The Bluefield Coal Symposium has adopted the defining theme Using U.S. Coal for a Better America. Jointly presented by the Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias and CoalZoom.com, this one-of-a-kind national event is being held on August 12-14, 2024 at the Chuck Mathena Center, 1298 Stafford Drive, Princeton, WV. It has a beautiful 930-seat theater with state-of-the-art audio and visual capabilities as well as stunning architecture.

The Symposium has four distinct goals:

- to aid the search for zero accidents;
- to lift the spirits of those serving the coal industry and bring everyone together;
- to help promote MINEInternational®;
- to examine the challenges and opportunities for coal.

A distinguished group of speakers, comprising leaders of the industry from all parts of the country, will present their experiences in achieving greater safety and increased productivity in both underground and surface mining. Over a day and a half, there are three technical sessions, two dinners, and one luncheon.

The American coal industry makes a $28 billion economic contribution to the Nation each year and there are 68,179 employees at coal mines, including contractors, with both direct and indirect workers totaling 324,800. The Bluefield Coal Symposium will “dig” into the future of the coal industry and is the marquee event in the 2024 coal calendar leading up to MINEInternational®.

This outstanding Symposium includes entertainment with special live performances by Twitty and Lynn: a Salute to Conway & Loretta as well as an appearance of Exile performing many of their numerous hit songs.

August in Mercer County has natural beauty beyond comparison as John Denver sang “Almost Heaven – West Virginia.” So please join us for some exceptional presentations, great food and superb entertainment, combined with plenty of time for making new friends and socializing, all happening in a picturesque setting in the heart of coal country.

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Bill Reid, Chair, Bluefield Coal Symposium  304-920-2588, billreidcoal@gmail.com

Agenda

Monday, August 12, 2024

4:00  Registration Opens
5:00  Welcoming Reception
6:00  Dinner
7:30  **Keynote Address: Jimmy Brock**, Chairman & CEO, CONSOL Energy
8:00  **Twitty and Lynn**, a Salute to Conway & Loretta
Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Session 1 – The Road to Zero, Tuesday AM, August 13, 2024

8:00 Welcome by Jeff Disibbio, President & CEO, Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias

8:05 Keynote Address by Michelle Manook, Chief Executive, FutureCoal, formerly World Coal Association

8:30 CORESafety by Paul Krivokuca, Vice President of Health & Safety, National Mining Association

9:00 Statistical Analysis of Coal Mining Accidents by Stephen G. Sawyer, PhD, Director, NIOSH Pittsburgh Research Center

9:30 Break

10:00 Preventing Accidents Underground by Frank G. Foster, Director, WV Office Miners’ Health, Safety & Training

10:30 The Komatsu View of Underground Coal Mine Safety by Bob Sherack, Vice President Mining Products, Komatsu

11:00 Preventing Accidents in Surface Coal Mines by Josh Judge, Vice President of Safety, Eagle Specialty Materials

11:30 Adjourn for noon Buffet Lunch

1:00 Keynote Speaker: Christopher J. Williamson, Assistant Secretary of Labor, Mine Safety & Health Administration

Session 2 – New Developments in Coal, Tuesday PM, August 13, 2024

2:00 Keynote Address by Randall W. Atkins, Chairman & CEO, Ramaco Resources

2:30 Saving U.S. Coal with Technological Advances by Ken Humphreys, former DOE Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, and Vice President, Net-Negative Baseload Power, Inc.

3:00 Planning a World-Class Longwall Mine by Nate Waters, Mine Manager, Leer South Mine, Arch Resources

3:30 Break

4:00 Rare Earth Minerals – Where are These Going? by Rick Q. Honaker, Professor, Department of Mining Engineering, University of Kentucky

4:30 The Coalnundrum: A Business and Social Case for ESG by Jacquie Fidler, Vice President, Environmental & Sustainability, CONSOL Energy

4:55 Session 2 Adjourns

5:00 Social Hour

6:30 Dinner

7:30 Keynote Address: Rich Nolan, President & CEO, National Mining Association (invited)

8:00 Live Entertainment by Exile, who will perform some of their numerous hits

9:30 Adjourn
Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Session 3 – The Future of American Coal, Wednesday AM, August 14, 2024

8:00  Keynote Address: John Schroder, President & CEO, United Coal
8:30  The Future of Metallurgical Coal by Ben Beakes, President, Metallurgical Coal Producers Association (MCPA)
9:00  Opportunities and Challenges Exporting Coal by Ernie Thrasher, Owner, XCoal Energy Resources
9:30  Break
10:00 Panel Discussion Moderated by David Kanagy, Executive Director & CEO, Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc:
    Michelle Bloodworth, President & CEO, America’s Power
    Jimmy Brock, Chairman & CEO, CONSOL Energy
    Chris Hamilton, President & CEO, West Virginia Coal Association
    Michelle Manook, Chief Executive, FutureCoal (formerly World Coal Association)
11:45 The Way Forward for Coal by Bill Reid, Managing Editor, CoalZoom.com.
12:00 Symposium Adjourns
1:00  Optional Plant Tour of Conn-Weld Industries, LLC Headquarters and Manufacturing Plant, Princeton, WV

Pricing

Package A – Everything - $495.00 per person
    Three Technical Sessions, Two Dinners plus Live Entertainment, and One Lunch
Package B – Symposium Less Meals - $325.00 per person
    Three Technical Sessions, Evening Speakers and Live Entertainment
Package C – Monday or Tuesday Dinner Only - $75.00 per person
Package D – Monday Evening Less Dinner - $40.00 per person
    Coal Operator, Jimmy Brock, CEO, CONSOL Energy. Keynote Address plus live entertainment Twitty and Lynn, a salute to Conway & Loretta
Package E – Tuesday Evening Less Dinner - $40.00 per person
    Rich Nolan, President & CEO, National Mining Association, Keynote Address plus live entertainment by Exile, who will perform songs from their numerous hit records
Package A – (Student or Retired) Everything - $225.00 per person
Package D or E (Student or Retired) Monday Evening or Tuesday Evening – no charge
Package F – Everything plus “Exhibition in Print” Table and MINExpo Package - $995.00 per person

Accommodation

A block booking of rooms has been made at a few hotels in Princeton, WV at special rates for the nights of August 12 and 13, 2024. All include breakfast and are 15 minutes from the Chuck Mathena Center. The Group Code is “Symposium” and the cutoff date for reservations at these rates is July 12, 2024.

- Country Inn & Suites $129.00 plus tax (Choicehotels.com/county-inn-suites)
- Fairfield Inn & Suites $149.00 plus tax (Fairfield.marriott.com)
- Hampton Inn $149.00 plus tax (Hilton.com)
- Holiday Inn Express $139.00 plus tax (Holidayinn.com)