

# The Reactor

New Orleans Section -  
American Institute of  
Chemical Engineers

Volume 18, Issue 5  
May 2006

## Chair's Corner



*Anthony F. Fregosi*

Chair, 2005-2006  
New Orleans Section AIChE

We close the book on another year of section activities. However, unlike any other year, we cannot even begin to think of this year as ordinary or like any other in our history.

Katrina and Rita dealt terrible blows to us both professionally and personally. Their affects will be felt for years.

Traditionally, the chair will take this opportunity to thank the officers who have helped make the year a success. But the thanks and praise I give to our officers this year—goes beyond tra-

dition. For more than any other year, our officers, Michael Waguespack, Rachel Wiggins, P.E., Dr. John Prindle, P.E. and Dr. Brian Mitchell went far and above just performing their duties as officers of the section. Michael and Rachel suffered great personnel loss when their houses were flooded in Lakeview. Drs. Prindle and Mitchell faced tremendous challenges in recovery efforts at Tulane University. And yet, despite their personnel and professional responsibilities, they managed to serve the section and you, its members.

Michael still managed to put together tremendous programs. Rachel made our first outreach efforts successful by distributing E-Week material to several local high schools. Brian got our website back up and running and is working to test a site being offered by the national staff. John maintained our accounts and checked in meeting attendees. All of the officers remained in contact through e-mail and phone conferencing in order

## Plant Trip—Valero—St. Charles Refinery

For our last meeting of this section year—we will be visiting the Valero—St. Charles Refinery.

Valero has graciously agreed to provide the dinner for this meeting.

**Please be sure to call in**

**your reservation so we may plan for the proper amount of food.**

**One New Orleans Section AIChE attendee will win a ticket to the 6th Annual Tulane Engineering Forum—a \$200 value! — See Page 10 for details about the Forum.**

to begin the process of restarting the section.

I could not have even begun to restart our section without the hard work and dedication of all our officers — Thank You!

It is the deep personnel satisfaction I receive in being able to work with such professionals — that keeps me volunteering to serve our section. I hope you too, will consider making a commitment to serve our section and membership.

I can guarantee—you will gain far more skills and satisfaction than you could ever imagine.

Please join us as we honor Valero for their efforts in environmental stewardship and I hope to see you next year.

*Meeting Schedule*  
*Cost: Meal provided by Valero*  
*Students: Free*

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 5:00 — 5:30 P.M. | Social            |
| 5:30 — 6:30      | Plant Tour (Bus)  |
| 6:30 — 7:15      | Dinner            |
| 7:15 — 7:25      | Valero            |
| Presentation     |                   |
| 7:25 — 7:45      | Virtual Tour      |
| 7:45 — 8:05      | Project           |
| Presentation     |                   |
| 8:05 — 8:15      | Award             |
| Presentation     |                   |
| 8:15 — 8:30      | Meeting           |
| 8:30 P.M.        | Meeting Adjourned |

## Inside this issue:

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## Proposed Future Meeting Programs: (subject to change)

See you in September!

Look for the "Reactor Turnaround" during the summer break to keep informed of the planning for next year!!



### Section Officers

“Anyone wishing information regarding becoming an officer, should contact the Section Chairman”

*“Please Contact Jim Dean at 576-7174 if you would like to become a company contact – or to report any changes”*

*We are in need of several new company contacts.*



*Anthony F. Fregosi*  
Editor

“Send comments to Anthony.Fregosi@cytec.com”

### New Orleans Section Officers 2005-2006

|                                                             |                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Anthony Fregosi—Cytec Industries, Inc.—431-6598             | Chair                       |
| Michael Waguespack—Middleberg, Riddle & Gianna—207-7340     | Vice-Chair & Program Chair  |
| Rachel Wiggins, P.E.—Albert-Garaudy and Associates—846-6581 | Secretary                   |
| Dr. John Prindle, P.E.—Tulane University—865-5774           | Treasurer                   |
| Dr. Paul Fanning, P.E. (Relocated to West Virginia)         | Immediate Past Chair        |
| Bill Boutall—Wink—243-4539                                  | Membership Chair & Director |
| Jim Dean, P.E.— Entergy—576-7174                            | Finance Chair & Director    |
| Ron Ondechek —237-2085                                      | Education Outreach Chair    |
| Anthony Fregosi—Cytec Industries, Inc.—431-6598             | Newsletter Editor           |
| Dr. Brian Mitchell—Tulane University—862-8257               | Web Master                  |

### Company Contacts

|                                                                  |                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Albert-Garaudy and Associates—<br>Rachel Wiggins <b>846-6581</b> | Nalco/Exxon—Joy Usener <b>1-800-366-2526 (Ext. 1285)</b>   |
| Chevron Chemical—Christopher Day <b>391-6584</b>                 | Occidental Chem.—Linda Bergeron <b>783-7365</b>            |
| Cytec Industries—Anthony Fregosi <b>431-6598</b>                 | Petro-Marine Eng.— <b>Contact Needed</b>                   |
| DEQ (B.R.)—Freddie Touro <b>225-219-3122</b>                     | Shell Chemical— <b>Contact Needed</b>                      |
| Entergy—Jim Dean <b>576-7174</b>                                 | Tulane Univ.—Dr. Brian Mitchell <b>862-8257</b>            |
| EDG, Inc.—Leon Barnett <b>455-0858</b>                           | UCC/DOW—<br>Courtney D. Frawley <b>985-783-4303</b>        |
| ExxonMobile—Tom Doolin <b>281-6154</b>                           | URS (Walk)—Jay Hendrickson <b>599-4926</b>                 |
| KBC Advanced Tech.—Don Hoppens <b>837-9228</b>                   | W.H. Linder—Herb Roussel, P.E. <b>835-2577 (Ext. 3143)</b> |
| Monsanto, Luling—Ralph Zamora <b>785-4580</b>                    | Wink Engineering—Bill Boutall <b>246-7924</b>              |

### Editor's Soap Box

Do you have comments, suggestions, questions, etc. regarding this newsletter? It is hard for me to believe that I have been publishing this newsletter since 1996! I do not get many comments regarding the newsletter, so I assume it is meeting your needs for information and support in your career.

If it is not or if you have sug-

gestions on how to make it better, I want and need to hear from you. The local section is the “backbone” of our institute and I like to think, the newsletter is the “backbone” of the section. As such, if the newsletter is not meeting your needs, then we need to change it so it does meet your needs.

It would be easy for me to think of this newsletter as “Mine”, but it is in truth, “Your” newsletter.

Help me to make it all it can be. Drop me an e-mail about what you like, what you don't like, or what you would like to see, etc.

I want to be proud of our newsletter — and I want you to share in that pride.

It is time for you to speak out.

By the way — you can always speak out at the next meeting — hope you can join us.

## Events and Institute News



The Call for Papers/PTP process for the AICHE 2006 Annual Meeting is now open. Researchers and practitioners working in all areas of chemical engineering and related disciplines are invited to submit proposals. Submissions in the following areas are particularly welcome:

**Proteomics**  
**Nanotechnology**  
**Membrane Technology**  
**Bioseparations**  
**Engineering Education Mixing**  
**Tissue Engineering**  
**Biomimetics**  
**Hydrogen Production & Storage**  
**Metabolic Engineering**  
**Disease Therapies & Diagnostics**

**Molecular Simulation**  
**Self-Assembled Biomaterials**  
**Fuel Cells**  
**Product Design**  
**Sustainability & Sustainable Engineering**  
**Biosensors**  
**Drug Delivery**  
**Gene Therapy**  
**Biorefineries**  
**Water Resource Conservation**

Papers accepted will be presented at the AICHE 2006 National Meeting in San Francisco CA November 12th- November 17th, 2006.

To submit a proposal, please visit [www.iche.org/annual](http://www.iche.org/annual) and click on the Call for Papers/PTP link.

Note: The PTP process is using a new software interface this year. Please read all instructions carefully.

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## News & Events

### **Energizing AIChE Leaders**

Mark your calendar for the Leadership Development Conference, June 2-4, Houston, TX. Hosted by the South Texas Section, the conference provides networking, professional development, and Institute information for volunteer leaders in local sections, divisions/forums, committees, and Operating Councils. Contact Anette Ngijol at [anets@aiiche.org](mailto:anets@aiiche.org) or 212-591-7478.

### **Process Development Symposium**

The 2006 Process Development Symposium: "Learn from the Past, Plan for the Future," June 11-14, Palm Springs, CA will examine innovations in process research and innovation, technology transfer, pilot plant manufacturing and more. Exhibit Space is available--just \$500 including one conference registration. For information, see: <http://www.aiiche.org/processdev>.

### **International Powder & Bulk Solids Conference/Exhibition**

Find new technologies and solutions for powder and bulk handling, processing and packaging, along with over 425 exhibiting companies and an educational program. Register now for free exhibits admission and conference discounts at: <http://www.powdershow.com/cep2>. May 8-11, Rosemont, IL. Institute News and Member Benefits

### **One-Stop Global Source for Physical Property Data**

AIChE and Dechema have partnered to co-distribute their physical property databases--DIPPR and Detherm--in the U.S. and abroad. DIPPR databases contain critically evaluated and thermodynamically consistent physical property and environmental data and predictive equations for most industrially important pure components. The Detherm databases are a comprehensive source of physical properties for multi-component systems. You can now license both databases with one call to 212-591-7319, or e-mail [DIPPR@AIChE.org](mailto:DIPPR@AIChE.org).

### **Web Volunteers Needed**

AIChE will be conducting surveys and usability testing on the new Web site [www.aiiche.org](http://www.aiiche.org) over the next 30 days. If you would like to participate please send an email to [chrig@aiiche.org](mailto:chrig@aiiche.org) with your contact information or visit: <http://www.aiiche.org/about/getinvolvedaiichewebsite.aspx>

### **Something Phishy?**

Your security is of utmost importance to us. In the last year, you may have noticed a rise in fraudulent (spoofer or "phishing") email that pretends to be from a well-known company, like eBay or your bank, in an attempt to get personal information from you. Our e-mails always state they are from AIChE or the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. We do not rent or sell your email address. We ask for credit and debit card information only on the secure part of our website. If you receive a suspicious email, please send it to [spoofer@aiiche.org](mailto:spoofer@aiiche.org).

## Knovel<sup>®</sup> Library—What Is It? — How You Can Use It.



Knovel's Library Product is the original product of Knovel Corporation. In totality, over 650 hand-picked books and databases are available in the Library Product. The primary offering within the Library Product is Knovel Interactive Library. Knovel Interactive Library is sub-divided into Subject Area Collections and Subject Areas to accommodate people's information needs. The secondary offering within the Library Product is Premium Content. Knovel chose to separate Premium Content from the Knovel Interactive Library because of the highly specialized nature of the content. We want to give people many logical ways to customize their subscriptions to meet their needs.

The reference works and databases on Knovel have been carefully selected based on their quality, reputation and pertinence to the technical markets that we are reaching. At Knovel, we are more concerned with quality than quantity. We turn away books that are either of little interest to our audience, overlap with information that we already have available, or that we feel are low in quality. We want to be sure that our users are performing searches that will extract relevant, useful information.

**Content:** Content on Knovel is carefully selected from more than 30 leading publishing partners including McGraw Hill, Wiley, Springer and Elsevier. The full-text reference content that includes books, databases and conference proceedings is all presented on the same interface, is fully searchable and is integrated with our productivity tools.

**Technology:** Knovel's productivity tools, (including interactive tables, graphs and live equations) allow users to work within Knovel to analyze the data they find, rather than using other applications.

The standardized format and interface for all content on Knovel allows browsing or simultaneous searching of books, databases and other types of information sources.

One of our section members related their experiences using Knovel:

1. One of our clients wanted to investigate a certain process that we didn't have experience in. I put in a few key words and found several descriptions of similar processes.
2. I needed to characterize the mol fraction of a C6+ fraction of a stream. I found a relatively similar method to do this on Knovel.

Go to [www.knovel.com](http://www.knovel.com) for more information on this useful service.

## Institute Resources—"Technical Societies"

Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS). Formed after the Bhopal toxic gas release in 1984, CCPS plays a vital role in advancing the practice of process safety to protect our workplaces and communities. <http://www.aiche.org/CCPS>

### The History of CCPS

#### Looking back...

**Twenty years ago, on December 3, 1984, water contamination of a tank of methyl isocyanate in Bhopal, India initiated a series of events that led to a catastrophic toxic release, killing more**

**than 3,000 residents and injuring over 100,000.**

Immediately after, leaders from the chemical industry asked AIChE to lead a collaborative effort to eliminate catastrophic process incidents by advancing state of the art technology and management practices, serving as the premier resource for information on process safety, supporting process safety in engineering, and promoting process safety as a key industry value. And so began the industry response to the tragic event.

On March 25, 1985, AIChE formed the Center for Chemical Process Safety with seventeen charter member companies. CCPS quickly set out to publish its first process safety guideline book, *Guidelines for Hazard Evaluation Procedures*, and by 1990, more than a dozen guideline books had been published, along with CCPS' call to action publication, *A Challenge to Commitment*. In these initial publications, CCPS first codified the critical elements of process safety and provided key tools to continually improve process safety programs. Focused workshops and international conferences provided opportunities for communal learning and discussions regarding process safety and for the exploration of new ideas and important developments relevant to the chemical industry.

Twenty years later, CCPS continues to address the most important process safety needs and encourage an overall culture of process safety. Over 75 members now participate in CCPS, including most of the

world's leading chemical, petroleum, pharmaceutical and related manufacturing companies. CCPS' extensive body of work marks the progress made in these areas and it continues to expand a catalog of over 100 books and products, build on a legacy of 20 successful international conferences, and cultivate the Safety in Chemical Engineering Education (SACHE) university curriculum program.

#### ...and reaching forward

The world has changed over the last 20 years. In today's global economy, technology that was unheard of two decades ago is now readily available. Little-developed parts of the globe have become major production centers. Specialty chemicals have become commodities, while new applications have arisen. Through all these changes, the job of process safety has evolved, but the need remains constant.

CCPS, for the last 20 years, has helped industry develop tools to keep our workplaces and communities safer, even as technology and businesses have become more complex. The results have been heartening, but also sobering. Since 1984, there has not been another accident having as strong an industry-wide impact or receiving as much global attention as Bhopal. According to the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration, since 1992 onsite facilities from process safety incidents have dropped by over 60%. Fatalities, when they occur, have been contained to the plant site, and when off-site releases have occurred, emergency procedures have kept injuries low.

On the other hand, the US Chemical Safety Board has identified 167 incidents in the last 25 years based on chemical reactivity alone, mostly at smaller manufacturers and companies whose main business was not chemistry. Nearly all of these incidents could have been prevented had basic process safety guidelines and references been consulted.

As CCPS celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, our mission is clear. First we must continue to be a beacon within the chemical, petroleum, pharmaceutical and related industries. To achieve this, we must evolve as an organization in order to maintain relevance and offer utility within a sector that is itself constantly changing. Second, we must expand this central core of companies and work to find common threads to better promote the culture of process safety. Our work is far from done.

**(See Page 8 for a list of the CCPS sponsor companies).**



"Laughter is the best Medicine."

After every flight, Qantas pilots fill out a form, called a "gripe sheet," which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems; document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor.

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Qantas' pilots (marked with a "P") and the solutions recorded (marked with an "S") by maintenance engineers.

By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never had an accident.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.  
S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.  
S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.  
S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.  
S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.  
S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.  
S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.  
S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.  
S: That's what they're for.

P: IFF inoperative.  
S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.  
S: Suspect you're right!

P: Number 3 engine missing.  
S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.  
S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.  
S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit.  
S: Cat installed.

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.  
S: Took hammer away from midget

Andy Rooney Handles Telemarketers and Junk Mail:

The below ideas will help the U.S. Post Office make up for some their lost revenue due to email.

Three Little Words That Work !!

The three little words are: "Hold On, Please..."

Saying this, while putting down your phone and walking off (instead of hanging-up immediately) would make each telemar-

keting call so much more time-consuming that boiler room sales would grind to a halt.

Then when you eventually hear the phone company's "beep-beep-beep" tone, you know it's time to go back and hang up your handset, which has efficiently completed its task.

These three little words will help eliminate telephone soliciting.

Do you ever get those annoying phone calls with no one on the other end?

This is a telemarketing technique where a machine makes phone calls and records the time of day when a person answers the phone.

This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a "real" sales person to call back and get someone at home.

What you can do after answering, if you notice there is no one there, is to immediately start hitting your # button on the phone, 6 or 7 times, as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialed the call and it kicks your number out of their system. Gosh, what a shame not to have your name in their system any longer !!!

Junk Mail Help:

When you get "ads" enclosed with your phone or utility bill, return these "ads" with your payment. Let the sending companies throw their own junk mail away.

When you get those "pre-approved" letters in the mail for everything from credit cards to 2nd mortgages and similar type junk, do not throw away the return envelope.

Most of these come with postage-paid return envelopes, right? It costs them more than the regular 37 cents postage "IF"

and when they receive them back.

It costs them nothing if you throw them away! The postage was around 50 cents before the last increase and it is according to the weight. In that case, why not get rid of some of your other junk mail and put it in these cool little, postage-paid return envelopes.

Send an ad for your local chimney cleaner to American Express. Send a pizza coupon to Citibank. If you didn't get anything else that day, then just send them their blank application back! If you want to remain anonymous, just make sure your name isn't on anything you send them.

You can even send the envelope back empty if you want to just to keep them guessing! It still costs them 37 cents.

The banks and credit card companies are currently getting a lot of their own junk back in the mail, but folks, we need to OVERWHELM them. Let's let them know what it's like to get lots of junk mail, and best of all they're paying for it...Twice!

Let's help keep our postal service busy since they are saying that e-mail is cutting into their business profits, and that's why they need to increase postage costs again. You get the idea !

If enough people follow these tips, it will work—I have been doing this for years, and I get very little junk mail anymore.





## Announcements

### 2005 CCPS Member Companies

We would like to thank all our member companies for making CCPS a success.

- 3M Company
- ABB Lummus Global
- Abbott Laboratories
- ABS Group Inc
- AcuTech Consulting
- Advantica
- Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
- AKZO Nobel Chemicals, Inc.
- Albemarle
- Arkema
- Baker Engineering & Risk Consultants
- Bayer Corporation
- BP
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Buckman Laboratories
- Celanese Chemicals
- Chevron
- Chevron Phillips
- Ciba Specialty Chemicals Company
- Cognis
- ConocoPhillips
- Contra Cost County Health Services
- Croda
- Cytec Industries
- Degussa Corporation
- DNV
- The Dow Chemical Company
- DuPont Company
- Eastman Chemical Company
- Eli Lilly and Company
- ExxonMobil
- Fluor Enterprises
- FM Global
- Formosa Plastics Corporation (USA)
- GE Plastics
- Georgia Pacific
- Honeywell, Inc.
- Hughes Associates
- International Specialty Products, Inc.
- IoMosaic
- Intel
- Johnson and Johnson
- Johnson Polymer
- KBR
- LanXess
- The Lubrizol Corporation
- Lyondell Chemical Company
- Marsulex Inc.
- Merck & Company, Inc.
- Monsanto Company
- NOVA Chemicals Ltd.
- Occidental Chemical Corporation
- Olin Corporation
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Pioneer
- PPG Industries, Inc.
- Primatech, Inc.
- Reilly Industries, Inc.
- Rhodia, Inc.
- Risk Reliability and Safety Engineering
- Rohm and Haas Company
- Sartomer
- Schering-Plough
- Shell Chemical Company
- SIS-Tech Solutions
- SoluCia S.A.
- Solutia Inc.
- Starr Technical Risks Agency, Inc.
- Sunoco
- Syncrude Canada Ltd.
- Syngenta Crop Protection
- TNO Initiative for Industrial Safety
- US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
- US EPA/OEPPR
- Westinghouse Savannah River Company



## Section Ads / Announcements

You or your company can have a very reasonable price ad run in our newsletter. The prices are listed below. Just contact the editor at: [anthony.fregosi@cytec.com](mailto:anthony.fregosi@cytec.com) for how to arrange to have an ad placed in the newsletter.

Chances are if you are reading this message—you are already a member of the section. But how about your colleague? Section membership is only \$18.00 per year. Membership in the national institute is dependent on years since graduation. See the national AIChE website at [aiche.org](http://aiche.org) for details. You may pay both your local and national dues through the national AIChE and you may do so on-line!

**\$18/year**



### New Members Are Always Welcome

*If you would like to become a member of the section, please contact the Membership Chairman listed on Page 2.*

Note: Dates following an ad denotes the last month it will run.

### Newsletter Advertisement Charges

| Size          | \$/Issue | \$/Year<br>9 Issues |
|---------------|----------|---------------------|
| Business Card | \$ 16    | \$ 100              |
| 1/4 page      | \$ 40    | \$ 250              |
| 1/2 page      | \$ 80    | \$ 500              |
| Full Page     | \$ 160   | \$1000              |

To order an advertisement, Please contact **Anthony Fregosi, Anthony.Fregosi@cytec.com**



# 6th Annual Tulane Engineering Forum “Engineering in a Coastal Environment”

Friday, June 2, 2006

New Orleans Hilton Riverside

8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Registration fee will apply

Nationally Acclaimed Speakers

Plenary and Concurrent Session • Poster Sessions

Underwritten by 50 companies  
400+ Engineers Expected to Attend  
7 PDH credits, including 1 ethics PDH.

For more information, please contact Event Coordinator,  
Jenny Kottler, at 504-891-1044 or [jkottler@bellsouth.net](mailto:jkottler@bellsouth.net).

Or visit the Forum Website at:

[www.eng.tulane.edu/tef](http://www.eng.tulane.edu/tef)

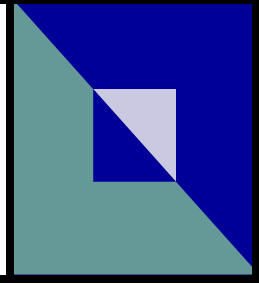


AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF  
CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

*Serving Chemical  
Engineers...Who Serve  
the World*



# Directions to May 27th Meeting



## Map to Valero —St. Charles Refinery



Safety: Valero values the safety of all its visitors and employees. As such you will need to be sure you follow all rules and regulations. No open foot wear—no sandals or tennis shoes. No sleeveless shirts or tops. No shorts. No cameras.



*Serving Chemical  
Engineers...Who Serve  
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**New Orleans Section - American  
Institute of Chemical Engineers**

Editor

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Serving Chemical Engineers....Who  
Serve the World

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[WWW.TULANE.EDU/  
~BMITCHE/AICHE/  
AICHE.HTML](http://WWW.TULANE.EDU/~BMITCHE/AICHE/AICHE.HTML)

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Quote of the  
Month

**“Don't wait for your ship to  
come in, swim out to it”**

— **Unknown**

### **Meeting Notice!**

**Date:** May 27, 2006  
**Time:** 5:00 P.M.  
**Place:** Valero — St. Charles  
Refinery  
**See:** Pages 11 for directions.  
**Note:** Safety Information, etc.

***New Orleans Section, Winner of:***

***1995 “Randall D. Sheeline Award”, for excellence in public relations activities.***

***1999 “Catalyst Grassroots Award”, for support of the grassroots advocacy program.***

***2001 “Marx Isaac’s Award”, for excellence of a small local section newsletter.***