

## Dave Williams Retiring from IAEE



Dear IAEE Family,

First and foremost, I hope that you all are safe and sound. We have certainly been through a lot with regard to the pandemic, natural disasters and turbulence of our precious energy industries over the past few years. I feel for all of you and thank you for your pledge to the energy economics community to provide thoughtful energy research that effects policy and business decision making processes.

Two years ago, I announced my retirement plans from IAEE as your Executive Director and overall association management company. Having served the association for 30+ years, it was a bitter-sweet decision. For me, I will be looking forward to spending more time with family, on the boats, in the garden and woodworking. Ahh, sounds so nice.

IAEE President Peter Hartley graciously permitted me to write this farewell note to you all. IAEE has been so fortunate to have had such outstanding presidents and councils. All have fervently led our organization through outstanding growth in regard to our membership, conferences and publications.

On the conference front, we have grown from 2 to 5 cornerstone conferences along with a rich history of energy symposiums and workshops. I thank our Affiliates, large and small (as well as university hosts), for raising their hands in support of this growth that keeps our energy community engaged and together.

On the membership front, we have explored the globe carrying the IAEE flag. We consistently waver between a membership base of representatives from 125 – 140 countries. I thank our members for sharing the word of IAEE and our products and services. You in your own right help every day to provide a solid reference point for IAEE. I so appreciate your ambassadorship.

On the publication side, the *Energy Journal* has grown from 125 pages to over 300 pages and from 4 to 6 issues annually. The quality of papers we produce are second to none for which we enjoy a strong impact factor. My hat is off to Editor-in-Chief Adonis Yatchew for his years of support and for overseeing such great growth of our flagship publication. I will miss working with Adonis very much. In 2008, Einar Hope pledged IAEE funds and manpower to develop *the Economics of Energy & Environmental Policy*. As independent publishers, IAEE set the course to develop from scratch a new sister journal focusing on policy and environmental matters that embrace the energy industries. I'm so grateful for the leadership of Jean-Michel Glachant, Michael Pollitt and Paul Joskow for bringing EEEP to fruition.

There is a long list of individuals to thank, so many that it would fill the rest of this issue of the *Energy Forum*. This said, there are a few I would like to call out. First and foremost are my wife Julie and daughter Lindsay. Both have been so incredibly supportive for the past three decades. Countless anniversaries, birthdays and family holidays missed with both of their understanding that often this job came with hours of travel that kept me away. Thank you!

My parents, of course. You cannot forget your mother and father who brought you into his world, nurtured and reinforced your values and beliefs.

I would also like to thank John Jimison, IAEE's legal counsel. I'm so fortunate to have had John by IAEE's side since the day we became IAEE's association management team. John has successfully navigated IAEE

through unchartered territories and sometimes rough waters, always with a level head and always, always with IAEE first in his mind. Thank you, John.

A solid thank you also goes to Rebecca Lilley for her over 20 years of support to IAEE. Rebecca is everything technical to IAEE and a solid 2<sup>nd</sup> in command at IAEE Headquarters. I'm very grateful to report that Rebecca will continue with IAEE working for Talley Management Group who has been engaged to be IAEE's 3<sup>rd</sup> Association Management Company on record.

One of the most rewarding aspects of working with IAEE has been with you, our members. Seeing our students, then young professionals, who eventually grow into seasoned professionals, is reassuring for our future. I suspect I know the majority of our membership base on a first name basis. This transcends the daily work of managing the association. I take great pride in seeing our members grow and for allowing IAEE to be a part of their success stories.

For the past 30 years I've had the greatest show on earth. I've loved my experiences with IAEE more than I can explain. The things we have done, the places we have gone, the products and services we have developed – have all been outstanding. The people I have had the privilege to meet and the memories we have made together will last a lifetime.

A warm thank you to those in Tokyo, Athens and Houston for their on-stage gratitude to me, as well as those at Administrative Management Services. You all have truly shown your appreciation. I am most grateful.

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve, and beyond all, thank our members, the real owners of IAEE, for making the organization what it is today and where it will go tomorrow.

I look forward to staying in touch and seeing you around!

Dave Williams  
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