



The first quarter of 2017 is now past and the efforts to strengthen our society are paying off. During this period we focused on Latin America. Now, in addition to Colombia, I'm happy to say that the very important Brazilian chapter has signed the Charter Agreement.

Continuing with Brazil, the Universidad Federal de Rio de Janeiro, UFRJ, has signed the Student Charter Agreement, and will hold its initial UFRJ Petroleum week during the first week of April 2017, with SPWLA as a cosponsor.

I am also pleased to inform you that the Spring Topical Conference, "Value of Information and Uncertainty in Petrophysics," to be held in Bogotá, Colombia, has received a substantial number of abstracts. The Colombian chapter is providing registration as well as enthusiastic support. The Cochairs Jean-Paul Koninx (Shell) and Cesar Patiño (Ecopetrol), together with the full Technical Committee, have done an outstanding job creating an interesting and topical program, including an introductory preconference workshop. We hope that you will participate in this very important conference.

Our webinars continue to be of great value to our members, with the attendance the latest webinar exceeding 200. More and more chapters are receiving IT support from our Houston office on webpage hosting/updating, chapter event registration, and webinar setup. It is an ongoing joint effort intended to alleviate some of the IT burden from chapters and SIG officers to help them better serve the members. Kudos to our VP IT, Zhipeng, and office staff Stephanie and Sharon

Our student chapters have started their internal competitions to select the nominees for the international student paper contest to be held in conjunction with the annual symposium in Oklahoma City. To date, we have nominees from CUPB (China University of Petroleum, Beijing), University of Oklahoma, The University of Texas at Austin, and IPN (Instituto Politécnico Nacional). We are very proud of our student chapters and encourage our professional members from all around the world to support our student members and their activities.

Our call for training instructors received an impressive response from our members from several disciplines acoustics, nuclear, NMR, and even a course on big data is being proposed. Kudos to our training coordinator, Alessandra Simone, who is handling this huge task. We are beginning the process of selecting from our chartered chapters the members of the support committee for training.

We are in the final stretch before the Oklahoma City Symposium, and preparations are also going very well. Registration is open, so take advantage of the early-bird discount. We have an excellent program and the venue promises to be memorable.

As always, we strive to find ways to make your membership worthwhile and to that end I encourage you to send me suggestions on how we can increase the value of your membership. My email is [President@spwla.org](mailto:President@spwla.org) and is open to all who wish to address any of our society issues to make it healthier.

Once again, please plan to attend the Oklahoma City Symposium, June 17–21, 2017.

Luis Quintero  
2016–2017 SPWLA President