I’d like to start my first column as the 2019–2020 SPWLA President by acknowledging the previous Board of Directors (BOD) and their contribution during the past 12 months. Not only I recognize my predecessor, Zhipeng Liu and his Board, but also the past presidents who dedicated countless hours of work and have passed the baton year after year with projects that continue today. So, when you see Brett Wendt, Luis Quintero, Thaimar Ramirez, David Kennedy, and other past presidents please say thank you for their selfless contribution to the SPWLA over the last decade.

This year starts with a BOD that is no longer Houston-centered as many people used to say. I’ll be working with a group of talented people hailing from Australia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. We have five newcomers serving for the first time on the board and seven returning veterans who will help me steer this vessel in turbulent and calm waters. Take a look at the map below showing where each BOD member is based around the world, I couldn’t have asked for a more diverse group of professionals.

The 2019 SPWLA Symposium, held at The Woodlands, Texas, was an absolute success. At the moment of writing these lines, the unofficial count of attendees surpassed 800, which was 30 to 40% above our expectations. This wouldn’t have been possible without the leadership of the general chairman Jeff Crawford and his group of volunteers in the organizing committee, the VP Technology, Jim Hemingway, and his technical committee, and VP IT Mehrnoosh Saneifar who managed the last-minute changes in schedule from the Symposium app.

If you attended the Symposium you may remember Jeff walking the two floors and the exhibits over and over, he walked 8 to 10 miles a day making sure that everything went smoothly. But remember that no Symposium can happen without the two powerful engines of the Society, Executive Director Sharon Johnson and Stephanie Turner. My appreciation goes to all these volunteers, exhibitors, and authors that worked so hard to bring you a great show. I know that there were minor issues with AV and the eposter area wasn’t great. However, we hope that you enjoyed the parallel sessions that we tried for the first time, opening opportunities for a more relaxed schedules and 12 additional oral presentations.
We take your feedback very seriously and during the Symposium we ran several surveys in the app. The sample was not great, only 35 to 40 people responded to the survey. However, I still feel very happy with the results and I’m sharing them with you in the next figure. Based on this survey I believe we got a B in technical quality, we strive to select excellent abstracts, but remember that the papers are not peer-reviewed. However, having close to 30% above an 8 rating it’s an indication that there were high-quality papers. Attendees seemed to be happy with the parallel sessions, prefer the new anonymous abstract review format, and were very happy with the smart-phone app.

My last project as President-Elect was to form and lead an ad hoc committee to update SPWLA’s by-laws and chapters of incorporation. This team was formed by fellow BOD members, Katerina Yared, Carlos Torres-Verdin, and Adam Haecker. We focused our attention on a variety of topics, such as ethics, awards, elections, and the creation of a new permanent committee on social media. The proposed changes were reviewed by the president, a past president, and finally by a lawyer. We’re still working on the final touches before sending it to the membership for approval. The idea is to have members vote on each proposed change individually. Expect an email in late summer requesting your vote, please cast a ballot. Another project completed in my last post was to get the Symposium papers included into the Scopus database (world’s largest abstract and citation database). To make this possible, we applied and were granted the assignment of the ISSN number to the SPWLA Symposium Transactions by the Library of Congress. The objective is to increase citations of our publications (Petrophysics is already included) to encourage industry professionals and researchers to continue writing for the SPWLA. I plan to continue working with the Board to keep improving the quality and prestige of the SPWLA publications. Finally, I visited the University of Houston Student Chapter on April 26. I presented a quick overview of the SPWLA mission, benefits to membership, and progress during the last couple of years followed by a technical talk on source-rock petrophysics. I want to thank the University of Houston Student Chapter President, Charles Adams, and Professor Lori Hathon for the invitation.

Commodity prices keep fluctuating, sometimes giving us heartburn. However, these days there are opportunities for jobs. At the SPWLA we will try to reach out to members in transition every time we see an opening. But remember, “out sight out of mind,” be visible. It is an exciting time to be involved with the SPWLA, I encourage everyone to volunteer, especially those young professional (YP) who are early on their careers. It’s a great opportunity to network and learn from your more veteran peers how to standout and find that next career opportunity. Start with your local chapter, or reach out to any of the Directors and ask about volunteering options.
From the President

Fig. 3—Live surveys from the Symposium App, 10 is excellent and 1 is very poor. 100% thought that we must continue using the app in future Symposia. The survey was only available to Symposium attendees using the app.

I live in the Houston and plan on attending a few local seminars and also the social activities organized by the SPWLA YP Group, which are always open to anyone interested in rocks, fluids, and wiggles. It is my plan to get closer to the membership by visiting chapter and championing the creation of new SIG and professional and student chapters. I’m planning on keeping you informed of all the BOD activities via this magazine, social media, and regular email. Also remember, that my email and social media channels are available for any comments and suggestions anyone would like to make to improve the SPWLA. I don’t promise to implement all of them, but for sure will bring them to the board.

Sincerely,
Jesús M. Salazar
linkedin.com/in/spwla-socialmedia-454464105
Instagram @chichosalazarpetro

Fig. 4—Receiving the speaker’s gift from Student Chapter President Charles Adam (right) with Professors Mike Myers (left) and Lori Hathon after my presentation at the University of Houston Student Chapter. Photo by Rossy Salazar.