



HMRA

January 9, 2015

Dear Holmes Mine Rescue Association Members:

As the newly elected President of the HMRA, I wanted to let you know that the HMRA is alive and well as we start in to 2015. I am honored and excited at the opportunity to lead such an elite group of men and women. A group that I consider to be the best of the best and that always rises to the call when needed. I want to thank the "first" HMRA President Allen Dupree for his support for Mine Rescue and the work done to get the HMRA started on the right track.

As a person that has experienced "too" many incidents over the years that required mine rescue team involvement, I truly understand the importance of the mine rescue community and will do all I can to ensure that the HMRA moves forward and in the right direction.

My plans are to evaluate the committees that are already in place, and stay involved in making sure those committees progress as they should. I also plan to support those committees by providing guidance and assisting in implementing technological advances along with training advancements.

Mine Rescue Teams face many of the same hazards today as they did many years ago and those hazards will always be present when teams respond to a mine emergency. When I look back at the Mine Rescue equipment that was provided to mine rescue teams 50 years ago and compare that to today, it is truly amazing how far we've come; yet I also see that we have a long way to go in providing our teams with the best and safest equipment and instrumentation possible when they are called upon to travel into a hazardous situation. We must stay abreast of the

available technology and recognize it when it becomes available. "Change is constant and we should embrace it rather than resist it".

Training by way of competition is no doubt the best way to sharpen the skills of our teams. I do believe that as a mine rescue community, we need to make the training more realistic for our teams and implement the skills needed for mine emergencies into the competitions. I will challenge the committees to achieve this goal during my term.

I challenge each of "you" to roll up your sleeves and work toward making Mine Rescue the best that it can be. Your voice is important and will be heard. I also challenge you to increase the HMRA membership. Every Mine Rescue Team member and all others that have a stake in Mine Safety should be members. "Together, we can make it happen". (Membership application forms on the Holmes Mine Rescue Association web page.)

I am also pleased to report that the first joint meeting with the Holmes Mine Rescue Association and Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association will be held from June 9-11 2015 in Virginia Beach. I invite and encourage each HMRA member to attend. The meeting should prove to be a great forum for sharing and learning as we plan to have seminars and meetings, sharing valuable Mine Rescue as well as all other Safety information. "STAY TUNED" Information will be posted on the Holmes Website.

Mine Rescue teams are the insurance policy that we "all" hope we never need to utilize however; we must remain prepared for the event that we hope never comes. History has shown that we must! I appreciate each of you for your efforts and willingness to respond when needed. Your commitment is crucial to the safety and health of the nation's miners and again I am truly proud to be part of such a great and unselfish group of individuals.

Sincerely,



Jim Vicini

President

Holmes Mine Rescue Association