



Michael Late Benedum Chapter

American Association of Professional Landmen

The Take-Off

December 2015

MLBC
P.O. Box 955
Bridgeport, WV 26330

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Article IV of the MLBC By-laws states the purposes of the Association:

1. Fostering fellowship among members;
2. Furthering the landman's profession through educational activities;
3. Maintaining a professional and ethical membership;
4. Impressing upon the membership their role as representatives of the land profession in their interactions with the public; and
5. Providing members with opportunities for community service.

The MLBC Officers, Directors, and committee members have always acknowledged these purposes and have continually attempted to fulfill them. Of these five, there are two that require continued commitment and complete buy-in from the membership regardless of whether the MLBC fulfills the purposes... and those are *our role as representatives of the land profession and our interactions with the public and professionalism and ethical behavior*. Not only are we representing the land profession, but to the public, we are also a face of the energy industry. An industry that is under frequent scrutiny and measure by all levels of government, as well as by certain factions of the public who have a loud voice. As landmen and members of a professional organization we have a responsibility to the energy industry to conduct ourselves professionally and ethically, both on and off the clock.

As we wind up this challenging year and venture in to 2016, let's make a commitment to ourselves, to our employers, to our coworkers, to the public, and to the industry we believe in, to be true professionals. To uphold the AAPL's Code of Ethics and Standards of Practices, to be a voice for our industry, to be proud to be a landman, to treat others well and with respect, and to make our mothers happy. Be a leader. Help your community. Teach a child. Make others feel brilliant.

Keep in mind that landmen are likely the only "real" people in the industry the public will ever meet. What if every landman in the country presented themselves to be as professional as a doctor or college professor? What if the public had a more favorable view of the energy industry because of their interactions with a landman? Could 20,000 AAPL members among 300 million Americans really make a difference?

I guess we won't know 'til we try.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Aaron R. Yost, CPL
President 2015-2016

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Upcoming events

[Click Here to Register](#)
January Luncheon Meeting
January 14, 2016
Bella Sera
Canonsburg, PA

DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS CATEGORIES 2015

The AAPL is seeking nominations for its annual awards which will be announced at the Annual Meeting next June in Orlando. Listed below are the criteria for the awards. If you have nominees for the Lifetime Achievement Award, Landman of the Year, Best Member Communication, Best Director's Communication, or other awards, please forward your nomination, including any relevant attachment or resume to the MLBC's Awards Committee chaired by Arnie Schulberg, aschulberg@schulberglaw.com.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

To be presented to an AAPL member who has honored and distinguished the land profession through demonstrated leadership, integrity, and his/her contribution to the industry, the community and the profession for his/her entire land career. Current AAPL Officers are excluded from nomination.

LANDMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

To be presented to an AAPL member who honored and distinguished the land profession through demonstrated leadership, integrity, and his/her contribution to the industry, the community and the profession during calendar year 2015. Current AAPL Officers are excluded from nomination.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

To be presented to the local association that has achieved the greatest cumulative rating in the following categories: Best Bulletin/Newsletter, Best Member Communication, and Best AAPL Director's Communication.

BEST NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN – LARGE ASSOCIATION

To be presented for the best single bulletin or newsletter published by a local association during the 2015 calendar year whose membership is comprised of **more than** 250 landmen. Only the best single example of bulletin or newsletter is to be submitted. No accompanying explanation will be considered.

BEST NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN – MEDIUM ASSOCIATION

To be presented for the best single bulletin or newsletter published by a local association during the 2015 calendar year whose membership is **between** 100-250 landmen. Only the best single example of bulletin or newsletter is to be submitted. No accompanying explanation will be considered.

BEST NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN – SMALL ASSOCIATION

To be presented for the best single bulletin or newsletter published by a local association during the 2015 calendar year whose membership is comprised of 100 **or fewer** landmen. Only the best single example of bulletin or newsletter is to be submitted. No accompanying explanation will be considered.

BEST MEMBER COMMUNICATION

To be presented for the best single communication by a member of a local association during the 2015 calendar year. The communication may be written or oral, but if oral, a written transcript must be submitted. The communication may be to the local association membership, to AAPL or the industry but must pertain to AAPL. The individual must be a member of AAPL for his or her entry to be considered.

BEST AAPL DIRECTOR'S COMMUNICATION

To be presented for the best single communication by an AAPL Director during the 2015 calendar year. The communication may be written or oral, but if oral, a written transcript must be submitted. The communication may be to the local association membership, to AAPL, to the industry or the community, but must pertain to AAPL.

DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS CATEGORIES CONTINUED

BEST PUBLISHED ARTICLE IN AN AAPL PUBLICATION

To be presented for the best single article **by an AAPL member** during the 2015 calendar year published in the AAPL's **Landman** or **Landman 2** Magazine. No formal entry is required as this will be judged using 2015 AAPL publications.

SPECIAL AWARDS – Multiple awards in this category may be awarded based on merit

To be presented to the member(s) or group(s) who/which has made an extraordinary contribution to AAPL, the land profession, the industry, or the community. May include but is not limited to:

Education – may be presented to a member who has achieved a level of unusual distinction in AAPL's continuing education program as demonstrated by his/her contribution of time and service to the betterment of land professionals.

AAPL Committee Member Award – may be presented to an AAPL Committee member who has greatly exceeded expectations.

Community Service – may be presented to a member who has contributed greatly toward civic improvement in his/her local community.

Other – may be presented to a member who has achieved unusual distinction or contributed significantly to the betterment of land professionals in any other way deemed worthy of recognition.



CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

AAPL offers various educational programs, workshops and regional institutes for landmen as well as oil and gas professionals. The association also provides review and testing opportunities for those interested in obtaining RL, RPL and CPL certification designations.

January 25

[Basics of Geographic Information System](#)
Pittsburgh, PA

AAPL offers three certifications that are proven to enhance a member's credibility in the industry and to increase earning potential for landmen.

Certified Professional Landman (CPL) – The highest designation offered in the energy management industry, CPL certification is the standard by which landmen demonstrate their comprehensive competence, proficiency and professionalism in the landman field.

Registered Professional Landman (RPL) – The mid-level designation offered by AAPL, RPL certification distinguishes a landman as knowledgeable, experienced and professional.

Registered Landman (RL) – The initial level of certification, RL certification signifies a fundamental knowledge of the land industry as well as a landman's commitment to furthering their education.

For more information on why becoming a [certified landman is important, click here.](#)



TOP GUN CHARITY CLAY SHOOT



2015 MLBC Inaugural Charity Clay Shoot Benefiting the Paralyzed Veterans of America-WV Chapter

The Michael Late Benedum Chapter ("MLBC") of AAPL has helped take a social gathering intended to build camaraderie amongst our membership and turn it into another great charity event. With the help of volunteers, sponsors, and our membership we held the 2015 Inaugural Charity Clay shoot on October 16th, at Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve in Dilliner, PA. The weather was a perfect brisk fall day, which started off with a mini warm up competition hosted by Clear Water Land Services, while refreshments were served by Holland Land Services. Once everyone had the chance to check in and warm up we took a moment to pay tribute while the WVU ROTC Color guard presented the Red, White, and Blue; and the anthem played. We took a moment to welcome the veterans who joined us for the day, and then the 77 shooters hit the course for the afternoon.

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors we were able to present paralyzed Air Force Veteran Laura Ellington and paralyzed Army Veteran Bob Morrisi with a check for \$10,000. This support will allow the Paralyzed Veterans of America ("PVA") to continue to support their members by ensuring that their members receive the health care and benefits they deserve, aid in the search for a truly satisfying career, and provide a path to adventure through adaptive sports. I've had the pleasure of attending events with some of these members and the support we've provided is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use.

Following the shoot we had some time for BBQ, adult beverages, and prizes. Of all the prizes given out that day, most of the shooters had their eyes on the Benelli shotgun, which Kevin Uebel won! Congrats! Also, raffled off were custom MLBC Top Gun shirts and shooting vests courtesy of Black Bear Customs in Grafton, WV.

Steve Kennedy took home first place overall, a \$150 gift card, and the MLBC Top Gun trophy with a stunning 92! Denny Hagadorn took second place overall and a \$100 gift card, and Ryan Mather took Third overall and a \$50 gift card. Sara Brown took the spot as the top lady overall and a \$100 gift card, and the high overall team was the split Vantage Energy and Energy Corporation of America team took home \$50 each; they had Steve Kennedy on their team so this is no surprise.

A special thanks to all of the sponsors whose donations benefitted the PVA and provided the warm up competition, dinner, and refreshment-both on and off the course. Very special thanks to the volunteers, Lori Naser, Judy Rastoka, and Tara White, Rich Robb of Vantage Energy, and Rob Lindsey of Clearwater Land Services; also, to Aaron Smith of Holland Services for putting on a cornhole competition after the shoot which raised additional money that was donated to the PVA. Your help made the event a huge success.

We are in the process of putting together plans for the 2016 fall charity clay shoot. Watch for details at the beginning of the year and be sure to contact Tara White or Anthony Romeo if you have an interest in getting involved.



MLBC TOP GUN CHARITY CLAY SHOOT

SUPPORTING THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, WV CHAPTER



THANK YOU 2015 SPONSORS!



ETHICS

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Ethics... it's either very easy or it is a very difficult situation. Let's face the facts. You either have a good ethical "compass" or you do not. Perhaps you started out with a great moral guide and over the years, you've slackened your standards until it barely resembles the boundaries you set for yourself in the early part of your career. Morals, values, and ethics are independent, but are nonetheless intertwined, and ethics are generated by or based on an individual's morals and values.

Ethics does not depend upon the situation in which you find yourself, i.e., what is simply best for you, your career, or even your family. Further, ethics are neither dependent upon whether you may get caught, nor the fact that others are doing the same thing. And... the exercise of high ethical standards is not swayed due to the risk you might face for standing up for the right thing, or influenced by believing that no one would ever know.

The decision to take a kickback from a vendor, to lie to get business done, or to look the other way when you know that ethical standards and sometimes, even laws, are being trampled underfoot. There is no relativity in ethical standards and we, in and of ourselves, are not the ultimate judge of our own behavior. Right is right... and wrong is wrong.

This all sounds very good in theory and is indeed a lofty ideal, but how do you live this out in your professional lives as a land professional? How do you deal with the unethical practices of others? What do you do if you are in dire financial straits... as some of us find ourselves in during this time of overall industry downturn? The answers are not easy to discuss and they are even more difficult to put into practice if this is not already second nature to you. But there are some ways that you can protect yourself from temptation and ensure that your professional reputation remains unsullied. And that is what we will discuss here.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

It is imperative that you believe that ethics are a necessary and primary factor in your life and your career. IF you don't believe this, you will not live this. The first parameter of self-protection from failing at maintaining high ethical standards is to decide exactly what those guidelines are by which you will conduct your professional life. Become extremely familiar with the AAPL Code of Ethics and if anything, make your own code more stringent than those. It is not as hard as it seems. But, if you do not have a clear idea of what you will and will not do before you are tempted or at the very least, faced with a hard or life-changing decision, you are setting yourself up for failure when you are caught. And make no mistake, there are few secrets in this world, few ways to hide financial gain, and fewer still are the unethical actions which will not lead you to make more unethical decisions. In short... set your rules and carve them in stone. Your decisions will be easier and once known in your professional life for exercising these standards, you will be less likely to be confronted by situations which challenge your integrity or by those whose ethical standards are not of the same high caliber as your own.

What is legal may not always be what is ethical, but I have never found what is ethical to ever be illegal. I suppose there could be a circumstance, but I can't think of one.

REPUTATION – ONE GOOD DECISION AFTER ANOTHER

You are building a reputation even while you are preparing to be a land professional, and even more so in the day-to-day practice of your profession. Ethics starts with honoring your commitment to your employer or your client. Do you receive full pay for a day's work? Then give a full day's work for the pay. Would you want someone to steal ideas, information, or even office supplies from you if you were the employer? Of course, the answer is no, so don't do that as an employee or a contractor. Whether you know it or not, your

reputation is built day by day and you can destroy years of good work and a great reputation by one stupid (and yes... I mean “stupid” action). It matters not that others are doing the same thing. Don’t pad your mileage. Don’t pad your per diem. Don’t abscond with office supplies. Don’t cheat on your time entries. Don’t lie. Give a full day’s work for a full day’s pay. If you do this, I dare say that you will get work when no one else can. I’ve worked with many individuals in the past who went on to head land and legal departments in other companies and firms. My reputation for being diligent and honest has probably gotten me more work than my reputation for knowledge and expertise. Trust is what true professionals build and if compared to a fortress, it is built one stone at a time, one action at a time, and sometimes, one minute at a time.

If you are a contractor or even an employee who has changed jobs, you could be confronted with the situation where you have data or know information which could benefit your new employer or client. Can you use that information to benefit you and your employer or client without the knowledge of your former employer or client? In short.... no, unless there are specific clearances for you to do so. If it is a competitive situation, it is not likely that you will receive that clearance. What if giving information would get you a promotion or a bonus with your new employer or client? Surely, you deserve that and in fact, it may have been why they hired you in the first place.... right? If your reputation for keeping confidential materials “confidential” (another word for ethical behavior), it is not likely that you would be hired by anyone thinking they could glean information from you. Seriously, if I thought I could garner confidential information from a land professional, I would also believe that the same individual would sell me out in the future. It would be unethical for me, as an employer or client, to solicit such information and just as unethical for the employee or contractor to surrender such information. Ethics is a narrow street and everyone, employee, contractor, client, and employer all should travel the same street. The fact that some take shortcuts and cheat can never be a criterion on which to base or own actions.

Conduct your professional life so that it is known that you cannot be bought. You’ll have far fewer temptations if others know that buying your dinners and giving you game tickets does not sway your judgment in handing out lucrative work assignments. In fact, it is far, far better to never accept such “perks” in the first place. When you accept those gifts, the giver may believe that you are under some obligation to him, and there just could be the expectation of a “payday” for him or her down the road. Don’t put yourself in that situation. If you have a business dinner with contractors, buy the dinner yourself. Never ever give the connotation that you owe the contractors or vendors any favors. While this may sound a bit stringent to those of you new to the industry, I can assure you that there really is NO free dinner. Watch your actions and watch the actions of those around you. Bad company spoils many a reputation.

Another benefit of building and maintaining your reputation as a land professional is that you will be adding another layer of value to your knowledge, expertise, and experience. If you intend, so far as the industry allows, to remain a land professional, that may be the edge that you have over even more qualified candidates for assignments with clients or employers. It is also a value not overlooked by management in promotions. Do you keep your mouth shut at the office about confidential matters on which you are working? Do you tend to your business and let others tend to their own business? In short, can your client or employer trust you with confidential matters and to do the jobs assigned to you to the best of your ability? Maintaining confidences is an integral part of becoming management or in garnering promotions in your career.

ETHICS AND THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Contrary to what the majority of people believe, our ethics are often challenged more during times of economic distress than in times of plentiful work. Companies are having to downsize now and that is a difficult situation for the employees, contractors, and for the employers. Not knowing where the next paycheck will come from will often lead to temptations to abandon our ethical standards and sell out for financial gain. However, if your foundational decisions on the boundaries of your actions and inactions is well set, you will have a firm basis on which to stand. That does not.... absolutely does not mean that you will be untouched by layoffs and economic downturns in our energy industry. It will mean that you can face whatever happens with a clear conscience and a reputation that is intact which will benefit you in your search for new employment.

Stay strong, my friend. Maintaining a reputation for the exercise of unimpeachable ethics is never easy, but I know from watching this industry for over forty years, that maintaining ethical standards is far, far easier than the repercussions of abandoning them. One foolish and thoughtless lapse of ethics can obliterate a career that might have otherwise held great promise of immense financial gain and growth in the future. And in very real ways... a sound ethical foundation and practice does put dinner on the table... and with a lot better digestion too!

PAULA FLEMING, CPL
MLBC MEMBER

Note: This is an “op-ed” piece of a generalized nature and may not necessarily reflect the view of MLBC or AAPL; for guidance with a specific issue, please see the MLBC Bylaws and Code of Ethics found under the “About Us” header at www.mlbc-aapl.org.

MLBC – QUESTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Michael Late Benedum Chapter
American Association of Professional Landmen



Dear Morgan and Andy:

I have a free gas question. When we took the lease, the lessor owned the surface and the oil and gas, but has since sold off the surface to someone else. Does the surface owner always get the free gas? I'm working in Ohio, if that matters. *Thanks – Jay in Ohio*

Hi Jay in Ohio –

As a general rule, if an oil and gas lease provides for free gas, that benefit goes to the surface owner and will be considered a covenant running with the surface estate of the leased premises. The Ohio courts have recognized this rule, along with courts from Kentucky, Texas, and West Virginia. But, you should be aware that, on at least one occasion, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals held that the free gas benefit belonged to the mineral owner, but in that case, the free gas clause specifically said that the gas could be used on or off the leased premises. Most free gas clauses provide that the free gas can only come from a well that has been drilled on the leased premises and the free gas must be used on the premises too. So, you should carefully review the language of the free gas clause and see if it limits the free gas benefit in the usual way. If it does, then the free gas goes to the surface owner where the well is located. You didn't mention whether the well is part of the unit that includes multiple leases, but if it is, then the answer might be a bit more complicated. Courts in Appalachian Basin have not had the opportunity to consider whether the fact that the well is part of a drilling unit makes any difference in determining who gets the free gas, but courts in Kansas and Arkansas have held that when you pool or unitize oil and gas leases together into a unit, and those leases provide for free gas, each lessor gets free gas, regardless of which tract the unit well was actually drilled on.

Morgan Griffith, Esq., RPL
MLBC Member

Important Changes in Litigating Oil and Gas Cases in Federal Court: What the 2015 Amendments to the Federal Rules Mean for Oil and Gas Companies

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Introduction

Many oil and gas disputes are litigated in federal court. This includes many land disputes, including bonus payment and fraud claims involving execution of oil and gas leases or claims against landmen and leasing companies. In recent years, federal litigation has undergone significant changes in discovery practices and rules. For example, with the increase in electronically stored information, like emails and text messages, the federal and local rules have changed to ensure that such electronically stored information, or “ESI,” is preserved and disclosed. The problem that many companies face, however, is that the costs of preserving, collecting, reviewing, and producing ESI as part of federal litigation can be extraordinarily high. This is particularly acute in cases against oil and gas companies that involve historical information, payment information, and large numbers of plaintiffs or claimants (e.g., payment, royalty, class actions, and mass contamination cases).^[1] Similarly, even in “routine” cases—like oil and gas lease disputes—where the collection of ESI may extend to email accounts and text messages of landmen and other land personnel and agents in the field (sometimes on non-company servers), e-discovery costs can be disproportionate to the issues at stake.^[2]

The high costs of e-discovery in federal litigation recently spurred the Supreme Court of the United States to amend the federal rules in a manner that has the potential to narrow the scope and limit the cost of expensive e-discovery. This has the potential of assisting those oil and gas companies that litigate in federal court in reducing and managing their defense costs, particularly in this challenging economic environment.

Below is a summary of the proposed amendments (which would go into effect on December 1, 2015, absent congressional legislation opposing or altering them), and the potential effect of the changes on oil and gas litigation in federal court.

Summary of the Amendments

The proposed amendments can be grouped into three categories: (i) early case management; (ii) proportionality of discovery; and (iii) preservation of ESI.

The early case management amendments are largely designed to spur “earl[y] and more active judicial case management.”^[3] They include an amendment that decreases the deadline to serve a complaint and summons (from 120 days to 90 days), in order to expedite the start of a case.^[4] They also include changes in the sequencing and manner of early conferences with the court, and the manner in which objections to discovery can be stated.^[5]

Of greater consequence, the second category of changes is designed to eliminate disproportionality between what is at stake in litigation and discovery. For example, new Rule 26 recognizes that “the costs of discovery in civil litigation are too often out of proportion to the issues at stake in the litigation[.]”^[6] With that in mind, the new rule limits the scope of discovery to that which is “proportional to the needs of the

case[.]”^[7] Importantly, this means that the new Rule 26(c)(1) will be amended to include “the allocation of expenses” among the terms that may be included—in other words, if certain ESI must be produced by a company, the other side may have to pay for the expense involved.

The final category of changes is designed to clarify the law regarding the spoliation of discoverable information. The new Rule 37(e)—a complete rewrite of the rule—was developed to “establish[] greater uniformity in how federal courts respond to the loss of ESI.”^[8] The new rule only allows serious sanctions for spoliation (i.e. the intentional, reckless, or negligent withholding, hiding, altering, or destroying of evidence relevant to a legal proceeding) where the spoliating party “acted with the intent to deprive another party of the information’s use in the litigation.”

A Few Key Effects of the Amendments on Federal Litigation

The most important effects of the amendments concern those related to the proportionality of discovery and preservation of ESI.

First, the scope of discovery is now limited to that which is “proportional.” In other words, courts will not permit discovery into expensive ESI, without a cost-benefit analysis. Before initiating discovery, courts are likely to hear conflicting estimates of the costs and the benefits of discovery. Using “extrinsic information,” such as “whether the requested information was created by ‘key players,’”^[9] and evidence samples^[10] will likely be important to a cost-benefit analysis. Further, where expensive e-discovery is required from an oil and gas company, that company may have the ability to allocate the costs to the other side.

Second, while it still remains critical to preserve potentially relevant ESI, the new changes to the rules are more forgiving when a party has inadvertently failed to do so. In the past, failure to preserve certain ESI could lead to sanctions, including preventing a party from introducing certain evidence or permitting the jury to infer an adverse fact simply because evidence was not preserved. The new rule would appear to prohibit such a severe result for inadvertent mistakes.

The creative oil and gas litigator will leverage the new changes to the rules so that oil and gas litigation in federal court—particularly during the discovery stage—will be more proportional and less costly. For landmen and companies in the industry that face litigation that involves ESI (e.g., payment, royalty, class actions, and mass contamination cases) the changes may be beneficial in managing and defending litigation in a cost-effective manner.

Mr. Ranjan can be reached at nicholas.ranjan@klgates.com.

Mr. Kelch can be reached at david.kelch@klgates.com.

Notes:

^[1] In a recent study of Fortune 500 companies, the RAND Institute found that the median total cost for ESI production among participants reached the astounding sum of \$1.8 million dollars per case. Nicholas Pace & Laura Zakaras, Rand Institute for Civil Justice, *Where the Money Goes: Understanding Litigant Expenditures for Producing Electronic Discovery*, 28 (2012).

^[2] In a “survey of the ABA Section of Litigation, 78% of plaintiffs’ attorneys, 91% of defense attorneys, and 94% of mixed-practice attorneys agreed that litigation costs are not proportional to the value of small cases, with 33% of plaintiffs’ lawyers, 44% of defense lawyers, and 41% of mixed-practice lawyers agreeing that litigation costs are not proportional in large cases.” See Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States, *Report of the Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure*, at B-6, B-7 [hereinafter *Final Report*], available at <http://www.uscourts.gov/uscourts/RulesAndPolicies/rules/Reports/ST09-2014.pdf>.

[3] *Final Report* at B-11.

[4] *Final Report* at B-11.

[5] Under new Rule 16(b)(1), scheduling conference will not now take place “by telephone, mail, or other means[.]” but are likely to be in person. Additionally, under new Rule 34, objections to discovery requests may not be boilerplate, but must be stated “with specificity” and must state “whether any responsive materials are being withheld on the basis of that objection.”

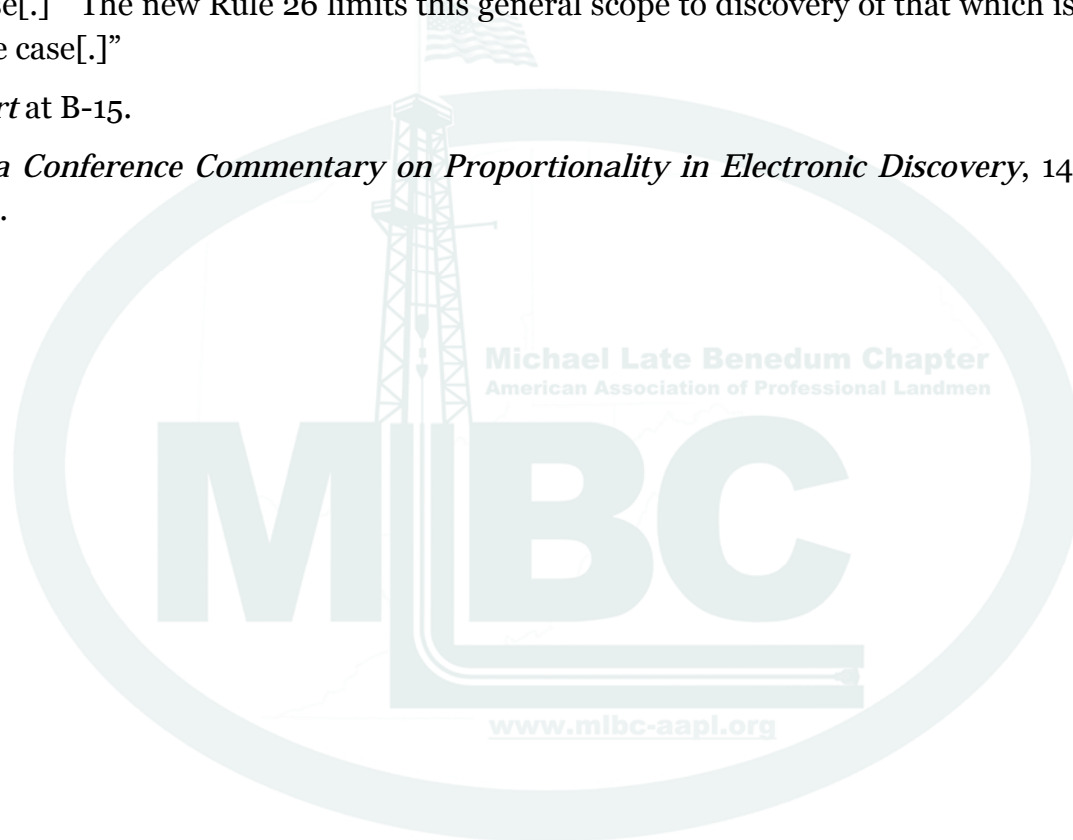
[6] *Final Report* at B-22.

[7] Rule 26 currently allows “discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party’s claim or defense[.]” The new Rule 26 limits this general scope to discovery of that which is “proportional to the needs of the case[.]”

[8] *Final Report* at B-15.

[9] *The Sedona Conference Commentary on Proportionality in Electronic Discovery*, 14 Sedona Conf. J. 155, 166 (2013).

[10] *Id.* at 165–66.



Thoughts on Persevering During the Downturn



Always keep your resume updated. How many times has a well-intentioned coworker or longtime veteran of the oil and gas business said this phrase to you? I know that I have had that exact sentence repeated to me countless times over the years since my transition from the full time practice of law to working in this business. It is often said with a smile or a wink and almost always in jest. Yet, there is a very real underlying truth to the phrase isn't there? With the recent downturn in the industry, many are either searching for work or worrying about the uncertain days ahead. Yet, there are things that we can do to remain active, involved and available to new opportunities.

Stay involved with the AAPL and your local landman association.

It is not surprising that both the American Association of Professional Landmen ("AAPL") and local associations are seeing a decrease in membership and participation at educational events given the current market conditions. However, it is more important now than ever that we stay involved with these organizations. Involvement in both the local and national associations will allow you to continue to network and make valuable contacts within the industry. There is also the opportunity to speak with those who have been in the oil and gas business for a number of years. We can learn so much from those who have survived or even thrived during prior downturns. If you would like to commit to being more involved with our local association, here are a few suggestions:

- Attend our next dinner meeting or educational event. But, don't stop there. Introduce yourself to a member of the Executive Committee. Make your voice heard by letting us know what we can do to help. We are here to serve our membership.
- Volunteer to work registration at a meeting. This is a wonderful way to meet and greet nearly everyone in attendance. Plus it is one way to be involved with MLBC without requiring a significant commitment of your time. Alternatively, if you are interested in being a more active participant in our events, this is also a great option for making yourself and your interest known. If you would like to volunteer to work registration at our next event, contact MLBC Executive Director, Tara White at twhite@mlbc-aapl.org.
- Write an article for the newsletter. The Newsletter Committee is always looking for quality, timely contributions for the "Takeoff." The submission of an article is a great way to highlight your understanding of a particular topic while contributing to the knowledge of all of our members.
- Join a committee. We have a wonderful variety of talent among our membership. Your unique skillset would likely be a valuable addition to one of our committees. We are always looking for hard working and dedicated members to bring new ideas and insights to our efforts. Take a moment to review our committees http://www.mlbc-aapl.org/officers_committees.php. If one of the committees is of interest to you, please contact the committee chair and express your interest in participating.

Continue your education.

Consider taking advantage of this slow down by seeking opportunities to advance your education. You can set yourself apart from the competition by ensuring that you are a well-rounded landman. There are many areas of specialization within the business. However, it is a great time to expand your horizons and consider new opportunities for professional growth. Maybe you finally have time to:

- Become a Certified Landman. The AAPL has several certifications designed to signify the level of skill you offer. Review the requirements for becoming a Registered Landman, Registered Professional Landman and Certified Professional Landman at <http://www.landman.org/education/certification>. It may be the perfect time to pursue one of these designations.
- Attend an AAPL or MLBC Educational Event. Did you know that the AAPL is offering a 50% discount on educational courses and videos through December 31, 2015? Additionally, the AAPL has a tuition assistance program which waives the registration fee for AAPL educational events for those who face financial constraints due to unemployment or underemployment. More details concerning the AAPL's tuition assistance program can be found here <http://www.landman.org/education/tuition-assistance>. The MLBC is also considering ways to make our events and educational offerings more affordable for our membership. Stay tuned for an announcement concerning our full day seminar scheduled for March 2016!

Thoughts on Persevering Continued

- Take advantage of FREE educational opportunities outside of the AAPL and MLBC's offerings. Many law firms and other entities offer free subscriptions to their newsletters, email blasts and webinars. Take advantage of these opportunities to stay informed and even earn free continuing education credits.

Learn something of our history.

As the MLBC's Education Chair, I stood up once per month for over 2.5 years and presented a gift to our meeting or seminar speakers as our way of saying thanks. The gift was a book titled "Where It All Began" by David McKain and Bernard Allen, Ph.D. It is a history of the people and places where the oil and gas industry began in our region. It is a wonderful book. Sadly, I am quite ashamed to admit that I never read the book until very recently. I could provide a plethora of excuses as to why I never read the book. I did not have time. I worked for demanding clients. I was busy reading and replying to 150 emails per day. But, the truth is that I made time for plenty of other things during that time.

We must be aware of our history to be able to put into proper context where we are now and where we are headed. So, if you find yourself with some additional time, I recommend reading "Where It All Began" or one of the many other books dedicated to exploring the history of the oil and gas industry. You will be a more knowledgeable, well-rounded landman for it. I know that I am.

Give back.

It seems that we are all more focused on giving this time of year. Even with the challenges that we may face in our professional lives, we can be thankful that we are able to give of ourselves and our time to benefit others. This year, the MLBC has remained active in giving back to many organizations including the following:

Oil & Gas Museum of West Virginia (\$22,000)

WVU Children's Hospital (\$30,000)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Pittsburgh Area (\$30,000)

Paralyzed Veterans of America – WV Chapter (\$10,000)

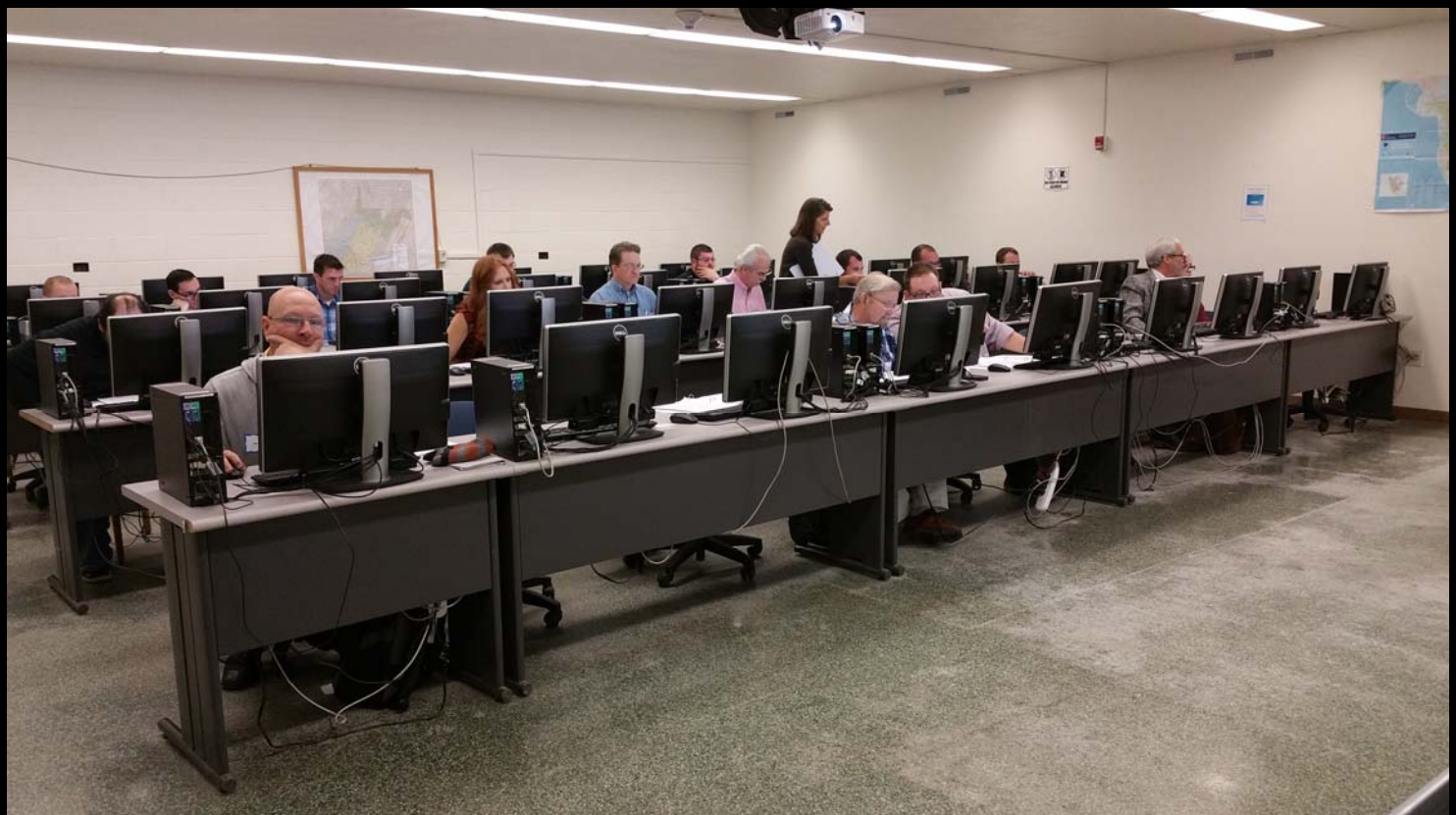
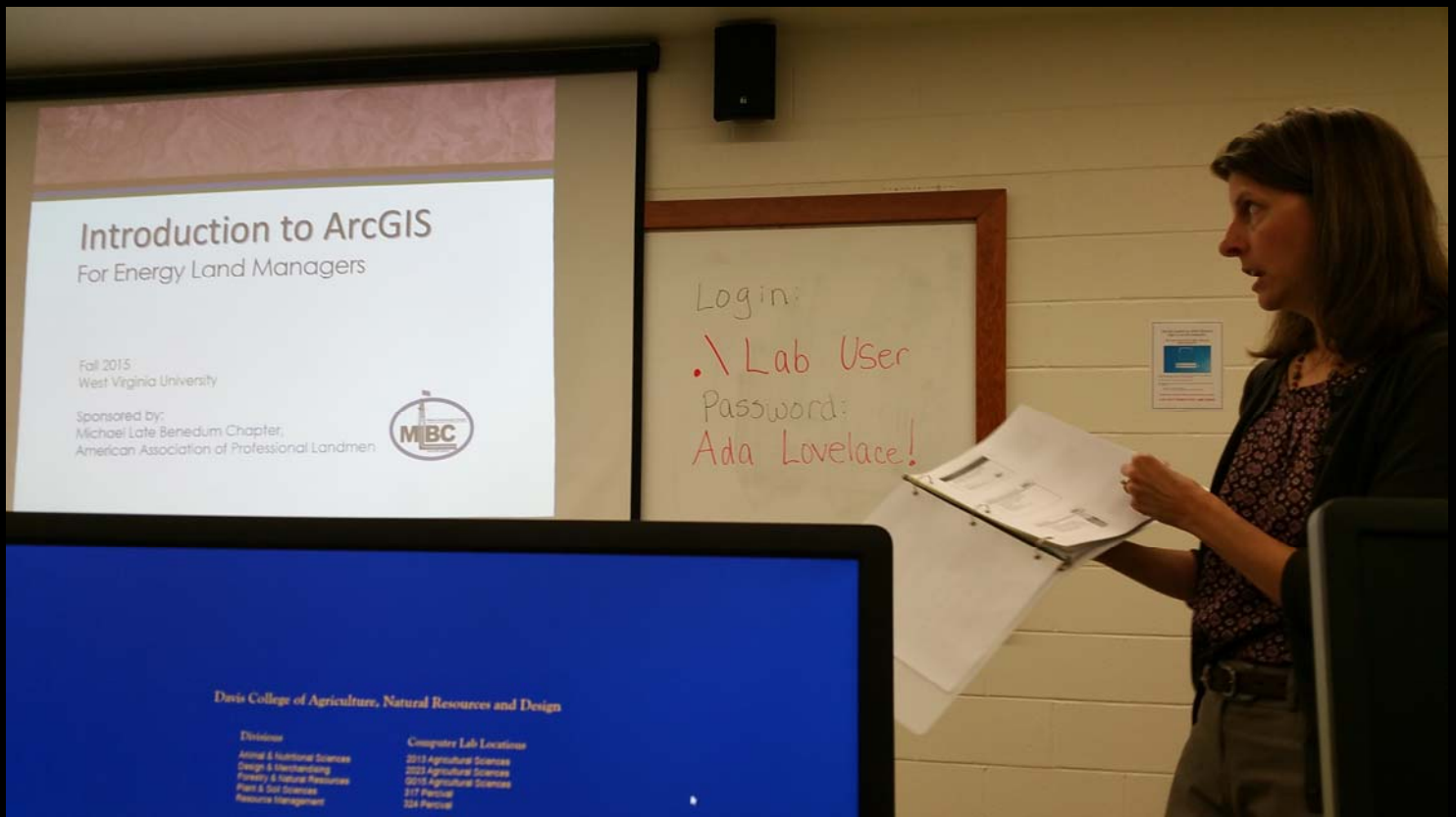
It is so rewarding to have made such significant contributions to these worthwhile causes throughout the year. It is even more rewarding to know that each of these events started as an MLBC member's idea which was brought to life through the hard work and dedication of our association. In other words, these successes were realized due to the vision of MLBC members just like you! So, please consider lending a hand for our next charity event or fundraiser. Many of these events require several months of planning and lots of work. This could be a wonderful way for you to become more involved with your local association, make valuable contacts with fellow MLBC members and give your time to benefit those who need a little help.

We can persevere through this downturn. The key is to stay active with the MLBC and AAPL, keep in contact with your colleagues and remain open to new opportunities. And, as always, please let the MLBC Executive Committee know what we can do to best serve you!

Christa Dotson, Esq., RPL
MLBC Sergeant-at-Arms







New MLBC Members – October 2015

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type
Benjamin	Grubb	Honor Resources Company	Active
Michael	Toroain		Associate
Amanda	Hurst		Active
Lori	Gabeletto	Antero Resources	Active
Kevin	Ellis		Associate
Peter	Foley		Active
Roger	Rorabaugh	DPS Land Services	Active
Eric	LeBlanc	Forty One Land Company Inc	Active
Joseph	Oliverio	Honor Resources Company	Associate
Nathan	Wetzel	Independent	Active
Tenika	Armstead	National Right of Way	Active
Tiffany	Prem	Range Resources-Appalachia, LLC	Active
Dotty	Ritter	Self employed	Active
Denny	Stanhagen	Stanhagen Consulting LLC	Associate

New MLBC Members – November 2015

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type
John	Liggett	Appalachian Resources LLC	Active
Gavin	Glenn, J.D.		Associate
Michael	Williams		Active
Halbert C.	Casey	Independent	Active
Jeffrey	Kifus	Kifus Land	Active
Lukas	Kosslow	Range Resources	Associate
James	Hubert	Rocky Mountain Hydrocarbon, LLC	Active
Stephen	Perkins	Southwestern Energy	Active

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- Receive free Half Page ad in the takeoff per year.
- Logo on Golf Outing sponsorship boards.



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- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at every meeting.
- Logo on the back of every Takeoff and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive one free Half Page advertising ad in the Takeoff per year.
- Logo on Golf Outing sponsorship boards.



Silver \$1,500.00 per year

Benefits of Silver Sponsor

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- Logo on the back of every Takeoff and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive one free Half Page advertising ad in the Takeoff per year.



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- Logo on the back of every Takeoff.



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Dinner Meeting Sponsorship

Cost \$250.00 per meeting. Companies will receive advertising at the dinner meeting as well as your logo displayed on our website for the month of the meeting you sponsor.

To secure a corporate sponsorship, advertise in the Take-Off, or if you have any questions please contact Tara White @ twhite@mlbc-aapl.org. Please contact Jeremy White at jwhite@eqt.com for dinner meeting sponsorships.

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MLBC SCHEDULE

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>	<u><i>Speaker</i></u>	<u><i>Topic</i></u>
<i>January 14, 2016</i>	<i>Bella Sera Canonsburg, PA—Luncheon</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>February 2016</i>	<i>TBD Ohio</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>March 10, 2016</i>	<i>Hilton Garden Inn Canonsburg, PA —Seminar</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>May 13, 2016</i>	<i>Oglebay Resort Wheeling, WV</i>	<i>Spring Charity Golf Event</i>	
<i>June 2, 2016</i>	<i>Lakeview Resort Morgantown, WV</i>	<i>Officer Induction & Awards Ceremony</i>	

Early years were lean ones

*Pathway to Professionalism
Chapter 2 - The AAPL Story.*

*Originally Published in the
American Association of Petroleum Landman in June
1985.*

-Remember When Series-

The first decade of AAPL is hard to describe. Certainly, it was strenuous. There were times when members would say, "Well, we're on the brink of bankruptcy."

They would dig each other in the ribs and say, "Hey, I was only joking."

The truth was, they were not joking. That first ten years were rough. But in spite of it all, the members never lost their sense of direction or purpose. One reason for this was the fact that those early organizers had done their work well. They had decided that in addition to the annual meetings there would be regular Board of Directors meetings.

It was also decided by the second annual meeting that with the oil activity in Canada, landmen from that region should

be included, thereby establishing an international organization for petroleum landmen. Even though the laws and the governmental machinery are different, experience would prove that landmen under whatever governing bodies had much in common and could work together for the common good.

It was decided to have one director from each local association serve on the Board of Directors in order to have a vote for each local association. Through the years, this would bring some controversy because of the differences in size of the associations, but in the beginning a senate-like attitude prevailed to give each local one vote without regard to population of membership.

The years ahead would prove that the system worked well, and that new associations developed along with the growth of the membership.

Committee chairmen also



Officers elected at the second annual meeting in Denver include, l-r, Secretary W. Paul Miller, First Vice President Hamilton Rogers, President Miller Waggoner, Second Vice President R. K. Summy, and standing, Treasurer William B. Beall and Third Vice President Jack W. Prothro.



University of Texas Board of Regents Chairman Tom Sealy addresses delegates to the second annual meeting in Denver.

became a necessity to carry out special functions, and local committee chairmen were appointed to coordinate this function with the national AAPL chairmen. For example, when the *The Landman* journal came into being, a Publications Committee chairman was necessary to gather the news articles or activities in the local associations for publication in the national journal. These committee chairmen increased as the association grew with new challenges and responsibilities.

They were making history in the new organization just as history was being made in the petroleum industry. Like in 1956, a record number of wells would be drilled in the United States. That was a whopping 57,390, a total that would not be broken until 1980.



President Ralph Cormany, Ed Litman, and William J. A. Johnson greet speaker Governor Ronald Reagan at the 1960 annual meeting in Los Angeles.

The year 1956 was also the year that the Harris-Fulbright Bill providing for gas deregulation was vetoed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Ike made his move after a report of an attempted bribe in support of the bill's passage surfaced. The passage of a replacement bill was unsuccessful.

Other highlights of industry would come. In 1958, Phillips sunk a 25,340-foot well in Pecos County, Texas. That stood as a record depth for the next 12 years. Later, in 1960, the world saw the organization of a group that would have a continuing impact on our domestic energy industry. That, of course, was the formation of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

So it was an exciting time, both in the industry and the AAPL, when Miller Waggoner was elected president at the second

annual meeting in Denver. Nearly 700 landmen attended the meeting which also saw the approval of a new constitution.

Waggoner's tenure was a busy one. In December 1956, AAPL opened its new national headquarters office at Oklahoma City. Mrs. Imogene Lister was named administrative secretary.

In February 1957, it was announced that Hamilton Rogers of Rowan Oil Company of Fort Worth had been recommended for election as president. He had been the keynote speaker at the first annual meeting in Fort Worth, and had long been a strong worker in the organization. Directors also announced they would hold their next meeting in San Antonio.

A month later, AAPL announced that it had hired its first executive vice president. He was Claud D. Fleet, Jr. who had been serving as secretary/treasurer of Neville G. Penrose, Inc. "We are indeed fortunate in obtaining the services of this outstanding young executive," said Waggoner. Shortly after hiring Fleet, the association moved its international



Tom Kelliher, president in 1958-59.

offices to Fort Worth.

One of the first things Fleet faced was trying to standardize lease forms and lease instruments, which the early leadership knew would benefit the individual landmen members. As a result of committee studies, AAPL leases, amendments, operating agreements, and other legal instrument forms of land use were adopted and approved for use. This practice continued and grew as new forms became necessary to carry on the work of landmen.

More than 1,000 landmen and their wives attended the third annual meeting. speakers included Texas Governor Price Daniel and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson. Annual dues were increased from the original \$10 to \$15. Members were told the association was in a tight financial situation, and this

would not change until early renewals started coming in later that year.

Rogers' term was an active one. In June 1957, the AAPL passed by an overwhelming vote an amendment providing for associate membership in the organization, and thereby solved a previous controversy. That membership category was limited to persons in the oil and gas industry who, irrespective of basis of compensation, title, or educational background, "are directly and regularly engaged in or associated with petroleum landwork as an integral part of their position in the industry." The applicant also had to have completed three years of actual experience as a landman.

The board also announced new standards for active members. Membership was

limited to men above the age of 21, and was denied to any applicant who was a member of the Communist Party or any front organization deemed detrimental to the welfare of the oil and gas industry and to the nation.

The new standards did not curb membership as figures in August 1957 indicated. The total stood at 1,655 at that time, and predictions were made that 2,000 was well within sight.

Rogers was constantly at work not only to improve the image of landmen but to better publicize the profession and educate the public about the landman's role in energy development. In November 1957, he announced the beginning of the T.I.P. program. This involved the weekly mailing of a large post card — outlining an important fact about the industry — to every member of the U.S. Congress. He introduced the postcard campaign with a letter telling the congressmen that the T.I.P. card would never propagandize specific legislative bills. "Nor will we ever burden you with lengthy discourses on controversial matters. We intend them to be a unique, interesting, and informative public service," Rogers wrote.

The fourth annual meeting was held in New Orleans. As the late Thomas G. Kelliher assumed the presidency, he promised a continued drive to build membership. It was during his term that the long hours at creating the petroleum land management (PLM) program neared finalization.

Delegates met in Oklahoma City in 1959 for the fifth annual meeting and elected M. W. Hankinson president. During his term, discussions about membership requirements were



President M. W. Hankinson (1959-60) briefs Jack G. McQueen, Ed Q. Smith, Tulsa Land Association President Ernest V. Potter, and Claud Fleet in Tulsa in February 1960.

frequent. He made progress at further cementing the organization in national stature when he helped obtain agreement from the National Oil Scouts and Landmen's Association — which was actually a scouting organization — to remove the name *landmen* from its title. AAPL agreed to pay the \$1,000 cost for the name change. Practically all early AAPL

members had been members of the scouting association.



Claud Fleet and Ralph Cormany arrive in Casper, 1961. Greeters are, l-r, Public Information Chairman M. S. (Pat) Pattersen, Wyoming Association President Tom Pace, and Director W. R. Wimbish.

Hankinson remembered the discussions about membership changes that would allow independents to be admitted to the organization as triggering much opposition. There were two reasons. "First, they (early AAPL members) honestly believed professionalism would be lost and, second, that independent landmen would soon control the association," he explained.

The PLM program was launched at the University of Oklahoma under Hankinson's presidency.

He and others

encouraged other universities to consider similar programs on their campuses. He told about calling on the dean of the School of Business at the University of Texas.

"At first they were skeptical — more than skeptical — and they showed us records of past programs the Business School had instituted only to see them erode because of lack of outside support. After considerable conversation, they seemed convinced of the need for the program and that the necessary support existed. The dean turned to his assistant and declared 'Anything Oklahoma can do, we can do better.' Phil McGowan knew I was a graduate of OU. He gave me a short glance and a semi-smile, but nothing further was said on the subject. The rest is history," he said.

History was in the making at the annual meeting in Los Angeles in 1960. A man named Ronald Reagan spoke to the assembly. Ralph Cormany, who would be elected president the next year, remembers that speech well. He also remembers contacting Reagan for the engagement.

"I was trying to get Reagan to commit himself. I had a buddy named Jack who was always calling and imitating other people. Anyway, somebody called our house one night and my wife answered. The person



President George R. Bixler (1961-62) meets with Bismarck association officers, l-r, W. R. Heagney, Bixler, Duane R. Bartels, W. A. Burton, and J. R. Kennedy.

said he was Ronald Reagan. My wife just knew it was Jack, and she said, 'Jack, you scoundrel. Cut that out.' And she hung up on him," Cormany said. "But the man called right back and said, 'This is really Ronald Reagan . . . it really is.'"

Cormany said Reagan's speech was a stemwinder. He spoke on *Business, Ballots, and Bureaus*, and brought the house down.

Cormany, a tall, lanky man who looks a lot like the late movie actor John Wayne, was elected the sixth president of AAPL. He was a Marine Corps veteran and had coached the Camp Pendleton football team before becoming a landman.

"Our main goal in those days was to make the landman a professional entity. That is what we strove for, and the PLM was a long stride in that direction," said Cormany, one of two landmen from California who have been elected AAPL president.

George R. Bixler succeeded Cormany as president. At that annual meeting, Eliot Janeway, president of Janeway Publications Research Corporation in New

York, warned in a speech to the delegates that the country was living in an atmosphere of war with the Soviet Union. He said the mere absence of shooting did not mean peace.

In October 1961, John E. Swearingen, president of Standard Oil Company, wrote an article for *The Landman*. In it he said that since a large portion of the individual income taxes, corporate income taxes, and employment taxes were derived from industries' employees and shareholders of American business, it was abundantly clear that the entire economy of the country rested on the ability of American businesses to carry the burden placed on it.

In November 1961, news was announced of a new X-ray machine that could help the oil industry. Dr. L. J. O'Brien said in a paper written for Pure Oil Company's magazine that the machine was being used at Pure's research center to aid in finding how much oil could be recovered from a reservoir by secondary methods. The procedure involved placing a small

scale reproduction or model of the reservoir in an X-ray beam which made it possible to see how much oil and other fluids were inside the reservoir rock.

Then came 1962. John B. Connally had been appointed secretary of the navy by President John F. Kennedy. John M. Kelley had been named assistant secretary of the Interior. Both were former landmen. And Robert F. Ramsey of Wichita was named "Oil Man of the Year" in Kansas.

The first annual Arkansas Oil and Gas Institute was held at Hot Springs National Park. It was a whopping success, and Bixler was liberal with his praise for the AAPL membership. In a new members contest, chaired by M. Slayton Ermey, J. C. Nixon of Lafayette



The Gorden Wards
and AAPL President Haden Upchurch in 1962.



Registrants for the eighth annual meeting in 1962 in Banff, Alberta, Canada are Bill Bothard, Clarence Culver, Marvin Roberts, Bill Stanley, Bob Sutton, Bennett Blake, Hugh Munroe, and J. M. Barret.

*Fifth Arkansas Oil and Gas Institute
Co-chairman Kenneth Parsley
introduces a speaker.*



*Marvin G. Twenhofel and Arkansas Institute
Co-chairman Kenneth Parsley.*



*Speaker panel on The Anatomy of a Drilling
Opinion, l-r, J. L. Menas, Gerald DeLung,
W. E. Golden, and Hartsill Ragon.*



AAPL officers and committee chairmen in 1963, l-r, William S. Bicknell, Education; James B. Bexley, Advertising; Clyde Parker, treasurer; Herbert S. Harry, secretary; James A. Walker, president; James W. Beavers, Jr., third vice president; John H. Folks, second vice president; Arthur S. Berger, first vice president; and L. M. Spleth, Public Lands.



Kansas landmen hear AAPL First Vice President Haden Upchurch discuss The Industry's New Maturity in 1962. Among those present were, l-r, David Dayvault, Wichita Landmen's Association President Bill J. Porter, Liberal (Kansas) APL President James J. Frazier, Upchurch, and M. S. Ermey.

won \$300 for signing up 39 new members.

Haden J. Upchurch of Houston was elected president for 1962-63. As with other presidents, he followed a busy path. He appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee during a hearing relating to proposed taxes on natural resources. It was but one appearance of dozens during which he would travel thousands of miles on behalf of AAPL.

But the hard work was paying off. AAPL members were feeling good about certain aspects of the political scene in some states. Their longtime friend Connally was elected governor of Texas, and A. E. (Bert) King, also known by many members, was appointed land commissioner for the State of Wyoming.

The Frank Kelley Award was created in memory of Frank Kelley, an AAPL member who died that year. The organization announced that each year it would choose a journalistic award winner who personified excellence in reporting in a responsible manner on energy industry news.

Other awards would be established in succeeding years by AAPL. They would include the James A. Walker Award, named in honor of an AAPL

president and given to a member who had contributed time and effort to secure advertising for *The Landman*, and the Elizabeth Brand Teacher Excellence Award, honoring the late wife of Milton L. Brand of Houston and given annually to an outstanding teacher in Texas.

Upchurch recalled the frantic pace he set that year. "One of our objectives was to be known as an association that had the ability to make a statement on such subjects as the depletion allowance which was before Congress," he recalled. "We also continued the T.I.P. program and extended it to news people, sending them tips about the industry. We started a program for landmen to contact high school seniors in their respective areas to introduce them to the petroleum land management profession and to stimulate their interest in pursuing it as a career."

Upchurch turned over the president's role to James Walker of San Francisco. During his term, a life insurance program was announced, providing a complete package of insurance for AAPL members. Roland

Champion, who was later to become AAPL president, was honored by the New Mexico Petroleum Industries Committee for distinguished service to the industry.

In July 1963, H. R. Hochmuth, associate director of the Bureau of Land Management, spoke before the Western States Land Commissioners Association in Los Angeles. He said unresolved problems on public lands stemmed from two issues. Those, he said, were the public land and mineral laws presently fashioned in a manner to meet the needs of society and, secondly, the absence of a defined national policy for the future of the public domain.

It was also during Walker's tenure that one of the thorniest problems facing AAPL was solved. In February 1964, the board approved a resolution on a 10-1 vote to admit independents as active members. "They are no

longer considered associates," announced Walker.

Charter member Joe Morris, who today owns his own company in Denver, recalled the reasons for the conflict in those early years. He said he was always in favor of admitting independents as full-time members but the majority of the early membership did not agree with his feelings.

"It seems the natural progression to becoming an independent at that time was to establish yourself as a company member and then progress to where you could be on your own. If the person was a professional, the way I felt about it, he should not be categorized because of where his salary came from," he said. "But another faction was worried that we might lose our companies' support, which we needed at that time."

Morris told about serving on the AAPL Constitution



A tip from AAPL's T.I.P. program.



Good hunting for honorary AAPL member Tom Sealy of the University of Texas Board of Regents and AAPL members Texas Governor John Connally, former Governor Allan Shivers, and Paul L. Davis.



James A. Walker
1925-1967

The James A. Walker Memorial Award

The James A. Walker Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in securing advertising on behalf of the AAPL's various publications is established in honor of the association's ninth president. Walker was widely and affectionately known throughout the oil industry as an honorable and hardworking man who set records with all his accomplishments.

He died unexpectedly of a heart attack at age 42 while serving as division land manager for Kern County (California) Land Company's operations at Bakersfield. He filled a wide range of roles in AAPL from committee assignments to director, to officer. Many of his achievements went unchronicled, but his effective and productive efforts on behalf of the Landman Scholarship Trust was evident to all. No individual, to date, had been responsible for channeling more funds into the Trust. After he stepped down from the AAPL presidency in 1964, his dedication to the objectives and programs of the association and the profession never faltered or wavered.

In the oil industry, he served a short time with Gulf Oil Company before joining Kern (which later became a Tenneco subsidiary) in 1952 as a landman. He was always his company's representative and always a staunch supporter of professional achievements for landmen.

Committee. He recalled that when types of membership were being defined, there were some heated discussions. "When we were writing the portion of the constitution about accepting independents as full-fledged members there was some conflict."

However, the resolution passed and the first ten years were coming to a close. Membership had edged past the 2,000 mark. Members were becoming more involved in telling the public about their profession. The PLM program was well established and had already graduated many majors, including that first group in early 1960. From the University of Oklahoma they were Gary Boren, Frank Spooner, Bill Brodnax, and Phil Houser. From the University of Texas it was Kenneth Sparks.

Arthur S. Berger of Denver was named president for that tenth year. Registration at the annual meeting was the second largest in the organization's history. U.S. Senator Gordon A. Allott of Colorado spoke on the need for a federal recording statute, a need which he said had long existed and had become more acute as activity in federal leases increased.

M. T. Halbouty, a well-known independent, spoke that year at the installation banquet of the University of Texas Student Landmen's Association. He encouraged the students to pay little attention to talk that cautioned them not to take geology, petroleum engineering, and petroleum land management because the industry was too sick to recover. The opposite was true, he said, describing as unlimited the horizons of the oil and gas industry in America.

As Berger moved across the country introducing speakers like

AAPL President Art Berger (1965) receives honorary citizenship plaque and key from Fort Worth Mayor Bayard Friedman.





Frank Kelley
1897-1963

The Frank Kelley Memorial Award

The Frank Kelley Memorial Award is presented annually in recognition of excellence in reporting energy industry information to the public. It is named in honor of a landman who, by vent of his personality and the times in which he lived, came to be a legend during his own lifetime. When Kelley died in 1963, his industry, nation, and company lost a tall, crusty citizen who left his imprint on a profession and a way of life. As district landman with Mobil Oil Company, he went to West Texas in the early days and became a living part of it. He epitomized the company man, loyal beyond the usual call of corporate duty, but he was a devoted family man and community supporter first.

He was a talker, but he was also a listener and a doer. His commitment to civic responsibility brought him to active accomplishments and acknowledged leadership in community projects and service organizations, in the educational and political fields, and in energy and agriculture. Even these things do not get to the true heart of a man like Frank

Kelley. He started broke, and he never forgot it. His philosophy was: "A man's no better than his friends and family — and all the good things which are done for him along the way."

Kelley possessed the desirable qualities of a landman to a height, depth, and breadth equalled by few. Because of these qualities of greatness, the AAPL chose to name its journalist award in his honor — for it was created in his spirit. Since the inception of the award in 1967, winners have been named from small-town to major metropolitan newspapers, from business tabloids to special-interest magazines, and from feature, editorial, news, and freelance writers.

Halbouty, he also worked hard at making the profession better known to the general public by coordinating with Fleet to install an AAPL exhibit at the then relatively new Six Flags Over Texas theme park in Arlington, Texas. The exhibit, which drew good comments from the local media who attended its opening, detailed the history of the oil and gas industry and touched on the petroleum land management profession.

The exhibit tied in with the tone of Berger's presidential address. He had said things were going good for the organization at that time, and that they would be going even better by the time he stepped down 12 months later.



Milton Brand presents 1983 Elizabeth Brand Memorial Award for teaching excellence to Theo Wilkes Van Winkle and Richard W. Miller. The award was established in 1979 by the Houston Association of Petroleum Landmen and AAPL and has since recognized the accomplishments of 10 outstanding teachers in the greater Houston area.

Founders Award

1961 Denver APL
1961 R. E. Barnard
1961 A. S. Berger
1961 J. T. Bishop
1961 S. W. Blount, III
1961 G. F. Brown
1961 T. Coleman
1961 T. D. Craft
1961 J. J. Frazier
1961 R. L. Healy
1961 R. C. Kay
1961 R. E. Larson
1961 R. L. McCamey
1961 J. D. Nunn
1961 O. F. Stevens
1961 G. St. Aubin
1961 E. C. Vopat

Special Award

1961 J. P. McGowan
1961 Leslie Moses
1961 M. S. Petterson
1962 John H. Folks
1962 W. G. (Buck) Rogers
1962 Robert J. Horstmeier
1963 Montana APL
1963 Michael Late Benedum
Chapter of AAPL
1964 James L. Green
1964 Willard C. (Bill) Kimball
1964 D. D. (Todd) White
1965 Jack M. West
1965 Brantley Jackson
1965 Lafayette APL
1966 G. P. (Tige) Brown
1966 Edward G. Skeeters
1966 A. W. (Doc) Hanley
1967 David Schaeen
1967 C. D. Fleet, Jr.
1967 Thomas F. Stroock
1968 Ralph Westbrook
1968 Denton I. Howard
1968 Kenneth W. Jones
1969 D. M. McDonald
1969 Tom L. Roberts
1969 E. D. McCarthy
1970 Garner Stroud
1970 Ted Ashmore
1970 Warren A. Morton
1971 Collis P. Chandler
1971 W. O. Toce
1971 Canadian APL
1972 P. F. (Pete) Habersack
1972 Donald L. Simasko
1972 Rex E. Tarr
1973 Wayne A. Blankenship, Jr.
1973 Jacob I. Morrow
1973 Jeff Womack
1974 Garth M. Armstrong
1974 John J. Lacy
1974 N. P. (Nick) Woodward
1975 Charles M. Gadd
1975 James E. O'Byrne
1975 W. E. (Ed) Pittman
1976 L. Frank Pitts
1976 D. Calvin Blue, Jr.
1976 Edwin T. Stitt
1977 L. Kenneth Clarke
1977 Max H. Ernest, III
1977 Aaron L. Colvin
1977 George Foster Brown
1977 Jack R. Roper
1978 John F. Bricker
1978 June Brooks
1978 Durland E. Clark, Jr.
1979 Jim Hanna
1979 Dr. William L. Keown
1979 Clayton W. Williams, Jr.

1979 E. L. (Chick) Williamson
1979 Frank K. Young
1980 George Humble
1980 Jack Allen
1980 Milton L. Brand
1980 Horace (Bo) Rowold
1980 Raymond S. Blunk
1980 D. O. (Doc) Churchill
1981 Warren A. Morton
1981 Frank A. Ashby, Jr.
1981 James M. Massell
1981 David Schaeen
1982 Max H. Ernest, CPL
1982 Omer R. Humble, CPL
1982 V. Ross Brown, CPL
1982 M. Slayton Erney, CPL
1983 Don L. Hansen
1983 Frank Bavendick
1983 Robert E. Gossett, CPL
1983 Joe E. France, CPL
1983 John L. Rankin
1984 Kathryn A. Vermillion
1984 Jacob I. Morrow
1984 Gale C. Miller

Committee Member Award

1961 William M. Majors, Jr.
1963 Thomas H. Mehning
1964 Robert M. Garst
1965 R. Douglas Jones
1966 Vernon H. Mueck
1967 James F. Holcomb
1968 A. W. (Doc) Hanley
1969 Robert W. Stramler
1970 Douglas W. Helm
1971 James M. Kendrick
1972 F. B. (Jack) Jackson, III
1973 T. E. (Ed) Wells
1974 Virgil W. Cleveland, Jr.
1975 Richard P. Cullen
1975 Mike H. Murphy
1976 Donn R. Byrne
1977 Marvin L. Wigley
1978 Walter E. Belt, Jr.
1978 Robert G. Woodard
1979 Maynard Robertson
1980 Hugh Scott
1981 Michael B. Yost
1982 Charles M. Witten, CPL
1983 Jan T. van Loon
1984 Morris L. Lowman, CPL

Citizen Award

1961 William T. Blackburn
1962 R. B. Rodke
1963 Wesley W. Mowery
1964 Paul M. Pope, Jr.
1966 D. D. (Jack) Adams
1967 Grant H. Molett
1968 Clinton St. Clair
1969 Jim L. Hanna
1970 W. Grayson Ray
1971 Malouf Abraham
1974 Lawrence C. Harris
1975 Kenneth M. Jastrow
1976 M. S. (Pat) Petterson
1977 Charles E. Strange
1978 James M. Kendrick
1979 Bob Monaghan
1980 Robert M. Moon
1981 Bill H. Smith
1982 Jim L. Hanna, CPL
1983 Norman Forrest Germany
1984 Malouf Abraham

Local Association Award

1961 Panhandle APL
1963 Houston APL
1964 Michigan APL

1965 Bakersfield APL
1966 Alberta APL
1967 Oklahoma City APL
1968 Lafayette APL
1969 PLANO
1970 Tulsa APL
1971 Houston APL
1972 PLANO
1973 Oklahoma City APL
1974 Houston APL
1975 Denver APL
1976 Houston APL
1977 Houston APL
1979 Houston APL
1980 Mississippi APL
1981 Denver APL
1982 PLANO
1983 Corpus Christi APL
1984 East Texas APL

James A. Walker Memorial Award Winners

1970 C. J. Caskey
1971 William E. Palmer
1972 J. N. Blair
1973 Paul Hanna
1984 Timothy J. Turner

Frank Kelley Memorial Award Winners

1967 Tommy Thompson, *The Houston Chronicle*
1968 James C. Tanner, *The Wall Street Journal*
1969 Riley Wilson, *The Tulsa Daily World*
1970 Bernice Cleete, *The San Angelo Standard-Times*
1971 Deacon New, *The Daily Oklahoma and Times*
1972 Eddi Parker, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*
1973 Ted Brooks, *The Wichita Eagle and Beacon*
1974 Hugh Powers, *The Houston Chronicle*
1975 John E. Pitts, *The Pecos Enterprise*
1976 Edward E. Domainuge, *The Hartford Times*
1976 Ron Nowell, *The Calgary Herald*
1977 *The Christian Science Monitor*
1977 Maurice D. Whitney, *The Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph*
1978 Jim Wright, *The Dallas Morning News*
1978 Sam Fletcher, *The Houston Post*
1979 Maurice D. Whitney, *The Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph*
1979 Sam Fletcher, *The Houston Post*
1980 Thomas L. Amberg, *The St. Louis Globe-Democrat*
1981 Harry Hurt, III, *Texas Monthly*
1981 Sam Fletcher, *The Houston Post*
1982 *Newsweek*
1982 Sam Fletcher, *The Houston Post*
1983 Rogers H. Olverson, *The Times of Acadiana, New Business*

1984 Mike D'Orso, *Commonwealth/The Magazine of Virginia*
1984 Jim Hendon, *Rocky Mountain News*

Mary K. Blankenship Memorial Award Winners

1977 Tulsa Landettes, Mrs. Raymond Wickett, President
1978 Tulsa Landettes, Mrs. Tom Jewell, President
1979 Women's Auxiliary to the Houston APL, Mrs. Leonard K. (Mary Lynn) Bray, President
1980 Permian Basin Landwives' Auxiliary, Mrs. R. C. (Billie) Bennett, President
1981 Denver Landmen's Auxiliary, Bette Champion, President
1982 Denver Landmen's Auxiliary, Mrs. Harold (Karilyn) Todd, President
1983 Tulsa Landettes
1984 Corpus Christi Landman's Auxiliary

Elizabeth Brand Teacher Excellence Award Winners

1979 Katherine L. Fenton
1980 Michelle R. Rohr
1981 Anne Janes Papakonstantinou
1981 Frank B. Rice
1982 Ida M. Sabatine Medlen
1982 M. Marie Ishee
1983 Theo Wilkes Van Winkle
1983 Richard W. Miller
1984 Patricia Loughmiller
1984 Clara Helen Jester

Annual Meetings, Past-Present-Future

1955 Fort Worth
1956 Denver
1957 San Antonio
1958 New Orleans
1959 Oklahoma City
1960 Los Angeles
1961 Houston
1962 Banff
1963 Tulsa
1964 Dallas
1965 Denver
1966 Corpus Christi
1967 New Orleans
1968 Fort Worth
1969 Banff
1970 California
1971 Oklahoma City
1972 Houston
1973 Denver
1974 Dallas
1975 New Orleans
1976 San Francisco
1977 Canada
1978 Houston
1979 El Paso
1980 Reno, NV/MGM Grand
1981 Denver
1982 San Diego
1983 New Orleans
1984 Nashville
1985 Dallas
1986 Reno, NV/MGM Grand
1987 Kansas City, MO
1988 Washington, D.C.
1989 Anaheim
1990 San Antonio

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Michael Late Benedum



“The Great Wildcatter”

The MLBC membership application is located on the website at www.mlbc-aapl.org. Please check your information on the website prior to submitting your renewal. The MLBC website has an updated version of the membership listing. Please use this resource if you can not find yours or others information in the directory. Please report any errors or omissions to Tara White at twhite@mlbc-aapl.org.

Notice of the application(s) of all potential Chapter members shall be published in the next regularly scheduled monthly Chapter “Takeoff” newsletter. Active members shall have the opportunity during for a period of thirty (30) days following the first publication to object to the potential members’ application. Such objections to membership approval may be submitted to any member of the Executive Committee and

shall be in writing. The Executive Committee shall take any such objection under counsel in the next regularly scheduled monthly Executive Committee meeting. A decision to accept or reject the membership application shall be determined by a majority vote at such meeting. The Executive Committee shall notify the applicant in writing of rejection.

Application for membership in the Chapter shall be subject to the approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting, after the aforementioned thirty (30) day newsletter publication period, and shall require the signed approval by the acting President of the Executive Committee, as evidence of the Committee’s approval. Names of any and all newly approved members shall be read at the following regularly scheduled general meeting of the Chapter.



MLBC WEBSITE

If you experience any problems using the website or if you have any suggestions, please contact Jeremy Preston via e-mail at JPreston@eqt.com.



JOB BANK

The direct link for MLBC Job Bank is www.mlbcjobbank.com. If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Preston via e-mail at JPreston@eqt.com.



PHOTO ALBUM

We would like to share our Photo Album with you to show you what MLBC has been doing throughout the year. The direct link for MLBC Photo Album is www.mlbc-aapl.org/VPhoto.php.