



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

# PLANO

Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans  
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## PLANO EVENTS

Dec. 6	Christmas Luncheon Galatoire’s Restaurant
Dec. 14	Breakfast WGOM Lease Sale 218, Mercedes-Benz Superdome
Jan. 16	Luncheon Ruth’s Chris, Metairie
Feb. 16	Executive Night Seminar Executive Night Reception N.O. Hilton Riverside
Feb. 16	Sponsor Party Royal Sonesta
Mar. 12	Luncheon Ralph’s On The Park
Apr. 18	Luncheon The Dakota Restaurant, Covington, LA
June 20	Luncheon Royal Sonesta Hotel

## NON-PLANO EVENTS

Dec. 14	OCS Lease Sale 218 (WGOM) Mercedes-Benz Superdome
Feb. 22-24	NAPE George R. Brown Convention Center Houston, TX
Feb. 26-28	LOGA Annual Meeting L’Auberge Du Lac, Lake Charles, LA
Mar. 22-23	Mineral Law Institute Seminar Baton Rouge, LA

*Front cover: Poydras Street at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome*



## *Greetings*

As another year comes to an end, the Holiday Season is upon us and we find ourselves reflecting on the past year to give thanks for family, friends and on those who have helped to shape our business to allow us to enjoy the opportunities and the lives we enjoy this day. Let us all look forward to the New Year with optimism and continued successes for our families, country and industry.

On behalf of the officers and board members of PLANO, we wish you and yours a warm Holiday Season and a Happy New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

Warmest Regards,

Wm. David Davas, CPL



## PLANO MEMBERSHIP

The purpose of PLANO is... *"To promote and advance the art and science of the profession of Petroleum Landman."* With that in mind, we urge all of our members to each bring in at least one new member between now and the end of this year. A membership form is available on the PLANO Web Site – [www.planoweb.org](http://www.planoweb.org) - so be sure to ask any and all potential new members to **join PLANO NOW.**

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others.

*Submitted by*  
Margo Cameron, PLANO Administrator &  
PLANO Newsletter Editor

## PLANO LUNCHES

REMINDER – What's a ghost? Well, when an event reservation is made but not used, PLANO is left with a "ghost" on the reservation list. Three (3) working days, i.e. 72 business hours prior to events, PLANO is required to guarantee the number of attendees, thus establishing the cost involved. This is a standard procedure in the catering world. Persons who do not show up, or cancel after the guaranteed number has been issued, are regarded as "ghosts" for they cost PLANO just as much as actual attendees. PLANO has to pay, and over the course of a year, this can add up to quite an expense.

So, please help us out. If you've made a reservation for an event, that's great. We look forward to seeing you there. If things get busy and you can't make it, we'll miss you, but please make a call as soon as you know and let the event organizer know that you won't be there. Calling after the guarantee has been issued will only serve to notify us you will not be there, but we will still have to pay, and, in turn, we will have to bill you. Rarely, if ever, can adjustments be made to the orders.

*When the*  
**RIGHT OF WAY**  
*is wrong,*  
*what next?*

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**Keith B. Hall** is a member of Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann L.L.C. in New Orleans. His primary areas of practice are oil and gas law, commercial litigation, environmental law, and toxic tort litigation. He serves as Chair of the New Orleans Bar Association's Oil & Gas Section, as a member of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute's Advisory Council, and as a member of the Advisory Council for the Louisiana State Bar Association's Environmental Law Section. Mr. Hall teaches Introduction to Mineral Law at Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans. He authors a blog, "Oil and Gas Law Brief," and a bi-monthly article, "Recent Developments in Mineral Law," for the Louisiana Bar Journal.



### Hydraulic Fracturing — What's New In Louisiana

#### 1. Background

When oil or gas is found underground, it is not located in open caverns. Rather, it is found in the pore spaces of subterranean rock formations. After a conventional well is drilled into such a formation, the oil or gas travels to the wellbore by flowing through the rock. The oil or gas does this by passing from one pore space to the next through interconnections between the pores.

If the interconnections between pores are too narrow or too few in number, the rock will have low permeability. That is, fluid will not flow easily through the rock. Low permeability formations are sometimes called "tight," and it generally will not be economical to produce oil or gas from such formations using conventional methods. But if a well operator can artificially create cracks or *fractures* in the rock, the oil or gas can flow through those fractures, and will not be limited to flowing through interconnections between pores. The purpose of fracturing is to create such fractures. Operators began fracturing wells in Pennsylvania in the 1860s by lowering nitroglycerin torpedoes into wells and detonating the device.<sup>i</sup>

In the late 1940s, hydraulic fracturing was commercially developed. Hydraulic fracturing uses a fluid — typically about 98 to 99.5% water and sand, plus various additives (such as corrosion inhibitors, biocides, and friction reducers) — to impose a sufficiently high pressure that the target formation fractures. The water is then withdrawn, but the sand remains behind, propping open the fractures so that they do not close completely. It has been estimated that a million wells had been fractured by 1988.<sup>ii</sup>

In recent years, hydraulic fracturing has been frequently used in the development of shale plays, such as the Haynesville Shale in northwestern Louisiana. Hydraulic fracturing has become controversial, with supporters pointing to increased jobs and domestic production of energy that are made possible by fracturing, and opponents raising several environmental concerns. And, across the

nation there have been several recent developments relating to hydraulic fracturing, including the enactment of new regulations and the emergence of new shale plays. This leads to the question — What's new with respect to hydraulic fracturing in Louisiana?

#### 2. Mandatory disclosure of fracturing water composition

Traditionally, the companies that supply hydraulic fracturing additives have kept the composition of their additives confidential in order to preserve any competitive advantage they might have. The secrecy has been a focus of criticism by those who worry that hydraulic fracturing might have adverse environmental impacts, and some companies have responded by making voluntary disclosures on their own websites or on a website called FracFocus that is operated by the Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission.

In addition, some states have enacted regulations that make disclosure mandatory. Effective October 20, 2011, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources adopted a regulation that requires operators to disclose the composition of fracturing fluid used in each well fractured in Louisiana. The new regulation requires operators to disclose:

- the volume of hydraulic fracturing fluid used
- the types of additives used (for example, biocides, corrosion inhibitors, friction reducers, etc.), as well as the volume of each type
- the trade name and supplier of each additive, and
- a list of the chemical compounds contained in the additives, along with the maximum concentration of each compound.

If the identity of the chemical compound is a trade secret, the operator is excused from identifying the compound, but is required to identify the

chemical family to which the compound belongs. Louisiana's new regulations require that the mandated disclosure be made either to the Office of Conservation or to FracFocus. The text of the regulation, which becomes Louisiana Administrative Code § 43:XIX.118, can be found at page 3064 of the October 2011 Louisiana Register (available at <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/1110/1110.pdf>).

Other states that have adopted mandatory disclosure regulations include Wyoming, Arkansas, Montana, and West Virginia. In addition, the Texas Railroad Commission has drafted a mandatory disclosure requirement that is expected to go into effect in the next several months, and other states, such as Colorado and New York, are considering similar requirements.

### **3. Two new shale plays**

Two new shale plays that are each located partly in Louisiana are drawing attention — the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale and the Brown Dense.

#### **a. The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale**

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale is a formation that extends in a band across the middle of Louisiana, from the State's western border with Texas, through several parishes, and on into a few counties in southeastern Mississippi. The formation is located from 10,000 to 14,000 feet beneath the surface, and at some points is several hundred feet thick.

Many people are excited about the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale because it is an oil play. Prices of both natural gas and oil have dropped below the levels they reached a few years ago, but the decrease in natural gas prices has been much greater. For that reason, companies are more interested in drilling for oil than for gas.

And the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale contains substantial quantities of oil. A report published in 1997 by the Basin Research Institute (then part of LSU) estimated that the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale contains potential reserves of about 7 billion barrels of oil. This has led companies such as Goodrich Petroleum, Devon Energy, Denbury Resources, and Indigo II Louisiana to accumulate significant lease acreage in the TSM area.

Several companies already have started drilling in the TSM, including: Devon Energy in East Feliciana and Tangipahoa Parishes; Indigo II Louisiana Operating in Vernon and Rapides Parishes; and EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. in St. Helena Parish and certain counties in Mississippi. Little information is publicly available yet regarding the results of the drilling.

#### **b. The Brown Dense**

The "Brown Dense" is the latest shale formation to generate excitement as a potential oil play. The Brown Dense stretches across Southern Arkansas and into several parishes in North Louisiana,

including Claiborne, Union, and Morehouse. The Brown Dense is located at vertical depths from 8,000 to 11,000 feet, and has a thickness that ranges from 300 to 550 feet. The formation sometimes is called the Lower Smackover because it is located below the Smackover formation that has been a source of oil and gas production in North Louisiana and South Arkansas since the 1920s.

Southwestern Energy is one of the active companies in the play. In July 2011, Southwestern announced in an earnings report that it has invested \$150 million to acquire mineral rights in 460,000 acres to develop the Brown Dense. The company stated that it plans to begin drilling its first Brown Dense well in Columbia County, Arkansas, late in the third quarter of 2011. That well is expected to have a vertical depth of 8900 feet and a horizontal lateral of about 3500 feet. Southwestern plans to drill its second Brown Dense well sometime later in 2011 in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, with the well expected to have a vertical depth of 10,700 feet and a horizontal lateral of 6000 feet. Southwestern stated that it could drill as many as 10 additional Brown Dense wells in 2012. Southwestern has a page on its website that provides additional details regarding the company's plans for the Brown Dense, and the terms of its leases.

In an August 3, 2011, Devon Energy announced that it has acquired minerals rights to 40,000 acres in North Louisiana for purposes of developing the Brown Dense formation, and that it expected to drill its first well to that formation in Morehouse Parish this year.

### **4. Conclusion**

The future appears bright for the use of hydraulic fracturing in Louisiana. The state recently adopted a regulation to require the disclosure of fracturing fluid composition, thereby taking proactive steps to address one of the concerns some people have expressed about hydraulic fracturing. Further, companies are drilling in two new shale plays, giving Louisiana three shale plays, two of which are oil plays.

<sup>i</sup> See Norman J. Hyne, *Nontechnical Guide to Petroleum Geology, Exploration, Drilling and Production*, 422 (2nd ed. 2001) (hereinafter, "Hyne"); see also *Roberts v. Dickey*, 20 F. Case. 880, 883-84 (W.D. Pa. 1871) (discussing patent granted in 1866 for invention relating to explosive fracturing).

<sup>ii</sup> See Thomas E. Kurth, *et al.*, *American Law and Jurisprudence on Fracking*, 47 Rocky Mtn. Min. L. J. 277, 279 (2010).

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**OCS LEASE SALE 218 (WGOM)  
BREAKFAST**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011  
7:00 - 9:00 A.M.**

**PLANO will be hosting this event at the  
Mercedes-Benz Superdome,  
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Breakfast is free to all.**

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**Anthony C. Marino** is a shareholder at the law firm of Slattery, Marino & Roberts. Tony concentrates his practice generally in mineral title examination, the acquisition and divestiture of mineral properties, regulatory matters relating to onshore leases and offshore leases, including state waters and federal waters on the Outer Continental Shelf, and energy related financing transactions involving the negotiation and performance of exploration, development, operating and joint venture agreements. Tony has represented numerous energy producing companies before the State of Louisiana, Office of Mineral Resources, State Mineral and Energy Board, Office of Conservation and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (both agencies formerly part of the Minerals Management Service) in the Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Alaska OCS Regions, Department of the Interior, Interior Board of Land Appeals, and other regulatory agencies concerning a variety of matters such as plugging and abandonment liability, bonding, oil spill financial responsibility, royalty valuation, royalty relief and incidents of non-compliance. Tony received his J.D. degree from Loyola University School of Law and attended the University of New Orleans, where he received his B.A. degree. Tony is the recipient of the AAPL APEX Educational Award in both 2000 and 2005, and the Corporate Leadership Award from the then Minerals Management Service, Pacific OCS Region in 2004.



### COMPLIANCE ISSUES ON THE OCS POST-MACONDO

On October 15, 2010, BOEMRE published final regulations to require operators to develop and implement Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) for oil and gas and sulphur operations on the Outer Continental Shelf. The Rule took effect on November 15, 2010. The Final Rule requires an operator (a lessee, the owner or holder of operating rights or the designated operator) to develop, put in place and maintain a safety and environmental management system program into the management of their OCS operations that satisfies the requirements of the rules and to have those programs in effect on or before November 15, 2011.

This task has been made more difficult by the reorganization of the agencies having jurisdiction on the OCS - the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).<sup>1</sup> Prior the issuance of a new October 21, 2011 Notice to Lessees (“NTL”), BOEM had not been approving OSPR plans and no fines have been issued by either BOEM or the EPA. Operators have been in the awkward position of having to use alternate self-certification procedures that can only be used for two years. Exactly what this means for operators is a question industry cannot answer. Also unknown is whether BOEM will issue extensions to operators affected by the backlog or whether perceived logjams or inertia at the agency will result in shutting down ongoing operations.

#### What is a SEMS Program

Under the regulations, a SEMS program has the following thirteen (13) elements: general requirements; safety and environmental information;

hazards analysis; management of change; operating procedures; safe work practices; training; assurance of quality and mechanical integrity of critical equipment; pre-start-up review; emergency response and control; investigation of incidents; audit of SEMS elements; and recordkeeping and documentation.

#### News from the BSEE: the October 21, 2011 Guidance NTL

On October 21, 2011, the BSEE issued NTL No. 2011-N09 to clarify the policies, procedures and requirements for OCS lessees and operators as included in 30 CFR § 250, Subpart S. Many important questions remain unanswered or were not specifically addressed. In its earlier pronouncements, the BOEM stated that it would not grant extensions for operators who cannot make the deadline. Moreover, an operator that does not meet the deadlines for program implementation may be required to shut in such facilities but BOEM has said that it will consider these on a case-by-case basis. BOEM also stated that contractor safety reviews must be complete by November 15, 2011. BOEM also stated that an SOP will not be granted to permit an operator time to get its program in place. Equally troubling is BOEM’s position that a SEMS is needed for platforms with or without processing equipment and with no current or future production planned and a hazard assessment (“HA”) must be conducted on older shelf properties that have never had such assessments within the same one year period.

<sup>1</sup> On October 1, 2011, the Department of Interior announced the establishment of two new independent agencies; namely, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Together the BSEE and BOEM are charged with overseeing the offshore energy management and safety and environmental duties.

Among the questions purportedly answered:

### **1. Who Needs a SEMS program?**

Those entities that must have a SEMS program includes a lessee; the owner or holder of operating rights, a designated operator or agent of the lessee(s), a pipeline right-of-way holder, or a State lessee granted a right-of-use and easement. 30 CFR 250.1900 does not require a contractor or subcontractor performing work for an owner or holder of operating rights, a designated operator or agent of the lessee(s), a pipeline R-O-W holder or a State lessee granted a R-U-E to have a SEMS.

### **2. Environmental Information**

As required in 30 CFR 250.1910, a SEMS program must include environmental information, in accordance with APT-RP 75 1.1.1 (incorporated by reference at 30 CFR. 198(e)(80), including the policies and objectives of a contractor or subcontractor performing work for an owner or holder of operating rights, a designated operator or agent of the lessee(s), a pipeline R-O-W holder or a State lessee granted a R-U-E concerning environmental impacts over which such parties have control and can be expected to have influence. This review must be aimed at preventing environmental impacts as set forth in BSEE regulations, clarifying NTLs or applied through lease stipulations, mitigations, or conditions of approval.

### **3. Hazard Analysis**

Pursuant to 30 CFR 250.1911(a), an initial Hazards Analysis ("HA") must be conducted on all facilities by November 15, 2011. An existing HA can be used by an operator only if it is accurate, current, and reflects the current level of operational complexity on the facility. If an existing HA is not up-to-date, a new HA must be developed for all company facilities in accordance with 30 CFR 250.1911. If piping and instrument diagrams are used as part of the HA, the diagrams must accurately reflect the facility's layout and operation. The results of the initial HA need to be used in formulating your SEMS program. No extensions will be granted to implement a SEMS program later than November 15, 2011.

### **4. Job Safety Analysis**

Under 30 CFA 250.1911(b), a Job Safety Analysis ("JSA") must be developed and implemented for all activities identified or discussed in a company's SEMS program. The supervisor of the Person-in-Charge (PIC) of a task must approve a JSA prior to the commencement of work (250.1911(b)(3)).

### **5. Management of Change**

Written Management of Change procedures (MOC) are required for personnel changes including those of contractors ((30 CFR 250.1912(a)(3)).

Personnel changes that would trigger a MOC include company mergers and acquisitions, substitution of personnel (replacements), changes in company management, and personnel vacancies (hiring). No MOC is required for a tour rotation (i.e., 12-hour crew rotation) or shift rotation 7, 14, or 21-day change-out of crews).

Under 30 CFR 250.1912(b), a MOC for situations involving a replacement in kind of components with the same performance capabilities is not required. However, a MOC would be required if the replaced parts are not the same as those provided by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). A MOC will also need to be conducted if the replaced parts have performance capabilities exceeding those of the OEM.

Development and implementation of written operating procedures for the "initial startup" of a facility are required under 30 CFR 250.1913(10(a)). "Initial startup" means not only when a facility is first brought online, but also includes the startup of that facility after it has been shut down temporarily for emergency, maintenance or other reasons. Operating procedures must be accessible to all employees involved in such operation.

### **7. Safe Work Practices and Contractor Selection Criteria**

30 CFR 250:1914 requires an operator to document contractor selection criteria. To accomplish this, an operator needs to evaluate information related to a contractor's safety performance. Information that can be used for this evaluation includes verification of a contractor's safety record, verification of contract personnel training, activities, and verification of contractor-conducted (internal or external) audit(s) of their safe work practices and/or safety program. 30 CFR 250.1914 requires an operator to ensure that their contractors have their own written safe work practices. A copy of all contractors' safe work practices must be made available to BSEE in either paper or electronic format. Also the operator and contractor must document their agreement concerning use of appropriate contractor safety and environmental policies and procedures before the contractor begins work at the facility. A signed letter between the two parties is acceptable to BSEE:

Under 30 CFR 250.1914(b), an operator is required to document that each contractor working for such operator is knowledgeable and experienced in the work it will be performing. Under 30 CFR 250.1914(e), the operator is required to perform "periodic evaluations" of the performance of contract employees to verify they are fulfilling their obligations. The operator is also required to inform its contractors of any known hazards on the facility

they will be working on. An operator may adopt or incorporate sections of a contractor's safety policies and procedures into its SEMS program if the program meets the requirements of this rule and meets the operator's expectations of the SEMS program.

### 8. Training

In accordance with 30 CFR 250.1915, an operator's SEMS program is required to address the training of all personnel to assure they have the necessary skills to work safely in accordance with their duties and responsibilities, including operating procedures, safe work practices and emergency response and control measures. Personnel means "direct employees of the operator and contract workers." Under 30 CFR 250.1915, the operator is also required to document the qualifications of training instructors.

### 9. Mechanical Integrity

In accordance with 30 CFR 250.1916(d), documentation is required concerning the inspection and testing of the operator's equipment and systems. The documentation must include, among other things, the date of the inspection or test and the name, position, and signature of the person who performed the inspection or test.

### 10. SEMS Submittals – Operator-Conducted SEMS Audits

In accordance with 30 CFR 250.1920(a), an operator's independent third party or designated and qualified personnel must conduct an audit of its SEMS program within 2 years of the initial implementation of such program, and once every 3 years thereafter. This audit will be composed of two distinct parts: (1) a comprehensive evaluation of all thirteen elements of the program for compliance with Subpart S and API RP 75; and (2) a field evaluation of at least 15 percent of the operator's facilities in accordance with API RP 75, Section 12.3.

### 11. BSEE Evaluations of Operator's SEMS Program

To determine SEMS program compliance, BSEE may review documentation of contractors, independent third-party auditor or by designated and qualified personnel qualifications, training instructor qualifications, HA records, JSA verifications, training records, evidence of SEMS implementation and/or SEMS policies and procedures associated with company or company's contractors' implementation of company's SEMS program. BSEE evaluations will begin on or after November 15, 2011.

### 12. Critical Equipment

The operator is responsible for identifying "critical equipment" and systems on SEMS covered facilities

and operations as described at 30 CFR 250.1911. The determination concerning which piece of equipment or system should be deemed "critical" may vary from operator to operator and from facility to facility.

### 13. Identification of Operator's SEMS Contact

To assure a smooth transition into a SEMS compliance environment, operators must provide BSEE with a primary and an alternate SEMS contact. These individuals will be contacted by BSEE for all issues, and concerns within operator's company on Subpart. Such information should be provided to National SEMS Coordinator by November 15, 2011.

## NEW MEMBERS

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## AAPL MEMBERSHIP

Effective immediately, anyone wishing to become an AAPL member is required to turn in the request to the President of his/her local association for the signature of the existing President prior to the application being turned into AAPL.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Since the founding of PLANO, it's membership has served our industry, community and country. During this period, our membership has also expressed its views on various topics that may affect our industry, community and country. Below is a letter written by Mr. Wayne Blankenship, PLANO's President during 1968-1969, calling for PLANO's membership to serve and represent our industry for the security of our industry, community and country.

"Landmen are the businessmen and women of the oil industry. We are the ones who contact lessors and negotiate deals and contracts with other companies. But there is an equally important part of our jobs that too often are not given the deserved attention. We don't do as much as we should in educating the public about our industry. We need to have as many landmen as possible writing letters to the editor to counter most often is misleading information about our industry. Some are other letters written by people who have no clue about what they write and others are op-ed articles that are misleading or downright paint a picture of our industry's operations that are just plain wrong. Landmen need to educate themselves on the basic underpinnings of the oil industry in order to counter these misconceptions.

We have the most anti-oil administration ever. We have Secretary of the Department of Interior Salazar who wants to literally destroy our industry in favor of "renewable." The Macondo well disaster has made it easy for the administration, Salazar and anti-oil Representatives like Ed Markey, (D-MA), and Senators like Barbara Boxer, (D-CA), to attack us. The recent attacks center on so-called subsidies that should be eliminated. These are not subsidies at all but the equivalent of a business tax provisions for other industries. How many buildings and apartment buildings would be built without a depreciation allowance? How many wells will not be drilled without a depletion allowance?

I urge landmen to get involved in the important job of saving our industry from unwarranted attacks made by the ignorant or those who wish us harm. Learn the basic arguments such as the fact that our industry has a rate of return of about 10% which for so-called Big Oil amounts to billions of dollars; but it takes many more billions of investments to make that 10%. Other industries have a much higher rate of return because of the nature of their business. Apple has a rate of return of about 25%.

Don't think the attack on the oil industry is only on Big Oil. It is on Middle Oil and Little Oil and on Mom and Pop stripper wells. Getting involved in the education of the public can help save jobs. Maybe yours. So get informed through PLANO and AAPL's publications and programs and be a part of stopping the onslaught on an industry necessary not just for your company but for our nation.

Wayne Blankenship, Jr.  
President – PLANO 1968-69  
President – AAPL 1975-76  
November 20, 2011"

Mr. Blankenship was contacted by us concerning the following letter which appeared in The Times-Picayune, and he readily furnished us with the letter sent by him on October 5, 2011, to the Editor of the newspaper:

"Gulf Restoration begins with people," Other Opinions, October 5.

It doesn't take a Political Science graduate to see through the bureaucratic claptrap in Lisa Jackson's article. She cites the sense of urgency in taking on the restoration of the Gulf because we are losing a football field to open water every 38 minutes. Yet, it has taken the Gulf Coast Restoration Task Force a year to come up with four broad principles for restoration. Maybe one of the problems encountered is the fact that 11 federal agencies were involved, each trying to justify its existence.

The four broad principles could have been established in 30 minutes in a meeting of the DEQ's of the Gulf States. By December the Task Force will issue a Preliminary Strategy for the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem restoration. Whoop-dee-do! If we wait for the completion and implementation by the federal bureaucrats, there will be little left to restore.

I notice that Ms. Jackson, EPA administrator, doesn't mention any commitment of money. Let's see, was there any allocation of billions of dollars in the Stimulus package of almost a trillion dollars? Is there any mention of money for Gulf Coast restoration in President Obama's American Jobs Act? I don't think so. There are a lot of taxes in the Act. And some of those taxes will have a huge effect on jobs in the oil industry throughout the country, particularly for small oil companies and for stripper production which accounts for 15% of our oil and gas industry. But, of course, plenty of billions for solar and wind companies like Solyndra.

Ms. Jackson, just send the Gulf States some block grant money. We can start restoration projects before your Preliminary Report is published. They are shovel ready.

Wayne Blankenship, Jr."

This letter was modified slightly by The Times-Picayune prior to insertion in the morning paper.

Letters from our membership are invited and will be published in the PLANO Newsletter. Submittals should be sent to the Newsletter Editor, margaretcameron@charter.net

## PLANO DONATIONS DO HELP OTHERS

Following Hurricane Katrina, the Board of Directors of PLANO debated how best they could help in the reconstruction of our beloved City of New Orleans. Pleas for help were received from many organizations, and, after much discussion and deep thought, it was decided that the request received by Jo Ann Anderson, PLANO's Auxiliary President, from the Lafayette Academy Charter School would be awarded a donation. The money was badly needed to carry out essential repairs so that children could resume their education there without undue delay. A generous check was subsequently presented to Mickey Landry, Head of Lafayette Academy Charter School, 2727 S. Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans. A few days ago PLANO received a copy of the School's publication **THE LION PRIDE**. The lead article read . . .

"The Louisiana Department of Education recently released test scores from the last school year, and what New Orleans RSD school do you think has improved the most in the last four years? You guessed it: Lafayette Academy Charter School. Since 2008, Lafayette has grown a whopping 30.4 points, and the next closest school has grown only 20.9 points! That is an amazing accomplishment, and we should all be proud because they have worked hard and are learning to become really good students. Those skills and attitudes will serve them well the rest of their lives. Our teachers can be proud because they have been so diligent in their preparations and so faithful to the belief that our children can succeed when we plan our work and work our plan. Our parents can be proud because it is their partnership with our teachers and their support of their children - insisting on their hard work - that is helping us turn the page for our children's futures. Finally, I can be "a proud papa" of everyone who made this happen. As we tell our students every day, "Hard work is the key to success!" It is inspiring and rewarding to see that hard work taking place and to see our progress. If we all continue to do our parts, I have no doubt that more great things are in store for Lafayette Academy. Thanks to each of you for making Lafayette one of the schools in the state that is leading the way in improvement.

I feel sure you will agree with Jo Ann and I that comments of this nature are heart-warming, and a joy to receive!

Wm. David Davis, PLANO President

## PLANO LUNCHEON

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2012**  
**11:30 A.M. – 01:30 P.M.**

Cost: \$50.00 PLANO Members  
Paid Advance Registration, or  
\$55.00 at Door  
\$55.00 Non-PLANO Members, \$60.00 at Door

**RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE**  
3633 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Metairie LA

**SPEAKER: RICK FOWLER**  
Vice President – Deepwater Projects  
LLOG Exploration Company, L.L.C.,  
Covington, Louisiana

**TOPIC:**  
**The "Who Dat" Development –  
Evolution of a Project from Lease Sale  
to First Production**

For reservations, e-mail [margaretcameron@charter.net](mailto:margaretcameron@charter.net)

(Seating Limited – First Come, First Served)

Please mail payments, in advance,  
by Wednesday, January 11, 2012, to  
PLANO, P.O. Box 51123, New Orleans, La 70151-1123

Certification: 1.0 AAPL CPL, RPL, RL Credit Approved

### **Reminder**

PLANO will be serving a full breakfast,  
free of charge, to attendees at the upcoming  
OCS Lease Sale 218 (WGOM),  
Wednesday, December 14th, 7:00  
9:00 a.m.

Mercedes-Benz Superdome,  
Bienville Room "A".

See you there!

**SSSShhhhh.....**Don't tell the kids....heard that Santa Claus and Jo Ann Anderson, PLANO's Auxiliary President, will soon be visiting Catholic Charities Baronne Street Traditional Housing to distribute toys collected at the upcoming Galatoire's Luncheon to needy children. Anyone anxious to help, please contact Jo Ann at 504-908-0658. Santa and the elves too busy to accept calls.

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The Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans would like to thank the following parties for their participation in PLANO's Sponsorship Program.

The dedication and support given by these sponsors of PLANO is greatly appreciated.

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**PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NEW ORLEANS**

**PROUDLY ANNOUNCES  
ITS  
ANNUAL EXECUTIVE NIGHT**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012,  
5:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

**SPEAKER: JAMES C. FLORES,  
Chairman, President and CEO  
Plains Exploration & Production Company,  
Houston, TX**

**TOPIC: Discussion of Current Issues Facing the Oil & Gas Industry  
and Effect on Gulf of Mexico Opportunities**

**NEW ORLEANS HILTON RIVERSIDE & TOWERS**

Versailles & Napoleon Ballrooms  
Poydras Street at the Mississippi River, New Orleans, Louisiana

TICKETS: \$70.00 PLANO Members      \$85.00 Non-PLANO Members  
Open to all industry associations and oil and gas industry executives.

***Program Format***

Opening Reception – 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Presentation of Colors

Speaker – 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Buffet & Cocktails (Napoleon Ballroom) – 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tickets must be purchased on or prior to Thursday, February 2, 2012, to ensure industry executives' names are included in the program.

Tickets WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE at the door.

Special PLANO room rates available at the  
New Orleans Hilton Riverside & Towers, #2 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA (Group Code PLA),  
call 504-584-3939 (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) or 1-800-HILTON, or 504-561-0500,  
and at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 300 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, LA, 504-586-0300.  
(Refer to PLANO to obtain the special rate of \$199/night at the Royal Sonesta)

**PLEASE MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS EARLY.**

For purchase of tickets please contact [lmorgan@hjainc.com](mailto:lmorgan@hjainc.com) or [margaretcameron@charter.net](mailto:margaretcameron@charter.net)

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of New Orleans**  
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