



The Monitor

The Louisiana Section Newsletter



March 2023

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Corporate Sponsor Spotlight: 2023 Corporate Sponsors

We'd like to extend an invite for your company to participate in our Corporate Sponsor Program. The Corporate Sponsor donation of \$300.00 is fully dedicated to the educational goals and programs of the Section. 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, on the Corporate Sponsor board displayed at the Section events and the Fall Conference. For more benefits of being a Corporate Sponsor and to [become a 2023 Corporate Sponsor today](#), visit our website!



Message from the Chair

Allyson Morales, TotalEnergies Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc.

The new year is in full swing! I am very fortunate to move into role as Chair following the footsteps of Jason with the support of many dedicated member volunteers. Due to the contributions of many individuals the Louisiana Section is in an excellent position to continue to support the network of professionals and students in our area.

We have several events in the coming months. Be sure to check out the events calendar in the save the date section for details. Our next meeting will host Bliss Higgins - Assistant Secretary of LDEQ-OES speaking for dinner on March 23, 2023 at Drusilla Seafood in Baton Rouge and [registration](#) is now open. The YP golf tournament will be held May 4, 2023 and the A&WMA annual conference and exhibition (ACE) this year is in Orlando Florida on June 5-8, 2023. Finally, this year's Conference Planning Committee is already working to start planning for the Fall Conference.

As always, I extend a huge thank you to every Board member for their commitment and support of the Section, to the Board members' employers for being so supportive of their involvement and time, and to every member who participates. I look forward to what the next two years will bring as Chair.



2023 Annual Conference

Jason Midgett, Placid Refining

The 2023 Louisiana Section Annual Conference is scheduled for October 25 – 26, 2023 returning to L'Auberge Casino & Hotel in Baton Rouge. We will continue the successful collaboration with our friends in the Southwest and Gulf Coast Chapters and continue to provide a dedicated waste track. The conference planning committee is kicking off their efforts in March and welcomes suggestions to continue keeping our conference relevant. If you would like to contribute in anyway please email Jason.midgett@placidrefining.com. Calls for abstracts and exhibitor/sponsorship registration will open in the second quarter.

SAVE THE DATE

2023 Louisiana Section Annual Conference

October 25-26, 2023
L'Auberge Casino & Hotel

Exhibitor, Sponsorship and Registration
information to come in 2023



LSU Student Chapter

Anna Somerville, LSU Student Chapter Chair

The A&WMA Student Chapter at LSU has been having a productive year. Our fall semester saw numerous students attend the annual conference at L'Auberge, the October dinner meeting, and a resume workshop hosted by former member Paul Algu.

This spring, new officers were elected:

Chair- Anna Somerville
Treasurer- Lorenzo Reyes

Vice Chair- Cheyenne Autin
Secretary- Alana Aidoo

So far this semester we have hosted a booth at the LSU Involvement Fair and run introductory meetings to greet our new members. We look forward to inviting new guest speakers and meeting everyone at the next State Chapter Dinner Meeting.

Upcoming Association and Section Events



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| March 23, 2023 | LA Section Dinner Meeting | Section Event –Baton Rouge, LA |
| April 11, 2023 – April 12, 2023 | A&WMA/ASME Waste Information Exchange | Specialty Conference – Washington, DC |
| April 21, 2023 – April 23, 2023 | Leadership Training Academy | Association Training – Pittsburgh, PA |
| May 4, 2023 | LA Section Annual YP Golf Tournament | Section Event –Gonzales, LA |
| June 5, 2023 – June 8, 2023 | A&WMA 116th Annual Conference & Exhibition | ACE – Orlando, FL |
| October 25-26, 2023 | LA Section Annual Conference | Section Event – 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](#).

2023 Annual Conference & Exhibition

from the Association website: www.awma.org

A&WMA will welcome the world's leading environmental experts, thinkers, and practitioners to Orlando from June 5-8, 2023 to address environmental challenges, discuss strategies and solutions to climate change, sustainability, new contaminants, and other issues that call for balancing growth with sustainability and resiliency.

Returning to Orlando after 12 years, [ACE 2023](#) will unite professionals from major industry, private sector, consulting, government and academia for an exciting event that will explore the ever-expanding environmental challenges and provide solutions to becoming and remaining resilient for tomorrow. This is an ideal opportunity for professionals to share their knowledge to advance the industry, and for environmental companies to showcase their products, services, and solutions with professionals motivated to build a more resilient and sustainable world. Many exhibit and sponsor packages are available to help you meet your goals that include conference registrations, exhibit booths, advertisements, event recognition and more!

Gus VonBodungen Scholarship Application

Boyd Boswell, T. Baker Smith LLC

The Gus VonBodungen Scholarship Program is opening in mid-March for full-time students at Louisiana universities. The requirements for the program can be found on the website at <https://la-awma.org/education/scholarship/>, the Scholarship page. The Louisiana Section awarded two scholarships last Fall for the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 academic year. The two recipients were Madeline Fryer, a now senior at LSU majoring in Coastal Environmental Science with a minor in Chemistry, and Elizabeth Babalola, a graduate student at Southern University majoring in Urban Forestry with an emphasis on air pollution in an urban setting. Both received \$5,000 to help them pursue their academic goals and help us all improve our quality of life.

These two are just small examples of the program and its history of helping up and coming governmental, industry, and organizational leaders. Please encourage anyone interested in the scholarship to review the requirements and apply online. Please let us know if you have any questions and we are looking forward to meeting our 2023 – 2024 applicants.

2023 State Science and Engineering Fair

Boyd Boswell, T. Baker Smith LLC

The Louisiana Section will be participating in the 2023 Louisiana State Science and Engineering Fair at LSU on Wednesday, April 5th. The section has participated in this event in years past and to say the future is bright with these students is an understatement. We will be judging the Senior Division (9th – 12th grade) and the categories judged will be Earth and Environmental Sciences, Plant Sciences, and Environmental Engineering. We look forward to also awarded a winner with a small monetary prize for their entry and presentation. We will post more information the upcoming newsletter, on the website, and social media.



Attendees enjoy the YP Happy Hour held in February at The Shed.

Understanding (Organizational) Member Benefits

Jennifer Tullier, Spirit Environmental

A&WMA has several different categories of membership, including student, young professional, individual and organizational. Organizational membership is a great solution for companies and organizations with 5 or more environmental professionals interested in reducing membership cost and increase participation in A&WMA.

In addition to providing your employees with the latest information, and opportunities for learning, presenting, and leading, organizational members can take advantage of these exclusive benefits: recognition on our website and a link to your company, discounts on exhibit booths and sponsorship packages for ACE and our specialty conferences, discounts on EM and EM Plus advertising and sponsored editorial content, free unlimited continuing education certificates for webinar and conference attendees, and group discounts for three or more conference attendees registered at the same time

Organizational Member Rates

| Up to 10 members | More than 10 members | Government Organization |
|--|---|--|
| \$595 plus \$98 for each individual member | \$1495 plus \$98 for each individual member | \$470 plus \$98 for each individual member |

Current (as of 2/1/2023) Organizational Members with offices in Louisiana include:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| AECOM | GHD | Ramboll US Consulting, Inc. |
| Aegis Environmental | International Paper | RTP Environmental |
| Alliance Source Testing | Jacobs | Sasol |
| CITGO Petroleum Corporation | Louisiana DEQ | SLR International Corp |
| C-K Associates | LyondellBasell | Solvay Chemicals, Inc. |
| Cornerstone Chemical Company | Montrose Environmental Group, Inc. | Stantec Consulting Ltd. |
| Edge Engineering and Science, LLC | Mosaic | Tetra Tech |
| ERM | POWER Engineers, Inc. | TRC |
| Georgia-Pacific LLC | PPM Consultants, Inc. | Trinity Consultants |
| Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. | Providence | Westlake Chemical |

Not a member, but ready to join and take advantage member benefits? Visit the [Association's website](#) to join now or learn more about Organizational Membership [here](#).

Volunteer Needs

Jason Midgett, Placid Refining

Since our call for help in the October 2022 newsletter we've had a couple new volunteers reach out and we are really looking forward to their service! We are still a little short on the volunteer horsepower that we need to be able to execute everything we would like to do in the upcoming years, especially in the young professional area. If you are on the fence, I assure you we completely understand not wanting to be sucked in and bogged down, you get to define how much time you can contribute. Reach out and we can discuss how best to use your service! We're looking for willing volunteers, that are interested in learning more. [Allyson](#) or [I](#), will gladly have an honest conversation with you.

Corporate Sponsor News:

As provided by individual companies

Alliance Technical Group (Alliance) was recently recognized by the Environmental Business Journal for more than 100% growth, completing seven acquisitions in 2022. These strategic acquisitions have allowed Alliance to expand its rapid growth trajectory by entering three new service lines and continuing the pace Alliance set in 2021. Alliance has an exceptional combination of organic and acquisition growth, strategically enhancing its platform by building new and existing regions and a vigorous range of environmental compliance services.

Companies acquired by Alliance in 2022 were:

- C.E.M Solutions
- PACE Environmental
- CK Environmental
- InspectionLogic Corporation
- Guideware Systems, LLC
- EcoTest Energy Services
- GBMc & Associates

Spirit Environmental would like to announce the promotion of Dylan Fontenot to Associate Project Manager. Dylan is an Environmental Engineering graduate from LSU that joined Spirit in 2022 after starting his career in environmental consulting in Baton Rouge. Dylan has worked with clients across the gulf coast and continues to support facilities in Louisiana. Dylan recently became a Professional Engineer to better serve clients. Spirit congratulates Dylan on his recent accomplishments and looks forward to his continued professional growth.



Meet Your Regulator:

Ashley Viator, LDEQ

Read below to “Meet Your Regulator”, where we will introduce you to various staff you may encounter through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Our latest interviewee is Ms. Ereene Barry, an Environmental Scientist Supervisor in DEQ’s Office of Environmental Services / Air Permits Division/ Manufacturing Section.

How long have you been with the agency, and in what capacity?

I have been at DEQ since December 2015. I initially worked in the Public Participation Group but shortly moved to the Permit Compliance Unit within Water Enforcement. In 2020, I moved to Air Permits, where I now reside as one of the Environmental Scientist Supervisors within the Manufacturing Section.

Name functions/circumstances in which you interact with members of the regulated community.

I process incoming applications for various air permitting action activities, such as requests for letters, exemptions, rescissions, etc. I also review permit drafts and other documents mostly related to Oil & Gas facilities and activities. Sometimes this requires me to reach out to the regulated community to obtain additional information or provide assistance in determining the correct forms or information to submit.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really like working in downtown Baton Rouge! I am able to socialize with lots of co-workers and get to go on good walks when the weather is nice. We also have access to lots of good lunch and coffee options. When it comes to my job duties, I love being able to provide information and answers to the public and to co-workers, especially when it requires me to learn a little something new myself.

What is the most interesting little-known fact about yourself?

I currently have two plants recently gifted to me by a co-worker and they have not yet died! I definitely do not have a green thumb, so this is a big accomplishment for me. I really enjoy watching them grow each day and aspire to one day own more plants.

As environmental professionals, we strive to make the world around us a better place. What do you do to positively impact the environment?

Lately, I have been buying a lot of things secondhand and trying to repair some of the things I already have before throwing them away. In addition to the various benefits I experience, these are perfect opportunities to reduce waste. I believe being thrifty is a practical and direct way that I am able to contribute to improving our world and the way it works.

What is your best advice for young professionals?

You don’t know what you don’t know, so don’t be afraid to ask! A lack of familiarity with technical concepts or particular regulations should not stop you from doing your best. Most of the time, if you are willing to do a little digging on your end and ask questions, you will get where you need to be.

2023 Board Members

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Allyson Morales | Chair | TotalEnergies Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc. |
| Corey Gautreaux | Vice-Chair | PPM Consultants |
| Jason Midgett | Past-Chair 2023 LA Section Conference Chair | Placid Refining Company, LLC |
| Emily von Qualen | Treasurer | Liskow & Lewis |
| Lauren Rucinski | Secretary | Kean Miller LLP |
| Karen Brignac | Director | Deltech Monomers Op Co, LLC |
| Mary Claire Petit | Director | Valero St. Charles Refinery |
| Boyd Boswell | Director | T. Baker Smith |
| Ashton Singletary | SW Chapter Chair | LyondellBasell |
| Greg Johnson | Past Chair S&C Council | Liskow & Lewis |
| Jennifer Tullier | S&C Chair / Association Board of Directors | Spirit Environmental |
| Dr. Maud Walsh | Association Board of Directors | LSU |

2023 Committee Members

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Michael Waguespack | Awards Chair | Waldemar S. Nelson & Company |
| Doug Melancon | Program Chair | ExxonMobil |
| Tokesha Collins-Wright | Program Chair | LCA |
| Boyd Boswell | Education Committee Chair | T. Baker Smith, LLC |
| Kelly Phillips | Facilities Chair | Vopak |
| Ashley Viator | LDEQ Liaison | LDEQ |
| Andrew Swedler | Corporate Relations Chair | ExxonMobil |
| Paul Algu | YP Chair | Carvana |
| Blake Vincent | YP Golf Tournament Chair | CK Associates |
| Amanda Polito | Communications Chair | Energy Transfer Partners |
| Maureen Ducote | Website | LDEQ |
| Anna Somerville | Student Chapter Chair | LSU Student |
| Vacant | Newsletter Committee | |
| Vacant | Membership Committee | |

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.](#)