

# Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies, Inc.

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## 127<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Friday, September 27, 2024

8 a.m. CST

Westin Riverwalk Hotel

San Antonio, Texas

# Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies, Inc.

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## Voting Items

Supplemental Notice



Date: August 6, 20224

From: COPAS Office

RE: Supplemental 60-Day Council Meeting Notice

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The Nominating Committee has completed their work. This supplemental 60-Day Council Meeting Notice contains the names of the candidates and their profiles so that each society can be prepared to vote at the Council meeting.

Please contact the COPAS Office with any questions.



DATE: August 2, 2024

TO: COPAS Board of Directors, Standing and Special Committee Chairpersons, Society Presidents, Council Representatives and COPAS Members

FROM: 2024 COPAS Nominating Committee

RE: **Candidates for the COPAS Board of Directors (2025 – 2027)**

The Council will elect three directors at the Fall Meeting to serve three-year terms beginning January 1, 2025. The Nominating Committee reviewed the qualifications of the following individuals and determined they are in good standing with their societies and meet all other COPAS Bylaws requirements to be members of the COPAS Board of Directors. In addition, election of any three will not cause a conflict with Bylaws Article III, Paragraph D, stipulating no society or company may have more than two directors.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present its slate of candidates.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Society</u>
Lisa Collins	WT Offshore	Houston
Kim Peyton	Peyton & Company	Mississippi
Stephanie Schwindt	Ovintiv	Colorado

Each candidate's biography, COPAS experience, and ideas and vision for COPAS are included with this notice.

These director positions are currently held by:

- Craig Buck, Oklahoma City
- Dalin Error, Houston
- Kim Peyton, Mississippi

COPAS Bylaws Article IV, Paragraph F, allows societies to nominate others for election to the Board of Directors by submitting a nominee's name to Participating Societies and Council Representatives at least 30 days prior to the September 27, 2024, Council Meeting. Please review the Bylaws for details.

Here is a complete list of the current COPAS Board members, their companies, societies, and terms of office.

<u>Director</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Society</u>	<u>Term</u>
Craig Buck	Martindale Consultants	Oklahoma City	2022-2024
Dalin Error	Beacon Offshore	Houston	2022-2024
Kim Peyton	Peyton & Company	Mississippi	2022-2024
Tom Batsche	Talos Energy	Houston	2023-2025
Kevin Launchbaugh	Gas Equities	Tulsa	2023-2025
Scott Barrios	Shell	New Orleans	2023-2025
Kirk Foreman	EOG Resources-Retired	San Antonio	2024-2026
Rebecca Paris	Devon Energy Group	Tulsa	2024-2026
Carole Tear	Artisan Security Integration	Oklahoma City	2024-2026

The Nominating Committee members' names and contact information are listed below. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Dalin Error – Committee Chair  
Houston  
dalin.error@outlook.com

Melissa Gruenwald  
Oklahoma City

Kody Impson  
Oklahoma City

Carolyn Szczepanski  
Dallas

Sincerely,

*Dalin Error*

Dalin Error  
2024 Nominating Committee Chair



# **Candidate Board of Directors 2025—2027**

**Lisa  
Collins  
Houston Society**



## **INFORMATION FORM FOR COPAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION**

Please consider Lisa Collins of the Houston Society as a nominee for the COPAS Board of Directors for the three-year term 2025-2027. The requested information on this nominee is listed below.

### **Personal History:**

I graduated with a BBA in Accounting from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1989 where I served as Treasurer in several social and professional organizations. I am a licensed CPA in the state of New Mexico as of 1999. I met my husband of 35 years while practicing in the university band for an upcoming football game. I played the flute and I'm in the preliminary stages of teaching one of my granddaughters with the same instrument my Dad purchased for me almost 50 years ago. My husband was a petroleum engineer for Schlumberger, and we moved 5 times to destinations such as California, New Mexico and throughout Texas. Once transferred to Houston, we now call this home. Today, we enjoy family time with our 3 daughters, 2 granddaughters and a grand dog (*yep she's a female also*).

### **Industry Experience and Affiliation:**

I have 30 years of experience in the Oil & Gas sector in Accounts Payable and Joint Interest Accounting. I began my career with AFE setup, unitization reallocations and general and administrative expenses. I later moved to Accounts Payable, Lease Operating Expenses, JIB Deck setup, Operated and Nonoperated Joint Interest Billing as well as pay outs. Through time. I morphed into managerial roles with increasing responsibilities that included budget, acquisition and divestiture review as well as the development of SOX controls.

### **Society Experience and Participation:**

In 1998, I was a charter member for the now inactive San Juan Society in Farmington, New Mexico. I served as the first joint interest chair. In 2000, I retired to raise my family. In the Fall of 2005, I came out of retirement to assist with hosting the National Conference held in Farmington, New Mexico. During this conference, I served on the fundraising committee as well as a tour guide. For the last 18 years, I have been an active member of the Petroleum Accountants Society of Houston (PASH). I have served on the PASH Board for 5 years in a variety of capacities; Treasurer. Secretary. Vice President and President. I am currently serving sixth and final year on the board as Past President.

### **COPAS Experience and Participation:**

I have attended several National Conferences where I have been an active participant in the Small Company, Joint Interest and Emerging Issues Committee meetings. I have not had the opportunity to serve COPAS in other aspects. However, my name has been added to the list of those willing to participate on a drafting team.

**One of the challenges facing COPAS is how to improve membership numbers and engagement as we face retirements and a lack of new leadership at the local society level and nationally. Please share your ideas on ways to achieve this initiative successfully.**

Issue: Awareness is key. COPAS is already aware of the hurdles that limit our membership.

Possible Solutions:

- Advertise or enhance advertisement on petroleum engineering, audit and land platforms.
- Continue to emphasize the benefits with members.
- Promote new member enlistment with incentives- BOGO dues for the initial new member year.
- Free registration to the National Conference if certain parameters for membership are met, e.g. enlist 5 new members.
- Introduce new ways to present the data and excite the members because there is a learning synergy in all platforms and environments.

**Another challenge facing our organization is how to promote and enhance our educational offerings and the APA® program to pass on the institutional knowledge to our industry colleagues. Please provide your ideas on how COPAS can best reach petroleum accountants and provide the right education in the best delivery method possible.**

I live by the motto that "knowledge is power". COPAS has many educational opportunities. In the world of technology, time limitations, and money constraints, we need to continue to introduce lunch and learns and other courses via virtual connections. While reviewing the COPAS website, I see testimonials as to how COPAS has benefited others both personally and professionally. Can we also introduce testimonials or short interviews as to how the APA® exam has benefited one's career and the knowledge gained? A sample of the APA® exam data sent to oil and gas companies would be a great way to introduce what it has to offer.

**If elected to the Board of Directors, please share one key initiative you would submit to the Board of Directors for consideration during your term.** I strongly believe that we should educate new members with our beginnings so that they are aware that we too had the same start as them. This should help deter and/or limit intimidation. The strength in our voices and the constant reiteration of how important COPAS is to the oil & gas industry can aid in catapulting our membership if we continue the drive. Do you know that the documents we write are attached to joint operating agreements and make our word binding (rhetorical question ...)?!! We have a unique task in the accounting world. Without knowing all of the demographics. I am pretty certain that I am the first African American female to potentially become a member of the National COPAS Board. I intend to use my newfound platform to encourage, enlist and empower more members that look like me and talk like me...*well maybe not talk so much...*to participate and help sustain our organization for another 100 years.

**Other Comments:**

Many companies find it difficult to support their staff financially in COPAS. More and more companies are strategically watching their pennies with a magnifying glass. I started my career in New Mexico with the full support of my then company. They knew the impact we could make in COPAS that could change documents in favor of their current business. To regain momentum, we need to convince our current management teams of the benefits of COPAS and how it can help drive and shape the future of our business to coincide with the changing times.

By: 

Kathy Johnston, PASH President



# **Candidate Board of Directors 2025—2027**

**Kim  
Peyton  
Mississippi Society**



## **INFORMATION FORM FOR COPAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION**

Please consider Kim Peyton of the Petroleum Accountants Society of Mississippi as a nominee for the COPAS Board of Directors for the three-year term 2025-2027. The requested information on this nominee is listed below.

### **Personal History:**

I am a Certified Public Accountant and managing partner of Peyton & Company, PLLC in Madison, MS. Clif and I are proud parents to three grown children. Over the last couple years we have been blessed to expand our family with two marriages and two beautiful grandbabies. Our family has been actively involved with Chapel of the Cross and other community organizations over the years. On our off time, we love traveling, going to musicals and concerts, but our favorite thing is staying at home on the lake. Party planning and decorating our home is a favorite past time, which now that our home construction is done, has been nice to do again this summer.

### **Industry Experience and Affiliation:**

I am currently serving as the president-elect of COPAS and have served on as a Board of Director for the last 6 years. I am also a Member of Petroleum Accountants Society of MS, Estate Planning of MS, AICPA, and MSCPA. I was on the MFI-40 Team which was a great introduction to our documents process. I have gained so much from personal contacts and associations. I so enjoy working with oil and gas operators, owners of closely held companies, and individuals with tax compliance, day to day operations, and planning for the future.

### **Society Experience and Participation:**

I am currently serving as a Board of Director of Petroleum Accountants Society of Mississippi, but I have held officer positions in the past. I also had the pleasure of being on the planning committee for the Spring 2019 meeting that was held at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis. It was one of the best experiences.

### **COPAS Experience and Participation:**

**One of the challenges facing COPAS is how to improve membership numbers and engagement as we face retirements and a lack of new leadership at the local society level and nationally. Please share your ideas on ways to achieve this initiative successfully.**

I think the new focus to provide an opportunity to move our struggling societies to a merged virtual society will be a way to retain members we may have lost if there were not this option. We are still in the start up of this society, but it will be a great opportunity to reach out to the members that we lost to the societies that disbanded over the last couple years. This will also allow the prior

limited member to be active in a society. This may not be the most optimal, but we have to think outside the box to get people engaged.

We have strived over the last year to encourage more involvement of different members to get involved in the progression panel and we are looking for project team volunteers. We want to keep a running list of members willing to help as we begin doing updates or opening documents. This would be a great opportunity for local society members that maybe aren't able to attend the weeklong national meetings.

We are going to continue to offer support to the local leadership and the new lunch and learns we will begin offering about every other month. This of course is for all members as a benefit. We will continue to offer additional opportunities for support, but as someone who has been working with various leadership meetings both online and in person. The COPAS board is open to opportunities to support our local leadership,

**Another challenge facing our organization is how to promote and enhance our educational offerings and the APA® program to pass on the institutional knowledge to our industry colleagues. Please provide your ideas on how COPAS can best reach petroleum accountants and provide the right education in the best delivery method possible.**

The roll out of the APA review course is so encouraging for the future to increase the number of people who have the APA accreditation. It will be a wonderful way to train accountants. The lunch and learn concept and other one-hour sessions on hot topics would be a great resource to use those with experience and longevity in the industry to get information to others to pass on or as a resource. This would also be a way to have a more real time response to what is going on in the industry, so many times a forum for people to discuss and talk over what they are doing with a situation is so beneficial. We learn so much from each other even if it is to consider other thought processes.

**If elected to the Board of Directors, please share one key initiative you would submit to the Board of Directors for consideration during your term.**

I am so encouraged at the growth and development the board of directors have begun or will roll out this year. This was from us listening to our members. The new membership renewals by the COPAS office will be rolling out and we will soon start the lunch and learn. I want to see the lunch and learn to be successful. The board will continue to work on the rest of the benefits we heard that local societies would like help with. This coming year we will move toward the micro websites and a storage retention which was a request of the local leadership. Of course, as a board member I hope we are flexible enough to pivot as we see what our members want and need. I hope over the next year we see the virtual society thrive as a active society. I want us to explore the opportunity to expand the international as new discovery areas need knowledge in their local area.

**Other Comments:**

On behalf of the Petroleum Accountants Society of Mississippi, I strongly recommend Kim Peyton as nominee for the COPAS Board of Directors for a three year term. She is hard working and extremely dedicated to the strength and viability of COPAS and PASM.

Best,

Quint Withers

PASM President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Society President



# **Candidate Board of Directors 2025—2027**

**Stephanie  
Schwindt  
Colorado Society**



## **INFORMATION FORM FOR COPAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION**

Please consider Stephanie Schwindt of the Colorado Society as a nominee for the COPAS Board of Directors for the three-year term 2025-2027. The requested information on this nominee is listed below.

**Personal History:** Degrees in Communication Studies (Colorado State University) and Accounting (University of Wyoming), past President of the Beta Nu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi, two beautiful children, loves to crochet!

**Industry Experience and Affiliation:** Nearly ten years of experience in audit, revenue, production tax, and financial reporting at Ovintiv (formerly Encana)

**Society Experience and Participation:** Technology Committee Chair, JI/Audit Chair, assisted with planning the Fall 2023 National Meeting in Colorado Springs, Treasurer of the Colorado Society, current President of the Colorado Society

**COPAS Experience and Participation:** Chair of the Employee Benefits Sub-Committee, active with the COPAS Mentoring Advisory Committee, assists with PRUTCOM, and attends nearly every National Meeting.

**One of the challenges facing COPAS is how to improve membership numbers and engagement as we face retirements and a lack of new leadership at the local society level and nationally. Please share your ideas on ways to achieve this initiative successfully.**

We need more involvement from larger operators. BP, Chevron, and Oxy (to name a few) have offices in Denver but hardly any representation within our society or at National Meetings. The issues we discuss and the accounting guidelines we work on directly affect them, and it's always surprised me that the larger operators have such small footprints locally. I think it could be a matter of networking and word of mouth and helping people realize that COPAS involvement is for all petroleum accountants of all levels.

**Another challenge facing our organization is how to promote and enhance our educational offerings and the APA® program to pass on the institutional knowledge to our industry colleagues. Please provide your ideas on how COPAS can best reach petroleum accountants and provide the right education in the best delivery method possible.**

I appreciate the efforts made recently to have APA prep courses and for the National Office to speak directly about what the APA is and how it is administered. Obtaining 'buy-in' from higher-ups in companies could help with reaching petroleum accountants and maybe even offer them some time to study, take the APA, and be recognized as an APA. Could the answer be in heavier advertising in publications that cater to oil and gas? Maybe more frequent posting on LinkedIn or connecting with industry people through Instagram?

**If elected to the Board of Directors, please share one key initiative you would submit to the Board of Directors for consideration during your term.**

I'd like to push for more representation from the younger crowd in our societies. As a new grad, I was told that COPAS was for those who were already well established in their career. I missed out on some great networking and learning opportunities because I was intimidated by all the experienced members. It didn't help that my company cracked down on who "needs" to be involved in COPAS during the 2015ish downturn. I wonder if we could have a new grad registration rate, or maybe offer some intro to oil and gas courses again, and specifically reach out to anyone with 5 years or less experience in the industry.

**Other Comments:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Society Board Member