

LAW OFFICE OF PAUL L. WOOD, L.L.C.
W.A.L.T. SERVICES, L.L.C.
(WOOD ABSTRACTING, LAND and TITLE SERVICES, L.L.C.)
8870 Youree Drive, Suite 112, Shreveport, LA 71115
P.O. BOX 5005
SHREVEPORT, LA 71135-5005
email: paul@paulwoodattorney.com

318-798-6177

318-798-6178 (fax)

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I recently attended the AAPL Board of Directors quarterly meeting which was held December 9-10, 2023, in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM.

Several matters of importance were addressed, in addition to the routine matters reported at these meetings. After several years of deficit budgets due to the pandemic (and the catastrophic affect it had on our industry) it appears that the current fiscal year will conclude with a small budget surplus. As most of you are aware, the bulk of budget funding for AAPL comes from NAPE (North American Petroleum Expo) and the event this year had better than expected attendance and sponsorship, leading to the anticipated budget surplus. The staff of AAPL has been instrumental in helping to achieve these results, even with the elimination of eleven staff positions.

As you are aware from an earlier communication sent to ALTAPL members, the AAPL Membership committee has recommended to the Policy and Bylaws task force a change in the Bylaws that would eliminate Lifetime Member status. Eligible members can make a one-time dues payment of \$2500.00, along with a request to the Membership Committee and AAPL, for consideration. If anyone eligible is interested, they must notify the Membership committee and AAPL (along with submitting the one-time dues payment of \$2500.00) before January 1, 2024. Only eight eligible members have applied and received lifetime membership, which is one of the primary reasons for the proposed elimination of the status. If you have questions about the process, please let me know.

The Policy and Bylaws task force is nearing completion of a two year process of reviewing, updating and proposing changes to AAPL policies and bylaws. Most of the changes are benign and have little real impact on members, but rather eliminate conflicts and address the need to update these documents to conform to current committee activities and recent changes in our industry. Eligible AAPL members will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed bylaws changes, and that vote should take place in the late spring. Before the vote occurs there will be a 60 day window for review and comment regarding any proposed changes to the bylaws. The vote should take place before the 2024 AAPL annual meeting, and the results will be announced before the annual business meeting in June, 2024.

This year the annual meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, from June 19-21, 2024. Plan to attend and take advantage of a tax deductible vacation (for many of you) and enjoy all that Boston has to offer. There will be more information forthcoming from both AAPL and ALTAPL regarding specific events and opportunities, but Boston is a must see city if you have never been.

I want to remind you that the period for AAPL awards nominations is open until January 10, 2024. You can review the award categories on the AAPL website (landman.org) and please nominate those local members who are worthy of consideration. ALTAPL has won some of these awards in the last few years, and it would show the rest of the association membership the superb quality of the land professionals in the Ark-La-Tex region if we could get some of our members nominated. A partial list of the individual awards are Landman of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Pioneer Award, but the complete list and qualifications are on the website. If you have suggestions for awards but do not want to go through the time to submit the nomination, please let me know and I will be happy to assist and complete the process.

I also want to take the additional opportunity to remind you to attend the upcoming ALTAPL Educational Seminar. The committee has been hard at work so that our local members can enjoy an informative, educational event. The seminar will be held on February 23, 2024, at the Shreveport Petroleum Club. Watch for further information.

As a reminder, I serve as the local Ethics committee chair. If you know or suspect ethical violations of someone engaged in land work, please let me know. A few of the most common violations are: use of an AAPL designation when ineligible, felony convictions, and acting in conflict with a client's interests. The ALTAPL board has recently been made aware of a Tyler, Texas land brokerage firm doing work in the Ark-La-Tex whose principal owners and members were convicted of felonies, and those principal members who belonged to AAPL were expelled. We want to make sure our local association members are aware of these issues to avoid unknowingly doing business with these types of companies or individuals. Thankfully, local ethics violations are few and far between.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as your AAPL director, and not a responsibility that I take lightly. I am here to assist and inform you in any way I can, so please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

At this special time of the year, my warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Happy Holidays!

Paul L. Wood, JD, CPL