

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



In this last article for 2016, I would like to reflect on the positive fundamental changes that our society is going through, that is strengthening SPWLA and benefiting our members. Starting with the charter agreements, besides 80% of North America, we have now signed agreements in Asia,

Middle East and Africa (Thailand, Indonesia, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Kuwait and Nigeria). We are continuing talks with the remaining chapters in those regions and with Europe. Now we are starting to focus in Latin America. We have also signed the Acoustic, Resistivity, Formation Testing, Nuclear Special Interest Groups (SIG) and the newly created NMR SIG. Our past President, Thaimar Ramirez, is leading the effort to modify the SIG structure and guidelines so our technical expertise is truly represented globally and in our board of directors.

Our Distinguished Speakers continue to visit our chartered chapters, including visits of Dr. Mayank Malik to the San Joaquin Chapter in California, and Holger Thern during ADIPEC in Abu Dhabi, among others. Kudos to the Abu Dhabi Chapter, and to our Regional Director, Michael Spain for making this possible.

I have received valuable feedback from our members during my visits to our chapters in Asia and the Middle East, to potentially improve the Distinguished Speakers program. Some of these suggestions are being discussed for implementation. However, we want to hear from all chapters, not only the ones that I have been able to visit. Therefore, please contact me with your ideas to improve the program.

As stated in my previous column, the unification under our brand name is making us a stronger and healthier society. An example of SPWLA's worldwide brand recognition is our newly acquired membership status in the Oil and Gas Reserves Committee (OGRC) and the Petroleum Resources Management System (PRMS). Rick Aldred and I have written a special column in this issue of Petrophysics dedicated to this milestone achievement.

The Frank S. Milliard Training Center continues to offer courses and serve as a venue for SIG meetings. With our international chapters growing in number and size, we envision adding centers in other locations throughout the world. This would be a major undertaking by our society that would greatly benefit our members. Again, your individual and chapter's inputs are needed to take this major step.

New student chapters approved by the board are in Egypt, US and Indonesia. Internal competitions are being planned in several of the student chapters to select the

participants to the International Student Paper Competition that will be held during our Annual Logging Symposium in Oklahoma City in June 2017.

Our 2016 Fall Topical Conference "The Role of Petrophysics in Plug and Abandonment," was well attended and the discussions led to a proposal to start a SIG. Our 2017 Spring Topical Conference will be on the "Value of Information and Uncertainty in Petrophysics." The 4<sup>th</sup> India Regional SPWLA Conference will be held in Mumbai, February 11–12, 2017.

We keep improving the IT aspects (connectivity, reliability) of our webinars, which together with the excellent technical content, have made it a worldwide member's favorite (thanks to our Vice-President Information Technology, Zhipeng Liu). Our average monthly attendance has been 150 to 250 this year.

Finally, after more than 10 years we have had to increase our annual membership fees by \$25 per year. As per the charter agreement, of this \$25 increase, \$15 is returned to our local chapters so that the net to our office headquarters is a mere \$10/year/member. Looking at the increased benefits that SPWLA is providing and the ones in the pipeline, this is indeed a very modest increase. We hope that all of our members continue their patronage so we can have a strong and robust society.

Please plan to attend the Annual Logging Symposium in Oklahoma City, June 17–21, 2017. We have received a total of 353 abstracts! A preliminary review of the abstracts submitted indicates that the conference will be of excellent technical quality.

SPWLA is here to serve our members. I kindly ask you to send me suggestions on how we can increase the value of your membership, to my address: [President@spwla.org](mailto:President@spwla.org).

Luis Quintero  
2016–2017 SPWLA President