



## **President**

### **J. Brooks Yates Jr., CPL**

Brooks Yates, CPL, is senior vice president of A&D/land at Peregrine Petroleum Partners Ltd., an oil and gas exploration and production company with offices in Dallas and Houston and operations in Texas, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Prior to joining Peregrine, he spent over 15 years as vice president of land at Ventex Oil & Gas Inc. During the 1990s, he was land manager for The Rudman Partnership. A native of Mississippi and an alumnus of The University of Mississippi, Yates began his career in the oil and gas business as a landman in various land roles with Hunt Energy Corp. and Placid Oil Co. in the 1980s before being moved to Shreveport and ultimately Dallas.

A member of AAPL since 1985, Yates served on the Executive Committee as treasurer during 2010-11, spent three terms as a director and chaired multiple committees, including the NAPE Advisory Board, NAPE Operators Committee, Southwest Land Institute, Publications Committee and Marketing Committee. He also previously served on the AAPL Investment Advisory Board, Legislative and Regulatory Committee and Ethics Committee. He currently serves on the NAPE Operators Committee. He earned his CPL designation in 1991.

Yates is a longtime member of the Houston Association of Professional Landmen, the Ark-La-Tex Association of Professional Landmen and the Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen, where he served as president in 1992 and 2008 and was named Landman of the Year in 2009 and 2021. The Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association included him among the Texas Top Producers in 2013.

In addition, Yates is president of the Dallas Producers Club and a member of the Dallas Wildcatters board. He also is a Founding Advisory Committee member of the University of Texas Energy Management Program and a founding member of the Texas Alliance of Landman Associations.

Yates lives in Dallas with his wife, Linda. Married for 34 years, they are active members of Highland Park Presbyterian Church, where he has served as deacon and on various committees. They have three adult children and two grandchildren.

## **Personal Statement**

My last personal statement was as an incoming first VP with a lot of reflection and much anticipation for the upcoming three years in office. This one is nine months after taking office and much is happening. An enormous number of positives are being put into action by a tremendous amount of people — the board, committee members, the Executive Committee and staff. On that note, I can tell you the caliber of staff we have is unrivaled. Their work ethic and creativity are outstanding! I wanted to emphasize that before mentioning an issue on all our minds — the budget. We sometimes tend to focus on the negative if there is one. It is true that AAPL's budget is not in a good place. Coming from a negative priced oil environment and COVID-19, that is not surprising, but it still needs much attention. I assure you it has been getting constant attention since the 2022-23 budget was approved in June 2022, with a particular focus on how to decrease line items previously approved and how to get to a balanced budget for 2023-24. This takes a village of folks collaborating to ensure we do the right thing for AAPL going forward. There will be adjustments to make, and potentially mistakes made. But the goal is clear: put AAPL in the strongest position.

As I begin my time as president, I again appreciate the confidence many of you have in me. Working together — including sharing constructive feedback — is imperative for the success AAPL has had over the many years I've been around.

AAPL has done a lot for me over the course of my career, and I am excited to continue the efforts of so many who strive to make AAPL the best that it can be. AAPL is a special organization. Over the decades I have made friends I can trust, count on, do business with and enjoy spending time with. I look forward to another year of serving our members, the land profession and the energy industry — the industry that powers the world.



### **First Vice President**

#### **Nancy C. McCaskell, CPL**

Nancy McCaskell, CPL, has many years of experience managing and leading acquisitions, divestitures and negotiations in the oil and gas industry. As executive vice president with Pitts Oil Company in Dallas, she leads the land group managing properties in East Texas, North Texas and the Black Warrior Basin in Mississippi. Previously, McCaskell was director of land Southern Operations and technical development advisor for Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., where she managed large scale asset development and A&D activity as well as designed a program for integrating education across disciplines. She also served as regional land manager at J-W Operating Co. and vice president of land at Coda Energy Inc.

Her experience encompasses the Barnett, Haynesville, Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, Eagle Ford, Permian Basin, San Juan Basin, Fayetteville and Anadarko Basin.

McCaskell has acted as liaison with state oil and gas associations and regulatory bodies. Among the highlights of her career, she and her colleagues were instrumental in working with the Louisiana Office of Conservation to create new policies allowing for cross unit wells.

Active with AAPL and local associations for many years, McCaskell was second VP of AAPL during 2020-21. She currently serves as chair of the Ethics Committee, assistant chair of the Membership Committee, a trustee of the Landman Scholarship Trust and a member of the Accreditation Committee and AAPL's Diversity & Inclusion Council. In 2020 she received the Blankenship Family Horizon Award. Additionally, McCaskell serves on the board of directors of the Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen and is an advisory member to the University of Oklahoma College of Law MLS and LLM programs in energy and natural resources.

A member of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, she has served on several local nonprofit boards. She is a member of the Women's Energy Network, the Fort Worth Wildcatters, and the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. In her spare time, McCaskell and her spouse, the Rev. Mary Stewart Hall, enjoy traveling, art and music. They have lived in Dallas for over 25 years.

### **Personal Statement**

It is with an absolute sense of wonder and gratitude that I received the nomination as first VP of AAPL and, with it, the opportunity to serve you — my colleagues and my friends. It is a privilege I hold tight. AAPL has given me so many super-fantastic opportunities to work across a vast array of peoples with diverse backgrounds and experiences. AAPL has made me wiser and afforded me so many lifelong friends. "We" are AAPL, and it is my commitment to you to work tirelessly and passionately to continue the good work that has been done and the good work that is to come.

Whether we are student members, scholarship recipients, field landmen, senior members, corporate landmen, men, women, award winners or executives, and whether we work solar, wind, hydro power or fossil fuels, we are landmen, and we are propelling our industry and profession forward with integrity, passion and honesty. I pledge to each of you to continue this powerful momentum by engaging us one to another, never being satisfied with "what is" but working toward "what can be," and advocating for every member.



**Second Vice President  
Rodney L. Black, CPL**

Rodney Black, CPL, is a second-generation landman who found his calling once he began landwork. Raised in Magnolia, Arkansas, he earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Southern Arkansas University in 2000 and soon after began working as a field landman in East Texas for JIMAR Resources.

In 2002, he began his career as an in-house landman with XTO Energy Inc. in 2002 and was quickly put to the test chasing rigs in East Texas at a time when XTO was experiencing rapid growth in the basin. After a fast-paced decade, Black moved on to work the Permian Basin as a division landman at the onset of the Wolfcamp revolution. A few years later, he was promoted to regional land manager in the Appalachia Basin managing a significant joint venture in Ohio and ultimately assumed land responsibilities for West Virginia as well. Following the completion of the joint venture, he found himself back in the Permian Basin managing a freshly acquired 230,000-acre Delaware Basin position.

In January 2018 Black began a new chapter in his career as the senior vice president of land with CH4 Energy Six LLC, a private-equity company backed by NGP Energy Capital. Through its subsidiary Uinta Wax LLC, the company currently owns 230,000 net acres in the Uinta Basin in eastern Utah. He is still as enthusiastic about land and working the deal as ever.

Encouraged by his father, Black has been an active member of AAPL since his first days in the business. Leading by example, Doug Black, who worked as a landman for 40 years, served on numerous AAPL committees throughout his career, including the Executive Committee in 2004-05. Following in his dad's footsteps, Black served on many AAPL committees and also chaired the Education Committee in 2013-14, Ethics Committee in 2017-18, Membership Committee in 2020-21. He currently serves on the Certification Committee. In addition, he served his local Fort Worth Association of Professional Landmen as president at the height of the Barnett Shale boom in 2007.

He and wife Debbie have two children: daughter Sloane, 11, and son Hayden, 9. When the kids are not playing sports, the family spends their spare time on Possum Kingdom Lake enjoying water sports. Black currently holds the family title of champion wake surfer, having completed the 360 before Hayden. He also is a passionate outdoorsman and golfer. He enjoys spending time with Hayden at the deer lease in West Texas or the duck camp in South Arkansas when his wife allows.

**Personal Statement**

I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the AAPL Executive Committee as your Second Vice President in the coming year. AAPL has been an integral part of my career over the years — from a relationship building platform to the education opportunities provided. I realized early in my career that relationships play a huge role in the life of a landman. AAPL has been the foundation for many of the relationships I have formed in the oil and gas industry.

I have had the privilege of serving as both a director for my local association and as a committee chairman. Through that service, I have seen firsthand the hard work and effort that each Executive Committee member puts forth to ensure that AAPL is advancing the land profession while upholding a high ethical standard. I believe great things lie ahead for AAPL. A lot has changed for our profession in my career, and we continue to see change today. AAPL has continuously adapted and has always ensured that our profession is protected in the face of any difficulties. I am honored to have the opportunity to be a part of the Executive Committee and look forward to overcoming the challenges in front of us.



### **Third Vice President**

#### **R. Dirk Vander Ploeg II, CPL**

Dirk Vander Ploeg, CPL, is land manager at Texas American Resources Company, an independent E&P company in Austin, Texas, where he is involved with leasing, asset development, project management, landowner relations and other in-house land responsibilities. Prior to joining TARC in 2011, he spent several years as an independent landman for AKG Energy LP in the Texas Gulf Coast region.

An active member of both AAPL and the Austin Professional Landmen's Association, Vander Ploeg is a director of the AAPL Educational Foundation and immediate past chair of tax issues for the AAPL Governmental Affairs Committee. He previously served as AAPL Tax Issues Committee chair (2020-22), APLA director (2018-19) and APLA events chairman (2009-15). Additionally, he is a founding member of the Austin Chapter of Young Professionals in Energy and served as a board member from 2013-14. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in composition and writing studies, summa cum laude, from St. Edward's University.

Vander Ploeg lives in Austin with wife Julie and their four children: Ava, 15, Bob, 12, Penny, 9 and Willem, 4. Involved in his community, he serves as a Scouts BSA merit badge counselor (chess, cooking, geocaching, music and bugling, et al.) and as Cub Scouting Pack 34's committee chairman for the Capital Area Council. He is also an active member at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, where he is a third-degree knight with Knights of Columbus Council 8156.

### **Personal Statement**

It is an honor and privilege to be nominated as third vice president of AAPL. I am eager to serve in that capacity on behalf of our noble membership. As a second-generation landman, I am proud both to be a representative of our industry and to carry on the legacy of my father. Through AAPL I have had the pleasure of meeting and befriending some of our industry's great professionals. Just as those before me, I strive to dutifully serve AAPL's hardworking membership on behalf of our association.

While our industry has changed drastically in the past few decades, the association continues to be a guiding force for landmen by promoting strong ethical standards, education, certification and proactive embracement of the landman's role in new energy sectors. A key to AAPL's continued success is to foster membership growth specifically among young land professionals. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee and board of directors to ensure AAPL is a robust, fiscally sound and respected institution for its current and future members.



## **Treasurer**

### **Jerris Johnson, CPL**

Jerris Johnson, CPL, grew up around the oil fields of Oklahoma. His dad is a roustabout who single-handedly does the work of a three-man crew on a daily basis.

Drafted into the family business, Johnson began mowing well sites around Oklahoma the day after his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. His dad would point to a spot on the map, and Johnson would head out with a 1-ton flatbed, a tractor with a brush hog and instructions not to come home until all the sites there had been taken care of.

This experience fostered a strong work ethic and instilled the motivation to go to college — which was his dad’s intent — with Johnson being the first in his family to do so. Based on the recommendation of a family friend, he picked energy management as his major at the University of Oklahoma. A year into school and halfway through his first internship, Johnson started to realize what a landman is and that he would have opportunities to get paid for a variety of responsibilities that would rarely feel like work to him.

While still in school, Johnson began running title and buying leases on behalf of a land service provider. After graduation, he started an in-house career that led to contributor and leadership functions in most of the major plays in the United States. Former employers include Burlington Resources, PostRock Energy, Chesapeake Energy and Energen Resources.

After a corporate merger, a new door was opened, and Johnson began applying his in-house experiences to consulting work for numerous clients. This pivot provided the availability to prepare and present educational topics for AAPL, NADOA, NALTA and their local chapters. He also was able to focus on a LinkedIn newsletter he calls “News You Otter Know.”

At the beginning of 2023, Johnson returned in-house to continue a robust education into additional facets of the energy industry.

Johnson and his wife, Heather, have been married for 21 years and grew up together in Enid, Oklahoma. They have two kids: Ella is in college and Thomas starts high school in the fall. The Johnsons enjoy traveling the country to new cities, where Jerris and Thomas will go to a baseball game while Heather and Ella tour the museums.

## **Personal Statement**

Sometimes in gratitude for feeling blessed and other times as a personal favor, I have been able to contribute to AAPL in multiple capacities and with various committees. Every circumstance has been the chance to learn something new about the association and to collaborate with some of the smartest people I have ever met. To be nominated for an officer position will undoubtedly bring about challenges and rewards, and I am excited to share the experience with the incoming Executive Committee.

AAPL has a rich history of growth, development and prosperity. These achievements do not come about by mere happenstance. As current members, we have a responsibility to be stewards of AAPL’s assets as well as ambassadors of the profession. I believe we are in a critical time to shape and build what we want the association and its success to be for future generations.

I don’t drink, and I rarely play golf. However, I’ll grab a Coke Zero and talk land, the profession and the energy industry all day, every day.



## **Secretary**

### **Brian K. Tolson, CPL**

Brian K. Tolson, CPL, is a partner and senior landman at Equitas Energy Partners LLC based in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. After graduating from Texas Tech University in 2007, he worked in the real estate industry for a few years before finding his true calling as a field landman. In addition to the opportunity to gain experience in several of the major basins across the country, he has been able to learn from some of the best and most respected landmen in the industry and continually welcomes the challenges of discovering all the energy industry has to offer.

Tolson joined AAPL in 2012 and earned his CPL designation in 2021. He also is a member of the Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen, the Fort Worth Association of Professional Landmen and the Permian Basin Landmen's Association. He has been increasingly active in these professional associations. In the last five years, Tolson has served DAPL members as secretary, president and AAPL director. He also serves as co-chair of the DAPL Scholarship Committee and is serving his second term on AAPL's Field Landman Seminar Committee.

Tolson met his wife, Nicole, while they were attending Texas Tech University. They are raising three beautiful and active children — Taylor, 13, Tripp, 11 and Turner, 8 — in Brock, Texas. Outside the office, you will find Tolson with his family all over the countryside playing every sport you could imagine. When there is a little time left in the day, you will find them on the back porch cooking and relaxing together.

## **Personal Statement**

I am truly honored and blessed to have received this nomination from a group of my peers. Serving on the Executive Committee of the American Association of Professional Landmen will be a highlight of my career. I look forward to working with each of the directors, committee chairs, staff members and other AAPL members to ensure our association continues to meet the goals and values that we hold so high.

The significant role that AAPL plays has become increasingly apparent to me the more I have been involved. If you sit back and think about it for a second, it is amazing to see how many hours are volunteered by our members each year to bring us so many benefits, ranging from education and ethical standards all the way to networking and philanthropic events. This passion for our industry is why I am so excited to offer my time to one of the best groups of professionals anywhere in the world.

I will be forever grateful to all the mentors who have been patient with me and have taught me so much, the friendships that make it all worthwhile and the endless support my family provides me whether at work or at home.