

## 2022 Bluefield Coal & Mining Show Draws Over 4,500



Jeff Disibbio



Bob Ramsey



Debbie Maynard



Bill Reid

The Bluefield Coal & Mining Show, the largest gathering of coal people in the nation this year, drew over 4,500 from across the nation's coalfields. There were 165 exhibitors, including 36 new ones, from 31 states as well as Canada, Germany, Poland, and Singapore.

Several thousand members and supporters of the coal industry converged on Bluefield, WV on September 14-16 over the three days! The coal show is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias and this year's show again was led by general chairman, Bob Ramsey.

"According to the many attendees I spoke to, it was a great show thanks to the many hours of work by our volunteers," said Ramsey. "With coal prices where they are, there was a lot of enthusiasm amongst the many folks who attended, and the percentage of actual decision makers was excellent. We were very pleased with the great turnout!" he said.

Each year an industry leader speaks at the breakfast before the show is opened. "This year's keynote speaker was David Stetson, Chief Executive Officer, Alpha Metallurgical Coal," said Bill Reid, Chair of the Media & Exhibitors Breakfast, and Managing Editor, CoalZoom.com and Coalminereexchange.com. "We were delighted to have such an eminent coal personality join us and it was most reassuring to hear him say that he believes that the future of coal industry is very bright. Everyone certainly appreciated his remarks." The Breakfast drew a full house in the Food Tent.

Following the Breakfast, the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place opening the show. The ribbon was cut by Chris Hamilton, President & CEO, West Virginia Coal Association. "There is nothing in the world that competes with coal-fired electric power," he said. "No one does the mining better than our coal miners in this area and this is exemplified by this coal show." Debbie Maynard was taken by surprise and presented with the Charles A. Peters Memorial Award for countless years of work in running the Coal Show.

On the Opening Day of the show, live TV interviews took place. "Exhibitors were invited to apply for an interview and a panel selected them based on a new product or a significant contribution to the industry," explained Bill Reid, who is also Chair of the Interview Project. "We completed 20 interviews and there is a link to them all on the CoalZoom.com homepage. We wanted to give additional exposure to exhibitors, while at the same time helping to promote the coal industry." The interviews were streamed live and recorded on all Chamber social media platforms and projected on a large screen located in the armory, adding a new dimension to the show.

On the Thursday evening, the Vendor Reception was held and more than 150 exhibitors attended with a few of their customers all congregating at Bowen Field, Bluefield City Park, Stadium Drive, Bluefield, WV. There was tailgating with live music, including some Johnny Cash, and beer and BBQ. Later in the evening, the large screen provided some exciting football to watch. This was an excellent way for exhibitors to unwind and socialize while spending a little extra time with their customers.

Jeff Disibbio, President of the Chamber, summed it all up. "The coal show continues to be a huge affair for both this region and for the entire coal industry. The weather was kind to us and the show was filled with visitors with smiles on their faces at a time of renewed focus on the coal industry. We want to thank everyone for coming," he said.



Joy Continuous Miner



Gene Kreutsberger, Voith



Jessica & Pete Savage, West River Conveyors



John & Sharon Stahura, SCP



Ben Hardman, Steve McIntyre, J.H. Fletcher



Phillips Global Continuous Miner



Metalcraft Mining Equipment Team



Paul Campbell, Longwall-Associates



Jennmar Team



R.M. Wilson



Paul Elswick with Pauls Fans Team



Lee Equipment on Irwin Booth



Damascus Corporation



Barbara Altizer, MCPA



Brian Ansell, Charles Parks, NIOSH



Derrek Genderman, Courtney Stanton, Rita Peery, Bluefield Manufacturing



Mike Schopperman, Peter Johnson, Semco Publishing



Scott Hamilton, Ben Ramsey, Jeff Grose, Peters Equipment



MPS Team



Ross Helms, Ron Hayton, BeltTech, Inc.



AMR/PEMCO Team



Richwood Team



Gainwell Engineering, Jason Sizemore, Kapil Kothari, Dipankar Banerjee, Jayanta Bhattacharya



General View



Chuck Lilly with Phillips Global Team



FGX Septech, Jeff Cui, Ron Bowling



Bob Stenger with Cincinnati Mine Machinery Team



Marvin Woodie with Conn-Weld Team



Aleksandra Tilsner-Sowa of Capital Group, Fasing



Mark Grimmet, NARCO



GMS, Rachel "Boz" Boothby, Brian Marcum



Wallace Electrical Systems, Bob Neikes, Randy Puckett



Attendance Building Up