

JOURNAL #6 - February 2019



ASBOG's Annual Meeting in 2018 was held in Monterey, California, and LBOPG Board members and staff attended. The meeting included a field trip to the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. This image of a research vessel that was anchored just a short distance from the lab facility at the head of the Monterey Submarine Canyon illustrates just how close the canyon is to the shoreline. The largest submarine canyon on the West Coast, it was formed by turbidity current erosion. The canyon walls measure a full mile from top to bottom, rivaling the depth of the Grand Canyon. The far edge of the Elkhorn Slough can be seen in the foreground. (photo courtesy Brenda Macon)

Keeping up with the Times: Continuing Education Requirements and Audits

One of the most frequently asked questions from licensees is “What kinds of courses and activities do I need to take to meet the continuing education requirement for renewal?” In the past, the board has taken the view that its role is not to endorse any particular organization, institution, or agency in supplying information to fulfill the requirement, so licensees often received only vague suggestions regarding “professional activities.” The recent inception of the continuing education audit program and the resulting responses from those licensees selected for audits, however, have revealed that licensees do, indeed, need guidance in selecting courses, programs, and activities that will be acceptable to the audit review team.

For that reason, board members recently agreed that providing a specific list of activities and courses that have been regarded as meeting the continuing education requirements in the past may be a good idea. Of course, no list is exhaustive, but at least giving licensees a starting point may help you all in planning your year so you can fulfill the requirement of 14 hours of professional development and one hour of geoscience ethics training. And that will make the job of the board's audit review committee easier, too.

As one board member recently told a group of geoscientists, think geology, geology, geology. The best advice is to look for opportunities in the area of geoscience through participating in the many geoscience organizations available, taking online courses offered by these organizations – particularly local ones (the Houston Geological Society comes to mind) – or other state boards, or attending geoscience conferences and meetings. We often hear that our licensees don't live near cities or towns that have geological societies, but nearly all have access to the Internet. Taking a couple of the wide range of geoscience-related online courses each month will more than fulfill the requirement.

Also keep in mind that company ethics courses – unless they are directly related to geoscience – are rarely acceptable to fulfill the one hour of ethics training for your license. Instead, look for courses offered by geoscience organizations and other state boards. Most are either low cost or free. Also, safety courses and training for handling hazardous materials will not count. While we do hope that all licensees take these courses when needed, they are not considered to be related to your profession in a way that will enhance your geologic knowledge.

If in doubt about a course or activity, please contact the administrative office. Meanwhile, we are developing that list of activities and courses and will post it on the website as soon as possible. We'll send that link to our licensees as soon as we can.

Renewal Reminders Have Gone Electronic

In recent months we've seen an increase in returned mail because we don't always have the most up-to-date physical mailing addresses for some of our licensees. That, along with the increase in first-class postage rates have caused us to rethink the way we send our renewal reminders. As of last summer, we have been sending the first renewal notice by email. If the email bounces, we send a letter to the physical address on file. If the email doesn't bounce, we assume the licensee has received the reminder. So far, this new delivery system is working well. However, we still send license cards to the on file physical addresses. Please be sure we have your current address or you may not get your renewal certifications.

Seal Use Rules

After many months of deliberation and discussion, the rules for seal use are now in final draft and published in Volume 45 of the *Louisiana Register*. The rules are available for your comment during the public review period from February 20, 2019 through March 18, 2019. These rules constitute the guidelines many licensees have been waiting to see, so we welcome your comments. You can review the rules for seal use by going to the website at this [link](#), selecting the February issue, and scrolling to page 101.

The Benefits of Membership

Because LBOPG is a member of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG), licensees have access to more than top-shelf certification exams. We recently received this message from ASBOG Director Deana Sneyd:

“ASBOG is a member society with the American Geosciences Institute (AGI). Where ASBOG's role is to provide a connective link between the different Member Boards, AGI provides the connective link between 53 national associations representing geosciences. The Institute provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in our profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resilience to natural hazards, and the health of the environment.

“One benefit of our AGI membership is a complimentary digital subscription to Earth magazine. We've received confirmation from AGI that Member Boards can share this benefit with all licensees in their respective states. AGI views this as a benefit that can waterfall down from ASBOG to the boards on to their licensed geoscientists.

“The link for people to request the free subscription is: <https://digital.earthmagazine.org>.”

Board Members Moving On, Moving In

Long-time board member **Daisy Pate** accepted a position with the South Pacific Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and has been working in the Albuquerque, NM, area. Her move to the West necessitated that she retire from the board effective in early May 2018. Pate was with the board from its earliest days and was instrumental in setting up the LBOPG website and was an advocate for the online application process. Passionate about the profession, Pate also served as board secretary and as the chair of the Application Review committee. These days she is enjoying her work with the Corps and loves Albuquerque. “From a hydrologic perspective,” she quipped, “I've gone from one extreme to

another: Managing too much water in Louisiana to managing the arid Southwest's most limited resource – water.” She looked forward to camping, exploring canyons, and kayaking.

Another long-time board member, **William (Bill) Meaney**, also resigned from the Board, effective in July 2018, to enjoy retirement with Sandee, his wife, and immediate family. Meaney has been with LBOPG since its beginning and will be greatly missed for his gentle voice of experience and reason. One of the original application reviewers, Meaney looked at applications with both an eye for detail and consideration for applicants' specific situations. Later as the chair of the Examination Review committee, he worked with other board members to find ways to assist young geoscientists as they prepared for the ASBOG examinations.

David Ray Williamson was nominated by the Shreveport Geological Society and appointed by Governor Edwards to replace Meaney representing the Fourth Congressional District. Williamson, a senior geologist with ATC Group Services in Shreveport, holds professional geoscientist registrations and licenses in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas. He has over 46 years of experience as a geologist including previously serving with the Mississippi Geological Survey (now the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality), the South Louisiana Production Company in Lafayette, Louisiana, and the Central Louisiana Electric Company (CLECO). He also served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army 20th Special Forces Group and as a commissioned auxiliary deputy with the Caddo Parish Sheriff Department. Additionally, he has served as first vice president, treasurer, secretary, and board member for the Shreveport Geological Society. An avid cave explorer, Williamson is a life member of the National Speleological Society. He enjoys travel and spending time with his family.

William H. (Bill) Schramm was appointed effective June 1, 2018 to fill the vacant board seat representing the Baton Rouge area. Schramm recently retired after 28 years with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. As a geologist, he worked closely with industry, consultants, regulators, and private citizens to investigate and remediate over 3,000 contaminated sites. He managed a staff of 16 geologists, environmental specialists, and support personnel in the Remediation Division. His main focus was on groundwater and contamination issues throughout Louisiana. Beginning in 2005, he was an adjunct instructor on the staff of the Department of Geology at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and served on numerous graduate thesis committees. Schramm retired from the State of Louisiana in 2017. He holds a BA and MS in Geology and a Teaching Certification for K-12 in science and earth science. He is a member, past director, and three-time vice-president/president of the Baton Rouge Geological Society. Schramm served for nine years as a delegate to the AAPG, representing the Baton Rouge Geological Society AAPG members. He has participated in numerous conferences, conventions, and seminars as organizer, committee chair, session chair, judge, presenter, and author/coauthor. His off time is spent relaxing, refurbishing his home, and travelling with Mary, his wife.

News from Our Licensees

Jeffrey B. Aldrich, a partner with MHA Petroleum Consultants in Denver, Colorado, has been busy. He was awarded the AAPG Honorary Member Award at the 2018 AAPG Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. Also elected to serve as the AAPG Vice-President of Sections for 2018-2020, he presented a poster titled “Sweet Spot Characterization and Optimization in Unconventional Reservoirs,” co-authored with another partner at MHA, John Seidle. Previously, his presentation, “10 Rules of Exploration,” was selected as Best Oral Presentation by the AAPG Division of Professional Affairs at the 2017 Annual Convention in Houston.



Just California dreamin': We couldn't resist sharing this image of the coastline just south of Monterey in Big Sur. While we're a long way from California, geoscience is just as important here as it is there. The geological features may be different, but Louisiana geoscientists must be just as well-trained and prepared to protect the people, property, and economy of our state. (photo courtesy Brenda Macon)