

# The Monitor

## The Louisiana Section Newsletter



July 2026

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## Message from the Chair

*Corey Gautreaux, PPM Consultants, Inc.*

I'm not sure if it's just me or what, but it seems like each quarter finds a way to move a little faster than the one before it. One minute we are kicking off the year, and the next we are staring down the second half of 2026 with summer in full swing, vacations on the calendar, kids out of school, and another busy stretch for all of us.

Closer to home, our Young Professionals Annual Golf Tournament was once again a great success. It is always good to see so many familiar faces out on the course, along with new faces who continue to get involved with the Section. Events like this do not happen without a lot of hard work behind the scenes, and I want to sincerely thank everyone who helped make the tournament possible. To our sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and players, thank you for showing up, supporting the Section, and helping make the day such a success. Whether you were there to play good golf, bad golf, network, sponsor a hole, hand out refreshments, or simply enjoy the day, your support is greatly appreciated.

The YP group continues to bring energy and excitement to the Section, and I hope we can keep building on that momentum. One of the best parts of being involved with A&WMA is watching people at all stages of their careers come together in a setting that encourages professional development, friendships, and a little fun along the way. Whether you have been in the environmental field for three months or thirty years, there is a place for you in this organization. Be on the lookout for future YP events throughout the remainder of the year.

Looking ahead, our Section's Annual Conference will be here before we know it. This year's conference is scheduled for October 28th and 29th at L'Auberge in Baton Rouge. Our planning committee is already hard at work behind the scenes, and I know they are putting together another great program. The Annual Conference continues to be one of the premier environmental events in the region because of the dedication of our volunteers, the support of our sponsors and vendors, and the participation of our members and attendees. Please be on the lookout for additional information regarding registration, sponsorship opportunities, vendor opportunities, and the conference program.

As I have said before, the Louisiana Section is strong because of the people who continue to support it. From attending lunch meetings and networking events, to sponsoring tournaments and conferences, to volunteering time on committees, each contribution helps keep this organization moving forward. I am grateful to everyone who continues to give their time, energy, and support to the Section.

If you are interested in getting involved or have any feedback you'd like to share, please don't hesitate to reach out. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to seeing you all at our July meeting in Baton Rouge. Cheers to a healthy and successful third quarter!



## The Science of PFAS

From the Association website: [www.awma.org](http://www.awma.org)

Each year, we learn more about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) through research, testing, and collaboration from all sectors working together to find answers and develop solutions. With a focus on data-driven insights and cross-disciplinary collaboration, the Science of PFAS Conference provides a platform to accelerate scientific understanding, inform regulatory and policy frameworks, and support the development of reliable, scalable solutions to PFAS contamination. For more information, [click here](#).



## 2026 Fellow A&WMA Membership Award

From Jason Midgett, *Placid Refining, LLC*

Greg Johnson was awarded the Fellow Grade of Membership at this year's Annual Conference and Exhibition held recently in Austin, Texas. A Fellow Grade may be bestowed upon members with a minimum of 15 years of service to a field related to the mission and objectives of A&WMA, 10 years of consecutive membership, and outstanding professional accomplishments and service to A&WMA. Greg's Fellow Grade was long overdue. He has served just about every Section Leadership position, while also contributing directly to the Associations Councils and Board of Directors over his 30+ year career. He is an outstanding source of A&WMA history and policy and has become an excellent mentor to young professionals within his daily role at the firm, Liskow and Lewis. He is a dedicated advocate for the continued success of A&WMA.



**Please join us in congratulating and thanking Greg for all he has done for the Section!**

# Let's Get Social

From Lorenzo Reyes, LDEQ

The Louisiana Section is coming to your favorite social media platforms! Find us on LinkedIn, X, Instagram, and Facebook for real time updates on upcoming Section events, highlights, and important announcements. Scan the QR code [or Click Here](#) to follow all of our social media accounts and stay in the loop!



## LA – Section 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

From Blake Vincent, CK Associates



On May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Louisiana Section Air and Waste Management Association (LA A&WMA) hosted a highly successful annual golf tournament at the championship Pelican Point Golf & Country Club in Gonzales, Louisiana. Bringing together over 100 players, including local environmental professionals and industry leaders, the event served as an excellent platform for networking and friendly competition. Participants enjoyed a fantastic day on the greens that concluded with a lively award ceremony, and jambalaya, underscoring the organization's dedication to fostering professional collaboration while supporting regional environmental initiatives.



## LA A&WMA YP June Event – kock'n'Bowl in New Orleans

From Tucker Brown, Placid Refining, LLC

At the recent YP event in New Orleans there was a mix of networking and knockin' pins. Connections were made and immediately tested through fierce competition on the lanes. It wasn't hard to strike up conversation with such a cool group of Louisiana section A&WMA members! Rock N Bowl was very accommodating, and the live music added the perfect touch. The focus in YP is creating a solid and welcoming base of professionals



who are trying to network and make friends with others that find themselves in similar lines of work. I can personally attest to YP being a great resource for myself to ask questions about not just work-related topics of concern but also navigating through life with a new "Big Boy/Girl Job". Keep an eye out for details of the next event and make sure to tell your coworkers about the Young Professionals section!



# ACE 2026

From Corey Gautreaux, PPM Consultants, Inc.

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the A&WMA's Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) in Austin, Texas. As always, ACE was a great reminder of the value of this organization and the importance of bringing together environmental professionals from across the country. The technical sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities provided a chance to hear from some of the top minds in our field while also catching up with old friends and making a few new ones along the way. Austin was a great host city, and I left the conference with renewed appreciation for the work being done across industry, consulting, government, legal, research, and academia. I may have even acquired a new showerhead...feel free to ask me about that!



## Upcoming Association and Section Events

### SAVE THE DATES

July 23, 2026	July LA-A&WMA Meeting	Iverstine Butcher Baton Rouge, LA
August 12, 2026	Micro & Nanoplastics: Detection, Exposure, and the Path Forward	Webinar
September 22 – 24, 2026	The Science of PFAS Conference	Sheraton Imperial Durham, NC
October 13 – 15, 2026	Guideline on Air Quality Models: From Guidance to Practice	Hilton Durham Durham, NC
October 28-29, 2026	2026 LA Section Annual Fall Conference	L'Auberge Casino & Hotel Baton Rouge, LA

For a complete list of Association events and registration information, please visit the [Association's Event Calendar](#). To learn more about the Section's activities please visit the [Section website](#).

# 2026

## LOUISIANA SECTION ANNUAL CONFERENCE


October 28 – 29, 2026

L'Auberge Casino & Hotel Baton Rouge

Additional information including exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities, registration details and calls for abstract coming this summer.



## Save the Date



# Thank You 2026 Corporate Sponsors



**Become a Corporate Sponsor!** The support and contributions through this program allows the Section to fund annual educational awards activities such as our Collegiate Scholarship Program, and Louisiana State Science Fair Awards. The Corporate Sponsor donation of \$375.00 is fully dedicated to the educational goals and programs of the Section. The annual donation allows any three employees of your company to attend meetings, workshops or conferences at discounted rates. As in the past, your company's name/logo will be listed on the newsletters, routine communications, and website of the Louisiana Section as a Corporate Sponsor. [APPLY HERE](#)



## 2026 Board Members

<b>Corey Gautreaux</b>	Chair	PPM Consultants, Inc.
<b>Ashley Viator</b>	Vice-Chair / LDEQ Liaison	LDEQ
<b>Allyson Morales</b>	Past-Chair	TotalEnergies Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc.
<b>Eric Rucinski</b>	Treasurer	Alliance Technical Group
<b>Courtney Tolbert</b>	Secretary	LDEQ
<b>John King</b>	Director	Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLC
<b>Emily von Qualen</b>	Director	Liskow & Lewis
<b>Karen Brignac</b>	Director	Brignac Environmental Consulting LLC
<b>Jason Midgett</b>	Association Board of Directors	Placid Refining, LLC
<b>Laura Bruchhaus</b>	SW Chapter Chair	LyondellBasell

## 2026 Committee Members

<b>Michael Waguespack</b>	Awards Chair	Project Consulting Services, Inc.
<b>Doug Melancon</b>	Program Chair	ExxonMobil
<b>Tokesha Collins-Wright</b>	Program Chair	LCA
<b>Kelly Hauth</b>	Facilities Chair	Vopak
<b>Andrew Swedler</b>	Corporate Relations Chair	ExxonMobil
<b>Heather McCormick</b>	Membership Committee	Linde
<b>Tucker Brown</b>	YP Co-	Placid Refining, LLC
<b>Tristan Collins</b>	Chairs	AmSpec Group, Inc.
<b>Blake Vincent</b>	YP Golf Tournament Chair	CK Associates
<b>Courtney Tolbert</b>	Communications Chair	LDEQ
<b>Lorenzo Reyes</b>	Communications Committee - Social Media Outreach & Website	LDEQ
<b>Cindy Wu</b>	Education Committee	Erthwrks, Inc.

The Louisiana Section is one of nearly 140 geographical member units of the Air & Waste Management Association. As such, we plan, organize and present activities that focus on local and regional environmental issues. This includes holding luncheon and dinner meetings, technical seminars, annual conferences, workshops, continuing education courses, and social outings. We publish a newsletter, launch outreach activities and provide funds for scholarships. For more information about the A&WMA, [visit the A&WMA website.](#)