

**SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERS (SPE), INC.  
SECTION ANNUAL REPORT**

**Submit report to:**

SPE Sections  
Society of Petroleum Engineers, Inc.  
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**REPORT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SPE DALLAS OFFICE BY JUNE 1.**

Use black ink, or type. Attach additional sheets if needed.

Section Los Angeles Basin Section Year April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004, inclusive  
(month)(year) (month)(year)

**1. Technical Dissemination**

**1.1 List all regular meetings of the section. (continued on next page)**

Date	Name of Speaker (Note if Distinguished Lecturer)	Company/Affiliation of Speaker	Title/Topic of Speech	Attendance
4/22/03	Dr. Ira Liefer	University of California at Santa Barbara	What can we learn about hydrocarbon migration in a fracture network by studying natural marine hydrocarbon seepage?	34
6/10/03	Steve Liles	BreitBurn Energy Company LLC	A new kind of Rig: BreitBurn's West Pico Drillsite Modernization Project	42
9/9/03	R.L. (Lyn) Arscott	Consultant	Sustainable Development in the Oil and Gas Industry	30

### 1.1 Section Meetings (continued)

Date	Name of Speaker (Note if Distinguished Lecturer)	Company/Affiliation of Speaker	Title/Topic of Speech	Attendance
10/14/03	Andrew Wojtanowicz	SPE Distinguished Lecturer	Downhole Water Separation	22
11/11/03	Kate Baker	SPE President	The Quadruple Bottom Line of Petroleum Engineering	24
12/9/03	Lynn Orr	Stanford University	Energy and Global Climate Change: CO2 Sequestration in the Earth's Crust and Deep Ocean	21
1/13/04	Dalton Lockmann	Plains Exploration	Inglewood Field Seismic Program and Results	52
2/10/04	Farouq Ali	SPE Distinguished Lecturer	The Unfulfilled Promise of EOR	23
3/9/04	David Norman	SPE Distinguished Lecturer	Frac Pack Completions	25

**1.2 Did an SPE officer (SPE President, Past President, President-Elect, or Treasurer) visit during the section year?**

Name	SPE Office Held	Date of Visit	Attendance
Kate Baker	President	11/11/03	24
Lyn Arscott	Past President	9/9/03	30
Behrooz Fattahi	Western Region Director	12/9/03	Board Meeting





**1.5 List all technical conferences, exhibitions and symposia sponsored by the section.**

2003 SPE-WRM was joint meeting with AAPG-Pacific Section, on May 21-23, 2003 at Hilton Hotel in Long Beach, California.

Total attendance was nearly 800.

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**1.6 List ways your section shares technology with other sections.**

The primary method of technology transfer is by the monthly Petroleum Technology Forum. Forum meetings are announced in our newsletter, posted on our WWW.LASPE.ORG website, email reminders to members using SPE's monthly listing of section members.

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## 2. Section Operations

### 2.1 Officers – List current officers.

SPE Office Held	Name	Beginning-Term (month/day/year)	End-Term (month/day/year)
Chairperson	Richard Finken	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Jr. Past Chairperson	Mike Bruno	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Sr. Past Chairperson	John Thopmson	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Director - 2004	Ed Mayer	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Director - 2004	Dan Dudak	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Director – 2005 Secretary	Raj Upadyay	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Director – 2005 Scholarship	John Yu	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Director – 2006	Rod Kane	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Director – 2006	Rich Keller	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Treasurer	Vivian Bust	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Membership	Jalal Torabzadeh	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004
Petroleum Technology Forum	Anthony Taglieri	October 1, 2003	September 30, 2004

**Attach list of incoming officers (Form can also be found in Chapter 19 of the Section Operations Officers Manual available on-line.)**

**2.2 List all board meetings of the section.**

Date	Number of Board Members Present	Items Discussed
4/22/03	6 7 total attendees	Approved minutes. Joint LASPE – PSAAPG Western Regional Meeting. Petroleum Technology Forum. Scholarships. Science Fairs. 2004Golf tournament organization report. Community outreach funding.
6/10/03	6 6 total attendees	Approved minutes. Joint LASPE – PSAAPG Western Regional Meeting. Petroleum Technology Forum. Scholarships. 2004Golf tournament organization report. Community outreach funding.
9/9/03	5 9 total attendees	Approved minutes. Student chapter (USC) report and approve funding for ATC attendance. Budget for 2003 – 2004 program year. Community outreach funding. Nominations for open positions (Chair and Board)
10/14/03	5 10 total attendees	Approved minutes, Treasurer’s report. Reviewed and approved Chairperson’s plan and budget for 2003-04 program year. Approved bank signature resolutions. Members reported on Denver ATC. Discussed planned golf tournament
11/11/03	5 9 total attendees	Approved minutes and Treasurer’s report. Kate Baker reviewed SPE plans and goals. Candidates for open board positions were suggested. Student Chapter members (CSULB) reviewed activities for the board. Participation in February Engineer’s week discussed.
12/9/03	7 12 total attendees	Approved minutes. Behrooz Fattahi reviewed his plans and goals for the Western Region. Improvements to technical programming discussed. Participation in February Engineer’s week activities discussed.
1/13/04	6 11 total attendees	Approved minutes and Treasurer’s report. Community Outreach plans were reviewed and discussed. Golf tournament planning, nominations for Western Regional Service Award were covered.
2/10/04	7 12 total attendees	Approved minutes. Items covered: Regional Service Award nominees, Scholarship criteria and addition to approved budget, golf tournament, Community Outreach plans, Membership Roundup BBQ planning for April.
3/9/04	6 10 total attendees	Approved minutes and Treasurer’s report. Items covered: June golf tournament, plans for PetroTech MiniExpo at May Forum, Science Fair judging, Community Outreach activities, joint LA SPE-SJV SPE 2005 Western Regional Meeting plans, financial support of local high school science program.



**3. Financial**

**3.1 Include copy of section financial statement at end of the section year.**

**3.2 List the section's sources of income.**

Western Regional Meeting proceeds,  
Golf tournament profit,  
Corporate contributions,  
Scholarship reimbursements from SPEI,  
Membership dues reimbursements from SPEI,  
Interest on checking accounts,  
Investment Earnings (Puritan Mutual Fund, Spartan Funds, California Muni Money Market)

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**3.3 Does the section require payment at the time a reservation is made for section meeting?**

No.

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**3.4 Does the section bill persons who make reservations for a meeting but do not attend?**

No.

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**3.5 Does the section have section dues? (Do not include charges for section luncheon/dinner meetings.)**

No.

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**4. Communication Within the Section**

**4.1 Enclose a copy of one monthly section newsletter or meeting notice with an average preparation and distribution per unit cost and total cost.**

The monthly newsletter is emailed to section members using SPEI's LA Basin roster corrected whenever possible. SPEI's March report of paid/unpaid members credited the LA Basin with 430 paid members. There is no cost accounted for to email the newsletter.

**4.2 List other methods your section uses to communicate with its membership (e.g., e-mail, the internet, broadcast faxing, etc.) and describe how they are used.**

Email newsletter, meeting announcements and reminders using SPEI monthly mailing label list and webpage posting. The webpage is kept up to date at an annual budgeted cost of \$1,000 per year – a cost of \$2.33 per paid member

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**5. Communication and Participation Outside the Section**

**5.1 Describe your relationships with other professional societies (national or international) which are active in petroleum engineering or related areas. Describe any joint activities and initiatives.**

PSAAPG: forward meeting notices, participated in joint Western Regional Meeting May 2003.

SPEE: hosted a management panel on evaluation practices at the joint Western Regional Meeting May 2003.

PTTC: (not a society): webpage link to them. Coordinate meeting schedule to avoid conflicts.

Orange County Engineering Council: member of OCEC for awareness of engineering society activities in Southern California.

Los Angeles Council of Engineers and Scientists: member of LACES for awareness of engineering society activities in Southern California.

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**5.1.1 Do you see ways to change your relationships with other societies to improve the benefits to members? Can SPEI assist in any way?**

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**5.2 List ways the section encourages its members to participate in SPE committees and subcommittees at the Society level and the SPE activities such as the Membership Workshop and the Section Officers Workshop.**

Personal contact and invitation

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**6. Membership Development**

**6.1 Which, if any, major industry employers (include approximate number of SPE members if known) moved in or out of the section are during each of last 3 years?**

None

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**6.2 List activities related to recruitment, retainment, and/or reinstatement of members.**

The Membership Chairperson has obtained a list of delinquent members. A letter of invitation has been forwarded requesting their continued membership. Personal calls are planned to follow-up the invitation letter.

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**6.3 On average, how many members attend the section's general meetings, and what percentage of the section's total membership is this?**

On average, 30 members attend section meetings representing 7% of paid section membership.

## 7. Student Activities

7.1 List all activities sponsored by the section that were attended by members of a student chapter. Include section meetings, study-group meetings, field trips, regional meetings, short courses, SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition, Offshore Technology Conference, etc.

Date	Meeting	Location	Student Chapter	No. of SPE Student Members Attending
4/22/03	Monthly Petroleum Forum	Long Beach, CA	University of Southern California and California State University at Long Beach	9 students
5/19-23/2003	Joint SPE – AAPG Western Regional Meeting	Long Beach, CA	University of Southern California	6 students
9/9/03	Monthly Petroleum Forum	Long Beach, CA	California State University at Long Beach	1 student
10/14/03	Monthly Petroleum Forum	Long Beach, CA	California State University at Long Beach	2 students
11/11/03	Monthly Petroleum Forum	Long Beach, CA	California State University at Long Beach	2 students
12/9/03	Monthly Petroleum Forum	Long Beach, CA	California State University at Long Beach	1 student
1/13/04	Monthly Petroleum Forum	Long Beach, CA	California State University at Long Beach	1 student
2/10/04	Monthly Petroleum Forum	Long Beach, CA	California State University at Long Beach	2 students
3/9/04	Monthly Petroleum Forum	Long Beach, CA	California State University at Long Beach	2 students
				<b>Note that students are guests of LASPE</b>

**7.2 Discuss participation of the section in student paper contest and other student chapter activities.**

[Need input from Jalal]

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**7.3 List all activities sponsored by the section to educate students/instructors/counselors on the profession/industry. (Indicate at what level activities are directed; i.e., elementary, secondary, or senior high school; teachers; or counselors.)**

- Sponsorship of and participation in FSEA (Future Scientists and Engineers of America) after school clubs for elementary school students.
  - Sponsorship of and participation in COMET: a one-week summer program at the University of Southern California to educate high school seniors about the energy industry.
  - Sponsorship of and participation in teacher tours of oil production facilities
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## 8. Scholarship

List all scholarship activities of the section.

Recipient	School	Section Contribution Note: \$9,000 total awards	How Funded (e.g., interest bearing account., technical meeting, social activity, general fund)
Abdollah Orangi	University of Southern California (USC)	50% LASPE/ 50% Private Family	General fund
Mohammad Amen	USC	50% LASPE/ 50% Private Family	General fund
Nelvia JaFroodi	USC	100%	General fund
Mohsen Heidary	USC	100%	General fund
Dalad Nattwongasem	USC	100%	General fund
Uduak-Joe Ntuk	California State University Long Beach (CSULB)	100%	General fund
Cenk Temizel	USC	100%	General fund
Kelly McLachlan	USC	100%	General fund
Viet Q. Hoang	USC	100%	General fund
Marcus Richardson	CSULB	100%	General fund
Rachael Leeson	Graduating High School Student	100%	General fund
Bounlay Bounleuth	Graduating High School Student	100%	General fund



## 9. Awards

List any SPE national, regional, or section awards or nominations received by section members.

Title of Award	Nominee	Recipient (yes or no)
Regional Service Award	Vivian Bust	Yes- Received on March 17, 2004 at ITOHOS
Regional Service Award	Scott Hara	Yes- Received on March 17, 2004 at ITOHOS
Regional Service Award	Sam Sarem	No
Honorary Membership Award End date - 2006	Edward H. Mayer	Pending, nomination made during March, 2003
John Franklin Carll Award End date - 2006	Edward H. Mayer	Pending, nomination made during March, 2003
Distinguished Member End date - 2006	Dr. George Chilingarian	Pending, nomination made during March, 2003
Drilling and Completion Award	George Boyadjieff	Pending
Lester C. Uren Award	Dr. Yannis Yortsos	Pending

## 10. Community Outreach

**10.1 List all activities sponsored by the section in which members participated that enhanced the image of the petroleum industry or the petroleum engineering profession. Include local community activities. Activities include, but are not limited to, presentations concerning the petroleum industry and community action projects.**

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- Sponsorship of and participation in FSEA (Future Scientists and Engineers of America) after school clubs for elementary school students.
  - Sponsorship of and participation in COMET: a one week summer program at USC to educate high school seniors about the energy industry.
  - Sponsorship of and participation in teacher tours of oil production facilities
  - International Elementary School (Long Beach) annual Easter Egg Hunt
  - Participation in Los Angeles and Orange Counties engineering week activities and sponsorship of a table at the award banquet.

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**Total Outreach funding: \$16,000/yr**

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## 12. Goals

**Outline goals established at beginning of year and report progress in meeting both long- and short-term goals.**

### **Long-Term Goals:**

1. Continued viability of LA Section. Our active membership, now at 430 paid members is declining. Many members are retired with declining interest in technology transfer.
  2. Improve member participation in Section operations.
  3. Maintain active golf tournament fundraiser.
  4. Proactive involvement with High Schools for scholarship candidate development.
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### **Short-Term Goals:**

1. Improve member attendance at technology transfer functions. New programs are in the works, which should improve attendance.
  2. Attract new faces for board and chair positions. Our nominations chairperson is actively recruiting potential members.
  3. Increase community outreach efforts.
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### 13. Constraints

**List unusual constraints of the section in (1) membership development, (2) technical/educational activities, (3) scholarship activities, and/or (4) financial activities.**

- 1) Membership development is constrained by declining LA Basin activity.
- 2) Other than Oxy, there are no major oil operators in the LA Basin. Consequently, local SPE members working for independents will only attend meetings with specific topics of interest. Attendance at Forums contains a large contingent of consulting engineers.
- 3) Scholarship activities are somewhat constrained by the lack of a Petroleum Engineering Bachelors program at local universities (University of Southern California and California State University at Long Beach), but both schools encourage investigation into petroleum careers. USC has a masters and doctorate programs in Petroleum Engineering.
- 4) There are currently no financial constraints.

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**14. The President's Award for Section Excellence is given to up to six outstanding sections each year based on the activities of the sections identified in the Annual Report. Why should your section be considered for the President's Award for Section Excellence? (If this question is answered, this annual report will serve as an application for the award.) See award rules, attached. If a qualification category does not apply to your section, you may attach an additional page that provides details about why that category should not be used in considering your section for the award.**

The Los Angeles Basin Section should be considered for this award because of its innovative development of joint regional meetings with AAPG to mitigate declining membership. Two such meetings have been held; the first ever in 2000 and the second joint SPE – AAPG regional meeting held last year during May, 2003 in Long Beach. This meeting was a success in every way with nearly 800 in attendance. 60 SPE papers and GEMS were presented, some in joint engineering – geological sessions. After the success of the pioneering effort in 2000, this joint format was utilized in Alaska in 2002 for their joint regional meeting.

The Los Angeles Basin Section is also active in community outreach, visiting elementary schools to tell of the importance of our industry and detail the growing social and ecological awareness of our activities. The Section is generous with its scholarship and student support funding and community outreach. LASPE is a major, long term contributor to a one week summer seminar introducing 25 – 30 high school students to the energy industry. This program is taught at USC the last week of June each year.

Funds allocated to scholarships and community outreach total over \$24,000. This is more than 90% of our annual budget.

The Los Angeles Basin Section continues to be an important part of SPEI and continues to find innovative solutions to issues affecting all domestic USA Sections.

Date June 1, 2004

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Section Chairperson  
E-mail: [Richard\\_Finken@longbeach.gov](mailto:Richard_Finken@longbeach.gov)

**The 2004-05 Section Operations Manual will be available on-line at [www.spe.org](http://www.spe.org). One hard copy of the manual will be mailed to the chairperson along with a request form indicating the number of copies needed. The additional copies will be sent to the chairperson for distribution to section officers.**

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