



# PLANO

*Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans*

**JANUARY, 2003**

[www.planoweb.org](http://www.planoweb.org)

**PLANO BULLETIN #012**

## PLANO EVENTS

- Jan. 1 ***New Year's Day - Holiday***
- Jan. 13 PLANO Luncheon - Muriel's, New Orleans
- Jan. 20 ***Martin Luther King Day - Holiday***
- Feb. 10 PLANO Luncheon - Royal Sonesta Hotel
- Feb. 27 PLANO Seminar (1/2 day) - N.O. Hilton Riverside
- Feb. 27 **PLANO Executive Night -**  
N.O. Hilton Riverside
- Feb. 27 PLANO Sponsor Party - Royal Sonesta Hotel
- Mar. 10 PLANO Luncheon - Hotel Monteleone  
Riverview Room
- Mar. 19 PLANO Lease Sale Breakfast

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

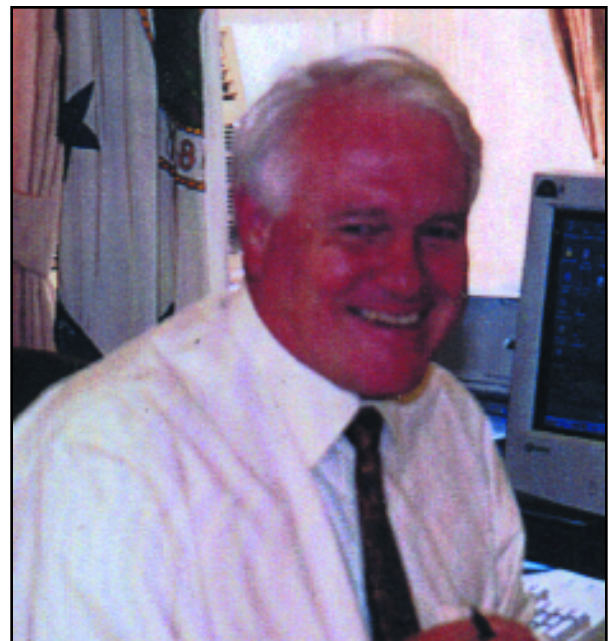
- Jan. 28 NAPE, Houston, TX
- Jan. 28 HAPL hosts NAPE Icebreaker, Houston, TX
- Jan. 29 NAPE, Houston, TX
- Jan. 30 NAPE, Houston, TX
- Mar. 4 ***MARDI GRAS DAY - Holiday***
- Mar. 8 HAPL Spring Saturday Seminar, CMI
- Mar. 13 HAPL Annual South Texas Social,  
Firehouse Saloon
- Mar. 19 OCS Lease Sale, Central GOM,  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, LA

## EXECUTIVE NIGHT SPEAKER

### JAMES STEVEN GRILES

#### Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Interior

J. Steven ("Steve") Griles was confirmed as Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Interior on July 12, 2001. He was formerly a principal with National Environmental Strategies, Inc. (NES), a consulting firm providing advice to companies, trade associations and others with regard to policy, regulatory, environmental and energy issues at the Federal and State government level. Steve's extensive government service includes Asst. Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Lands and Minerals Management (1983 to 1989). During his tenure, Steve directed national programs for management of public lands, mineral resources, and surface mining, one highlight being his success in securing passage of a law eliminating fraud in the leasing of onshore oil and gas. From 1981 to 1983 Steve was Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Department of the Interior. Steve directed operations of the agency, including operation and reclamation regulations for coal mining activities, and worked with Congressman Mo Udall to pass legislation that eliminated abuses in the Coal Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. As Deputy Director, Steve Griles installed performance-based standards to assure greater environmental protection and higher compliance in Wilderness Areas.



Steve received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology with a minor in economics from the University of Richmond in 1970, and performed graduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PLANO PRESIDENT 2002-2003



I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and enjoyed bringing in the New Year. A new year, of course, brings New Year's resolutions. The New Year's resolution of PLANO's officers and directors is to continue to plan and organize first class educational and social events. I am very excited about the events planned for the second half of the 2002-2003 PLANO year. Let me give you a preview of them. Beginning in January at the January 13, 2003, membership luncheon meeting to be held at Muriel's Restaurant, we have a great speaker lined up. Our own Larry Benedetto will discuss why there is so little drilling activity in light of the current commodity prices. I am eager to hear his comments on this phenomenon in our industry.

In February, 2003, we are excited to have local sports anchor and the voice of the Saints, Jim Henderson, speak at the membership luncheon meeting. Jim will be able to reflect on the recent Saints' victory in the Super Bowl. (If you are going to dream, might as well dream big).

Also in February, PLANO's biggest event of the year, Executive Night, will be held on Thursday, February 27th at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside Hotel, and is scheduled to be the biggest and best ever. Mark your calendars now! Tickets will be going on sale soon. Coupled with Executive Night, PLANO will also host a half-day seminar beginning at 12:45 p.m. that day. Jan van Loon has a great line-up of speakers and topics planned. Seating will be limited so make your reservations early. Notices for both events will be forthcoming.

In March, 2003, we have another one of our own speaking at the membership luncheon meeting. Lambert Laperouse will discuss OCS-related issues. Also in March or April, 2003, (no firm date yet), the annual crawfish boil will be held.

In April, 2003, we will hold our membership luncheon meeting at The Pavillion of the Two Sisters, New Orleans Botanical Garden, which will lead into the Spring Garden De'Lights' celebration scheduled to take place on Friday, May 16th. Also, in April, 2003, the annual Zephyr's night will be held.

In May, 2003, the AAPL president, Scott Stone, will address PLANO members at the regularly scheduled membership luncheon meeting.

In June, 2003, we will close out the 2002-2003 year with the installation of new officers and directors. Notices for all of these events will be mailed to our membership, and highlighted in both the PLANO newsletter and on the website — [www.planoweb.org](http://www.planoweb.org).

A reminder, PLANO's 2003 Sponsorship Program is in full swing. Please contact Harold J. Anderson (504-276-5858), or Margo Cameron (504-593-7560) if you or your company is interested in participating. Levels of sponsorship are: Gold - \$1,500; Silver - \$1,000; and Bronze - \$500.

Finally, PLANO has collected \$5,000 to fund the PLANO Scholarship Fund. These funds will be used to award scholarships to Energy Management students at ULL. If you or your company is interested in helping fund the scholarship program, please call Charles Arnold (504-561-4570), or Mitch Ackal (504) 593-7768). Any amount of donation to help build the corpus of the fund will be greatly appreciated. The PLANO Board and Scholarship Chairmen are very excited about this effort to help deserving future landmen.

See you at the January 13, 2003, meeting. Call to make a reservation now.

***David Briggs, PLANO President***



# PLANO 2002-2003 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

## President — Wm. David Briggs

Legacy Resources Co., L.P. . . . .985-674-4447

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## Secretary — Jo Ann Anderson

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## Director — Andrew M. Adams

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## Director — Lawrence P. "Larry" Beron

Independent . . . . .504-833-2115

## Director — Catherine F. "Kate" Boudreaux

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## Director — Carl F. Southern

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## Director — Jan T. van Loon

Brook & van Loon, L.L.P. . . . .504-566-0600

## AAPL Director — Charles E. Arnold

ExxonMobil Production Company . . . . .504-561-4570

## Immediate Past Pres. — Michael A. "Mitch" Ackal, Jr.

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## PLANO Auxiliary President — Jo Ann Anderson

Harold J. Anderson, Inc. . . . .504-276-5858

## PLANO Administrator & Newsletter Editor Margo Cameron

Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc. . . . .504-593-7560

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Photographer for photo taking at PLANO events on an as-needed basis. Call Margo Cameron, PLANO Administrator, at (504) 593-7560, or e-mail to [margo\\_cameron@dom.com](mailto:margo_cameron@dom.com).

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*Submitted by the  
PLANO Newsletter Editor*

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## NEW MEMBERS

### LUNDIN L. SCHNEIDER, *Senior Landman*

El Paso Production Company  
Nine Greenway Plaza, Room 2584  
Houston, TX 77046

Tel: 832-676-6111

Fax: 832-676-1807

E-mail: [lundin.schneider@elpaso.com](mailto:lundin.schneider@elpaso.com)

## ADVERTISERS NEEDED

PLANO is seeking advertisers for its monthly newsletter. Anyone interested in displaying an advertisement in the newsletter is asked to contact Margo Cameron at 504-593-7560 for further information.

# PLANO 2002-2003 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

## Awards Committee

Michael A. "Mitch" Ackal, Jr. . . . Dominion Expl. & Prod., Inc.  
Charles E. Arnold . . . . .Exxon-Mobil Production Co.

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Margaret "Margo" Cameron . . . . Dominion Expl. & Prod., Inc.

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Robert A. Schroeder . . . . .Independent

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Edmund L. "Ed" DeWailly . .C.H. Fenstermaker & Assoc., Inc.

## Industry Affairs/Legislative

Andrew M. Adams . . . . .Gieger, Laborde & Laperouse, L.L.C.

## Information Technology

Benjamin J. Waring . . . . .Waring & Associates Corp.

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JoAnn Anderson . . . . .Harold J. Anderson, Inc.

## Membership Committee/ Certification/CPL

Lawrence P. "Larry" Beron . . . . .Independent

## Membership Dues

Margaret "Margo" Cameron . . . . Dominion Expl. & Prod., Inc.

## OCS/Public Lands

J. Keith Couvillion . . . . .ChevronTexaco Corporation

## PLANO Sponsor Program

Harold J. Anderson . . . . .Harold J. Anderson, Inc.  
Keith D. Howell . . . . .ChevronTexaco Corporation

## Public Relations

Catherine F. "Kate" Boudreaux . . . . .W&T Offshore, Inc.

## Scholarship Committee

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## Social Committee

Carl F. Southern . . . . .ExxonMobil Production Company  
Warren P. Miguez . . . . .Taylor Energy Company

## Spring Garden De'Lights

Jo Ann Anderson . . . . .Harold J. Anderson, Inc.  
Margaret "Margo" Cameron . . . . Dominion Expl. & Prod., Inc.

## Tax Returns

Robert J. "Bob" Martin . . . . .Watson Energy, L.L.C.

## Tennis

Edward C. Amrock . . . . .Denbury Resources Inc.

## 2003 PLANO SPONSOR PROGRAM

The PLANO 2003 Sponsor Program is currently under way. For those interested in becoming a PLANO Sponsor, you are urged to contact Harold J. Anderson at (504) 276-5858, or Margo Cameron at (504) 593-7560.

## 2003 PLANO DUES PAYMENTS

PLANO members are asked to take steps immediately to ensure that payment of their 2003 Dues are remitted to PLANO by the end of this month. Checks should be made payable to PLANO, and sent to P.O. Box 51123, New Orleans, Louisiana 70151-1123. Thank you.

**LOUISIANA LEGAL UPDATE  
OIL & GAS LAW DEVELOPMENTS  
CASES OF INTEREST**

*presented by Gordon T. Whitman  
The Onebane Law Firm, Lafayette, Louisiana  
1-337-237-2660*

**Pilings constructed by Oil Company around oil well were abandoned to State; accordingly, Oil Company not owner of pilings and not responsible for injuries caused by pilings.**

Plaintiffs were injured when their boat struck a series of pilings tightly surrounding a well casing. The well had been drilled on certain waterbottoms owned by the State of Louisiana by an oil company. Plaintiffs sued the Oil Company and the State for the damages caused by the above allision. The Plaintiffs settled with the Oil Company but continued to trial with the State. The trial court found that the State owned the pilings and that the State was therefore solely responsible. The state appealed. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeal affirmed in *Anderson v. Tenneco Oil Co.*, 826 So. 2d 1143 (La. App. 4th Cir. decided May 22, 2002, opinion on rehearing June 10, 2002).

The Oil Company drilled the instant oil well (*the "Well"*) in 1964 on certain waterbottoms pursuant to an oil and gas lease granted by the State (*the "State Lease"*). In the course of preparing to drill the Well, they constructed certain wood pilings around the Well. The operations were not successful and it was a dry hole. Subsequently, the Well was plugged and abandoned with the State Lease terminating. It was subsequently released. Apparently, no question was raised about the pilings which were left in place in the waterbottoms.

The State argued that the pilings remained the separate immovable property of the Oil Company since they did not demand removal of the pilings. The Plaintiffs, having already settled with the Oil Company, argued to the contrary,

that since they were not removed, the pilings were now owned by the State. The Court, after reviewing this matter held for the Plaintiffs.

The law appears to be clear in the case of constructions made with the landowner's permission, especially since the rendition of the Louisiana Supreme Court's decision in *Guzzetta v. Texas Pipe Line Co.*, 485 So.2d 508 (La. 1986). That case held that they automatically revert to the landowner if the maker fails to remove the construction after he no longer has permission to keep it on the landowner's land. That case dealt with a pipeline that had been left in place by the company. When the landowner some time after the pipeline servitude had terminated sought to compel the company to remove it, the company refused on the basis that it now belonged to the landowner. The Court cited the recent decision of *Melerine v. State*, 773 So.2d 831 (La. App. 4th Cir. 2000) to the same effect.

This decision, while it deals specifically with tort liability, serves as a reminder of ownership of abandoned wells. Once the time for removing casing and other constructions from the well site has passed, they appear to belong to the landowner.

We have not confirmed whether this case is final. If not, and if the result is changed on appeal, we will advise you in future articles.

***A dedicated right of way that remains unbuilt is not a "public road." Accordingly, a Landowner does not have access to a Public Road and had right of passage over adjoining land where his tract is landlocked.***

Plaintiff owned a lot (*the "Landlocked Tract"*) in a commercial development whose only access to a highway lay across certain lands of the defendant. Plaintiff had

**About the Author**

**Gordon T. Whitman:** Born New Orleans, Louisiana, January 25, 1955; admitted to Bar, 1981, Louisiana. *Education:* University of Southwestern Louisiana (S., 1977); Louisiana State University (J.D., 1981). Phi Kappa Phi; Phi Delta Phi; Order of the Coif. Member, Louisiana Law Review, 1980-1981. Speaker, 46th Annual Meeting and 2000 International Conference of American Association of Professional Landman; Speaker, 45th Annual Meeting and 1999 International Conference of American Association of Professional Landmen; Speaker, 43rd Annual Meeting and 1997 International Conference of American Association of Professional Landmen. *Member:* Louisiana State Assistant Examiner for Committee on Bar Admissions (1993-2002), and American Bar Association; Lafayette Association of Petroleum Landmen; Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans; American Association of Professional Landmen; Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association; Louisiana Association of Bank Counsel; Advisory Council to Louisiana Mineral Land Institute.

*Areas of Practice:* Oil and Gas, Business.



leased this tract from the defendants but had failed to exercise their option to continue using the tract for access. Defendants chained off the driveway across this tract at one point, and continued to deny plaintiffs right to use this tract for access. Plaintiff filed suit and argued that it was entitled to a servitude of passage across this tract. The trial court agreed and the defendant appealed. The 5th Circuit affirmed in *Kavanagh v. Bowers*, (La. App. 5th Cir. Decoded June 26, 2002).

The defendants urged that the Landlocked Tract was not legally (although it was factually) landlocked. They presented a plat of survey of the commercial development which showed a dedicated right of way from the Landlocked Tract to a highway. The evidence confirmed that not only had there been no road constructed on it, but that the local government would not build such a road (there was evidence building the road there would cause a dangerous intersection).

The Court looked at Article 689 of the Louisiana Civil Code for guidance on this issue. It states:

“The owner of an estate that has no access to a public road may claim a right of passage over neighboring property to the nearest public road. He is bound to indemnify his neighbor for the damage he may occasion.”

After reviewing the above article, the Court held that the dedicated but unbuilt right of way is not a public road. Therefore, the Landlocked Tract is in fact and in law an enclosed estate and entitled to a right of passage over the defendants' land.

The case is instructive in pointing out that a dedicated right of way, in the courthouse, is not necessarily the same thing as a public road. Questions of access for an oil and gas operator, especially in a developed area, can create havoc with the operator's proposed operations. Just as an operator cannot simply assume that a road is public (as opposed to private), he cannot assume that he has access simply because a plat shows a dedicated right of way.

We have not confirmed that this case is final. If not, and if the result is changed on appeal, we will advise you in future articles.

**By Gordon Whitman**

Copies of the above cases can be obtained upon request to the writer at (337) 266-1232 (FAX), or whitmang@onebane.com (internet e-mail).

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102 Versailles Boulevard, Suite 800  
Post Office Box 8507  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70502-3507

(337) 237-2800  
FAX (337) 266-1232  
E-MAIL [info@onebane.com](mailto:info@onebane.com)

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## OCS UPDATE

### ENDANGERED SPECIAL ACT AND MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT

*presented by J. Keith Couvillion  
ChevronTexaco*

When the Minerals Management Service ("MMS") published in July, 2002, the final Sale notice covering OCS Lease Sale 184 (Western Gulf of Mexico) something new appeared under the stipulations summarized in the notice. For the first time in many years all of a sudden industry found itself face to face with a series of new operational requirements designed to increase the existing protective measures for various creatures living in the Gulf of Mexico. What was most surprising about the new "Protected Species" stipulation, beside the fact it was not included in the proposed Notice of Sale issued in late spring, was the realization MMS was now attempting to solve a problem no one knew we had. To be fair to MMS, we have to understand they were not acting on their own initiative but in response to their legal obligations resulting from implementation of various provisions found in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The purpose of this article is to help explain what happened to create the new "Protected Species" stipulation in the Gulf of Mexico and to give a little insight on what we can expect in the future in regard to the implementation of the provisions stated in ESA and MMPA.

The Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act were passed into law during the early 1970's. Both laws have been amended during the last 30 years, and as the laws apply to the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), are applicable to all entities using the OCS (e.g. commercial fisherman, Department of Defense, cruise ship industry, oil and gas, etc...).

The effect of both laws on the oil and gas industry's operations in the Gulf of Mexico has been minimal until recently. Based on discussions with MMS, and other knowledgeable sources within industry, it appears, due to certain U.S. Navy operations primarily conducted in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, both ESA and MMPA have begun to receive more attention. There have been documented reports of Navy vessels striking and killing

a small number of whales. In addition, there have been accusations from the environmental community that the Navy's new low frequency sonar adversely impacts the hearing of certain species of whales. The Secretary of Commerce through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has oversight responsibility for marine mammals offshore. With increased public awareness resulting from the Navy's activities, and the potential adverse impact those activities have on the marine mammal population, NOAA Fisheries has begun scrutinizing other offshore activities that potentially could adversely affect marine mammals and other offshore species (e.g. sea turtles). The provisions of ESA and MMPA are what NOAA Fisheries is using to ensure protection of both threatened and endangered species in the OCS.

The ESA provides for the conservation of species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their natural habitat. This includes the conservation of their ecosystems on which they depend for their survival. For a species to be classified as threatened or endangered, a species has to appear on a "list" maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. The provisions stated in ESA determine the process that must be followed to add a species to the "list." The species on the "list" are both animals and plants. The current list of threatened or endangered species is significant. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) coordinates ESA activities for terres-

trial and freshwater species, while NOAA Fisheries is responsible for marine species.

Under Section 7 of the ESA, all Federal agencies are required to consult with NOAA Fisheries (or FWS) concerning the potential effects of their decisions and actions on species listed under ESA. For the Gulf of Mexico oil and gas activities, the method used by NOAA Fisheries to address MMS' regulated activities is through the issuance of a "Biological Opinion." Once MMS initiates the consulta-

#### About the Author

**J. Keith Couvillion** is a Land Consultant with ChevronTexaco's New Orleans Exploration and Production operations in the Gulf of Mexico and onshore south Louisiana. Prior to the merger between Texaco and Chevron, Keith was Texaco's Offshore Land Manager for the Gulf of Mexico. Besides his ChevronTexaco responsibilities, Keith is active in various industry associations including API, AAPL, NOIA and others. He has been involved in the oil and gas industry for 23 years, working the last 17 years offshore.



tion process as described in the ESA, NOAA Fisheries has the obligation within a fixed period of time to issue an opinion identifying the species potentially affected by the MMS' regulated activity and what actions the MMS must take to ensure the proposed activity will not unreasonably adversely impact a threatened or endangered species. These Biological Opinions contain discretionary and non-discretionary requirements MMS must address. MMS has the flexibility to determine how they will address both these discretionary and non-discretionary requirements. Non-discretionary requirements must be addressed before MMS allows the regulated activity to proceed. MMS has greater latitude in taking action or not taking any action to address discretionary requirements.

In a recent Biological Opinion issued by NOAA Fisheries on oil and gas activities resulting from leases issued after OCS Lease Sale 184, new requirements for the protection of certain species of mammals and other animals are now required. The non-discretionary requirements directed by NOAA Fisheries stated in the Biological Opinion has resulted in MMS creating the new "Protected Species" lease stipulation found in the final Sale Notice for OCS Lease Sale 184. The Protected Species stipulation is also included in the proposed Notice of Sale for OCS Lease Sale 185 (Central Gulf of Mexico). The Protected Species stipulation has multiple components, some of which will be supplemented with Notices to Lessees to detail implementation of the stipulation. One of the most interesting and problematic components of the new stipulation deals with the protection of sperm whales, a listed endangered species, in relation to seismic acquisition in water depths greater than 200 meters. As an example, if a sperm whale is spotted in the vicinity of a seismic vessel as data is being gathered, the vessel must shut down its operation until the whale leaves. In addition to the new restriction placed on seismic activities, there are also new requirements covering accidental industry vessel strikes on offshore species and new signage requirements surrounding control of marine debris. One interesting footnote about the new Notice to Lessees is the fact they are not only applicable to leases issued as a result of Sale 184 or, in the future Sale 185, but apply to all leases located in the Gulf of Mexico.

Industry is just beginning to understand the potential effect of ESA and MMPA on our continuing operations in the Gulf of Mexico, especially in deep-water. What is troubling about what is happening is the fact that these laws have been on the books for over 30 years and have not, in a broad sense, ever created a serious problem for our oil and gas oper-

ations. As a result of the Navy's activities, there is now a heightened sensitivity regarding "noise in the water." With the oil and gas industry being one of the creators of noise in the OCS, we are now dealing with a situation that as far as we've been able to determine, has not been a problem in the past.

Many of the industry trade associations, along with key Gulf of Mexico offshore operations, have formed an industry Task Force to address the ESA and MMPA issues in the Gulf of Mexico OCS. As this issue evolves, industry will become more engaged in the dialogue with the regulatory agencies to better understand how ESA and MMPA will affect our offshore operations in the future.

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## **UPCOMING MONTHLY LUNCHEON**

### **PLANO LUNCHEON**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003**

**11:30 .m.**

**Cost: \$25.00 per person**  
***Advance Registration***

**Royal Sonesta Hotel - Bienville Suite**  
**300 Bourbon Street**  
**New Orleans, LA**

**For reservations, call Margo Cameron**  
**@504-593-7560**  
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**SPEAKER: JIM HENDERSON**  
**WWL-TV SPORTS DIRECTOR**

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## HISTORY OF PLANO — Part 6

Submitted by Janet H. Aschaffenburg

The PLANO newsletter re-evaluation, which was begun in 1986, resulted in the 1987 decision to formalize the newsletter to include professional articles, such as legal updates on state and OCS issues, and to continue including upcoming events and new member information. The newsletter also continued listing PLANO committee assignments and projects, and assistance on these projects was requested from the general membership via the newsletter. The idea of selling advertising space in the newsletter was introduced in 1987.

Social/civic events in 1987 included the annual beer social, golf and tennis tournaments, football follies, Day at the Races, Bunny Hop, crawfish boil, Executive Night, the first annual Halloween Dance, and a Thanksgiving Basket Drive called the Gobble-a-long. At Thanksgiving, three hundred turkey dinners were served at a Senior Citizens Club; at Christmas, twenty-five (25) food baskets were distributed to the needy, and at Easter, PLANO members prepared and served gumbo to Senior Citizens.

In August, 1987, the Louisiana State Mineral Board announced its intention to revise the state lease form. PLANO members spearheaded a drive to ensure the form would be acceptable to the industry. The Chairman of the State Mineral Board also appointed PLANO members to a committee charged with the goal of adopting concepts for stimulating exploration on state-owned lands. By the third quarter of 1987, PLANO membership was on the rise following the adverse impact on membership caused by the mid-1980's industry downturn. PLANO totaled 474, consisting of 385 active, 41 associate, 44 life and 4 honorary members. The upswing was attributed, in part, to the industry moving back to New Orleans because of a resurgence in offshore activity and increased exploration activity in southeast Louisiana.

In 1987 and 1988, PLANO began conducting its own educational seminars for members, a move

which coincided with the 1988 Louisiana Supreme Court rules mandating continuing legal education for members of the Louisiana State Bar Association. The seminars were free to PLANO members and CPL and CLE credit was available. PLANO successfully obtained an exemption from the Louisiana State Bar Association's CLE requirements for members of the Bar not actively engaged in the full time practice of law, but who use their legal education in business dealings, such as landmen.

Speakers during 1988 included Governor Buddy Roemer, who was the guest speaker for Executive Night held at the Hilton on April 12, 1988.

Advertising space in the PLANO newsletter was first offered in 1988. The prices were \$75.00 for business card-sized ads in four issues, or \$15.00 for a single such ad. PLANO also originated the idea of selling local advertising to subsidize the Landman magazine.

Monthly Landman's Breakfasts were established in 1988. The purposes of the breakfast meetings were to come up with new ideas for PLANO's development and to discuss problems facing the industry and the local economy.

PLANO received an AAPL award, the Local Association Management Award of Merit Fiscal Management, for 1988-89.

PLANO's Energy Business Link to Education ("PEBLE") was formed in 1989. Under the program, PLANO members spoke at local schools to educate children about the oil and gas industry. The first such speech, held in St. Bernard Parish in April, 1989, explored the topic of "Coastal Erosion."

The PLANO Auxiliary agreed, in 1989, to begin directly assisting PLANO in its charitable efforts. Consequently, the Auxiliary and PLANO began hosting monthly birthday parties for children living in the Crescent House for battered women and their children. The project was arranged through Associated Catholic charities.

### About the Author

**Janet H. Aschaffenburg ("Jan")** is a staff attorney with the Law firm of Schully, Roberts, Slattery, Jaubert & Marino. Jan's primary areas of practice are mineral title examination and oil and gas transactional work. Jan received her Bachelor of Science degree from LSU and her Juris Doctor degree from Tulane University School of Law in 1990. She has been with Schully, Roberts, Slattery, Jaubert & Marino since 1992. Jan is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and PLANO.



## PLANO AWARDS

At the June, 2002, luncheon meeting, awards were issued. Michael A. ("Mitch") Ackal, Jr., received the **Landman of the Year Award** for the year 2001-2002. During that period, Mitch served as PLANO President. Under his able direction, PLANO put on excellent events that year. Indeed, shortly after becoming a PLANO Board Member, he "pushed" to do away with the sit down dinner at PLANO's Executive Nights, preferring instead to have a first class reception. We all know what a success the revised format has been, one warmly received by all.



Michael A. "Mitch" Ackal, Jr.

Recognizing the "drain" in the past years of qualified personnel in the oil and gas industry, Mitch, along with Charles Arnold, a fellow Board member, campaigned untiringly for the establishment of the PLANO Scholarship Fund to offer scholarships to young men and women enrolled in Energy Management studies at ULL, Lafayette, LA. Awards will be made shortly.

Mitch currently holds the position of General Manager Offshore Land/Business Development with Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc., New Orleans, LA.

Congratulations, Mitch!!

Harold J. Anderson, Inc. was named **Company of the Year for 2001-2002**. Harold Anderson was on hand to receive the award. Is there anyone in the oil and gas industry who does not know Harold and is not aware of his tremendous contribution to PLANO and AAPL over the years? He is, or has been, involved in every phase of PLANO activity over the years. No matter what is needed, Harold jumps in and gets it done.

Congratulations, Harold!!

Benjamin J. ("Ben") Waring received PLANO's **Special Award for 2001-2002**.

Ben contributed much to PLANO over the years. To mention just a few - PLANO's Shrimp Boils, Joint Industry Luncheons, assistance with Executive Night, support of the OCS Lease Sale Breakfasts, and, of course, design of the PLANO Web Site. His support has been tireless, and much appreciated by all of us.

Congratulations, Ben!!

PLANO's **Betty Baronne Award** was presented to Mary H. Holmes who began her career with the Department of the Interior on May 12, 1974, as a Clerk Stenographer. Everyone visiting MMS at some time or other has made the acquaintance of Mary. Shortly after joining MMS, she was promoted to Legal Clerk, Applications Examiner, then Land Law Examiner. As an Applications Examiner, Mary was responsible for review and approval of all pipeline right-of-way applications and related transactions, including abandonments and cancellations. As a Land Law Examiner, in addition to the aforementioned Mary was also responsible for the review and approval of numerous transactions, including assignments and relinquishments of oil and gas leases, bonding, supplemental and general, qualification of business entities, mergers and changes of name and sale related work. As the senior member of the team, Mary assumed responsibility for training less experienced staff in the Adjudication Unit.

Over the years, Mary received formal training through the Bureau of Land Management's Land and Minerals School, University of New Orleans Paralegal Institute, with emphasis in oil and gas, real estate and business entities, and course work through the Judge Advocate General School. She is a recent graduate of the USDA Women's Executive Leadership Program. In addition to being a major contributor to and author of the Oil and Gas Leasing Procedures Guidebook, Mary also developed a Standard Operating Procedures Manual for use by new adjudications in the Adjudication Unit.

Also a reservist, Mary began a career with the U.S. Coast Guard during October 1973. She currently serves as the Reserve Supervisor, Personnel Reporting Branch, and Integrated Support Command, New Orleans.

Congratulations, Mrs. Holmes!!



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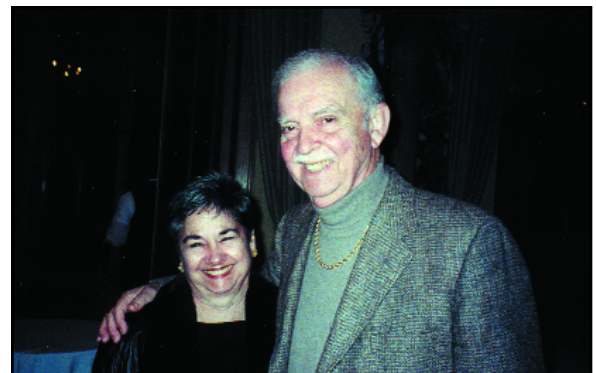
## ON THE SOCIAL SIDE

PLANO's Christmas Social was held on December 10th at The Napoleon House. The Napoleon House is owned and operated by the Impastato Family. The Napoleon House has been located in the French Quarter since 1797, and many are the tales told about this lovely property. Esquire Magazine rated Napoleon House, "One of America's top 100 bars." Not only are the refreshments served of the highest quality, the quality of the food is outstanding. Sal Impastato serves a beef dish that cannot be beat anywhere!

Over 100 members and guests were present, and a great time was held by all.



Some of the guests at **THE PARTY**.



Col. Joe Lemaire and his lovely wife, Letitia

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# PLANO AUXILIARY

Submitted by: Jo Ann Anderson  
 PLANO Auxiliary President

On November 25, 2002, PLANO Auxiliary, along with PLANO, made a contribution consisting of desperately needed paper products, including paper plates, paper cups, forks, spoons, napkins, paper towels, etc., to the New Orleans Mission. Prior to PLANO's contribution, the Mission was using only 85 Mardi Gras cups when feeding between 120 and 145 people each night. Undoubtedly, our donation was very much appreciated. We hope to continue making contributions to the Mission in the future.



*Scene at the N.O. Mission following Jo Ann Anderson's arrival there with much-needed paper supplies.*



*Jo Ann Anderson standing amid the supplies delivered to the N.O. Mission. She is flanked by strong-armed men to move the packages.*





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Speaker - 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Buffet & Cocktails - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Music by: Tim Laughlin Jazz Band

**Tickets must be purchased on or before Wednesday, February 19, 2003, to ensure industry executives' names are included in the program. Call Margo Cameron at (504) 593-7560, or any of the PLANO Board Members named below. Tickets WILL NOT be available at the door.**

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