AOGA welcomes Janet Weiss and Karen Hagedorn

The AOGA Board of Directors recently welcomed two new members: Janet Weiss of BP Alaska and Karen Hagedorn of ExxonMobil.

Janet Weiss is now the regional president of BP Alaska, succeeding John Mingé, who recently moved to Houston to serve as chairman and president of BP America Inc.

Most recently, Ms. Weiss served in Alaska as regional vice president. In her new role, she will be responsible for BP’s oil and gas exploration, development and production activities in Alaska, as well as its interests in the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

Ms. Weiss began her career in Alaska in 1986 and has worked here as a process engineer, reservoir engineer, petroleum engineer and reservoir engineering advisor.

“BP Alaska is home to some of the most capable people in the industry and I am honored to be asked to lead them,” Weiss said. “I’ve seen first-hand what they can achieve in even the most challenging of environments.”

ExxonMobil also recently experienced a change in Alaska leadership. Karen Hagedorn is ExxonMobil’s newest Alaska production manager, but she’s no stranger to Alaska. She is back in Alaska after a 12-year hiatus, during which she served in the Lower 48 and Angola.

In her new role, Ms. Hagedorn is accountable for the safe and reliable operations of the Alaska business unit and is directly involved in community, regulatory and government affairs. Specifically, she is involved in the oversight of ExxonMobil’s interest in Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, Duck Island and the progression of the Point Thomson unit development.

When Ms. Hagedorn isn’t working or enjoying the scenery and landscape of Alaska, she’s reading or traveling. “I had 700 books shipped from Angola to here. Not quite as many shoes, but it’s pretty close. I’m rather famous for my shoes,” she joked.

Alaska’s rich oil history began with teamwork. Today, AOGA continues in that spirit by reaching out through our members to ensure a healthy oil and gas industry and a bright economic future.
The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee recently heard testimony on bipartisan legislation by Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Mary Landrieu of Louisiana that would expand the federal revenue-sharing program to ensure all energy-producing states receive a fair share of the revenues they help generate.

The Fixing America’s Inequities with Revenues (FAIR) Act would bring parity to the federal revenue-sharing program, both onshore and offshore. The bill extends the Outer Continental Shelf revenue-sharing program to all coastal states where oil and natural gas development may occur.

“Revenue sharing is important for the coastal communities that will have increased demands on their infrastructure and public services from offshore development," Murkowski said.

North Slope Borough Mayor Charlotte Brower testified at the hearing. “Revenue from the FAIR Act will allow the Borough to upgrade its critical oil-spill response and communication infrastructure,” she said.

While onshore-producing states keep about 50 percent of royalties, rents and bonus bids, offshore-producing states do not receive a share of any of those revenues. The FAIR Act authorizes up to 37.5 percent of revenues for all states with energy production off their coastlines, regardless of energy type.

Opening doors for girls in engineering

Three of ExxonMobil’s top leaders in Alaska – who happen to be female engineers – recently spent a day with 91 Anchorage middle-school girls to encourage them to pursue careers in math and science.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is a national movement that shows girls how creative and collaborative engineering is and how engineers are changing our world. ExxonMobil has been a primary sponsor for almost 15 years.

“Many girls are convinced that engineering is not a good career for them,” said Karen Hagedorn, Alaska production manager of ExxonMobil. “This program is designed to change that perception by showing them that they can make a real difference through a career in engineering.”

Cathy Foerster, an engineer and commissioner with the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, agrees that engineering can be a rewarding career for young women.

“Whatsoever you do, strive to do something you’re passionate about. You'll perform better, be more successful and be happier if your work is something you love doing.”

The event is part of National Engineers Week, held annually in February. More information can be found at www.eweek.com.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:
From Prudhoe Bay to Anchorage, a tale of three Warners

An apple doesn’t fall far from the tree, as the saying goes, and that’s definitely the case with oil-patch veteran Ross Warner, who has both a son and grandson working for BP Alaska — one assigned to Anchorage and the other to the North Slope.

Ross’s industry career spans more than 55 years. Raised in Duluth, Minn., he received a B.S. in physics and mathematics from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1953. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Ross spent 12 years with Schlumberger Inc. in several capacities in the Rocky Mountain region. He moved to Alaska in 1969 and worked as a production logging engineer in Cook Inlet until the pipeline was approved in 1974, when he transferred to Prudhoe Bay as Schlumberger’s first manager. In 1978, he began working for BP Alaska as a field engineer on the North Slope. He would eventually become well-intervention team lead.

In 1993, he moved into the headquarters building, where he worked on such projects as deployment of electronic submersible pumps on coiled-tubing wells and a risk assessment of subsurface safety valves.

From 1995 through 1998, Ross rotated back to the Slope as the well-intervention team lead. Since then, he has worked a variety of engineering assignments in Anchorage and on the Slope, including the construction supervision of the Prudhoe Bay S-Pad expansion at Milne Point and oversight of the Endicott Field operations program.

In his current role as an employee of BP Alaska contractor Petrotechnical Resources of Alaska (PRA), Ross is a production engineer focused on the Greater Point McIntyre Area. He was named the Alaska Society of Petroleum Engineers’ 2010-2011 Engineer of the Year.

“During 2007, I took my first job in management as the production-optimization team leader,” Dwight said. “In this position, I had to develop my leadership skills quickly during a period that offered some significant challenges.” In all, Dwight has about 30 years’ oil-field experience in Alaska.

Dwight’s son Scott is a production engineer on the West Waterflood Team and is responsible for P and Y pads. In May of this year, he graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) with a B.S. in civil engineering. For the last three years at UAA, Scott played Division 1 hockey and was assistant captain of the team. He interned with BP last summer.

Do the three talk shop when they are together?

“Not that much,” Scott said. “At BP, we concentrate on business, but on our time off, we tend to get away from business. Still, it’s good to have the knowledge and experience of my dad and granddad at my disposal.”

All three enjoy family get-togethers and the usual Alaska activities of fishing, skiing, skating, snow machining and golf.
It took an act of Congress to build the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). Last month marked the 40th anniversary of that pivotal moment in Alaska’s history.

In July 1973, after the Senate voted 49 to 49, then-Vice President Spiro Agnew cast the deciding vote on the Gravel-Stevens amendment, thus removing environmental and legal barriers to TAPS carrying oil.

Not long after, President Nixon signed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act into law.

Forty years later and not much has changed. We still struggle to develop oil, gas and other resources in the face of continued federal overreach. A long list of regulations, restrictions and lawsuits are barriers that take years to overcome, usually delaying projects and sometimes making them impossible.

As a recent example of federal opposition, Senator Lisa Murkowski recently held the first hearing on her FAIR Act, which would give coastal states like Alaska a larger slice of the federal revenue pie when it comes to developing their offshore resources in the Outer Continental Shelf. The current administration testified against her legislation, which, while not surprising, is still disappointing.

Alaska is rich in resources. Billions of barrels of oil sit awaiting development on federal land in places like ANWR and the NPR-A. We understand that the federal government is a major landowner in Alaska and that we need its permission to operate in areas it owns. That said, we hope that the federal government will one day allow Alaska to realize our full resource potential. Until that happens, AOGA will continue to lead the fight.

**EYE ON PRODUCTION: Alaska slips to fourth place in domestic oil production**

Recently, California officially surpassed Alaska in barrels of oil produced daily. Alaska enjoyed the number-two spot for many years and was second only to mega-producer Texas. North Dakota also surpassed Alaska last year, and continued throughput decline through TAPS puts us in fourth place. In addition, the U.S. now moves more oil out of North Dakota by rail than Alaska moves through TAPS.

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**Daily Oil Production in the Top Four U.S. Oil-Producing States (2002–2012)**

Source: American Enterprise Institute

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**More oil shipped from North Dakota by rail than through TAPS**

Source: Scientific American
**Feds: endangered species listing not warranted for ribbon seals**

NOAA Fisheries recently announced that it would not list the ribbon seal under the Endangered Species Act.

Current populations are estimated to be between 200,000 and 300,000, NOAA said. While the ribbon seal is likely to be threatened by the declining sea ice, that decline is not expected to render the species in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future, scientists said.

“This decision is another win for science,” said AOGA Executive Director Kara Moriarty. “Listing a thriving and abundant species as endangered because of what might happen with the Earth’s climate over the next century is not appropriate, and NOAA rightfully realized this.”

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**Hilcorp inks deal to sell gas to Southcentral utility companies**

Hilcorp Alaska is in the process of finalizing agreements with Southcentral utilities to provide natural gas through March 2018.

Natural gas is the primary fuel used by utility companies in Southcentral Alaska, and potential supply shortages have caused concern among local leaders in recent years.

Hilcorp’s recent acquisition of Marathon’s assets in Cook Inlet earlier in 2013 combined with aggressive revitalization of existing wells led to the turnaround. According to Hilcorp, the company has increased oil production by more than 35 percent year-over-year and increased deliverable gas volumes by 25 percent.

Among the utilities signing agreements with Hilcorp are Anchorage’s Chugach Electric Association and Matanuska Electric Association.

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**MEMBER PROFILE:**

**Q:** What year did eni arrive in Alaska?

**A:** 2006 – Start-up of the appraisal phase of the Nikaitchuq field (eni 30 percent)

2006 – Sanctioned the development of the Oooguruk field (eni 30 percent)

2007 – eni acquired the remaining 70 percent and operatorship in Nikaitchuq from Anadarko

**Q:** Where does eni operate in Alaska?

**A:** eni operates in the central part of the North Slope region – Onshore at Oliktok Point and near-shore from our manmade gravel island (Spy Island), approximately four miles from Oliktok Point.

**Q:** Where else does eni do business?

**A:** eni is one of the largest integrated-energy companies in the world, with global operations in over 80 countries.

**Q:** How many employees does eni have in Alaska?

**A:** Currently, eni has 42 full-time employees (Anchorage and North Slope) in addition to the many contract personnel located in Anchorage and on the North Slope.

**Q:** What types of exploratory/development plans does eni have in Alaska?

**A:** eni continues to develop drilling and activities from both our onshore site at Oliktok Point and from our near-shore site at Spy Island.

eni owns working interests in leases in Alaska federal offshore waters of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas and state onshore/near-shore leases.
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The Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA) is a business trade association that represents the majority of oil and gas exploration, production, transportation, refining and marketing activities in Alaska.

**Our mission is to foster the long-term viability of the oil and gas industry in Alaska.**

Learn more about the issues facing the largest economic driver in the Alaska economy at [www.aoga.org](http://www.aoga.org). Sign up for our newsletters and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest information on the oil and gas industry in Alaska.

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**Our member companies:** Alyeska Pipeline Service Company; Apache Corporation; BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.; Chevron; eni petroleum; ExxonMobil Production Company; Flint Hills Resources, Alaska; Hilcorp Alaska, LLC; Petro Star Inc.; Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska, Inc.; Repsol; Shell Exploration & Production Company; Statoil; Tesoro Alaska Company; and XTO Energy, Inc.