

Society History

Brief History

The American Society of Mining and Reclamation (**ASMR**) has evolved from a small West Virginia advisory council, which began in 1973. It was originally supported by those concerned with the reclamation of lands disturbed for the extraction of coal in Appalachia. The Society adopted its present name in 2001 and has grown to a professional society of international prominence. It was known as The American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation (**ASSMR**) from 1983 until the name was changed in 2001. The focus has also changed to include a broad spectrum of interests since the technology needed to protect, reestablish, or enhance the surface resources of the land is not determined by the purpose of the disturbance. Since its inception, William T. Plass served the Society as Executive Secretary; with Dr. Richard I. Barnhisel assuming this role in 1999.

A fundamental need of Reclamationists worldwide is the expansion of the opportunities for technology transfer, which is one of the primary goals of the Society. A National meeting is held annually where information is exchanged between academic professionals, those who are practicing reclamation in the field, students, and all other interested persons. The National meeting is the largest and most important annual event. Each year the location is rotated within eastern and western North America to provide opportunities for its members and guests to become familiar with diverse reclamation challenges and accomplishments. The proceedings for the meetings provide valuable references for those concerned with land reclamation, and copies of past proceedings are available for a nominal fee.

Society programs and projects recognize the multidisciplinary nature of land reclamation and provide opportunities for those with specialized interests, from ecology to wetlands, to organize workshops, prepare special sessions for the National meetings, and publish handbooks and manuals. These efforts currently are organized under seven Technical Divisions. The basic objective in the efforts of all these divisions is to keep the membership informed of the cutting edge of basic and applied science of reclamation technology, both nationally and internationally. The Society's goal is also to provide a mechanism to encourage both written and verbal technology transfer. The formation of the International Affiliation of Land Reclamationists (**IALR**) has evolved as a means to expedite technology transfer between members of similar organizations and interests in Canada, China, Australia, Great Britain, and the United States. All members of **ASMR** are automatically affiliate members of the **IALR** as well.

Members of the Society receive newsletters that are a joint effort of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (**CLRA**) and **ASMR**. In addition, they receive additional mailings to inform them of research programs, new technology and products, and innovative reclamation projects, as well as employment opportunities. In the future, the Society plans to keep its members informed via this web page and other activities to supplement the newsletters published 10 times per year.

For additional information, please contact: **ASMR**