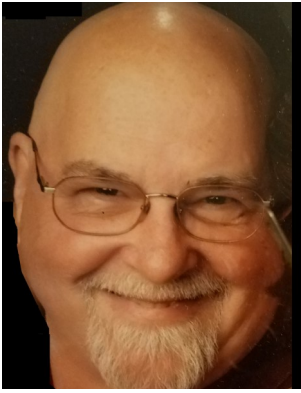


Coal Man of the Year



Woodrow Slone, Jr. is a third generation coal miner who graduated from Inez High School in 1970. Soon thereafter, he began his freshman year at Morehead State University majoring in Elementary Education. Upon completion of his Bachelor's degree in 1974, Woody began teaching in the Martin County, Kentucky school system at Turkey Creek Elementary School. He taught various subjects as a seventh and eighth grade instructor, in addition to coaching the girl's basketball team.

After four years, Woody left the school system to work for Martin County Coal Corporation in the Safety Department. It was there Woody became involved with their mine rescue team as their Number Three Man, working as the Gas Man, Benchman and Equipment Manager. Ten years later, he found himself working underground in other varied positions for the company.

In 1997, Woody left Martin County Coal to work for Elk Run Coal Company in West Virginia. He became their Safety Department Director, where he oversaw their established mine rescue program.

In 2000, Woody began working for Excel Mining in Martin County, where the Safety Department became his new home. While at Excel, many opportunities came his way; however, his proudest accomplishment was building their two mine rescue teams from the ground up.

Woody's career concluded at Booth Energy, where again, he had the rewarding opportunity to build, coordinate and establish two mine rescue teams, one in Kentucky and another in West Virginia.

In 2013, Woody retired from the mine rescue training job that he loved very much. But more than the job, Woody loved not only training and educating his rescue teams, but working with all the other coal miners that made his career so fulfilling.

Woody and his wife Gloria have five daughters, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.