



MARK WOJNA

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2023/2024 NOGS PRESIDENT

I hope this finds everyone doing well. It's hard to believe that summer has already come to an end. Hopefully this summer's extended heat wave hasn't impacted you too much. Since moving to New Orleans in 1984, I've spent several Labor Day weekends dodging hurricanes and evacuating to hotels along the Gulf Coast. Fortunately, the tropics have been quiet so far and hopefully remain that way for the remainder of hurricane season.

Our personal and professional lives have been disrupted the past few years due to the Covid pandemic. My thoughts and prayers go out to all our members who lost loved ones during this difficult time. Our professional lives have also been impacted. Some of us now work remotely from home. Business travel has been reduced. More meetings and presentations are now conducted virtually online. NOGS now offer an online option to participate in our monthly meetings at a significantly reduced cost to accommodate those members who can't attend in person. Personal interaction continues to play an important role in our professional lives. After a three-year hiatus due to Covid, I'm pleased to announce that NOGS will host not one but two Fall Kickoff/Membership Drive parties in late September. To accommodate our members who live and or work on the Northshore, NOGS will be hosting a party at Pat's Rest Awhile on the Mandeville lakefront on Thursday, September 21. Stratagraph has generously agreed to sponsor the north shore event. To accommodate our south shore members, NOGS will host a 2nd fall party at Wrong Iron in New Orleans the following Thursday, September 28. Leaf Environmental will sponsor the New Orleans event. On behalf of the New Orleans Geological Society I'd like to personally acknowledge and thank Stratagraph and Leaf Environmental for sponsoring and supporting these two events. Please plan on attending one or both events. It's an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. I'm extending an invitation to all geologists in the metro area to join us at these functions and consider becoming a member of the New Orleans Geological Society. Flyers with details and registration for both events will be coming out any day now.

Beginning with the September NOGS LOG, we're launching a new monthly column called Louisiana GeoNews. The name is considered fluid and may evolve as the column develops. NOGS has historically focused on the oil and gas industry in Louisiana. Geology is a dynamic and vibrant science here in South Louisiana. In addition to oil and gas, we have geologists working on solutions for coastal restoration, sediment diversion projects, carbon sequestration, salt dome storage, geohazards and geotechnical issues and many others that I hope to learn about in the near future. My goal with this column is to invite geologists from our current membership as well as outside of NOGS to share their work and to educate us on geologically oriented projects and topics going on within the state of Louisiana. Look for Chris McLindon's letter in the inaugural column of this month's Louisiana GeoNews. It's a topic I'm excited about and would like to see NOGS embrace this project.

I firmly believe that Geology is one of the most relevant sciences and plays an important role in our state and country. I realize I'm biased because I'm a geologist. By bringing more geoscientists together with diverse backgrounds and from various industries, I'm confident it will make NOGS a stronger and more relevant professional society as we move forward. If you have any questions or suggestions feel free to reach out to me by email at markw@llox.com.

Mark Wojna