



Jesús M. Salazar
2019–2020 SPWLA President
salazarjm@utexas.edu

Fellow SPWLA members, this will be the last issue of the SPWLA Today newsletter in 2019. It will also be my last column of the year, and before I start updating you on what's going on in our society I'd like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. Please enjoy in a healthy way, spend quality time with your family and friends, travel to amazing places, but please don't eat too much or you'll pay the price early next year. We are all super busy working on projects in our day jobs, but remember there's only one life that we deserve to live it to the fullest.

The survey to vote on changes to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporations (BLAI) closed on September 19. A total of 651 members cast ballots, which is the usual number of voters we have during the annual elections (600 to 700). The membership has overwhelmingly voted to pass all the proposed changes with approvals that ranged between 84 and 95%, way above the minimum of 75% of the total number of ballots required to pass the proposed changes to BLAI. I hope everyone had the chance to see the email showing the side-by-side comparison of the previous articles and sections against the changes we proposed, with the voting results for and against such changes. The new BLAI are far from perfect, but the membership agreed that a few changes were warranted. Let's give the new system a try for the next election and awards period and

see what happens. There's always room for improvement, and I'll do my best to listen to the membership and make additional changes before my term is over or I would also set the table for the next President and his BOD.

These changes are effective immediately. However, anyone in the current board who has been serving for more than five consecutive years will be able to finish their term and if they want to come back to the board, they may run for President-Elect only. Speaking of which, Past President Zach Liu sent an expression of interest (EOI) request for the upcoming elections of the new Board. Similar to last year, people are able to self-nominate. With the new BLAI there are a few requirements for critical positions, which are stated in the EOI. If you are passionate about SPWLA and have been already involved in local chapters, conference, or with our publications, please contact Zach and add your name as a potential nominee.

I had couple of busy weeks since my last column. I visited two chapters and also a sister organization. At every meeting I gave a presentation about the SPWLA and on technical topics about petrophysics. In late August, I visited the Houston Chapter of EAGE, thanks to an invitation extended by Dr. Mariela Araujo, who organizes their monthly seminar. It was a great opportunity to talk about the SPWLA and unconventional petrophysics to a mixed audience of geoscientists and engineers.

At the beginning of September, I traveled to the American West, Lubbock, Texas, to speak at the Texas Tech University SPWLA Student Chapter. I had two incredible hosts, current and past chapter presidents Rushil Pandya and Ibe Ezisi, respectively. They gave me a tour of the Petroleum Engineering Department and introduced me to faculty and students. They wanted me to talk about the operations within the SPWLA and I gave him a talk called, "The SPWLA From the Inside." It was an extended and detailed version of my five slides about SPWLA that I usually present during my visits to chapters. The Texas Tech Student Chapter



Fig. 1—Texas Tech University faculty and students, famous Professor George B. Asquith is to my right and chapter President Rushil Pandya is sitting in the front.

From the President

is a very dynamic group, in their meetings they have attendees from various engineering and geoscience majors, not only petroleum engineering, but also mechanical and civil engineering. They've been raising funds very efficiently via training offered by volunteers and friends of the University. They're in a position to invite non-Distinguished Speakers and partially cover their expenses. The university has also increased their annuity to the chapter year after year. Figure 1 shows some of the attendees to my presentation at TTU.

I want to thank the Japan Formation Evaluation Society (JFES, a chapter of SPWLA) for inviting me to be their keynote speaker in their annual symposium in Chiba, Japan (about one hour south of Tokyo). As you may know, it's a tradition that the SPWLA President-Elect attends to this conference. Last year, I had a scheduling conflict and was not able to attend, but I was lucky to attend this year as President. I cannot say enough of the graciousness and kindness of JFES' folks, especially my hosts Yuki Maehara, Tetsuya Yamamoto, and chapter president Professor Masanori Kurihara. They were very happy to have someone from the board visiting and they want to be more involved with us, one of his board members is now part of the technical committee for the 2020 Symposium. They feel proud to be now officially linked to the SPWLA since they signed the Charter Agreement in 2017. See Fig. 2 for a group picture during the conference.

The theme of the JFES conference was "Low Carbon Emission Energy." So, I tailored my keynote to the theme with the title, "New Trends in Energy Resources, 2020 and Beyond: Petrophysicists are Already Playing a Role." I found the conference quite interesting, covering technical problems on new technologies in petrophysics, thermal energy, and carbon capture use and storage (CCUS). During my keynote, I spoke about the fear that many professionals in oil and gas may have on becoming obsolete in the future. Working in the oil and gas exploration and production industry we wonder, what will be the energy of the future? Are renewables replacing fossil fuels? What will be the role of petrophysicist in the next 20 to 40 years? All those are valid questions and we need to guide the younger generations to making the right decision for themselves and for a better world. Let's keep in mind that our industry has become cleaner and safer than it was a few decades ago. Since 1990, renewable energy resources have grown at an average annual rate of 2.0%. However, fossil fluids, specially oil and gas are still the leading source of world energy and it'll remain like that in the next 20 to 40 years. Let's say that oil and gas is the energy of the masses. There are still plenty of opportunities for subsurface people like us to keep us working on interesting petrophysical problems for more decades to come. We need to find ways to make it cheaper and environmentally conscious.



Fig. 2—Japan FES Symposium attendees. I am in the first row surrounded by Professor Masanori Kurihara to my right and my former mentor during an internship with Oxy and Austin Chapter founder Shinichi Sakurai. It was great to see Shin after so many years. Photo courtesy of JFES.

From the President

Recently, I have been working with Latin American Director Nadege Bize-Forest to engage more people from the region in their local SPWLA chapters. This includes conversations with contacts in Colombia, Mexico, and Argentina. Mexican Chapter President Hugo Hernandez Espinosa envisages a potential growth in the Mexico Chapter that will require more volunteers. We have received expression of interest from petrophysicists in Suriname to start a local chapter and from Venezuela to revive their chapter.

Along with VP Education Katerina Yared, we have officially established the social media committee to keep you informed of everything happening around the world in the SPWLA. We continue working with the CWLS to organize an outstanding 61st Annual Logging Symposium in Banff, Alberta, Canada. I hope you had time to submit an abstract to present your research and innovation projects. You should be hearing from the VP Technology Michael O'Keefe before year end whether your proposal was accepted, it's always very competitive. But regardless of the outcome, make plans to come to Banff, and just in case, start prepping your hiking and fishing gear too, if you fancy to enjoy a couple of extra days in the Canadian Rockies.

Stay connected my friends,

Jesús M. Salazar, Ph.D.

[linkedin.com/in/spwla-socialmedia-454464105](https://www.linkedin.com/in/spwla-socialmedia-454464105)

Instagram @chichosalazarpetro