

President's Note: The following is a brief historical sketch of the Nevada Landmen's Association (NLA) prepared by Mark Reece. Mark has done a great job in putting this outline together in a very short time, pulling bits and pieces of information together from many sources. This remains a work in progress and we ask that members contact Mark with additional information to be included as to compile a more complete history. NLA was formally established in July, 1982 and has now been in existence for over 30 years. Quite an accomplishment for an all volunteer, non-profit organization. It was proposed by the current executive committee and approved by vote of the membership to commemorate the founding of the NLA by delivering a brief history of the association and also by honoring the founding members at the 2013 MALRI conference. In addition to honoring the vision and efforts of the founding members, these awards also serve to recognize the participation and efforts of all past and present NLA Members who have contributed in so many ways to the success of NLA over the years. I am proud to be a member of NLA and thank all who have and continue to contribute to the success of NLA.

So here's to you NLA - 30 Years and Still Going Strong!!



**Awards Presentation to NLA Founding Members at MARLI 2013
Ann Marie Harris - Denny Mcharness - Richard Harris - Cy Wilsey**

A Brief Historical Sketch of the Nevada Landmen's Association
Compiled by Mark Reece March 2013 - (a work in progress)

On Tuesday, February 5, 2013, a meeting was held in Reno to review the particulars that occurred in forming the NLA. Present were founding members Richard Harris, Ann Marie Harris, Denny McHarness and Cy Wilsey. Also present were Bill Houston and Mark Reece, the current President and Secretary respectively. Over a delightful couple of hours, the particulars of the founding and many happy memories were discussed.

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The Idea and Founding. In the summer of 1981, Cy Wilsey moved to Reno from Casper, WY. Denny McHarness also moved to Reno in the summer of 1981.

Cy began asking around if there was a landmen's association in Reno. Not having found one, he began to make inquiries through his Reno contacts in the business, namely Richard Harris, Ann Marie Harris and Denny McHarness.

In May, 1982, the four of them met in Richard & Ann Marie's garden. They decided that Reno, with its increasing importance in the exploration and mining industry, needed a landmen's association. The idea that a Reno association could be started was born.

In June, 1982, the four of them met again at Richard & Ann Marie's home and they jointly wrote a set of by-laws, mainly using AAPL and Wyoming association by-laws as a model. Being satisfied with their work, they then decided to formally incorporate the association.

Richard Harris prepared and submitted the original articles of incorporation to the Nevada Secretary of State. On July 19, 1982, the Nevada Landmen's Association, Inc. was officially incorporated under Nevada Entity Number C4239-1982-001 as a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation. No stock was issued.

The first NLA officers were:

President: Ann Marie Harris

Vice-President: Denny McHarness

Secretary: Cy Wilsey

Meetings. Meetings were held monthly, from September to May and occasionally in June if there was a hot topic. Meetings typically consist of usual business, followed by round table discussions and guest speakers who present facts on current land-related events of interest to the exploration and mining industry. We had many notable speakers at the NLA luncheons; including Jim Gibbons (prior to his election as governor) and Barbara Vucanovich (a truly gracious lady). Meeting locations over the years have changed, depending on our attendance and space availability. We first met at the Reno Elks Lodge, then moved to the Peppermill, followed by Amelia's, Louie's Basque Corner, Famous Murphy's and Heidi's in no particular order. Meetings in the Peppermill years were often 50 or more. Meetings currently attract ~15 and are presently held on the second Friday of the month at P.F. Chang's China Bistro in Reno.

Early Records and Activities. Efforts are under way to find and retrieve our earliest records. The founders' panel reminisced about the earliest members and activities. Many early members are listed below in no particular order – and apologies are made for any that we may have missed. They were Mark Reece, Joyce Hall, Roger Gash, Linda Riggs, Charlie Dowd, George Decker, Mike Evans, Craig Haas, Richard Moorhead, Mike Perry, Dave Parker, Tim Dyhr and Edd Jackson and Tom Rice. Other early members were Eldon Dickson, Rob Berry, Tom Erwin, Mona Dardanis, Gary Thomas, Tracy Guinand, Barbara Bressler, Rick Dunn, Blaine Andrus, Dan Schneider, Susie Mason, Sylvia Good, Doug Hirschmann, Tom Roesch and Richard Thompson. Many of these members are still in the business. Long-time members Mona Dardanis, Sylvia Good, Barbara Bressler, Dan Schneider and Blain Andrus have passed on to higher ground. They are missed.

In 1985-86, the NLA needed a logo. That was designed and submitted by Doug Hirschmann – it was approved and is still in use today. Thanks Doug!

From inception to the early 1990's, the NLA grew rapidly. There was increasing interest in affiliating with the American Association of Petroleum Landmen and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation.

In 1985-86, the NLA formally affiliated with the AAPL. There was some hesitation at first about AAPL affiliation because their name said PETROLEUM Landmen. After some constructive discussions with the NLA and other hard minerals groups, the AAPL changed its name to American Association of Professional Landmen. The AAPL had been offering a certification program (Certified Professional Landman - CPL) starting in the late 1970's. In the late 80's, they added the designation of Registered Professional Landman or RPL for members not having the CPL. Roger Gash was the first NLA member to become a CPL, Cy Wilsey the second; Susie Mason and Edd Jackson followed shortly thereafter.

Tom Rice headed up the efforts to affiliate the NLA with Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and served as the first trustee representing the NLA – probably in 1986-87 - the poor guy can't remember just when that occurred, but he promises to research it. The NLA has maintained its affiliation with the RMMLF.

MALRI. The Mining & Geothermal Conference, now affectionately known as MALRI, originated circa 1983 and was jointly sponsored by the NLA and the Rocky Mountain Association of Mineral Landmen. Early conferences alternated between Denver and Reno, but in 1990, Reno became the permanent location for the annual conferences. The Rocky Mountain Landmen's Association dwindled in the late 80's, and their conference sponsorship was picked up by the AAPL. The conference has continued in Reno under joint NLA and AAPL sponsorship ever since. In the mid 1990's, the name was changed to the Mining and Land Resources Institute - MALRI. This conference has provided a top level of subjects and discussions over the years. We are sure to continue with this year's excellent program.

In 1992, there were about 135 members including landmen, geologists and other exploration service providers. There are currently 62 paid members for the 2013 year.

Politics. In 1992, major congressional pressure to reform the 1872 mining law was on the horizon. Prior to the 1992 election, the NLA printed, signed and mailed thousands of blue cards opposing the change. The NLA sent them to every legislator in Washington, D.C. as well as to hundreds of mining and exploration service and supply providers. Our efforts were widely noted and acknowledged, but ultimately unsuccessful. The congress passed a mining appropriations bill which imposed the heavy

annual maintenance fee on mining claims. The increased claim fees, along with ever tightening environmental, permitting and bond requirements put significant additional expense on the industry. Adding to the downturn was a decrease in virtually all metals prices.

Dark Years. The NLA membership was directly impacted and began a serious decline. Many landmen transferred elsewhere and some left the business completely. By the end of 1995, the NLA was in default with the State of Nevada for failure to file annual lists of officers and to pay the required fees. The original Nevada Landmen's Association, Inc. was eventually revoked after continued failures to file and pay fees.

But not was all lost.

Rebirth. The NLA continued on "clandestinely" and in 2009, it was once again formally reincorporated in Nevada with the new number of E0207342009-2. It has been continually registered ever since. Another thank you goes to Richard Harris, who got us revived as a corporation and is our resident agent. Our Association is now doing just fine.

The current year NLA officers are:

President: Bill Houston
Vice President: Randy Largent
Secretary: Mark Reece
Treasurer: Jenny Taelour
AAPL Director: Dave Donnelly
RMMLF Representative: Tracy Guinand
Web Master: Orson Tingey

To maintain our current registration, a new list of officers must be submitted to the Nevada Secretary of State by April 30, 2013.

Community Services. The NLA was responsible for litter/trash collection on a stretch of the Virginia City Highway for several years under the now-defunct Nevada State Highway Adoption Program. We were proud of "our" stretch of highway. Those events were always fun and followed by an informal gathering after the work was done. For many years, the NLA has made annual donations of at least \$1000 ea. to local community assistance organizations. In 2012 the NLA gave a total of \$6000 to the Red Cross, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, The Reno Junior League, Women in Mining, The Women's Mining Coalition and the Reno Gospel Mission.

Landman's Band. Last, but certainly not least, is the NLA's official/unofficial band of very accomplished amateur musicians who play for fun and entertainment – and who also do a bit of honest landwork on the side. This year is the Band's 20th consecutive year playing for Mining & Geothermal Institute/MALRI. The concept for the band was originally conceived over 'libations' at a RMMLF annual institute. The Landman Band originally consisted of Randy Mason (guitar), Susie Mason (keyboards), Jim Dodds (guitar), Mary Dodds (drums) Blaine Andrus (guitar), Richard Thompson (guitar) and Tom Rice (bass). Currently the line is Randy, Susie, Jim, and Russ Mansfield on bass; Tom switched to drums two years ago. The Band played Northwest Mining in Spokane for several years and NWMA in Reno one year; played the Colorado Mining Association annual meeting at least once; played at several of the NLA Christmas parties; the Reno Rodeo once and Nevada State Fair several years; and a couple of corporate

parties / meetings such as the Nevada State Chamber of Commerce annual dinner / dance meeting at the Nugget.

NLA Web-site. In September 1999 NLA got webbed feet by establishing a web presence as nvlandman.org. Much of the communication for NLA is handled through the web-site and web-mail. Please take the opportunity to visit the NLA web-site where you will find association and membership information, NLA events and meetings, and many useful links for landmen.

Thanks. Over the years, many have served in active roles as officers or worker bees. Several members have been through multiple rounds as officers. Our sincere thanks go to all those who have served the NLA in the past.