



Meeting petroleum energy credit professional accredited educational and networking needs since 1935.

## Message from the President pro tempore

The holiday season is upon us. Can you believe Christmas is just around the corner? Where has this year gone? I know personally I started a new job with Road Science, have been serving as Program Chair for the New Orleans conference and sadly, lost some very dear friends this past year. It is certainly with a heavy heart that I take the reins and try to fill the shoes of Jim McKay, our beloved President. I have enjoyed knowing Jim for many years as many of you have. It was just in the past few years though that I really got to know Jim better by working with him on the NPECA Board. Jim was a dear friend and a respected colleague and will be missed sorely. We will do our best to honor his memory at the conference in April so please join us to help pay tribute to our dear friend. Since Jim was from the Baton Rouge area, we were really looking forward to him hosting our conference in Louisiana. And since we had recently realized Jim had some vocal talents, we were certainly going to ask him to share that with his NPECA family. Many of you may not know but Jim McKay was in a Christian band named One Only who produced a CD which plays on the radio, had a beautiful voice and was a gifted musician. We will share some pictures and music at the conference.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in New Orleans in April of next year. We are working on a great program that all will find educationally rewarding and offer many networking opportunities as well. The main topics heavy on most credit professional's minds are bankruptcy and banking.



Those topics were repeatedly requested in our surveys so we have focused on the various elements of these topics and you will just have to come and see what you can learn from your fellow colleagues as well as our outstanding speakers on the agenda.

New Orleans is such a unique city so we plan to bring some of the Mardi Gras theme to our conference. I am not going to share any more details. You will need to sign up to attend the conference. I know you will not be disappointed! Please enjoy the holiday season with your families and be safe. See you in NOLA!

Trudy Eddington  
President pro tempore - NPECA

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**Make plans now to attend the 2010 NPECA Annual Conference which will be held in New Orleans, from April 17 to April 20, 2010.**

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# New Orleans

## “Who Said Credit is the Big Easy?”



**New Orleans Skyline**

### **2010 NPECA Annual Conference**

Mark your calendars now for the 2010 NPECA Annual Conference being held in New Orleans, Louisiana, (AKA NOLA) from April 17 to April 20, 2010. The 2010 Program Committee has been very busy and has put a lot of effort into the conference. We have many outstanding educational sessions, as you have become accustomed to expecting along with several networking opportunities. Conference registration will be available via CVent soon so be sure to check that out once you receive the email notification and register early for the early bird discount.

### **The Hotel**

A Four-Diamond Treasure in the Centre of Town... InterContinental New Orleans enjoys one of the city's most coveted locations: two blocks from the French Quarter, four blocks from Harrah's New Orleans, and six blocks from the riverfront. The hotel has a health club, outdoor swimming pool and a lobby lounge with a perfect view of the tram changing down St. Charles Avenue, along with a comfy chair and smooth cocktail and you're set for a lazy New Orleans afternoon.



**Harrah's at Night**

### **Educational Sessions**

We have planned the educational sessions around feedback from membership conference surveys. We feel this is the best way to give our membership what they want and need. Planned sessions include a Bankruptcy panel of three outstanding attorneys, Guarantees and other Security Instruments, Letters of Credit, Financial Analysis and many more.

### **Networking Opportunities**

Saturday evening will be an evening of entertainment and networking. All the details have not been ironed out but I hope you like Hurricanes and Jazz music. You'll have to come see for yourself how this plays out. As is our tradition, we will hold the President's Banquet Monday night. New Orleans offers so much to do so there will be plenty of time after dinner to explore the French Quarter. If you are a new member and don't have plans, just hang out in the lobby and there will many groups who just plan to walk to Bourbon Street or around Jackson Square and will be glad to invite you along. We are known as the "friendly bunch" for a reason!



**The French Quarter**



**The Lakewood Golf Course**

## **Planned Activities**

Frank Hernandez and Don Staley are finalizing plans for our annual golf tournament which will be at the Lakewood Golf Course. This course reopened in February 2009 after undergoing a \$9 million renovation by award-winning golf course architect Ron Garl. Nestled among beautiful Louisiana cypress and oaks, Lakewood promises to be one of the South's premier golf destinations (boasts their website). As we've done in the past few years, we will offer an alternate activity for non-golfers as well. For the alternate activity, you will have the opportunity to see alligators, barred owls, hawks and other wild life up close and personal on a swamp tour aboard an airboat. The Spouses will also have a remarkable day planned in the New Orleans area that will involve shopping, site seeing and a delicious lunch. Stay tuned for details in the registration packet. For more information on New Orleans, please see the article in this issue on What to See and Do in New Orleans. I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference. I wish you and your families a very safe and happy holiday season. I would like to express a special thanks to the Program Committee members who have already put so much effort into making this a great conference.

Trudy Eddington, Program Chairperson

## **Membership Drive**

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2010, please fax or mail your membership renewal form with your annual dues payment. Please do so as soon as possible. Annual membership dues are \$125. This is a bargain considering the educational benefits and the networking opportunities that you will gain by being an active member.

We are always encouraging our members to recruit new, Regular or Associate, members. As a Regular or Associate member you can encourage other energy credit professionals to renew and/or join the NPECA. When you recruit a new member you and your new recruit become eligible to win one of the following prizes, which will be awarded during our annual conference scheduled for April 17-20, 2010.

**New Member Prize – \$100      Recruiter Prize – \$100**

The New Member Prize will be awarded, by draw, to a new Regular or Associate NPECA Member for 2010, provided they have paid their annual dues prior to the beginning of the conference.

The Recruiter Prize will be awarded by draw to a member that has recruited a new Regular and/or Associate NPECA Member for 2010 prior to the beginning of the conference.

Be sure the new members you recruit include your name in the 'Referred By' section of the membership application. Membership applications can be found on our web site at <http://npeca.org>. The more new members you recruit, the more chances you have to win one hundred dollars! You do not need to be present to win. The drawings will take place during the Monday morning general session.

We thank you in advance for your renewed membership and continued support to help grow the National Petroleum Energy Credit Association.

Pam Green, Membership Chairperson

# Scholarship Winners 2009

## The winners of the Jerry Dean Memorial Scholarship are:

**Travis Steckroth**

Son of Richard Steckroth,  
Sheetz Inc.



**Eleni Davino**

Daughter of Michael Davino,  
Mansfield Oil Co



## The winners of the NPECA Scholarships are:

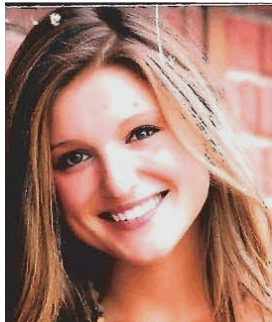
**Jeff Macha**

Son of Mark Macha,  
Pro Petroleum, Inc.



**Nicole Gabossi**

Daughter of Lorree Gabossi,  
Frontier Refining & Marketing



**Mike Adams**

Son of Kelly Adams,  
Sinclair Oil Corporation



**Amanda Haecker**

Daughter of Jerry Haecker,  
Tesoro Corporation



The 2010 NPECA Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana at **The InterContinental Hotel**



For the sixth consecutive year, The InterContinental was awarded the AAA Four Diamond Rating for providing guests with superior personal service, first-class amenities and impressive surroundings.

# Committee Assignments 2009 - 2010

## **Advisory, Nominating & Elections**

Chairperson, Rob Saunders  
Pam Green  
John D. Maxey  
Wanda Stevens

## **Associate Members**

Chairperson, Rhonda R. Buras

## **Audit**

Chairperson, Trudy Eddington  
Mary Minor  
Mark Ogan  
Wanda Stevens  
Thomas W. White

## **By-Laws**

Chairperson, Dane Williams  
Rhonda R. Buras  
Mark Macha  
Neil Jones  
Wanda Stevens

## **Conference Site Selection**

Chairperson, Daniel Beal  
Co-Chair, George Taylor  
Christie Crush  
Andy Davis  
Trudy R. Eddington  
Terry Faber  
Richard F. Fountain  
Jerry Haecker  
Neil Jones  
Amy M. Johnson  
Christian S. Leiser  
Louise Littlejohn  
Lorrain K. Mann  
John D. Maxey  
Mark Ogan  
Stephanie K. Pedersen  
Steven W. Poehler  
Rob Saunders  
Mike Swillo

## **Bulletin**

Chairperson, Mark Macha  
Trudy R. Eddington  
Neil Jones

## **Historian**

Chairperson, Rosa Ramirez  
Rhonda R. Buras

## **Education**

Chairperson, Christian Leiser  
Danny R. Christian  
Trudy R. Eddington  
Patrick N. Finnigan  
Crystal Fish  
Pam Green  
Michelle Huber  
Amy M. Johnson  
Randy Johnson  
Lorrain L. Mann  
Mark Ogan  
Carolyn Pickens  
Chris Purdum  
Craig R. Sperry  
Aaron Smedley  
Delia White  
Steve White

## **Membership**

Chairperson, Pam Green  
Christie Crush  
Mike Davino  
Michael Dutka  
Terry Faber  
Crystal Fish  
Shawn Ferginson  
Louise Littlejohn  
Wanda Stevens

## **Program - Retail**

Chairperson, Danny Christian  
Kelly Andrus  
Christie R. Crush  
Kara Kazazean  
Kristi Kuehn  
Louise Littlejohn  
Robin Trickett

## **Plaques & Certificates**

Chairperson, Mary Minor  
Crystal Fish  
Audrey Saunders

## **Program**

Chairperson, Trudy Eddington  
Michael E. Adamec  
Rhonda R. Buras  
Michael Dutka  
Terry Faber  
Paul Grolemond  
Frank X. Hernandez  
Amy Johnson  
Neil Jones  
Christian S. Leiser  
John D. Maxey  
Pat Mountain  
Mark Ogan  
Carolyn S. Pickens  
Steven W. Poehler  
Chris Purdum  
Rob E. Saunders  
Donald L. Staley  
Wanda Stevens  
Mimi Taylor  
Delia White

## **Special Projects**

Chairperson, Kelly Andrus  
Christine Burkhardt  
Sharon Culpepper  
Michael Dutka  
Paul Grolemond  
Randy Johnson  
Mary Minor  
Pat Mountain  
Chris Purdum  
Delia White

## **Technology**

Chairperson, Frank Hernandez  
Roger Kagy  
Mark Macha

# What to See and Do in New Orleans

## Enjoy the Food

New Orleans is world famous for its unique Cajun, creole, and soul, cuisine. Start with a breakfast with café au lait and beignets. For lunch, try the home town favorite sandwich, a muffuletta. It's so good the founders of Schlotzki's Sandwiches got their start after eating a muffuletta. They loved it so much they took one back to Texas and recreated the recipe. There's no shortage of unique dining, including a wide array of gumbo, crawfish, freshly shucked oysters, and for the more adventuresome, alligator sausage.

## Explore the French Quarter

There are so many ways to see the world famous French Quarter, including mule-drawn carriage, and various guided and self-guided tours. The New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau has a free brochure which includes a self-guided French Quarter walking tour. It's a wonderful way to see 18th and 19th-century New Orleans at your own pace.

## Go Shopping

Like most things in this most unusual of cities, shopping in New Orleans is a wholly different experience. Though the surrounding areas boast malls to rival any in America, New Orleans still believes in the old-world marketplace tradition. Here there is a remarkable concentration of specialty shops, designer boutiques, galleries, and restaurants. Items you don't want to forget, that refrigerator magnet, voodoo dolls, jazz prints, creole seasonings, T-shirts . . . and the yet to be discovered one-of-a-kind treasure.

## Explore the Garden District

In Lafayette Cemetery, see how Orleanians spend the afterlife in sculpted monuments six feet over instead of under. When you've gotten the scoop on the myriad tales behind the Greek Revival, Victorian and occasional Creole facades, board the streetcar and check out other St. Charles Avenue landmarks, like the Academy of the Sacred Heart, The Orleans Club – a bastion of uptown maidens – the Milton Latta memorial Library, once the home to a jazz-age movie star; and interesting specimens like the architectural confection known as "the wedding cake house" at 5800 St. Charles Ave. Just across from Tulane and Loyola Universities, Audubon Park is worth a stroll through moss hung oaks.

## Take a Plantation Tour

New Orleans and Louisiana were inextricably linked to the Old South; plantation life began in the early 18th century, and Louisiana's rich cotton and sugar crops were produced on about 1,600 plantations statewide. A handful of restored plantations lie within 75 miles of the city.

## Experience the Night Life

Harrah's Casino lies at the foot of Canal Street, literally across the street from both the French Quarter and the Mississippi River. It fills an entire city block, bounded by the Central Business District, the historic Warehouse Arts District and Convention Center Boulevard. Inside, you'll find life-sized Mardi Gras floats, French Quarter balconies and there's even a pirate's ship.

## Hang out

Hang out on the river or find your favorite spot on Bourbon street. Locate a shady courtyard, sit back, and sip a cool drink while meeting new contacts, and enjoying old friends. Enjoy listening to the music and the river boat horns, watch the lights along the Mississippi, while drinking in the intoxicating scent of sweet olive and gardenias. Relax. . . . you're in "The Big Easy".

Mark Macha, Bulletin Chairperson

# Pictures from San Antonio

