

# **Proceedings**

of the

## **16<sup>th</sup> Annual National Meeting of the American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation**

Proceedings of a conference held on August 13-19, 1999 in Scottsdale, Arizona

# ***Mining and Reclamation for the Next Millennium***

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# **The New Era Has Begun**

## **Mining & Reclamation for the Next Millennium**

### **A Challenge from the Executive Secretary**

Last year ASSMR completed fifteen years under our current name and twenty-five years altogether. For the most part, we have been associated with the coal mining industry. As your new Executive Secretary, it is my hope that ASSMR will be able to expand into new areas of reclamation and restoration. This is in response to the decline of mining in the east where larger acreages are being disturbed per ton of coal mined, and an increase in coal mining in the thicker deposits of west. This year we have made progress in this effort with a greater emphasis on metal mining. I hope that we will be able to expand our horizons to include other types of disturbed lands as well. You will see several types of reclamation in our program for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Arizona— some old and some new. I challenge the membership to help me seek out new avenues to travel. This certainly does not mean the coal road has ended, but that we recognize significant reclamation is being conducted outside the coal industry.

Technical Division Business Meetings are an important part of our program. I hope each of you will make a special effort to attend at least one. It is my hope that these meetings will address concerns as well as goals of your Division as it moves into the next millennium. We need to brainstorm on how to meet the challenges of the future, and to think of areas not currently being addressed by ASSMR. How can we involve others in the reclamation of disturbed lands within mining, academia, and other areas where expertise exists?

In his letter in last year's program, Mr. William Plass set forth many of the goals and accomplishments of the past. Now, we must consider goals for the future as we approach the year 2000. The National Executive Committee (NEC) met on Sunday, August 15 and will meet again at the close of the technical portion of this meeting on Wednesday. If you have concerns or suggestions, please pass them on to President Terry Toy, myself, or other members of the NEC. I truly seek your counsel for the Society and for ways in which I may better serve you in the future.

Richard (Dick) Barnhisel  
Executive Secretary

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