



COPAS- COLORADO NEWS

September 2004
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President's Message

Well, here I am, entering another year of involvement in COPAS-Colorado as the President of your local society and welcoming you to the 2004 – 2005 year. It is now and always has been a great pleasure for me to be involved with as fine a group of dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers as we have in our organization. This is especially true of the three past Presidents whom I have worked with during my first term. They demonstrated an outstanding blend of personality, intelligence, energy and dedication to our organization. I will try my best to do the same. I am grateful that my association with St. Mary Land & Exploration Co. provides me with this opportunity.

I want to thank Brenda Thompson, last year's society President. She was tireless in her efforts to continue to improve your society and increase its exposure and recognition at the National level. Under her guidance we have increased our membership, improved our website, volunteered to host the Spring 2007 Annual meeting, and sent more individuals to participate and contribute at our National society meetings. Thanks also to Brenda and Jim Garrett who completed their first terms as Board members and then agreed to sign-on for a new term. I have been impressed by your contributions and I look forward to working with you for the next three years.

You have a good group of diligent Board members. As they look into the future they have determined that an increase in dues is necessary to accomplish the goals of the society. They want to continue to provide you with high quality inexpensive educational opportunities, exceptional networking with your peers, and increasing exposure and respect for your society at the National level.

It has the appearance of being a tough year for some of our fellow members here in Colorado as acquisition fever heats up due to the current price environment we are otherwise enjoying. Some of our friends in the industry may be seeking employment. If you or your company have job openings I hope you will consider and recommend your fellow COPAS-Colorado members first. Just like you, they have that extra knowledge and expertise that comes from being exposed to the members of our organization. Please consider using the employment section on our website at www.copascalorado.org.

In July, John Hultin, this year's Vice-President, and I journeyed to New Orleans for the National Leadership conference. We had an opportunity to share ideas with leaders from our peer societies and we learned a great deal about them and our National organization. During the upcoming year we intend to share what we learned with you. As part of this process I expect that John will be lining up an outstanding agenda of speakers for our luncheons. Also, I have committed with the San Antonio and Houston chapters to continue our efforts to increase the benefits of membership for those of our peers who work in the mid-stream and down-stream sectors. Hopefully, Sarbanes-Oxley permitting, by the end of the year we will have an active Mid-stream committee in our society with contacts in the other two societies.

Finally, and most importantly, this is an organization of volunteers. We can only make it better through your involvement. Committee participation and involvement is the heart of our success and fortunately continues to increase in our society. Our Committee Chairs are currently in the process of organizing another outstanding year of education opportunities for you, through their individual committee meetings, through technical sessions that we intend to offer before six luncheon meetings this year and through Education Day which is scheduled for May. I strongly encourage you to get the most from your membership, for you and your employer, through participation and involvement in a committee. Help us to continue our strong committee participation by encouraging involvement of others in your society. If you know of someone who should be a member but is not, I hope you will take just a few minutes to encourage them. Please contact any of the Board members if our assistance would be useful.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the upcoming year. On September 14th please stop by and say hello. Let's get this year off to a great start!

Michael (Mike) Roach
2004-2005 COPAS-Colorado President

September 14th Lunch Speaker

The speaker for the September luncheon will be Liz Rao, the Assistant General Manager for Planning and Development for RTD. She will be discussing FasTracks, a 12-year regional transportation plan to improve and expand bus and rapid transit in the metro area. The plan includes 119 new miles of rail transit, 18 miles of bus rapid transit, enhanced bus service, 31 new park-n-Ride's, 21,000 new parking spaces and transportation improvements to Union Station. FasTracks requires a 4/10th's of a cent sales tax increase in order to be built. This issue is on the ballot at this November's general election.

Mini-Seminar on SEC Reserve Reporting

The Society of Petroleum Engineer Evaluators is offering a **mini-seminar on how reserve numbers are generated and the SEC reporting requirements and federal tax rules relating to those numbers.** John Wright (Phd.-PE) and Patrick Quinn (CPA) will be making the presentation which will last around 3 hours. The number of CPE hours offered was not determined at this writing. It is scheduled for noon October 13, 2004 in the Herschler Room in the Wells Fargo Bank Building. There is seating for 120 people. The lunch will be catered by Dougal's Catering. The preliminary cost to cover speaker gifts, lunch, refreshments and presentation materials will be approximately \$17.50 per person.

Gregory Wilcox, V.P. Engineering at Wilbanks Reserve Corporation, is directing the event and feels his members have shown a strong interest in the topic and in the benefit to be derived from the interaction with COPAS-Colorado. For additional information, please call Rob Fowler at 303-295-1770 or email robjfw@qwest.net.

2004-2005 Luncheon Schedule

All lunch meetings will be held at the Denver Marriott at 17th & California unless otherwise noted.

Meeting Date	Speaker	Technical Session
September 14, 2004	Liz Rao, the Assistant General Manager for Planning and Development for RTD will be discussing FasTracks	
October 12, 2004	Howard Blunk, COPAS National Vice-President and Sandy Launchbaugh will speak on COPAS issues	
November 9, 2004	Pete Stark, IHS Energy, speaking on the state of the industry	Tax
December 14, 2004	Santa	
January 11, 2005	TBA	
February 8, 2005	TBA	
March 8, 2005	TBA	
April 12, 2005	TBA	
May 2005	Education Day	

COPAS COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

Committee	Next Meeting	Location	Contact	
Audit/Joint Interest	9/21	TBA	Steve Gorham	303-308-0500
Education	TBA		Tracy Pharis	303-298-9600
Financial Reporting	TBA		Phil Doty	303-740-9400
Midstream/Downstream	TBA			
Revenue	10/7 – 11:30 am	St. Mary	Tom Ferguson	303-863-4376
Small Oil & Gas Cos.	9/21 -11:45 am	Hein & Co.	Bryan Pratt	303-298-9600
Tax	10/1 – 7:30 am	Adams Mark	Gordy Stenger	303-389-3622

Dues Reminder and Change of Contact Info

Please update your contact information on your COPAS invoice when you send in your annual dues. If your info changes later, there is a change contact information link on the website that you can use to update your information. If you haven't received your annual dues statement, please contact Jim Garrett at jgarrett@credopetroleum.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit/Joint Interest

Committee chairs: Steve Gorham- Rockport -Essex Co. 303-308-0500, Steve@rockportaudit.com
Dawn Smith dsmith@stmaryland.com, 303-863-4321
Dave Abel, dabel@stmaryland.com, 303-863-4321

The JI/Audit committee meets the third Tuesday of each month, rotating at various member offices. We are currently working on several Model Form Interpretations which will be discussed at upcoming national meetings. Dawn has been our representative on the national committee that is working on a new Accounting Procedure which is set as a voting item for the fall national meeting.

Several members will participate in presenting an accounting module to the Denver Desk & Derrick on September 10th. For the last four years our committee has conducted the national employee benefits survey. We are always looking for new members to share their questions, ideas, and experience.

The first meeting will be September 21st. The location will be announced at the September COPAS meeting.

Education

Committee chairs: Tracy Pharis (303) 298-9600, tpharis@heincpa.com
Brenda Thompson (303) 339-5874, bthompson@makjenergy.com

The Education Committee has grown from 'merely' hosting the Annual COPAS Education Day to coordinating monthly technical sessions, monitoring and issuing all COPAS Colorado CPE, participating in coordination of area wide educational opportunities and overseeing the COPAS library, in addition to organizing the Annual COPAS Colorado Education each May.

We ask each of the standing committees to send a representative to the Education Committee and welcome all others interested in supporting the educational opportunities in COPAS Colorado.

Our first meeting has not been scheduled, but we generally meet monthly. This years chair is Tracy Pharis and co-chair is Brenda Thompson (also Board liaison).

Financial Reporting

Committee chairs: Philip E. Doty, CPA, Pdoty@eksh.com (303) 740-9400
Deanna Duell, CPA deanna.duell@thebaileyco.com (303) 384-1512

The Financial Reporting Committee provides a forum for discussing relevant, timely, and important issues that face financial reporting in the industry of upstream oil and gas. The committee meets monthly at various locations and times to be determined by the committee members.

What we plan to do: We plan to cover topics of interest to the committee members related to financial reporting.

Topics to be covered: To be determined by committee members.

Reasons to Participate: To increase your understanding of the current financial reporting issues facing our industry and obtain CPE in the process.

Midstream/Downstream

Once again, we are going to try to organize a Midstream committee in Denver. But, this year we have COPAS National behind us. The COPAS societies in Houston and San Antonio are also trying to form a midstream function.

COPAS Colorado recognizes that the oil and gas industry is more than E&P and JIB. In order to understand and support our industry fully, we must involve all facets of the industry, from getting the product from the earth, to getting the product to the market.

We are looking for any one who is interested in joining the Midstream Committee. We will set a meeting date in late September. In the mean time, please contact either of the following if you are interested:

Mike Roach (303) 863-4385, mroach@stmaryland.com
Brenda Thompson (303) 339-5874, bthompson@makjenergy.com

Revenue

Committee Chair – Tom Ferguson (tferguson@stmaryland.com or 303-863-4376)

The Revenue Committee meets from October through May, usually on the first Wednesday of the month at member companies' offices. The Committee meets to discuss new developments affecting the Revenue Accounting discipline from an accounting policy and regulatory reporting standpoint. Meetings also feature guest speakers from related disciplines including marketing and land functions. The Committee has also arranged technical sessions for the general COPAS Colorado membership and field trips to production and plant facilities in Colorado and New Mexico. The Committee is currently seeking a Co-Chair. Interested parties may contact Tom Ferguson (contact info above).

The first meeting for the new COPAS year is scheduled for Thursday (rather than Wednesday), October 7th at 11:30 at the offices of St. Mary Land & Exploration, 1776 Lincoln Street, Suite 700.

Small Oil & Gas Companies

Committee Chair: Bryan Pratt, Hein & Associates LLP, 303-298-9600 x234, bpratt@heincpa.com

The SMOG will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. The time will be at 11:45 to 1:00 pm. The location will be at Hein & Associates, LLP (717 17th Street, Suite 1600).

The focus of the SMOG committee will be a renewed focus on the accounting and tax issues that smaller oil and gas companies have. Discussions will include presentations on FASB 143, FASB 142, FASB 150, Calculation of Tax Depletion, Prepaid IDC's, and other hands on issues that small accounting departments must handle. There will be round table discussions on the topics and how to real world implement these accounting issues.

We hope that people will come for the lunch and stay for the information. It should be a good year.

Tax

Committee chairs: Gordy Stenger of Patina Oil & Gas Corporation, 303-389-3622, gstenger@patinaoil.com, and John Tripp of the University of Denver, 303-871-2029, jtripp@du.edu.

The Tax Committee holds breakfast meetings on the first Friday of each month. The first meeting of the fall will be held on October 1, 2004 at the Adams Mark Hotel at 7:30 AM.

The monthly meetings cover current developments in federal and state taxation of oil & gas activities, including income, production and sales & use taxes. Other tax topics are covered from time to time at the suggestion of participants or the chairmen. Examples include tax software, training opportunities, and general corporate and individual tax issues. Participants include representatives from local independent e&p companies and accounting firms, making the meetings a unique networking opportunity.

Newsletter Editor:

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I invite your suggestions and comments on the newsletter. Please let me know if you are unable to print the current format of the newsletter. Please email if you have a COPAS related announcement.