

66th Annual Meeting Recap

Virtual format brings members together during pandemic



by/ **ANDREA M. SPENCER, CEM**

AAPL Production Manager

The 66th Annual Meeting was an event unlike any other in AAPL's history. The 2020 pandemic derailed several months of planning by staff and the Annual Meeting and Education committees — and what should have been the most beautiful setting with Pacific Ocean waves crashing onto the pristine sand of Huntington Beach, California. Instead — and in very short order — a new plan was hatched to host the meeting virtually. The AAPL Board of Directors also elected to offer the digital Annual Meeting to its members at no cost — a \$600-plus value.

Utilizing an online platform as the new host for the Annual Meeting, the staff worked together to deliver an impressive program loaded with 18 on-demand education sessions. The result? A record 2,335 members registered to participate in the event and earn continuing education credits toward their professional development. All education and special event speakers prerecorded their sessions, giving virtual attendees access to a total of 20.5 continuing education credits. If you missed the chance to participate in this free member benefit, videos may now be purchased on AAPL's website in the On-Demand Webinars section of the new Education – Online webpage at landman.org/professional-development/education/education-online.

Equipping members with additional anywhere/anytime resources, AAPL also launched its new mobile app just in time for the Annual Meeting. With this free download, registered members were able to unlock education session papers and other helpful resources, rate speakers and sessions, bookmark events to build a personalized calendar, interact with sponsors, export any notes they took during the sessions and access a roster of registered attendees simply using their AAPL username and password credentials.

The Opening Session debuted online the morning of June 18 with an address by AAPL President Jay Beavers, CPL, as he shared a few stories and images of his family's property at Beavers Ranch. He thanked Annual Meeting Chairman Jason Downs, CPL, for the committee's efforts to plan what would have been a memorable in-person event and the Education Annual Meeting Seminar Committee for their tremendous

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**15 AWARDS
WERE
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to deserving
members and local
associations.

efforts to secure speakers. He also recognized individuals celebrating major milestones of 40 and 50 years as AAPL members (listed on page 21) and announced that a record 617 certification applications had been submitted — an indication that members are taking advantage of a valuable member benefit and sending a message to the rest of the industry that land professionals are committed to raising the level of professionalism.

Also featured during the Opening Session, Third Vice President Sean Marshall, CPL, provided an update on the financial position of the AAPL Educational Foundation, which included donations of \$118,000 in education grants to organizations that are helping support its mission of promoting education for AAPL members and the general public. Recipients of these grants included the East Texas Oil Museum, IPAA/ PESA Energy Education Center, the Blankenship Student Awareness Initiative, NAPE/TCU Energy Innovation Case Competition

and Colorado Mesa University. Foundation sponsorships enabled several students to attend AAPL's four regional land institutes — Gulf Coast, Mining and Land Resources, Santa Fe and Southwest — and \$30,000 was contributed in disaster relief for members during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Following the Educational Foundation report, Second Vice President Wendy Dalton, CPL, updated members on the Landman Scholarship Trust's efforts in the last fiscal year, reporting that its corpus is just over \$6 million. Scholarships totaling \$176,000 were awarded to 47 students in nine undergraduate programs, and \$20,000 in scholarships went to five students in three graduate programs. This year's Outstanding Graduate was Taylor Stoute of the University of Oklahoma. Stoute was chosen from four finalists, including Ross Keller of Marietta College, Muneeb Yousufi of the University of Tulsa and Quintin Little of West Virginia University.

Immediately following the Opening Session, the Awards Ceremony spotlighted land professionals and local associations honored for their service and achievements during the last fiscal year. Awards Committee Chairman Bobo Clarke, CPL, presented 15 awards to deserving members and local associations. The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award went to Harold J. Anderson, CPL/ESA, (AAPL president 2004) of the Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans, and Tasha Caple, RPL, of the Nevada Landmen's Association received the Landman of the Year Award. The Pioneer Award was given posthumously to Michael Late Benedum — "The Greatest Wildcatter" — for his tremendous contribution to the industry during his lifetime. Top association honors went to the Ark-La-Tex Association of Professional Landmen as the Local Association of the Year. To see a full list of Award Winners, including profiles of the recipients for the top awards, turn to page 24.



Above: Outgoing President Jay Beavers presents the gavel to incoming President Lester Zitkus.

40 & 50 YEAR MEMBER RECOGNITION

AAPL is pleased to honor the following members...

40
Years

James B. Abney Jr., CPL
William F. Bailey
Kelly P. Beckham, RPL
J. Percy Bernard Jr.
Michael K. Blumn, CPL
Steve R. Boudreau, RPL
Jerry K. Bramwell
C. Keith Brewer, CPL
Beckie Wieting Bright, CPL/ESA
Marlin K. Brown, CPL
Henry M. Brown
Robert Mark Bruscato
Steven A. Bryson, CPL
Paul J. Burdick, CPL
Thomas S. Calkins, CPL
Robert P. Chandler Jr., CPL
Gordon E. Coe Jr., CPL
Philip O. Cook
Larry W. Coppedge, CPL
Jane R. Crouch, CPL
Mark S. Dale, CPL
Donna J. Davis, CPL
Thomas J. Deacon
D. Steven Degenfelder, CPL
Phil C. DeLozier, CPL
Stephen K. Denny
William E. Dent III
Alan S. Dille
JoAnn Dubler, CPL
Ricky J. Dupuis
Ralph L. Edwards Jr.
Dan D. Fisher, RPL
Dan C. Foland
David M. Frazier, CPL
Michael L. Galiga, Esq., CPL
Joseph M. Gianola, CPL
Richard M. Gill, CPL
Carol A. Glass, CPL
Mark S. Goughnour
James Lee Grigson, CPL
James L. Gunderson, CPL
John H. Hale
Paul Hall, CPL
Alan R. Hannifin
Donald L. Hansen Jr., CPL
Karen E. Hanson-Flowers
D. Neal Harrington

50
Years

Clark D. Crawford
Micheal O. Franzen, CPL
Henry F. Merritt, CPL
William M. Middleton, CPL
Charles L. Stephenson, CPL
C. E. Trousdale, CPL
Joe M. Van Auken, CPL
John M. Wells

Kevin B. Harwi
Steven R. Heape
Charles E. Heilmann, CPL
V.J. Hilsher Jr.
Robert W. Hodge, CPL
J. David Hoffman, RPL
Stephen E. Holloway
Mark S. Holt
Craig Hubbard, CPL
Beverly S. Johnson, CPL
Douglas G. Jones, CPL
Robert W. Kelsey, CPL
Frederick J. Kent, CPL
Richard D. Kimberlin
Randy King, CPL
Jack E. King, RPL
David W. Klym, CPL
Stephen M. Knapp, CPL
Jarlon Magee
A. E. Martin, CPL
Max L. Mazy
Harold W. McAden
W. Thomas McRae
Robert T. Merrill, RPL
Ronald R. Miles, CPL
Bryant G. Miller, CPL

40
Years

Sergio T. Miranda, CPL
Michael P. Moore, CPL
Charles A. Morgan
Brent J. Morse
Michael R. Mulvey
Robert G. Neal, CPL
Wyatt T. Norman III, CPL
Ralph L. Parsons, CPL
William N. Phillips
Cherry A. Prather
A. Byron Pugh III, CPL
John W. Raine IV, CPL
Raymond P. Riddle, CPL
Erik Romero, CPL
Thomas M. Rucker II, CPL
Josef F. Rusnak
Thomas J. Scarbrough
Ewell Z. Schirmer Jr., CPL
Linda C. Sellers, RPL
Jim D. Slade, CPL
James R. Sledge, CPL
Roger A. Soape, CPL
Timothy R. Spack
Charles A. Speer, CPL
Eric D. Stinson, CPL
Lois D. Szczekocki
Jack C. Taylor Jr, CPL
Gary L. Todd
Steve A. Tofte, CPL
Ron Tuminello, CPL
Richard W. Turrentine
Marc M. Wade
Eugene W. Walck Jr.
Huntington T. Walker, CPL
Ben T. Waller Jr.
Timothy F. Warren, CPL
Brian H. Wert
Charles E. Wetegrove, CPL
Randall L. Wheeler
Daniel R. Willits, CPL
James R. Wilson
Stephen M. Windle
Edmund R. Wood
Kyle D. Wood
Robert F. Wright

SPECIAL BALLOT RESULTS

In lieu of in-person voting during the Business Meeting, ballots were emailed to all Active members with three measures up for approval from the voting membership. On the docket this year was a proposal to change the definition of landwork to include those members working as land professionals in the energy sector not directly related to the traditional oil, gas and hard mineral industries. Another measure included a change to the definition of student membership to prevent students who are not enrolled in AAPL-accredited programs from gaining approval as student members of AAPL. The final measure sought approval for the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh.

For the two bylaws amendments, a two-thirds majority was required. With 1,400 Active members participating in the ballot, all three measures overwhelming passed with the following results: 85% in favor of changing the definition of landwork, 81% in favor of changing the definition of student membership and 98% in favor of approving the 2019 Business Meeting minutes.



Beavers also presented two Presidential Meritorious awards: The first went to David R. Cape, CPL, (AAPL president 1998) for his efforts in leading a task force to secure AAPL's new executive vice president, and the second was presented to Executive Assistant/Office Manager Jodi Gallegos for her invaluable assistance to Jay and AAPL First lady Julia Beavers during his presidential year.

The Opening Session Keynote featured Colin Fenton, chairman of TPH Commodities. Fenton provided participants with some intriguing statistics about how the current pandemic has affected the oil and gas industry. Timely and incredibly relevant, his topic on "What Path for Oil and Gas Recovery From the Great Intercession" helped cast some light on possible avenues for the industry to get back to a pre-COVID-19 baseline for global oil demand. He compared the current recovery process among 37 economies and covered how the markets have been shaped historically during previous downturns to paint a better picture for what might be in store for the oil and gas industry.

Later that afternoon, the prerecorded Horizon Award Ceremony streamed online and was hosted by the AAPL Educational Foundation and sponsored by Steptoe & Johnson. Last year's recipient of the Blankenship Family Horizon Award, Pam Feist, CPL, (AAPL president 2016), delivered the keynote address during the ceremony that honors a trailblazing woman in the oil and gas industry. Feist gave a fascinating presentation detailing the gender imbalance in the workforce and sharing statistics from several studies, including a joint study by the World Petroleum Council and Boston Consulting Group that shows women are an "untapped reserve"

in the oil and gas industry.

The ceremony concluded with Marshall presenting Nancy C. McCaskell, CPL, with this year's Blankenship Family Horizon Award.

The day concluded with the Membership & Business Meeting. This prerecorded event enabled members to hear about the state of the association and AAPL's financial position. President Beavers addressed questions previously been submitted by members regarding the ballot initiatives and encouraged members to vote in the electronic election.

Treasurer Jason Maloy, CPL, followed with a quarterly update and multiyear view along with unofficial projections based on the state of AAPL's finances at the end of the second quarter on March 31. Quarter over quarter, total assets declined 16.49%, revenue increased 42.33%, expenses climbed 49.33% and total investments were down 17.01%. Year over year, total assets were down 7.73%, revenue dipped 15.18%, expenses were up 11.37% and total investments dropped 5.83%. The decreases were attributed to market volatility in AAPL's investment accounts and lower than expected revenue from NAPE, which combined make up AAPL's largest revenue sources. He also noted that while AAPL experienced a tough quarter, when compared to a multiyear perspective, the association is still in a healthy financial position and is living within its means. Maloy also reviewed the LST and Educational Foundation financials and noted that while they also experienced a challenging quarter due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, both accounts were still in a healthy position when compared to a multiyear look back.

Each year, the membership meeting also provides a chance for the outgoing president to share the accomplishments achieved during their term.

Beavers' highlights included the hiring of a new EVP at AAPL and the separation of the Education Committee into three distinct committees — the Education Annual Meeting Seminar Committee, the Education Development Committee and the RPL/CPL Education Committee — to more evenly distribute the demands of the committee. Other significant achievements included the addition of 16 new ethics videos, upgrades to Contract Center, 12 new nonsubscription forms added to the website and the inaugural Advanced Landman's Seminar, which was co-hosted by AAPL and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and is slated to take place again every other year.

Closing out the Membership & Business Meeting, members were able to watch AAPL EVP Greta Zeimet, CAE, present the Golden Lease on Life to Beavers, the ceremonious passing of the gavel to incoming President Lester Zitkus, CPL, appreciation gifts for the outgoing president and remarks from the incoming president.

On behalf of the 2019-20 Executive Committee, newly installed President Zitkus presented Beavers with a donation in his name to the Jim

Beavers Memorial Endowment Excellence Fund at UT Austin's McCombs School of Business. This fund was established in 2013 by the Energy Management Program Advisory Council for the purpose of assisting the development and maintenance of the program at UT Austin. Beavers was also presented with a Beretta that featured a personalized stock plate with his initials and term of service as AAPL's president. A special video included photos of Beavers' pre-COVID-19 presidential travels as he met with local associations and attended AAPL events.

During his inauguration remarks, Zitkus shared his desire for AAPL to stay at the forefront of the land industry, recognizing that there will be challenges as the industry and country remain in a state of uncertainty. He believes opportunities for improvement and potential growth exist as the association adapts to the changing dynamic of the land profession. He announced AAPL's new Executive Council on Diversity and Inclusion, which will be charged with developing a plan to ensure AAPL is progressing toward an association that fosters these values. Zitkus also acknowledged members are

struggling and the association is continuously offering ways to help. With deadline extensions for certification, deferred increases in membership dues, professional development assistance, free educational opportunities and the addition of a more robust career center, he reiterated the multitude of benefits available to members. It will be a difficult year for AAPL's bottom line, but Zitkus reiterated AAPL was built to be able to withstand downturns, and he is confident that AAPL will recover and be stronger and better.

Many thanks to our speakers for quickly adapting so that the staff could record and edit presentations; the Education Annual Meeting Seminar Committee for their tremendous efforts to secure speakers; and Steptoe & Johnson, Liskow & Lewis, PBLA, NAPE, Texas Tech University, University of Wyoming, Murfin Drilling Co. Inc., Click Energy, Crimson Midstream LLC, Tall Cotton Energy, Paragon Partners LTD and Stoel Rives LLP for their generous sponsorships.

We can't wait to host the Annual Meeting in traditional fashion if travel restrictions are lifted and hope to see you in Banff, Alberta, June 23-26, 2021! ▲



Please help us congratulate the 2019-20 Annual Meeting Award winners.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Harold J. Anderson, CPL/ESA

Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans

Pioneer

Michael Late Benedum

"The Greatest Wildcatter"

Local Association of the Year

Ark-La-Tex Association of Professional Landmen

Presidential Meritorious

David R. Cape, CPL

Presidential Meritorious

Jodi Gallegos

Best AAPL Director's Communication

Robert Rice, CPL

Oklahoma City Association of Professional Landmen

Best Newsletter/Bulletin Communication – Large Association

Ark-La-Tex Association of Professional Landmen

The Register, Vol. XXXIII, No. 7

Best Newsletter/Bulletin Communication – Medium Association

North Houston Association of Professional Landmen

NHAPL Fall 2019 Newsletter

Best Newsletter/Bulletin Communication – Small Association

Los Angeles Association of Professional Landmen

The Override, Vol. XII, Issue I

LANDMAN OF THE YEAR

Tasha Caple, RPL

Nevada Landmen's Association

Largest Growth Percentage of AAPL Membership – Large Association

Fort Worth Association of Professional Landmen

Largest Percentage of AAPL Membership – Large Association

Houston Association of Professional Landmen

Largest Percentage of AAPL Membership – Medium Association

North Houston Association of Professional Landmen

Largest Percentage of AAPL Membership – Small Association

Tri-State Association of Professional Landmen

Special Award – Education

M. Ryan Kirby

Houston Association of Professional Landmen

Special Award – Community Service

Stephanie Magers

Houston Association of Professional Landmen

Special Award – AAPL Advocacy

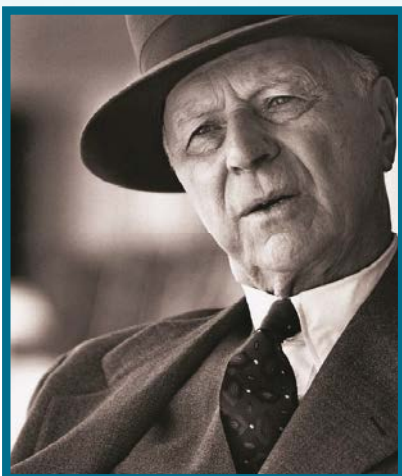
Ronald K. Munn, CPL/ESA

Houston Association of Professional Landmen

Outstanding Graduate

Taylor Stoute

University of Oklahoma



PIONEER AWARD

MICHAEL LATE BENEDUM, "THE GREATEST WILDCATTER"

After a chance encounter, Michael Benedum began his career as a landman and spent the next 60 years finding oil across four continents. Known as the "Greatest Wildcatter," Benedum turned his tremendous oilfield triumphs into a \$100 million fortune. His legacy lives on through a charitable foundation committed to helping people help themselves.

In Benedum's words: "A wildcatter can't quit, no matter how enormous the odds against him. The oil's there waiting, but it won't show itself unless you seek it and seek it strenuously."

Another memorable quote: "No man who has never had the experience can understand the feeling of exhilaration that comes when you bring in an oil well, especially your first one. You are staggered and filled with awe at the realization that you have triumphed over a stubborn and unyielding Nature, forcing her to give up some of her treasure." ▲



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HAROLD J. ANDERSON, CPL/ESA

Harold Anderson's service to the land profession spans more than 50 years. In the words of a colleague: "He is a true, lifelong servant of AAPL and is one of the most genuine, approachable and caring people you'll ever meet."

A graduate of Chalmette High School, Anderson earned a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University and an MBA from Loyola University in New Orleans before beginning his career with Texaco in New Orleans in 1966. He left Texaco as a landman in 1975 and has been an independent professional landman ever since.

Anderson owns and operates five companies: Harold J. Anderson Inc., Southern Title & Abstract Co. Inc., Kare-Sure Energy Inc., Delta Land & Title Co. and Anderson Environmental Services Inc. Along with his team, he performs all facets of landwork, including oil, gas and mineral lease acquisition, title research, abstract of title, title curative, due diligence and rights of way across the United States.

He is a member of various local landmen's associations, including PLANO, LAPL, HAPL and MAPL. He served two terms as president of PLANO, he's been named Landman of the Year twice and his company, Harold J. Anderson Inc., earned Company of the Year honors. In addition, Anderson created and continues to promote PLANO's Annual Sponsor Program.

On a national level, Anderson has chaired various AAPL committees and served numerous terms as a member of the Executive Committee — as third vice president, first vice president and, ultimately, AAPL president in 2004. He was named AAPL Landman of the Year in 2000.

Anderson's numerous honors include the American Petroleum Institute's 2003 API-Delta Meritorious Service Award, demonstrating his commitment to the industry and community. In 2019 alone, he received AAPL's Presidential Meritorious Award and PLANO's Lifetime Achievement Award. ▲



LANDMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD TASHA CAPLE, RPL

Tasha Caple started her land career as a land assistant and progressively advanced to her current role as senior landman. In the words of a colleague: "She exemplifies all aspects of an ethical and professional landman. Her strongest landman characteristics are honesty, organization, loyalty, attention to detail and an extensive knowledge of the mining law with regard to unpatented mining claims."

In March 2019, Barrick Gold Corp. and Newmont Goldcorp Corp. initiated an agreement to combine their gold mining assets to form the Nevada Gold Mines joint venture. In the short 3½ months between March and July, the Barrick Gold land department was charged with organizing, preparing and filing the required land, mining, ranch and water rights deeds and transfer documents from both companies to bring all land and water assets into Nevada Gold Mines LLC. Stepping up to the challenge of this monumental task, Caple showed her leadership skills by taking the main role of directing all the aspects required to complete the transfer of over 2 million acres of land assets from at least 17 different corporate entities into NGM.

The documents that she was tasked with organizing included transfer deeds for land, royalties, mining, water rights, ranch along with numerous assignments, consents and waivers. The volumes of deed and other documents were hand-delivered and filed by Caple with five different county recorders, the Bureau of Land Management and several other state and federal agencies.

During this same time frame, she took the lead role for managing the annual filing of the unpatented mining claims for both Barrick and Newmont. More than 32,000 unpatented mining claims were filed. She managed the whole filing process and sat at the BLM office for several days to ensure that each page was stamped correctly. She completed all filings ahead of schedule to ensure that the team had time to review prior to the filing deadline.

Another aspect where she went above and beyond was taking control of the Barrick and Newmont land information data tracking systems to ensure that the data was transferred accurately and was within the quality control parameters. She worked closely with her staff to create a hybrid land tracking system to track all land obligations and make sure payments were completed in a timely manner.

An active member of the local Nevada Landmen's Association, Caple is serving her second term as the NLA webmaster and chairs the NLA Elections of Officers Nomination Committee. She is a great example and mentor to younger upcoming landmen.

Also involved in her community, Caple serves as a Girl Scouts leader and assists with a girls softball league. ▲