

ally need to focus on the newly elected senators, congressmen, and their staffs.

We have a short window before the next Congress convenes and shortly thereafter to make an impact in the minds of the new congressmen and staffs before they become brainwashed with false ideas that oil and gas is a dying industry or that alternate fuels are the only hope. It's been said that members of Congress don't change Washington; Washington changes them.

It is really worth every producer's time to seek out the newly elected members of Congress or their aides and present the industry's case in a brief and factual manner. Anyone who needs a list of the newly elected members as well as concise oil and gas facts can contact his state oil and gas association or the Inde-

pendent Petroleum Association of America in Washington.

It is extremely important that the newly elected officials hear from us. They may not know it now, but sometime in the future they will need some oil and gas facts from someone they can trust. Try to be the person they will feel comfortable asking for that information.

Call them regularly and offer your services. Any relationships established should be reported to your state organization and to IPAA. It will help both groups do their jobs better. In fact, it would be helpful if you don't have a personal relationship with any newly elected officials, to have your state organization select one for you to contact.

IPAA says one or more call-ups to Washington will probably be necessary in

the near future. I have made many of these trips over the past 30 years. I can't say they were all completely effective, but some experienced outstanding results. One never knows when something magical will occur. On one trip I actually had dinner with Nancy Pelosi, Charlie Rangel, Edward Markey and Nick Rahall.

The chance for a successful call-up increases with the number of states represented. This is the time for all producing states to be present, be organized, and to work effectively in a coordinated manner.

Nothing new has been presented in this article, but I hope as a minimum, it at least causes someone to realize how important it is to establish relationships with members of Congress—the sooner the better. Now is the time to get started. □



## LOUISIANA OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION

**DIANA CHANCE**  
MANAGER  
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### FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

This is the time of the year when one cannot help but reflect on the past year and look forward to the new year. A time

of the year when you would like to peer into your crystal ball and see what is ahead but you can't, so you just prepare yourself for doing the best that you can.

This year has been an incredible period for LOGA. A special legislative session was called in November 2005, another special session was called in February 2006 in advance of the regular session in March, and then a special session was called in December. The LOGA team has worked through three special ses-



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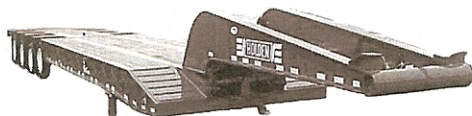
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sions and one regular session in a 14-month span. In normal times we would have one regular session a year. Governor Kathleen Blanco called the three special sessions to deal with the many issues surrounding Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

There are many highlights that stand out in the past year; however, the passage of SB 655, authored by Senator Robert Adley, D-Benton, was a major accomplishment for LOGA. This Legacy Bill, now ACT 312, addressed the issue of the many lawsuits filed by a group of trial lawyers for alleging environmental damages caused by oil and gas activity from years past when the oil and gas activity was the technology of the day and legal. More than 130 such suits have been filed in Louisiana, which sent a chilling message to any company hoping to explore for oil and gas in our state.

LOGA went up against a very well-funded group of special interest trial lawyers and landowners. The group employed a high-level promotional firm that ran statewide radio, television, newspaper advertisements and voter calling aimed at defeating SB 655. With a great deal of support, help, and leadership from Governor Blanco's administration—from Ginger Sawyer with the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, Senator Adley, Representative William Daniel, R-Baton Rouge, and others—we passed an enormous piece of legislation, one that in time will prove to be invaluable to our industry. I am personally proud to have been a part of it,

though I would not relish doing it every year. I must add, there were several bills that LOGA President Don Briggs calls "bad bills" that were killed in the regular session as well.

Also in the past year our association came to the aid of victims from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, not in a small way, but in a big way. It fills my heart to have taken part in this project. Our association raised close to \$700,000 in both Katrina funds, and it is continuing to help rebuild the lives and businesses of families devastated by the hurricanes.

It was LOGA's goal to give support to South Plaquemines Parish, where the eye of Katrina passed, bringing in a wall of water submerging the entire southern part of the parish. When the water receded, what was left was a bathtub of water. Levees on the east and west sides of the parish held the floodwaters in for weeks. I would guess the devastation was 95 percent. There was little left when the waters finally receded.

Plaquemines Parish is the largest oil and gas producing parish in the state of Louisiana, as well as having a major offshore supply base for providing infrastructure for the eastern Gulf of Mexico oil and gas activities.

LOGA has signed an agreement with the Southern Mutual Help Association to rebuild 10 business and 25 homes in the area of Boothville and Venice. The project will take 18 months to complete and will have an economic benefit of more than \$1.3 million. LOGA's members should be proud their association was able to make this happen. It may be small in the big scheme of things, but it's huge to the families LOGA will directly impact.

## 2007's Challenges

In March 2006, LOGA held its annual meeting at L'auberge du Lac in Lake Charles, La., which was a huge success. The association also held a very successful Louisiana Energy Golf Classic, the Gulf Coast Prospect Expo in September, and capped off 2006 with a successful oil field service auction in November. Yes, it has been some year.

This year will be one for the Louisiana history books. It also will be a demanding one on our association. Think about this: one-half of the Louisiana Legislature (65 of 144 elected officials) will be term limited this year. If Governor Blanco is not re-

lected, there will be a new governor, new secretaries of the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, a new commissioner of Conservation, and I could go on. All of this also would mean a changing of the guard in the legislature, with a new Senate president, speaker of the house, and committee chairmen. Get the picture?

In the past year and a half, working closely with Don Briggs as chairwoman of LOGA, it is no accident that we have been as successful as we have been. We

have relentlessly fought off and killed bad legislation and have passed all of our good legislation, except for the lease referendum bill, which will be rectified in the 2007 regular session.

This success is because our LOGA team works tirelessly with the administration and legislature to further the goals of our industry, which is to make Louisiana a better place to explore and produce oil and gas. Term limits, a possible new administration and changing of the guard, will be a first for Louisiana; it also will be a first for our LOGA team. □



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## NEW MEXICO OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION

Land Management up and running in Farmington and Carlsbad, and effectively expanding our public relations/education campaign from "Being a Good Neighbor" to "Together We Can."

But with opportunities come challenges, and with challenges come hard work and dedication. NMOGA and its member companies are up to the challenge.



### Surface Owner Bill

The oil and gas industry has been fortunate in New Mexico to not have had a tax increase in the past 15 years. We know at some time that streak will run out, but not in the foreseeable future.

Our state finished the last fiscal year with an \$800 million surplus all because of our industry. The same is projected for this fiscal year. It has become very apparent to our legislators that as the oil and gas industry goes, so goes the economic security of New Mexico.

NMOGA has been actively working on the surface owner protection issue for the past three years, and last year believed it had reached an agreement with the other side. That agreed-on legislation passed the New Mexico House of Representatives 55-1 and unanimously passed a Senate committee before being sat on by the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The chairman was told by the bill's sponsor that he no longer agreed with the legislation, and thus pulled out at the

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

If there is one word that comes to my mind as we in New Mexico move into 2007, I think that word would be "opportunity." The opportunities are unlimited for the New Mexico Oil & Gas Association and its member companies during the next 12 months.

These opportunities range from a successful legislative session where the state of New Mexico starts with a \$900 million surplus—thus no prospect of increased taxes for our industry—to increased exploration and production in New Mexico. We also have the legislative agenda of dealing with surface-owner protection legislation, which has been on the table in several past sessions, and this year we believe we have the opportunity to resolve this in a very satisfactory manner.

Other positives for our state are having both the chairman and ranking member of the U.S. Senate Natural Resources Committee be from New Mexico, having pilot project offices for the Bureau of