

EBA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the six since months since taking office at our 2015 annual meeting, I have been honored to serve you as have the 69 EBA Presidents before me. I am also acutely aware that my one-year term as President is already half over.

My immediate reaction upon taking office was that I would be running a marathon of daily EBA-related meetings, telephone calls, and emails; however, looking back on those six months, they seem like a sprint.

I now fear that the next six months will be an even faster sprint. I use the term “fear” because there is so much to do and so little time. If I may, I’d like to provide some advice to future EBA presidents: plan and prioritize early. Pick your goals and push them forward at every opportunity. I have already begun chatting with Emma Hand, your next EBA President, so that she can jump-start her term as she wishes.

Since before taking office, my three goals for this year were to markedly increase EBA membership, strengthen EBA’s Charitable Foundation, and publish a definitive article on energy law education in the Energy Law Journal. I am pleased to report that these goals, with your support, are now bearing fruit.

Led by Membership Committee Chair Matt Rudolphi, new EBA members are signing up at record rates through the EBA Ambassador Program. We are also actively recruiting the largest group of student members ever, thanks in part to the special efforts of individuals and law firms that have contributed funds to enable student memberships at specific schools. This student-focused effort has been so successful that we may consider a more formal paradigm to support increased student involvement in EBA.

Spearheaded by Charitable Foundation President Michael Stosser, the CFEBA is seeking its loftiest goals ever. A full-fledged charitable gala is planned for next spring’s 2016 EBA Annual Meeting. Gala proceeds will go towards establishing first-time electric service for inhabitants of a Central American village. Linemen from rural electric cooperatives in the United States are volunteering to staff this effort. This will be the largest CFEBA project since the foundation was created more than a decade ago.

Coordinated by former EBA President Donna Attanasio, now at George Washington University Law School, a superb article on energy law education is in this current issue of the Energy Law Journal. Authored by an august group of energy law practitioners, energy law professors, and government officials, I trust that this article will be a “first stop” for schools contemplating new or expanded energy law programs, and for students contemplating whether and how to study energy law.

I would not have sought to achieve these goals without great confidence in you—the membership of EBA. You make it possible to dream; your collective volunteer efforts bring goals into reality. I have practiced law for just short of forty years and characterize my involvement with EBA as one of great opportunities and enduring friendships. EBA has built a real community in the truest sense of the term. EBA’s doors are open and welcome all who wish to participate. Just come on in.

Sincerely,
Richard Meyer