



“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

-Abraham Lincoln

Where are we going?

“The best way to predict the future is to creat it.” That’s a powerful statement that is widely attributed to Abraham Lincoln, although I think the first person to have said it was Moliere. Regardless, it is a quote that I have kept in my mind and hanging above my office door for years.

That quote is important because it should remind us that we are in control of our future. It’s that reminder that “the buck stops here.” That we are strong enough as a people that we don’t have to accept the status quo to determine what our tomorrow will look like.

The same is true for all of us in Appalachia. In last month’s newsletter we shared some tough statistics about the realities that we face. Below average income, falling behind in national college graduation rates, higher high school dropout rates. Many of our communities are considered economically distressed due to the fact that we don’t have the economic diversification that is present in most places around the nation.

Over the past few years we have seen firsthand the impact of that. Our coal industry has faced one hurdle after another and many of our coal miners have lost their jobs due to political issues and the changing of the energy sector over the past decade or so as we see a huge shift toward natural gas.

According to ICN (International Coal News) over 17,000 jobs have been lost in our coal industry between 2011 and early 2014. Almost 85% of those jobs were concentrated in locations in five Appalachian states that include Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky.

I don’t know what Central Appalachia will look like twenty years from now. However, I do know what I want it to look like. I want to see a region that was successful

in its transition to a more diverse economy with plenty of job opportunity so our families can thrive instead of worry about more layoffs in the sector that we depend on. An Appalachia where the high school dropout rate is one of the lowest in the country and a trend of a growing rate of college graduates that keep their skills and expertise close to home, to pay it forward in their own communities.



That is one of the main reasons we formed this organization. If we can help, even in the slightest way, to push this ball forward and help build momentum toward a better tomorrow then we consider the job an honor and a privilege.

So, as we move closer to the holiday season please remember those coal miners and their families that are facing a tough future. Many have lost their jobs and families are in need. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. –*J.C. Schweingrouber, President/Director*

LATEST NEWS

The FAA board of directors has approved the **Coalfield Assistance Program** in which our goal is to raise \$50,000 to provide educational/vocational grants to out of work coal miners. This is in an effort to help those families that need the financial assistance as former miners learn a skilled trade that can add to the economic

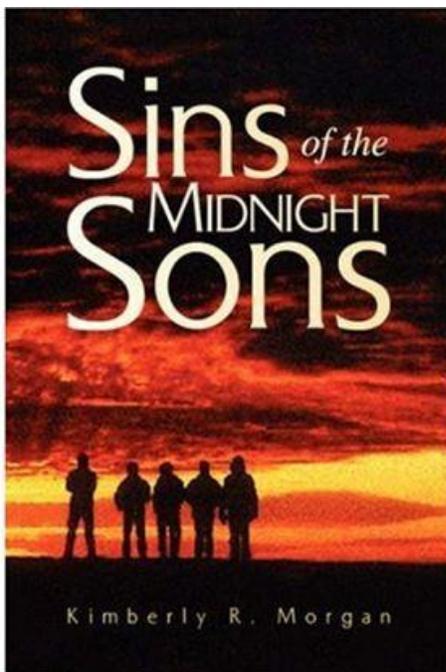
diversity of our region and provide them with job opportunities and job security. We are currently taking donations to add to this effort. We will announce the availability of funds for this program in the coming Spring and hope to have great success.

Donations for this can be mailed to: Foundation For Appalachian Advancement, P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA 24641. Please write "CAP" on the memo of your check. Thanks in advance for those contributing. *Donations are tax deductible.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH: KIMBERLY MORGAN

October's Artist of the Month is an Appalachian writer from the lower part of the 13 states that our region calls home. Kimberly R. Morgan of Lee County Mississippi has found success with her book *Sins of the Midnight Sons*.

Their synopsis from Amazon reads: Beyond oil rich land, natives, and politics, lies a secret world. Sam Cooper, Brice Garrett, Matt Healey, Mark "Nevada" Jones, and the people that intertwined themselves into their lives, believed the distance from Alaska to the lower forty-eight would conceal their sins. Two phrases these unique individuals found to be true too late was, "be sure your sins will find you out," and "the grass isn't always greener on the other side." Everything and everyday had a price in the construction world on the North Slope. It's up to you as the reader to decide...is this world fiction?



Back in 2000 Kimberly spent two years on the North Slope of Alaska in the remote Eskimo village of Nuiqsut and lived among the Inupiat natives. She is not only an author but is also a screenwriter. She is currently working with a director and filmmaker and we will soon see this book in the form of a movie. We want to congratulate Kimberly Morgan on her success with "Sins of the Midnight Sons" and look forward to her future works.

ART, CULTURE, HISTORY, AND HERITAGE

In our first eNewsletter we talked about our two-tiered approach to our goals. In addition to developing programs (such as CAP mentioned above) to assist in economic development and education in Appalachia, it is also vital that we champion our history, heritage, and culture by supporting our artists. We will be developing programs that will aim to bring artists together with the public in various forums in the future to promote their work and, in return, bring more of our regional history and heritage to a broader audience.

We are seeking artists of all stripes who want to work with us to set up a one of a kind database of Appalachian artists in order to more easily promote their efforts through our website (in development) and through public functions. We are eager to work with writers, painters, sculptors, filmmakers, actors, musicians, etc...If you would like to be included in our efforts please email us at foundationforappalachianadvancement@mail.com.

In our next eNewsletter we will highlight one such program that we are excited to develop that will highlight the history and heritage of our wonderful Appalachia.

If you would like to donate to our efforts regarding the arts, please write "Arts" in the memo field of your check and mail to: Foundation for Appalachian Advancement, P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA 24641.