

OK-NARO Report



A Good Start!

It is my pleasure to write this article as your new OK-NARO President. At the meeting of the Board of Directors held at our annual convention in Tulsa, the nominating committee submitted the following slate of officers for 2009-2010, which the board approved:

President: David Sikes • Vice-President: Keith Brewer
Treasurer: Mike Turman • Secretary: Mick Scott

Our annual convention was a great success. Over 300 attended the 2-day event. Hats off to Convention Chairperson Peggy Symes. This was Peggy's second year to serve as convention chair. The success of the last two conventions is a testament to the hard work Peggy and her committee expended. This year we had some new programs and new speakers. One thing that did not change was the opportunity to learn and network with industry professionals, as well as rekindle relationships with old friends and meet a new set of friends attending their first OK-NARO convention.

Robyn Guest and Cathy Akin have agreed to Co-Chair the 2010 convention and had already begun the work on next year's convention, before this year's convention was over. Location and dates will be announced as soon as they are available. Along with the help of the rest of their committee, I'm sure that Robyn and Cathy will put together a great program for spring of 2010.

On May 5th and 6th, as the OK-NARO representative to NARO's National Legislative Council, I traveled to our nation's capitol to assist in the ongoing effort to have the issues of mineral owners heard before our congressional representation. The NLC contingent participated in over 20 meetings with members of Congress in the 2-day period, including an exclusive meeting with FERC Commissioner Marc Spitzer. It is only through the continued and consistent efforts of the National Legislative Committee that mineral owner issues will be bought before our nation's lawmakers.

The emphasis of our visits was to attempt to deal with the proposed elimination of the depletion allowance and tax credits for intangible drilling cost (IDC's). It was surprising to me that most of the staff members we talked to did not know what a "Mineral Owner" is. While it is true that mineral owners will be affected most by the current proposed legislation, it is important to remember that every person living in the United States will be affected by these policies in the form of higher energy costs.

As I am sure you are aware, NARO President Jeff Miller has issued a "Call to Action" for all our membership to voice their opinions to Washington. If you are not up to speed on the issues, check the NARO website for the latest information. It is through a united effort that we stand the best chance of a favorable outcome to the issues we share with the current federal budget.

-- by David Sikes, CMM, President, OK-NARO