

# The PORTAL

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## Newsletter to Highlight Coal Industry

The West Virginia Coal Association and the Friends of Coal have embarked on a new effort to create a strong, active and user-friendly network for informational exchanges and participation among the employees, customers, vendors, family and friends of our members.

**The PORTAL** will be your semi-monthly resource for information on West Virginia's coal industry and Friends of Coal activities. We encourage you to share **The Portal** with your family, friends and neighbors so they can learn more about the benefits the coal industry provides to West Virginia and the rest of the nation.

Friends of Coal long has enjoyed support from many in state government. Today, that support is stronger than ever before and we are working hard to grow that kind



of support at the federal level. Our challenge is to keep that support strong, universal and rewarding.

We must do everything possible to make certain our state and federal legislators and leaders are making every effort to protect our peoples' jobs, their families and their way of life.

With your **HELP** we'll get stronger, in numbers and impact. We hope you find information in The PORTAL useful and relevant, and we welcome your comments and suggestions. Send feedback to: [theportal@friendsofcoal.org](mailto:theportal@friendsofcoal.org).

## When Did the 'Friends of Coal' Effort Begin?

The "Friends of Coal" initiative was created 10 years ago by people who wanted to show their support and raise awareness of the economic, philanthropic and social benefits of the coal industry to West Virginia and the United States.

Friends of Coal has grown to include nearly 50,000 proud supporters across the country and the world. FoC has state organizations in West Virginia, Kentucky, Vir-

ginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Wyoming, Tennessee and others.

Just recently, the Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute agreed to advance Friends of Coal principles in their member states.

Today, you can see the blue and black Friends of Coal "swoosh" logo on vehicles from coast to coast, from Alaska to Florida.

Friends of Coal has grown to include a thriving Ladies Auxiliary, sponsored events like the Friends of Coal Bowl, and other citizen groups.

Everyone behind these efforts is working to defend the jobs of our working coal miners and their families with the simple message:

**"Coal mining is vital to West Virginia and to our nation."**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 13 — WV Legislature convenes 60-day session
- March 6-8 — WV Coal Association Mining Symposium
- March 20-21 — WV Expo
- Stay Tuned For Other Events

### WHO IS A FRIEND OF COAL?

A "Friend of Coal" understands the importance of coal and the mining industry to their lives, communities, state and their nation.

Friends of Coal may ...

- Be employed as a coal miner or in the other jobs with our coal companies;
- Work for a business or organization that supports the industry;
- Have family or friends who work in the industry;
- Recognize the critical funding the industry provides through taxes that benefit local communities, counties and the state;
- See the benefits from contributions and support given to groups, churches and projects in their communities;
- Realize coal provides America with a domestically produced, low cost, reliable source of energy to power all our lives;
- Simply be proud of the rich heritage that coal has had in building America and keeping her safe; or,
- Know there is no substitute for coal in today's world and we must mine it to maintain our lifestyles.

## Get the Friends of Coal License Plate



Are you a Friend of Coal?

Visit [www.friendsofcoal.org](http://www.friendsofcoal.org) and download the application or contact Sandi at the WV Coal Association by calling (304) 342-4153, or via email at [sdavison@wvcoal.com](mailto:sdavison@wvcoal.com), for more information on how to apply.

### Connect Online with Friends of Coal

You can find out what's happening in the industry and join in the conversation. "Friend us" on Facebook, "follow us" on Twitter and view great pictures on Flickr.

Visit the following links to tune in, turn on and chime in:

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/friendsofcoal](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofcoal)

Website:

[www.friendsofcoal.org](http://www.friendsofcoal.org)

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/FriendsOfCoalWV>

Flickr

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/friendsofcoal>

### DID YOU KNOW...

- Coal was discovered in 1742 by John Peter Salley in what is now Boone County, W.Va.
- West Virginia has 117 named coal seams; 65 seams are considered minable.
- In 2011, coal was produced from 55 different WV coal seams.
- Coal is present in 53 of West Virginia's 55 counties. Only Jefferson and Hardy Counties have no coal.
- Annually, 30 West Virginia counties produce coal.
- McDowell County has produced more coal than any other county in West Virginia.

## Mandatory Drug Testing Program Begins

The state of West Virginia has implemented mandatory drug testing for all coal mining operations and mine contractors beginning Jan. 1, 2013.

All miners and contractor employees assigned to safety sensitive work will be subjected to pre-employment, random and post-accident tests for unlawful or performance-inhibiting drugs. This program also includes prescription drugs taken inappropriately or without a valid prescription. Miners who test positive risk losing their miners' certificate.

The West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training is in the process of finalizing the administrative rules and protocols for the program. All mine operators and mine contractors are required to have drug testing programs, and all employees in "safety sensitive positions" are required to have either a state-issued miners certificate or the newly available "safety sensitive" certification card. The new "safety sensitive" certification cards became available Jan. 22, 2013. For more information, contact your employer or the W.Va. Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training at (304) 558-1425.

### WV-OMHST DIRECTOR

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin has appointed Eugene White as Director of the WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training. White has been with OMHST since 2001, most recently as Deputy Director under C.A. Phillips, who retired in late 2012.

The Friends of Coal congratulates Mr. White and looks forward to working with him as the new OMHST director.

## Tomblin, State Officers Sworn In Jan. 14

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and West Virginia's other constitutionally elected officers were sworn in during an inauguration ceremony Jan. 14 on the front steps of the Capitol. Officers include Secretary of State Natalie Tennant, Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, Supreme Court Justices Robin Jean Davis and Allen Loughry, Treasure John Perdue and Agriculture Commissioner Walt Helmick.

During his inaugural address, Gov. Tomblin recognized outgoing U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-WVa., who announced his retirement at the end of his term in 2014 after more than 50 years of public service.

The Friends of Coal offers hearty congratulations to all our state and federal elected officials and looks forward to working with them in 2013. We also thank Sen. Rockefeller for his decades of dedicated service to West Virginians.

## State Leaders Speak Out to Support Mining

*The PORTAL Will Bring You Quotations to Showcase Our Friends in High Places*

### Sen. Joe Manchin



*"As I've always said, you can live with coal or you can live without coal – but you can live a whole lot better with it than without it."*

--11/28/2012  
Manchin press release

### Rep. Shelley Moore Capito



*"Coal means community to the Mountain State, and I am happy to deliver this bucket [of coal] to the President to remind him that we will keep fighting to keep coal in the mix."*

--12/21/2012  
Capito press release

### Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin



*"West Virginia is blessed to have a strong, diverse energy sector ... and I will continue to protect and increase the production of coal in West Virginia."*

--01/14/2013  
Tomblin Inaugural Address