



FROM THE
PRESIDENT
ROBERT ROONEY

Greetings to all NOGS members.

It is a pleasure and an honor to communicate with you in a monthly address as President of the New Orleans Geological Society. It is not necessary to say that our Society, like many other professional societies, presently face fiscal challenges that can put executive boards to the test. The NOGS Board in June elected to cease hardcopy production of the *NOGS LOG*, but will continue publishing the on-line PDF version, which is available for download from the NOGS website.

As a geoscientist who has made a living in the oil patch, I can say as many of you can as well – it is not always easy. As I write this letter, oil closed at \$51.28 WTI, \$60.35 Louisiana light, and natural gas at \$2.38. When I graduated from UNO in 1986, oil prices were in the \$12-\$15 range, and the industry was falling hard following the boom; so, from that starting point, I have a built-in sense of optimism where I like to view disappointments in the rear-view mirror, and upside ahead! For me, the oil patch has always held a sense of security in knowing that if I work hard and keep a positive outlook, things will eventually work out. I might think of the oil patch as a very demanding parent who loves unconditionally but demands patience, perseverance, and hard work. The oil field is an open frontier where wealth is created, ideas can be turned into untold opportunity, and there is always room for one more. Still, it is difficult when industry downturns take a financial toll on careers and finances. I have been there. At those times, it is good to be able to reach out to fellow geoscientists in a social setting where like-minded individuals can share camaraderie and advice. Sometimes casual discussions can lead a person to new opportunities. Speaking from experience, I encourage our membership to take every opportunity to socialize at NOGS events in support of our members and our great organization.

NOGS membership also includes many geoscientists involved in the environmental and coastal sciences, working hard to keep our Louisiana coastlines and industrial operations sustainable. Having recently worked as a consultant exploration geoscientist in South Louisiana for the last 2 ½ years, and having over 30 years of industry experience, it is my opinion that the geologist of the future needs to be both an explorationist and an environmentalist. It is critical that a Louisiana geological society such as NOGS recognize the importance of both disciplines through educational and technical programs that reach

out to the rest of our industry and to the community in which we live. I hope to be able to be a part of helping our Board of Directors continue the good work that NOGS makes possible, and to help grow our membership in an age of rapid advancements in technology in oil and gas exploration frontiers.

I want to thank the outgoing Board: Chris McLindon, who closed out the 2018-19 term as both President and Vice-president, and continues to serve the Society and the Louisiana community through his sharing of his geological talents in oil and gas exploration and in educating the public by sharing his valuable work on South Louisiana Coastal geology; Shara Gremillion who served as Secretary has been a steadying force on the Board and consistently volunteered her time and efforts to the Society's activities including serving as an all-day golf course volunteer in support of NOGS Children's Museum fundraiser; Fran Weisman served as Editor which says it all to anyone who has served in that post in the past, Fran's dedication, hard work, persistence in gathering and editing the needed materials for publication, and her service and participation at social events were very much appreciated; David Culpepper as Treasurer who has made great strides in getting our finances organized and put into Quick Books, which is a standard format being adopted by many of the GCAGS societies; Alex Janevski who had to end his Presidency due to a career move to New Mexico; Director Jennifer Connolly who served her third and last term and will be working as Nomination Chairman for 2019-20; Brenda Reilly served as Nominating Chairman and has been a consistent and dedicated volunteer and participant in various NOGS events throughout the year; David Reiter served as Director and on various committees including the Golf Tournament committee where he was an invaluable resource in keeping the committee organized and focused; Chuck Holman who served as Director, consistently providing valuable insight to the board, and both Dave and Chuck will be continuing into the next term; and special thanks to our Administrator Christy Himel who has worked through the details of modernizing NOGS online presence, as well as providing the administrative support to our luncheons and Board of Directors meetings and being the on-site organizer for our major social events.

The 2019-2020 Board members are John Dribus as President-elect, Dave Culpepper who is serving a second term as Treasurer, Toby Roesler as Vice President, Sheri Richardson as Secretary, Paul Post as Editor, Charles Miller as Editor-elect, Allan Melillo as in-coming Director C, and David Reiter and Chuck Holman as continuing Directors.

I am looking forward to meeting you at upcoming NOGS events and meetings. I encourage you to invite your colleagues as guests and future members, and I look forward to meeting you throughout the year.

Robert Rooney