniversary*

## *Celebration*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

**JEROME BETTIS' GRILLE 36**

North Shore Drive, Pittsburgh, PA

**\$75 individual**  
**\$130 couple**

Live music by  
**JUSTIN TRAWICK**  
**& THE COMMON**  
**GOOD**

**Friday, 11**  
**October**  
**5:30 – 9:30**

**You're Invited!**

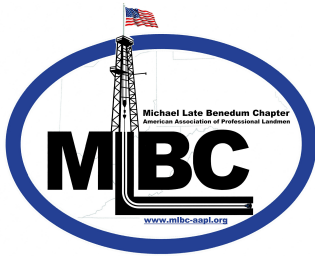
**Celebrate our 60<sup>TH</sup> year as an organization!**

**Register online at [mlbc-aapl.org](http://mlbc-aapl.org)**

**Food. Cocktails. Entertainment**

**Special room rates available – Hyatt Place North Shore**





## Fifth Annual Clay Shoot Sponsored by Lenington, Gratton, & Associates Raises \$24,000 for West Virginia's Veterans



Nearly 200 people attended the Fifth Annual MLBC Veteran's Charity Clay Shoot, supporting the West Virginia University College of Law Veterans Advocacy Clinic, which provides free legal help to West Virginia Veterans. The Charity Clay Shoot, Dinner and Gun Raffle, which took place September 20th, 2019 at Hunting Hills in Dilliner, Pennsylvania raised over \$24,000 through ticket sales and sponsorships. So far, this event has donated \$75,000 to the WVU Law Veteran's Advocacy Clinic, and has donated a total of nearly \$100,000 in support of local Veteran's Charities.

Critical to the success of the event was the support that the event received from the Michael Late Benedum community. Twenty-three oil and gas companies and service providers pledged between \$500 and \$7500 each to sponsor the charity event. Anthony Romeo, founder of the shoot, who is a veteran and employee at Northeast Natural Energy, said, "I am so thankful for the support and enthusiasm that surrounds this event and its cause. Year over year this event receives more support and more interest. I can't say enough about the sponsors that contribute to the event, the volunteers doing work behind the scenes, and about the patrons that join us for a day at the range."

Michael Kalany, event volunteer and fellow veteran, had the following remark, "I enjoy helping out with this event. As a law school graduate and a veteran who works in the oil and gas industry, this event makes me proud. Proud to see our industry coming together to raise money so that the WVU law school can continue to serve West Virginia veterans who need legal help."

We strive to make our events the best out there and to enhance the benefit of being a patron and a sponsor to our events, so if you have suggestions on ways we could improve-shoot us an email. As we roll into planning for the 2020 Charity Shoot, expect big things to come. Sponsorship opportunities for the 2020 are already booking, be sure to snag your spot. Thank you again for all of the support, we look forward to seeing you at the next event!



Assistant Dean Elaine Wilson (WVU College of Law), Mitch Duckworth (WVU Veterans Advocacy Clinic) Dean Greg Bowman (WVU College of Law), Anthony Romeo (Northeast Natural Energy), Mike Kalany (Northeast Natural Energy) (left to right) were present to receive the check.

### About the West Virginia College of Law Veterans Advocacy Clinic

There are approximately 170,000 veterans that currently reside in the state of West Virginia, many with acute and unique legal needs related to their military service or return to civilian life. In the Veterans Advocacy Clinic (VAC), students will have the opportunity to represent West Virginia veterans in litigation before administrative agencies and courts, on benefits, discharge upgrades, employment claims and other civil and criminal matters. In addition, students will represent local and national organizations in non-litigation matters relating to the legal needs of veterans, including regulatory and legislative reform efforts, media advocacy, and strategic planning. Under Professor Oliva's leadership, the VAC has begun working with terrific partners to develop new projects aimed at expanding legal services to West Virginia veterans. For more information, visit:

<https://www.law.wvu.edu/clinical-law/veterans-advocacy>



1st: Greg Smith (83/100)

2nd: Mike Holiday (80/100)

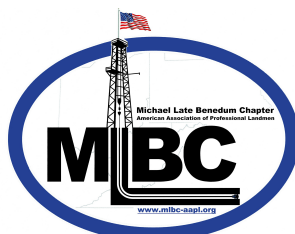
3rd: Ryan Mather (79/100)

High Team Ryan Mather/Eric Strouth,  
Brandon Christopher, Greg Smith (312/400)

Women winners: (tie) Jen McIntyre/Carrie  
Spada (56/100)



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS- THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**  
**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**







## MLBC Visits Marietta

By Daniel Cooper  
Newsletter Committee Chairman



The MLBC made its annual visit to Marietta, OH on Thursday, September 12th. Marietta is home to Marietta College which runs an Energy and Land Management program and the MLBC serves in a supporting role for the students enrolled in that program. Kevin Pierson, MLBC Scholarship Committee Chairman, has done amazing work with his committee in encouraging college students at Marietta College and also at WVU to become active participants within the MLBC. As part of his efforts, he organized a roundtable discussion with the students at Marietta during their lunch hour. The students were given the opportunity to speak with myself and Kevin about how we got started in our careers as landmen and we also gave them some tips and suggestions on how to get their own careers jumpstarted. Overall, it was a wonderful way to kick off the day.



Roundtable discussion at Marietta College

That evening, 11 students from Marietta College joined other members of the MLBC at the Marietta Country Club to network, enjoy a buffet dinner and listen to an informative presentation from Timothy McKeen. Mr. McKeen is an attorney with Steptoe and Johnson and leads their Mineral Title and Energy Real Estate Team. He is becoming quite a favorite speaker to the MLBC! His presentation was titled "Understanding Ohio Title in a Post Urban Meyer Era." The presentation was outstanding and was well received by all in attendance.



Timothy McKeen speaks to the crowd during his presentation



MLBC President Jeremy White welcomes attendees to the dinner meeting

Our dinner meetings would not be possible without generous sponsors. Thank you to our sponsors of the dinner meeting: Honor Resources, Layne Land & Leasing and Steptoe & Johnson. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you as well to those members who assisted the MLBC in sponsoring the 11 Marietta College students who attended the dinner meeting. The students were very appreciative and I received more than a few comments about the wonderful time they had and on how welcoming our members were to them during the entire evening. Well done MLBC membership!!







# LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

By Nikolas Tysiak  
Legislative and Regulatory Chairman

There is not a lot to report on this month from Leg and Reg. West Virginia has not had significant developments in the past several months, while Ohio continues to implement registration of landmen. Three notable items in Pennsylvania have arisen that are worth attention, however.

On February 7, 2019, Senators Dinniman, Killion, Schwank, Kearney and Haywood introduced Senate Bill No. 257 proposing to amend the Pennsylvania Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act (Feb. 19, 1980, P.L. 15, No. 9) to create a land agent registration system in Pennsylvania and make it unlawful to engage in related activities without a registration certificate.

Senate Bill No. 257 expressly states that land agents are not a real estate broker as defined by the act and defines a “land agent” to be a person (or entity) who, in the course of business on their own behalf or on the behalf of others, engages primarily in “(1) negotiating the acquisition or divestiture of oil, gas or mineral rights, including the acquisition or divestiture of land or oil, gas or mineral rights for a pipeline; (2) negotiating business agreements that provide for the exploration for or development of oil, gas or minerals; (3) determining ownership of oil, gas or minerals through research of public and private records; (4) reviewing the status of title, curing title defects, and otherwise reducing title risk associated with ownership of oil, gas or minerals; (5) managing rights or obligations derived from ownership of interests and oil, gas or minerals; or (6) activities to secure the unitization or pooling of interests in oil, gas or minerals.”

The bill would create a mandatory registration requirement for land agents who must be at least 18 years of age and pass a criminal background check as a condition precedent to obtaining a registration certificate. All applicants would be required to submit a written application for registration that includes the applicant’s name (or name and address of all principals if a business entity), address, telephone number, e-mail address, Social Security number (or FEIN), a list of any other state or other jurisdiction in which a similar registration or license is or was held by the applicant, including any state or other jurisdiction that has suspended or revoked a similar registration or license, and a statement of whether a judgement or tax lien is pending against the applicant. A land agent would be required to provide a property owner proof that the land agent is registered with the state upon first contact with a property owner. The State Real Estate Commission would maintain a registry of land agents operating in Pennsylvania and make the same available to the public on the Commission’s website.

Presently, Senate Bill No. 257 resides in the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee and has not been added to the Senate’s schedule for consideration when the session opens later this month. Considering the Governor’s legislative agenda, it’s unclear whether there will be enough interest in this matter for the Senate to act in 2019.

On August 12, in the case of Prime Energy & Chemical, LLC v. Tucker Arensburg, P.C. (Case No. 2:18-CV-00345), the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania allowed a lawsuit to proceed against the defendant law firm for the firm’s alleged misrepresentation of various facts affecting negotiation of a Purchase and Sale Agreement. The Plaintiff alleges that knowledge of such facts would have resulted in it ceasing its pursuit of the transaction. This was merely a preliminary order, there will be more to come on this issue determining liability in the future.

Finally, on July 22, in Marcellus Shale Coalition v. Department of Environmental Protection (Case No. 573 M.D. 2016), the Commonwealth Court found certain portions of the Pennsylvania regulations surrounding unconventional wells void and unenforceable, but also imposed upon oil and gas operators the duty to identify abandoned wells near their operative and planned wells, impose some site restoration requirements, regulate certain impoundments, and report on some waste activities.

In more general news, in an effort to bring as much information to the MLBC membership in a timely a fashion as possible, the Legislative and Regulatory Committee will be implementing brief development updates at each meeting of the MLBC membership. These updates will take no more than 5-10 minutes and are designed to give the membership access to relevant information that could affect their everyday working lives. Stay tuned for more!

Dear Members,

AAPL launched the Advisory Landman Connection Program to facilitate learning and development opportunities within the land profession. This program allows members to seek voluntary non-legal advice in which they may learn from each other on the topics of their choice and — through the use of technology — take advantage of a format to build relationships and enhance skills. The only cost for participation in the program is the commitment of an individual's time, and desire for educational enhancement of the AAPL membership.

Those interested will be connected with either an Advisor or Participant — depending on the specific desires of the applicant — in order to enable the individual to share their knowledge and career guidance to help each other grow as professionals.

As a land professional, the committee wanted to bring the Advisory Landman Connection Program to your attention in the hopes that you would consider participating as either an advisor or a participant. As an advisor, you will be paired with a participant who seeks knowledge or experience throughout the different plays and basins that you have worked, which may include such topics as technology, negotiating leases, joint operating agreements, pooling, joint development agreements, title matters and general support for landmen new to the profession. Although the program is founded upon voluntary participation, an initial six-month program commitment is requested for advisors and participants.

We hope that you participate in this mentoring opportunity that will remove the limitations and barriers that may exist in more traditional programs that may have been restricted by geographical boundaries. Our vision is to link members together for open discussion and communication with visual attributes that include face to face communication when possible, or by telephone, intranet, skype and email at a minimum of one hour per month.

The AAPL and Advisory Landman Committee strive to utilize technology in order to facilitate the implementation of the Advisory Landman Connection Program. If you would like to participate in the innovative program, please visit [landman.org/get-involved/mentorship](http://landman.org/get-involved/mentorship).

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact me at [clarke.richards@chk.com](mailto:clarke.richards@chk.com).

Best Regards,



Clarke Richards  
Advisory Landman Connection Committee Chairman

# *Upcoming Events*

October 11, 2019

MLBC 60th Anniversary Event  
Jerome Bettis' Grille 36 - Pittsburgh, PA

November 14, 2019

Luncheon  
Bridgeport Country Club - Bridgeport, WV

January 16, 2020

Luncheon  
Hilton Garden Inn - Canonsburg, PA

## STAY CONNECTED!

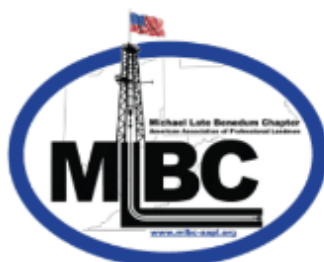
## Follow us on Social Media



@mlbc-aapl



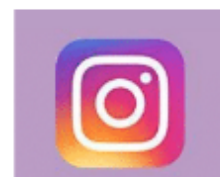
Michael Late  
Benedum  
Chapter  
of AAPL



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



@mlbc-aapl



@mlbc\_aapl



2019-2020

# Executive Committee



## President

Jeremy White, RPL  
EQT  
jwhite@eqt.com



## Vice President

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



## National Director

Christa Dotson, RPL  
Northeast Natural Energy  
cdotson@nne-llc.com



## Secretary

Robert Greiner, RPL  
Jericho Land Resources  
rgreiner@jericho.email



## Treasurer

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



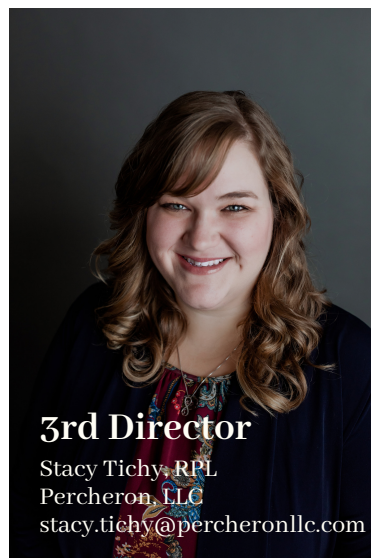
## 1st Director

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



## 2nd Director

John Catsonis  
Apex Land Corporation  
jcatsonis@apexlandcorp.com



## 3rd Director

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



## Sergeant-At-Arms

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



## President Emeritus

Britney Crookshanks, CPL  
Infinity Natural Resources  
bcrookshanks@infinitynr.com



## Executive Assistant

Abby Veigel  
MLBC  
abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org



# Committee Chairs

2019-2020



Awards:  
&Technology  
Jeremy Preston  
jpreston@eqt.com



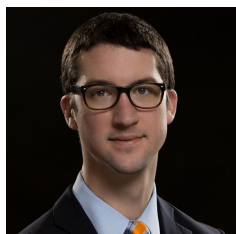
Education:  
Chuck Saffer  
morgan@cswlegalgroup.com



Ethics:  
Justin Nixon  
jnixon@nne-llc.com



Fall Golf:  
Steve Carr  
SteveCarr@dudley-land.com



Spring Golf:  
Jeff Junstrom  
junstrom@cassidy.com



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



Legislative:  
Nikolas Tysiak  
ntysiak@babstcalland.com



Marketing:  
John Catsonis  
jcatsonis@apexlandcorp.com



Meeting Planning:  
Stacy Tichy  
stacy.tichy@percheronllc.com



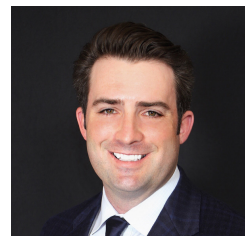
Newsletter Committee:  
Daniel Cooper  
daniel.cooper82@gmail.com



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



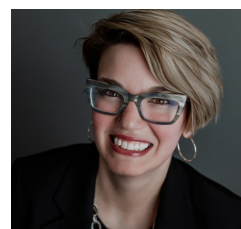
AAPL Director:  
Christa Dotson  
cdotson@nne-llc.com



Scholarship: & University Liason  
Kevin Pierson  
kp@bklpland.com



Clay Shoot Committee:  
Anthony Romeo  
aromeo@nne-llc.com



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



Sponsorship  
Harry Heinbaugh  
harry.heinbaugh@percheronllc.com



Finance:  
Robert Greiner  
rgreiner@jericho.email

# NEW MEMBERS

## and CERTIFICATIONS

July/August 2019

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type	Sponsoring Member
Krissy	Kelly	RBOP Abstract, LLC	Active	Pato, Elizabeth
Daniel	Bucan	Bowman Consulting	Active	Bourbeau, James R. Pierson,
Keith	Crain	Bryson Kuba LP	Associate	Kevin
Mary	Dalton	Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney	Associate	Stanhagen, Denny
Quinn	McCall	Burns White	Active	Butcher, CPL, Ryan
Paige	Williams	Chevron	Active	Harvey, Samantha
Stephen	Thubron	Envirotrac	Associate	McKinney, Benjamin
Stephen	Garner	Innovia Energy Resources	Associate	Muske, Wallace
Katie	Monroe	Jackson Kelly PLLC	Associate	LaFramboise, Leah
Devin	Franz	Morris Mountaineer Oil and Gas, LLC	Active	Metzgar, Charles C
Braden	Christopher	Steptoe & Johnson PLLC	Associate	McKinney, Benjamin
Garrett	Stanley	Texhoma Land Consultants	Associate	Link, Scott

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:

### CPL

Matthew Buckles  
Paul Konggaard

### RPL

Scott Whipkey  
Kerry H. Eaton  
Alex J. Work

**Total Members: 1,019**

Active: 687  
Active PP: 29  
Honorary: 10

**Total Active: 716**  
**% Active: 71.25%**

Associate : 210  
Student: 83



# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

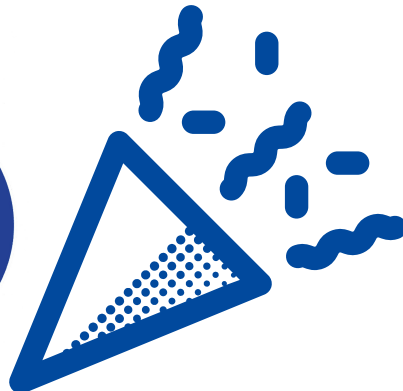
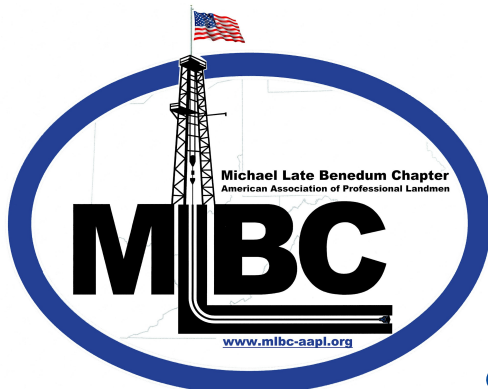


Michael Late Benedum  
"The Great Wildcatter"

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 can not 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).

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.



**Celebrating 60  
years as an  
organization**