Nomination for AAPL Landman of the Year – Submitted by David W. Miller

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EDUCATION: St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, Tx.: B.A., 1981

Texas Real Estate Broker’s License: 1987

San Antonio Southside Chamber of Commerce

Leadership Class: 1994

Certified Professional Landman (CPL) Designation: 2009

2017 – Present: Trustee of the Landman Scholarship Trust

Works with 13 other Trustees to manage a $7.8 million trust fund for scholarships to 13 AAPL accredited programs nationwide. Attends all committee meetings for the LST. Helps establish new policies for the LST. Visited assigned university programs and interviewed students for scholarships. Made decisions based on these interviews on which students to award the scholarships and the amount of their award. He also serves as the LST liaison to the Accreditation Committee and attends all of their meetings also. Currently working as an advisor to the UT-Permian Basin Business School Dean, Dr. Steven Beach, to develop an AAPL accredited program at UT-Permian Basin in Midland, Texas. Tries to act as a mentor to all the students and young landmen. Over the years, he has also been asked to serve on several Special Task Force groups appointed by Presidents of the AAPL. He has served on the Task Force to come up with survey questions to help improve the recruitment of students to our accredited universities. He served on the Hire our Own Task Force, dealing with ways to promote our members and students from our accredited universities to our member companies. The Task Force on the Education Foundation to help solve the problem with the permanently restricted funds in the Brand Account and the Blankenship Account.

2016 – 2017: Third Vice President of the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL).

He served with the first female President of the AAPL. He helped her and the other Executive Committee members accomplish her goals of improving the association for all landmen, bringing fiscal responsibility to the association, establishing a balanced budget and increasing the membership. He also served as the Excom liaison to the Education Committee, the Marketing Committee, the Accreditation Committee, and GeoCare Insurance Committee. While as the 3rd VP, he also served as President of the Educational Foundation. He tried to act as a role model and mentor for all landmen but also to all the minority landmen in our profession. He wanted to see more minority landmen strive for a position of leadership in our association. He tried to personally greet every member to our meetings. Being involved with the budgets for the Education Foundation and the AAPL, he attended some Finance Committee meetings on his own to learn more about how our money is being used and what plans our financial advisors had for the future.

2016 – 2017: President of the Educational Foundation of the AAPL

Managed a budget of $17 million and reviewed application for grants from the association members, the general public and other institutions for educational purposes. He tried to promote the Foundation for more grant applications and also tried to promote donations to the foundation. Directed and managed all the monthly meetings and conference calls with all the other members. Tried to be fiscally responsible to the Foundation while at the same time trying to promote the possibilities of getting the Foundation to award more grants to deserving projects.

2015 – 2016: Chairman of the Accreditation Committee of the AAPL

As the first chairman of the newly establish Accreditation Committee, he was tasked with the responsibility of developing and writing the first set of policies for this new committee. he did research on his own time to determine the best policies that could implemented. One of the policies he established was site visits to all the programs and especially upon their initial application for accreditation. At the time, most programs had never been visited by anyone from the Accreditation Committee or the AAPL. He helped establish a totally new review process. He strived to make the accreditation process to be on the same level as other professional accreditations (e.g. attorneys, engineers, architects) so that the AAPL accreditation would mean something to our industry. He donated $1000 to help with reimbursements of trustee expenses for site visits to our programs. He initially had a problem establishing a budget for the site visits, and through his persistence, he was able to establish a budget for the site visits. He submitted reports to the Excom and the Directors at all the Director’s meetings. Directed and managed all the monthly meetings and conference calls with all the other committee members.

2013 – 2016: Member of the Education Committee of the AAPL

Provided ideas for speakers and topics for our annual meeting. Personally contacted individuals to speak at our annual meeting. Helped develop new courses for AAPL members. Served as a volunteer to introduce speakers at our annual meeting seminars. Served for three years on this committee. He also served as a NAPE Ambassador during this time.

2014 – 2016: AAPL Director representing the San Antonio Association of Professional Landmen (SAAPL)

Attended all the Director’s Meetings and Annual Meetings during this time. Returned to the SAAPL and reported all of the ideas and new policies voted on by the Board of Directors of the AAPL. He spoke about all the concerns of the SAAPL members to the attending Directors and the Executive Committee.

2012 – 2013: President of the San Antonio Association of Professional Landmen (SAAPL)

Directed the SAAPL in all matters and tried to improve the value of the association to its members. Also tried to bring more educational seminars to our region. Led the association at a time with its highest membership and increased the amount of money brought into the association. Increased its donations to the community and started the conversation in establishing a scholarship program for our members families. Personally greeted all members to our meetings.

2011 – 2012: First Vice President of the SAAPL

2010 – 2011: Treasurer of the SAAPL

2005 – Present: West Texas Land Manager/Senior Associate/Crew Chief for J. Mark Smith & Associates, Inc.

He currently serves as a business development person for J. Mark Smith as well as manager and crew chief for the projects that the Midland office brings in. He also serves as the customer service representative to all of their clients. He tries to train and mentor all of their new landmen and preach to them the value of taking courses to further their landman career and to establish themselves by earning certifications from the AAPL. He promotes the benefits of being a member of the AAPL to all of their landmen and encourages them to become members as soon as possible. He also promotes the fact that all their landmen are members of the AAPL to all of their clients.

1998 – Present: Active Member of the AAPL, the SAAPL, and the PBLA

1997 – Present: Independent Field Landman. Trained and managed crews for several large oil and gas projects in Texas for J. Mark Smith & Associates, Inc.

PROFESSIONAL: American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL)

Member: 1998 to Present

AAPL Third Vice President: 2016 – 2017

AAPL Educational Foundation President: 2016 - 2017

AAPL Landman Scholarship Trustee: 2018 - Present

Board of Directors: 2014-2016

Accreditation Committee Chairman: 2015 - 2016

Education Committee Member: 2013-2016

 San Antonio Association of Professional Landmen (SAAPL)

 President: 2012-2013

 Director: 2014-2016