



**Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association
Holmes Mine Rescue Association
P.O. Box 9375 Arlington, VA 22219**

July 17, 2013

Dear Members of the Mine Rescue Community:

On June 6, 2013 the membership of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association (JAHS) overwhelmingly approved changes to its Constitution and By-Laws to create the Holmes Mine Rescue Association (HMRA) as a separate organization within the JAHS. On June 19, Assistant Secretary Joseph A. Main appointed me as the temporary General Secretary, and I was subsequently appointed as Secretary of the HMRA.

This historic move brings the mine rescue community back to our roots within the Holmes Association. The JAHS was originally created to support mine rescue at the turn of the 20th century. The creation of HMRA reestablishes that purpose and we want to give all mine rescue stakeholders: team members, trainers, management, labor, State and Federal Governments, vendors, and others "a seat at the table" within this new organization.

The organizational structure for HMRA that was approved (attached) creates 13 vice presidents representing these interest groups for both the Coal and Metal and Nonmetal (MNM) sectors. I will be canvassing recognized leaders from each group to become members of a temporary nominating committee, who will then select the initial Executive Committee. This Committee will develop a slate of nominations for the Vice Presidents and a Treasurer.

We plan to hold our first meeting on October 29 at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy to vote for the Vice Presidents and Treasurer. The Vice Presidents will, in turn, elect the first President of the HMRA. The President will establish committees and Chairpersons and assign Vice Presidents to provide oversight for the committees. The main committees concerning mine rescue will be separate Coal and MNM committees for Training Support and Mine Rescue Guidance. The organizational chart for the HMRA is attached. The President will also establish at least nominating, finance, and audit committees.

Please join us by becoming a member of the HMRA so that your voice can be heard. Further information on membership can be found at:

<http://www.msha.gov/Programs/JAH/Changes/JAHChanges.asp>

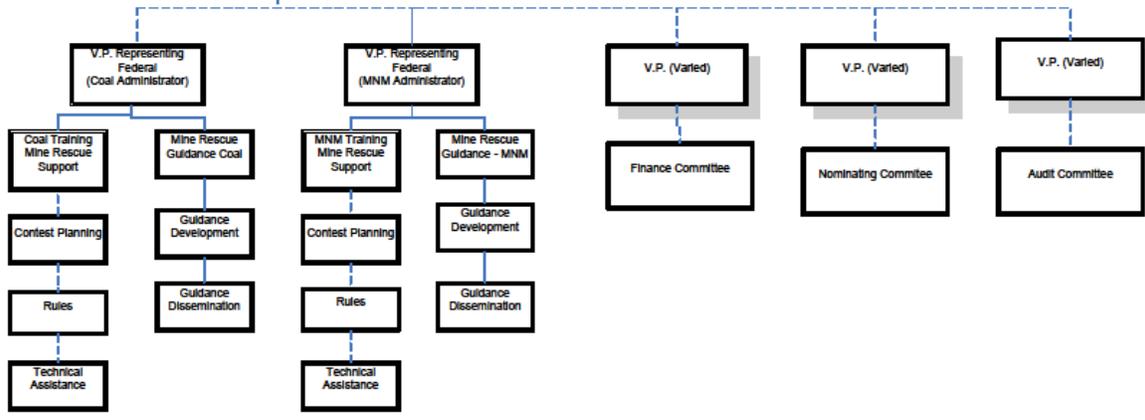
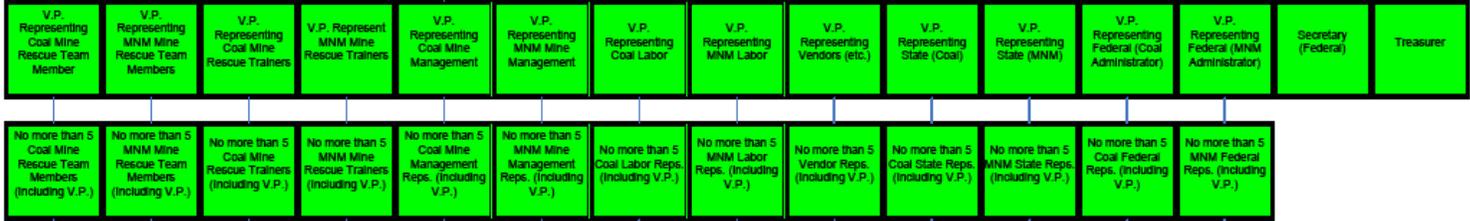
We look forward to embarking on a new future for mine rescue with your help, and look forward to seeing you at our first meeting on October 29.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffery H. Kravitz
General Secretary and Secretary
Holmes Mine Rescue Association

General Secretary
(Designated by MSHA Assistant Secretary)

President Holmes Mine
Rescue



Updated: 06/12/13