

# A MESSAGE FROM THE 2023/2024 NOGS PRESIDENT



**MARK WOJNA**

I would like to thank all of our current members along with the new members who joined and guests who attended our two Fall Kickoff/Membership Drive parties this past September. I would also like to once again thank and acknowledge our two sponsors for these events, Stratagraph and Leaf Environmental. Both the north shore and south shore parties were held at fun venues and were well attended. Having attended both parties myself, I see them as a reflection of the new normal as the New Orleans Geological Society evolves. For the past 20 to 40 years, most of our members worked in the oil and gas industry with most of the jobs being concentrated in downtown New Orleans. Today, what's left of the remaining oil and gas industry here in the New Orleans area has migrated to the north shore. The south shore is populated with geologists working as consultants in various fields, working in the environmental industry, working in regulatory agencies and academia.

This diaspora of geologists spread across the New Orleans metro area and southeast Louisiana certainly presents some challenges for NOGS. In the past, when most of us worked downtown, monthly luncheon meetings were held at The New Orleans Petroleum Club. After the Petroleum Club had shut down, NOGS moved to the Holiday Inn on Loyola where we met regularly for many years on the first Monday of every month. With the redistribution of members in the metro region and post-covid challenges we've become a bit nomadic. We appear to be settling on holding alternating meetings on the north shore and south shore to accommodate our membership. Our north shore meetings seem to be settling in at Zea's Restaurant in Covington. Finding a suitable location to meet on the south shore has been challenging. Inflation and worker shortages, especially in the service industry are real issues. As we've all experienced in our personal lives, dining costs have gone up. Many restaurants are operating on limited schedules, especially on Monday lunch times. The NOGS Board is evaluating all our options including costs, venue locations and days of the week in order to continue to provide cost effective and meaningful lunch meetings for our membership.

The Board is also working on providing a more professional virtual meeting option for those members and non-members who cannot attend a monthly lunch meeting but want to hear the speaker for educational purposes. For those of us who are licensed professional geologists in the State of Louisiana, any geologically relevant talk is worth one educational credit towards licensing requirements. We are planning on issuing educational certificates in the near future for those members who require the credits to maintain their licenses. We are also looking to diversify the topics of our monthly speakers in order to appeal to all geologists living and working in our region. In my previous monthly letter I was celebrating the fact that we were experiencing a quiet and calm hurricane season in the Gulf Coast. Instead of looking forward to cooler fall temperatures, we're now beginning to wonder what this salt wedge creeping up the Mississippi River has in store for us. Let's hope that this salt wedge doesn't become another chapter in New Orleans history of calamities. Laissez les bons temps rouler. As always, if you have any questions, issues that need to be resolved or suggestions feel free to reach out to me by email at [markw@llox.com](mailto:markw@llox.com)

Mark Wojna