



December 2010 Newsletter

Guest Column



This month's guest column is written by Bob Cornett, MSHA District 3 Manager. Bob is a graduate from the University of Kentucky (Bob, will you be watching that Louisville game on New Year's Eve?) and has extensive engineering and operating expertise in underground coal mining for various coal companies as well as a career with MSHA working to keep our miners safe. Many in NM know Bob from his days in the District 9 office in Denver. Here is Bob's guest column, and a special thanks for his contribution!

Life's Lessons – Mentoring Miners

I have been giving thoughts to writing something like this for a while. Several years ago one in our safety email group put together a training session called "Under Hats" that walked us through the many stages of life. How we begin as a baby, with no preconceived ideas or thoughts and how we grow and are nourished in many ways by our parents, grandparents, family members and others we meet along the way. It went into our school years, our teenage years, our early adulthood and into our professional careers. It explained how we learn, grow and mature and how we are nourished by those who teach and train us.

We walked through learning to talk, going to school to be educated. We saw how we were trained in many aspects of life such as sports, music, hunting, fishing... many things that eventually we grow to love. Some we give up and some we keep, but there were many people along the way who brought us to where we

are today. Without who, we would have never become the persons we are.

As we became adults, we followed in the footsteps of those who taught us and we passed on our knowledge, skills, loves to our children, grandchildren and maybe all children we came into contact with through education or other activities. We realized the importance of us guiding and nurturing those as we were.

We taught them the concepts of life, what is right or wrong. We taught them of dangers and pitfalls in life and we sat back in pain sometimes as we watched them experience things in their life that caused them pain. We watched them grow and were there for them when they needed us, and we tried to prevent as much pain in their lives as we could, but we tried to give them all we had so they would not experience the pain we had in their situation.

How is that any different in our professional lives? We all had to be mentored or nurtured in our professions. How to do the job, the right and wrong way to do it, many times we learned the hard way, but those who survived learned life lessons from the experiences we had. Many times we learned the safe way the hard way, by suffering pain and injury. Would we sit back and watch our children have those injuries when we knew that our experience, training and sharing could prevent it?

Is it any different in the work place?

My greatest fear in professional safety is that as I come toward the end of my professional career I have left something undone. I have not passed along to others the things I learned. I have not effectively mentored a younger generation to replace me. This may mean I have

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to step outside my comfort zone and have to think outside the box to get the message across in a way that is interesting, understanding, compassionate and passionate for the ideals I hold so close... workplace safety. That is our challenge and one in which I do not want to be found lacking.

Please take the time to examine your own life and make sure you are sharing **YOUR LIFE'S LESSONS** with those who are beginning and learning a new career in mining, loaded with hazards that can injure and kill. You may not only be saving a life, but also preparing others to carry on when we are gone.



Special Training

Our 6 hour course in conjunction with the MSHA Mine Academy and New Mexico OSHA on guarding was a big success. I hope those of you who attended found it worthwhile.

We are considering two training courses for the first half of 2011. One to be held across NM for Part 46 educators and Part 48 MSHA approved instructors. This class would be a refresher for instructors to help them refocus on their techniques. We are also considering a course on noise and dust instrumentation to help educate those having to do field measurements. More information will be forthcoming.

New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference



FOCUS 24/7

We will continue to upgrade our conference program to bring New Mexico's miners information that can be used to make our mines the safest in the nation. We are planning another great golf tournament

thanks to our golf chair, Ken Peeper. NMT's course is one of the best in the State! Please mark your calendars for 2011. Our conference will be held May 2, 3 and 4. The theme for 2011 is ***Focus 24-7***. Our next planning meeting for 2011 will be December 2nd in Socorro. We welcome all who would like to contribute to planning our 2011 event.

Seasonal Safety

It is time to bring out the holiday safety reminders for Christmas and New Years. We



have a lot of tool box talk and presentation material for this time of year. Our ***Focus 24-7*** safety theme is particularly relevant for the holidays. This is the time of year for lots of stress and lots of distractions. This is also good time to begin reminders about winter

weather conditions. Tool box talks on subjects including slip and fall information and winter driving tips are appropriate. Again, if you need presentation material, please contact us.



Training

The current Training Schedule through December can be found on our web site:

<http://www.bmi.state.nm.us/navTrng.htm>

Please take time to look it over. To schedule a class, please call Chris at (505) 553-1535.

Let's FOCUS 24/7 on safety in New Mexico!