



Brett Wendt
SPWLA President 2017–2018

Dear SPWLA Members (and since this publication is open to the public potential members too!),

There has been a whirlwind of activity to report!

The most obvious activity is this inaugural edition of *The SPWLA Today* newsletter. A completely new offering that is dedicated to the community aspects of our organization, which will allow *Petrophysics* to thrive as a pure technical

journal without the need to also act as a communication platform. While this may not seem like a very big change, the possibilities this creates are virtually unlimited. There was a constant (and valid) friction when attempts were made to use *Petrophysics* as anything other than a technical publishing platform. As a result, SPWLA has never had the ability to serve its members as an organization at the core of a community.

The SPWLA Today changes this. As you will immediately see, we are using this opportunity to increase the communication from your Board. One of the consistent messages I receive from members is that the Board fails to communicate sufficiently. I have thus required the following columns for inclusion in this publication:

- “From the President” – President (continues as usual)
- “From the Editor” – Vice President Publications (continues with a new focus)
- “Up Next” – President-Elect (provide insights into what they will pursue; challenges they see today)
- “Tech Today” – Vice President Technology (Symposium updates/planning, paper submissions, etc.)
- “The Invoice” – Vice President Finance (financial updates, budgeting, spending initiatives, advertising)
- “Informative Technology” – Vice President Information Technology (web functions, online offerings, database management, etc.)
- “Learning Opportunities” – Vice President Education (distinguished speakers, Topical conferences, students, webinars, etc.)
- “Regional Understandings” – This will rotate through the Regional Directors with one domestic and two international regions being highlighted in each issue.

But this is only the half of it. *The SPWLA Today* is also an opportunity for you to participate. Submissions for regu-

lar columns or content will be considered and are encouraged. Are you retired and want to pass on some advice? Are you new to the industry and want to know why things are the way they are? Well now you can make your voice heard. Consider becoming a regular columnist.

All “In the Society” material, including Chapter News, “In Memoriam, as well as From the President, and nontechnical From the Editor content has been removed from *Petrophysics* and will appear in *The SPWLA Today*. “The Bridge,” which was a social platform dedicated solely for young professionals will be integrated into *The SPWLA Today*. We encourage those who remember other columns or content (such as op-eds columns, cartoons, commentaries, and discussions) that were removed from *Petrophysics* through the years to consider submitting such work again. SPWLA once again has a place for you to express yourself!

Another big undertaking was the effort to modify the SPWLA Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to allow changes via electronic communications. The difficulty of paper ballots and postal mail has acted as a deterrent in keeping our society up to date with technology and practices for far too long. As I anticipate that the motions will have passed by the time this is read, let me say thank you for your participation. With passage, I intend to hold additional ballots to implement other updates and improvements to these documents before my term is over.

Our symposium in London is fast approaching and all signs point to it being a fantastic year. We had a record number of abstracts submitted, so the technical content should be compelling and vibrant. The organizing committee has been working hard to set up the venue and secure sponsorship so that the event runs smoothly and to everyone’s expectations. We have been very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers.

This will be my last opportunity to ask you for submissions for awards. I know that we have members deserving of recognition (particularly for service). Once again, please submit any nominations to Luis Quintero for consideration.

As always, I am open to any comments or ideas. Please let me hear what you think!