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Despite Houston’s average mid-day temperature hovering around 40°C the last few weeks, the fall season is upon us, and with that comes lots of work and planning. Your SPWLA Board is in full swing, it seems that the 60th Symposium was a long time ago and we’re already prepping for the 61st to be held next year in Banff jointly with the CWLS.

Fiscal Year Budget

We held our second board meeting on August 7 where we focused on building an operational budget to guarantee that our organization keeps working as a well-oiled machine to bring maximum benefits to its membership. In so doing, we made every effort to maintain conservative spending to keep our fiscal health.

As you must already know, I always like to present visuals of our numbers, whatever they may be, for your delight I present Fig. 1 showing the split of our 2019–2020 budget. Besides the mandatory Operations allocation, we continue to focus on keeping the high quality of our flagship journal *Petrophysics* and to keep you informed of our activities with the *SPWLA Today*. On the education front, we strive to bring you high-caliber distinguished speakers to the various chapters

around the world and organizing webinars and technical courses. Information and technology are fixed expenses to maintain the website and modernizing our database. The Heritage Project is an initiative spearheaded by the VP Technology, Michael O’Keefe, to rename all our symposium papers in chronological order for easier search and to assign DOI numbers to all of them. As you may have noticed, two years ago we started assigning DOI numbers to new *Petrophysics* papers and this year we started with the new Symposium papers. It’s time to look back and modernize our records.

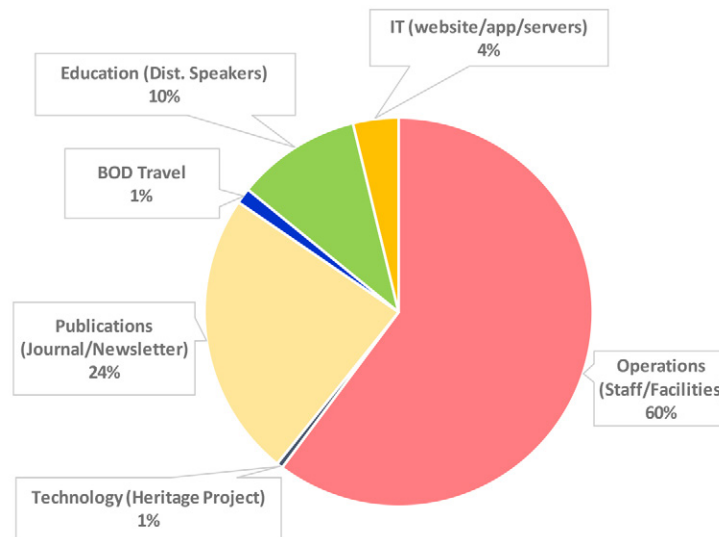


Fig. 1—SPWLA’s budget for the 2019–2020 fiscal year (symposium to symposium).

This year we are officially bringing back the travel budget (last year there was some travel budget as well, but was hardly used), now known as the BOD Travel. These funds are not limited to the President, as it used to be, but also available to any member of the board who needs to visit local chapters and get closer to the membership. Please bear in mind that this travel allocation is not a fancy business class flight or five-star hotels. The idea is to help pay a night at a hotel here and there and/or an (very) economic airline ticket. As you can see in Fig. 1, the BOD Travel budget is equivalent to the amount allocated for two or three distinguished speakers. Board members are always encouraged to piggyback chapter visits to business trips whenever possible, I’ve done just that for the last two years. For this quarter, I’m planning to visit the Texas Tech Student Chapter in Lubbock, Texas, the local chapter of EAGE here in Houston, and the JFES (Japan Chapter) in Chiba, Japan, as a keynote speaker at their annual conference, which is a tradition. In all of them I’ll be talking about the SPWLA and its benefits and also present a technical talk.

From the President

Proposed Bylaws Changes

During the last two months we also worked on fine-tuning the proposed changes to the Bylaws and restated Articles of Incorporation. This was a team effort. Again, I want to thank the hard work put by the members of the committee, Katerina Yared, Adam Haecker, and Carlos Torres-Verdin. Also, special recognition to Past President Eric Pasternack, who proofread the first draft and provided insightful suggestions that improved the document. The final touches to the proposal were provided by the new board of directors. All the proposed changes were edited by a lawyer as well. Sometimes it was hard to honor everyone's suggestions but we managed to reach consensus for the benefit of the Society. My appreciation to everyone involved in the process. Make sure to read the proposal that Sharon sent in late July. So far, I have received a handful of emails from concerned members inquiring about some of the changes. I have replied to each one of them and made (very) minor modifications to the proposal based on their feedback, you will see those changes in the ballot. A survey to express your opinion on these changes will be sent via email one week after the release of this newsletter. Please cast your ballot, per our current Bylaws, only paying member can vote. We will have the option to vote in bulk or by item. Remember that for each change to pass it requires two-thirds of the total number of ballots. I'm hopeful that most of the changes will pass. We want to make sure that the SPWLA is governed by its members through a modern set of Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation rather than by a particular board or president. So, do me a favor, VOTE!

Volunteers Wanted

With all the planning and new projects for this year we're continually welcoming volunteers. Your local chapter or favorite SIG is your first stop. Furthermore, in direct connection with the BOD there are also opportunities. The VP Technology Heritage Project may use the help of members with coding skills. The VP Education needs some social networks savvy to be part of our social media committee. If you have written papers before, you are a candidate to be technical reviewer for *Petrophysics*, this the VP Publications' domain. Our YP section of the *SPWLA Today* is always looking for new blood to be part of their group. There are countless opportunities to volunteer and get involved. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please send me an email and I'll direct you to the right person.

I'd like to close with a social note. Last month we had our now traditional bimonthly SPWLA (Houston) Happy Hour, the first one of this fiscal year. It was a great event as you can see in the The Bridge section. I usually try to attend each one of them. It's a good opportunity to meet the members and potential members, make new connections and friends while discussing petrophysics and enjoying a brew. I encourage everyone to attend our future technical and social events here in the States and around the world.

Stay connected my friends,

Jesús M. Salazar, Ph.D.

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