

2023 Annual WV Mining Symposium Draws Over 300



Chris Hamilton



Jason Bostic



Mike Day



Gov. Jim Justice



Patrick Morrissey



Chris Williamson



Randy Smith



John Deskins

Drawing more than 300 industry representatives, and featuring local, state, and federal dignitaries, the West Virginia Coal Association (WVCA) held the 49th Annual West Virginia Mining Symposium April 18-19, 2023 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston, West Virginia.

Chris Hamilton, President and Chief Executive Officer of the WVCA, said, “While the industry is strong today, the Biden Administration and national liberal forces continue their efforts daily to remove coal from America’s energy portfolio. We need all Friends of Coal to engage with us to let them know West Virginia’s mining industry is indispensable for providing reliable electricity, national security, and the steel that builds this country.”

The Symposium drew wide participation from all sectors of the mining industry and provided an opportunity for the industry to discuss current domestic and international marketing and production trends, while showcasing new mining and mine safety technologies.

Governor Jim Justice, Attorney General Patrick Morrissey, USDOL Assistant Secretary Chris Williamson, State Senator Randy Smith, and other prominent officials addressed the conference.

John Deskins, Director of the WVU Bureau for Business & Economic Research, presented the findings of a new study outlining the Impact of Metallurgical Coal Production in West Virginia. The study found that US steel production that uses West Virginia metallurgical (met) coal generated approximately \$186 billion in total economic activity in the United States in 2019. Additionally, West Virginia is the leading producer of met coal nationally and supplied nearly 63 percent of all the met coal distributed to US coke plants.

“This study showcases the incredible importance and the national reliance on West Virginia-produced met coal,” said Hamilton. “Without the coal our miners produce right here in West Virginia our country would be forced to import this critical ingredient for making the steel that builds, defends, and supports America.”

The West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame inducted five new members during the dinner on April 18th. Honorees included: **H. Douglas Dahl**, Retired CEO/President, Peabody Coal; **Eddie Asbury**, President, Southern Minerals, Inc.; **Paul A. Lang**, President/CEO, Arch Resources, Inc.; **Stanley C. Suboleski**, Senior VP, Massey, LC; and **Thomas M. Wynne**, Senior VP/COO, Alliance Resources.



During the Symposium, the Association recognized and celebrated exemplary mine safety and environmental excellence achievements of mining industry operations across the state. Numerous mining companies and mining operations were recognized.

In the safety category, top honors went to Blackhawk Mining, Panther Creek Mining, and American Eagle Mine for earning the Eustace E. Fredrick Milestone Award. Alpha Metallurgical Resources' Republic Energy LLC Workman Creek Surface Mine and Cleveland Cliffs' Princeton Coal Blue Eagle Surface Mine earned the Bart B. Lay Milestone of Safety Award.

In the environmental category, the top award – the *Greenlands Award* – went to Pocahontas Coal Company's Tommy Creek Highwall No. 2 Mine.