

The Delegates' Voice



Newsletter for the House of Delegates of AAPG

NOVEMBER 2001

Chairman's Corner

by Ed Dolly, Chairman

Your officers, committee chairs and committee members have been working diligently on House business affecting the AAPG membership. Early committee participation has been moving forward briskly in order to meet the deadlines necessitated by this short business year. (See "Short Business Year" on page 1 of the September *DV*.) In this issue of *The Delegates' Voice*, you will read about the committee activities in their respective reports.

Terry, Marty and I attended a joint meeting of the Executive Committee, Advisory Council and the House of Delegates' officers in August, where we represented the House in planning activities for the year. More on that meeting appears in another article in this *DV*.

We are keeping all the Delegates informed through articles and reports published in *The Delegates' Voice* and posted on the HoD Forum. I have asked the committee chairs to post items of interest on the Forum as soon as they have completed preliminary and/or final committee activity.

It is my plan to attend the Delegates' breakfast at each of the Section meetings this year. To date, I have gone to Kalamazoo for the Eastern Section meeting and to Amarillo for Mid-Continent's meeting. At those meetings I had the opportunity and privilege to talk with Delegates, officers and other local attendees about House activities and the AAPG in general. By the time you read this article, I will have also attended the Delegates' breakfast at the Gulf Coast Section meeting in Shreveport. The Southwest Section meeting will be held in Houston next March in conjunction with the annual AAPG Convention and both the Pacific and Rocky Mountain Sections are scheduled to meet later in the spring.

One area of concentration this year is the under-representation in the HoD of some Affiliated Societies. Each society, large or small, is important to the success of AAPG programs and we would like to have input from all societies as members of the greater geological community. As you know, the HoD passed a procedure for the "disaffiliation" of an inactive Affiliated Society. I personally hope that this procedure is NEVER used. There are sixteen Affiliated Societies that currently have NO elected Delegates and seven that are under-represented. We (your officers and the Resolutions Committee, with the assistance of Donna Riggs at AAPG Headquarters) are in the process of corresponding with representatives of each of those under-represented societies and will help them arrange for elections to fill their Delegate complement. We will also encourage those societies to become active in AAPG programs.

You may reach me to answer questions or otherwise be of assistance at (303) 299-1517 or ed.dolly@aec-denver.com.

MID-YEAR MEETING

The House of Delegates' Mid-Year Meeting of officers, committee chairs and invited guests will be held in Denver, Colorado on November 10, 2001.

September 11,
2001

The HoD would like to express our sincere condolences to our fellow members, colleagues and their families who have suffered as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who have been affected by this tragedy.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES for HoD OFFICES, 2002-2003

CHAIRMAN-ELECT:

George Eynon
Mike Party

SECRETARY/EDITOR:

Katherine "Lee" Avary
Ron Grubbs

Deadlines For 2001-2002

House of Delegates Business

September 15, 2001	HoD officer candidates for 2002-2003 selected.
November 1, 2001	Proposed Constitution and Bylaws changes, if to be published in the <i>Explorer</i> , need to be submitted for the December issue.
November 1, 2001	2001-2002 HoD award recipients selected.
November 10, 2001 (100 days)	Mid-year meeting of HoD officers, committee chairs, and invited guests in Denver.
November, 2001	2nd issue of <i>The Delegates' Voice</i> published.
December 10, 2001 (90 days)	Proposed changes to AAPG's Constitution or <i>Bylaws</i> must be in the hands of the Chairman of the House of Delegates. If the December <i>Explorer</i> publication deadline was missed, the changes must be mailed to Active Members.
December 10, 2001	Proposed changes to the Rules and Procedures of the House must be in the hands of the Chairman of the House of Delegates.
January 9, 2002 (60 days)	Biographical data for House officer candidates must be in the hands of the Chairman of the House.
January 9, 2002	Proposed changes to the Rules and Procedures of the House must be mailed to the Delegates.
January 9, 2002	Biographical data, House/AAPG activities, and citations for HoD award recipients must be in the hands of the Chairman of the House of Delegates.
January 28, 2002	HoD officer and committee reports must be at Headquarters for printing and slide preparation.
January, 2002	3rd issue of <i>The Delegates' Voice</i> published
February 1, 2002 (35 days)	Last day for mailing meeting agenda and pertinent enclosures to the Delegates.
February 22, 2002 (15 days)	Names of appointed alternate Delegates must be in Headquarters office.
March 10, 2002	House of Delegates Annual Meeting, 8:00a.m., Houston, Texas
May 9, 2002 (60 days)	Last day to mail ballot to members re Constitution changes. (Any Bylaws changes approved at the House meeting in Houston will be effective immediately and do not require a vote of the membership.)
June, 2002	4th issue of <i>The Delegates' Voice</i> published.

Nomination and Election Committee

by Jeanne Harris, Chair

The Nominations Committee is pleased and proud to announce the 2002-2003 House of Delegates officer candidates. For Chair-Elect, they are **George Eynon** from Calgary, Alberta and **J. Michael Party** from Midland, Texas. For Secretary/Editor, they are **K. Lee Avary** from Morgantown, West Virginia and **Ron Grubbs** from Dallas, Texas. These four outstanding geologists are highly qualified and highly regarded members of the HoD. They have served the AAPG and their local societies with leadership, vision and

lots of hard work. The January issue of *The Delegates' Voice* will contain complete biographies of each candidate.

I would like to thank my committee of Sandi Barber-Vice Chair (Gulf Coast), Bob Countryman (Pacific), Paul English (Canada), Jeff Greenawalt (Eastern), Robert Johannessen (Europe), Kuan Hsu (Asia/Pacific), Jean Lemmon (Mid-Continent), John Neale (Gulf Coast) and Steve Shaw (Southwest) for their hard work in nominating such a great slate of officers.

Chairman-Elect's Corner

by Terry Hollrah, Chairman-Elect

Article IV, Section 5, Paragraphs C and D of the AAPG's Bylaws state that "Delegates shall acquaint themselves with the Association's current policies and programs and shall inform the leaders of their society or Region regarding the Association's program of activities, especially as it relates to cooperative participation and service."

It is important that we as Delegates keep our members informed of the services that AAPG has to offer. Because of this, in each *Delegates' Voice*, I will have an article addressing one service that is available to the AAPG membership. This issue will cover "GeoVest" which is the retirement savings plan for AAPG members. Future issues will cover insurance and website services.

I encourage all of you as Delegates and liaisons to the societies, Sections and Regions to become familiar with these services and present them to your colleagues. AAPG offers a lot. Please help in disseminating these services that are available.

AAPG Officer Nominations

by Richard S. Bishop

I hope you read this brief article, but before you do, please ask yourself this: who do I know that is a great leader and might be willing to run for an office of AAPG? Think broadly. Although previous service to AAPG is important, comparable leadership experience in business, government, university or institution is equally valued. The fundamental qualities required are leadership and dedication to the geosciences.

Our call for nominations this year is different from recent ones because our list of potential candidates is very short. The reduction of numbers has a variety of origins. These include recent changes by the Nominations Committee, competition with other leadership positions within the Association, a lack of normal submission rate and to a minor extent, changes of the Bylaws. The cumulative effect has been to significantly reduce the number of potential candidates.

In the past, potential candidates have been considered for five years but in an effort to maintain a more contemporary

Continued in next column →

AAPG Members Initiate GEM Program

by Brenda K. Cunningham

There are many geoscientists around the world who wish to become AAPG members, but, for many reasons, simply cannot afford the annual dues. A new initiative, the **GEM Program (Geoscientists Enabling Membership)** is being implemented by several AAPG members for the purpose of identifying current members willing to fund a qualified potential member's dues on an interim basis. A newly formed GEM Clearinghouse will then match these financial sponsors with a fellow geoscientist in need of assistance.

Financial sponsors (**GEMS**) may, if they desire, stipulate a country, Region, discipline or other criteria for use in pairing their sponsorship with potential candidates. A financial sponsor may also remain anonymous if they so choose. Although a mentoring relationship may be a beneficial side note of the Program, no such obligation is required. Sponsorships may continue on a yearly basis for whatever length of time the sponsor desires. In many cases, a geoscientist may simply need financial sponsorship until their employment situation improves, or their country's economy is vitalized.

I have volunteered to act as the **GEM** Clearinghouse. I will be responsible for:

- Cataloguing those who wish to sponsor a fellow geoscientist, and all relevant information;
- Receiving direct requests from those desiring sponsorship from within the United States;
- Receiving requests **from** those desiring sponsorship who reside outside the United States via the appropriate

Regional President or AAPG Service Team Lead;

- Coordinating bookkeeping with AAPG Headquarters.

The **GEM** Program is open to ALL, regardless of whether you give or receive. AAPG members both inside and outside the United States, including President Robbie Gries and past-President Bob Cowdery have been financial sponsors for more than a decade. Rick Fritz, AAPG's Executive Director, recently became involved.

As a clarification, this program does not obligate an AAPG member to professionally sponsor an applicant, nor does it relieve an applicant from providing the appropriate professional sponsors on his/her membership application. *The GEM Program involves ONLY financial sponsorship.*

I encourage you, if your situation allows, to become a **GEM**. Please contact me if you wish to financially sponsor a fellow geoscientist, if you are in need of a sponsor and reside in the United States, or if you just have questions or comments. If you desire financial sponsorship and live outside of the United States, please contact your AAPG Regional President or AAPG Service Team Leader. In light of recent world events, efforts such as these are even more important. We are ALL scientists of the Earth. Please join us in our efforts to make the benefits of AAPG membership a reality for as many qualified geoscientists as possible!

Brenda K. Cunningham
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← AAPG Officer Nominations - from previous column

list of available potential officer candidates, the Nominating Committee revised its guidelines. Currently a candidate will be considered for no more than three years, will be deferred a maximum of one year and will not be considered to run again within the three year period unless re-nominated. Furthermore, the revised Bylaws require that one person cannot hold two specified offices at the same time.

If someone pops into your mind, please talk to him or her about the possibility of being considered for candidacy. The

nomination process is straightforward and requires only a "candidate information form" (submitted by the nominator) and the "agreement to run if nominated" form (signed by the potential candidate). Blank forms are available from http://www.aapg.org/business/officer_nom/index.shtml and should be submitted to Regina Gill at AAPG by January 14, 2002.

Now that you've read this far, give a call to that outstanding leader you have in mind.

Secretary/Editor's Corner by Marty Hewitt, Secretary/Editor

As you read this issue of *The Delegates' Voice*, your HoD committees are close to finalizing their work for the 2001-2002 term. At your next local Delegates meeting, make an effort to thank your fellow Delegates who have served on committees this term. They have worked very hard over the past few months. Several of the committees have submitted articles for this issue (their final reports will appear in the January issue). We also have feature articles by Brenda Cunningham outlining the GEM program and by Dick Bishop soliciting nominations for AAPG's Executive Committee. Terry Hollrah also has started a series on AAPG Member services.

As I mentioned in the September issue of *The Delegates' Voice*, the Delegates Forum at www.aapg.org will be a primary communication vehicle in our short business year. All committee final reports will be posted on the Forum starting in December. I encourage you to prepare for all the business we will be addressing in Houston by accessing these reports through the Forum, rather than later through *The Delegates' Voice* and mail.

Unfortunately, articles posted on the Forum are still only receiving 30 or so hits each. With any new technology, there is a period of awareness and adaptation required. By the time you receive this issue of *The Delegates' Voice*, you will have received a new Username, which will allow you to post articles or comments on the Forum. A reminder though, a Username is only required for posting. Anyone can read the posted articles.

When an article is posted, you will receive an e-mail notifying you that a new article is available for viewing. The e-mail will have a link that will take you directly to the Forum. Simply click on the article and it is available for your review. It is as simple as that!

If you have not yet received your Username, click on "Inquire about registration" and you can send me an e-mail at housesec@AAPG.org or you can e-mail me at marty_hewitt@pcenergy.com and I will provide you with the Username.

I would appreciate hearing your comments about the Forum. Also, your contributions and comments concerning *The Delegates' Voice* are always welcome.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee "Fun in the Sun" (Constitution & Bylaws @ Houston)

by George Eynon, Chair

We know how much you are all looking forward to the C&BL report and debates in Houston, but we would like to make this session less contentious than last year's. However, we said that about Denver and you proved us wrong. There are five proposed amendments of the Bylaws for consideration on March 10, 2002 in Houston. They will be fully described—complete with "[~~strikeouts~~] and additions"—in our report to the House to be published shortly. In the interim, and briefly, they are...

1. Amendment to provide consultation of EC, AC & HoD on C&BL changes affecting them

This is the most complex piece of legislation, though it has already been implemented in spirit, to obtain the EC, AC and HoD views on COCBAP 3 last year - and it worked wonderfully. The HoD in Denver defeated the COCBAP3 Resolution and then approved the COCBAP2 Resolution to formalize a mechanism to obtain comment from each of the three governing bodies on amendments that might affect them. This amendment will encode the process in the Bylaws.

2. Amendment to require EC "super-majority" vote to alter AC's officer nominations

In the 2000-2001 year the C&BL Committee was directed by the House to investigate requiring the EC to vote by more than a simple majority—in fact have five (5) affirmative votes—if it wishes to either reject or change the rank order of any candidates presented by the AC. Robert's Rules of Order governs the EC meetings and permits this process. Therefore this amendment is exactly as voted upon in Denver and is a formal resolution for amendment by the House in Houston in 2002.

3. Amendment to eliminate Divisions' minimum membership number for AC representation

This proposes the elimination of a minimum numeric requirement for Division representation on the AC in order to avoid the situation that occurred in June when the EMD was not able to vote at the AC. The C&BL Committee also considered the merits of a similar provision for Sections and Regions. Currently under the Bylaws, the Sections and Regions must have a minimum of 750 members to obtain their first voting representative, and are permitted additional seats based on total membership. We considered eliminating the 750 member requirement for the initial, voting seat only; however the EC has indicated that, at this juncture, it only endorses the elimination of a minimum membership requirement for the Divisions. The proposal comes from the EC directly and will be voted on in Houston.

4. Amendment to reduce required membership for Emeritus status to 30 years

The EC also passed a resolution for Amendment to reduce the total number of years of membership in the Association required for Emeritus status from thirty-five (35) to thirty (30). This is a simple change and presents no concerns. Since this too comes from the EC directly, it is presented as an amendment for vote in Houston.

5. Amendment to remove Article II, Section 13, paragraph (c) - "effective date"

This is a purely "housekeeping" item removing a provision that is now stale-dated, but was necessary to handle the introduction of a limitation on members holding multiple elected positions in the Association.

• Robert's Rules of Order (RRO) as AAPG's official parliamentary authority

Our professional parliamentarian—Mary Bahde—suggested we consider making RRO the official parliamentary authority governing the AAPG's conduct of business. However, they already apply to meetings of the EC, AC and HoD and we see no need to apply them to other committees and meetings.

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Please take the time to read the full report when it is published, and come to Houston prepared to handle the legislation in record time so that we can all have lunch before the opening ceremonies.

Meeting of the EC, AC, and the HoD Officers

Albuquerque, New Mexico

August 2001

by Ed Dolly, Chairman

During the weekend of August 17, 18 and 19, 2001, the Executive Committee, Advisory Council and the House of Delegates' officers met in Albuquerque for their respective planning and business meetings, as well as a joint session of all three groups. Several members of the AAPG Headquarters staff were also in attendance.

The Chairman of the House of Delegates, as you know, not only serves as leader of the House, but also sits on the Executive Committee and is an "invited guest" to all Advisory Council meetings. As such, I had the opportunity to participate in the work of the organization at each of those levels while in Albuquerque.

Prior to the above-mentioned meetings, some members of each group (staff, EC, AC and the HoD officers) met for a Mini-Summit on Membership to discuss ideas for member status, membership recruitment and membership retention. Numerous action items for the EC, HoD, Membership Committee, and Headquarters staff were formulated at this meeting (see article by Terry Hollrah in this issue of *The Delegates' Voice*).

At the joint meeting of the EC, AC and the HoD officers, over thirty different topics covering matters affecting AAPG members, Sections, Regions and Divisions were discussed. Those subjects will comprise part of the business carried on by the EC, AC and the HoD during the year. Minutes of the meeting are being placed on the AAPG web site.

Planning sessions for current and new business were held by each of the three groups in attendance (EC, AC and the HoD Officers.) After two days of deliberations considering numerous extremely well qualified candidates, the AC chose award winners for 2001-2002. The EC covered the wide range of action and business items that comprise the start-up functions of each year. Other reports, proposals and future planning were also discussed at that meeting.

In our HoD Officers meeting, Terry, Marty and I reviewed the minutes of the recent annual meeting in Denver, discussed the activities of each of the HoD Committees, updated our timeline for the current year and made plans for HoD activities throughout the year. We put considerable focus on the subject of Affiliated Societies currently under-represented in the House.

A great deal was accomplished during the weekend, with all three groups actively engaged in carrying out their respective business objectives.

16 Years Ago

Milestones For AAPG/HoD

by Patrick J.F. Gratton

In an economic environment of declining, but still good oil prices, the House met in New Orleans on 24 March 1985 under Chairman A.T. (Toby) Carleton. Those were heady times with AAPG membership over 42,000. Martha Lou Broussard, Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee offered three significant resolutions:

1. To make each current officer, each past-chairman of HoD and each past-president of the Association more than three years out of office a nonvoting Delegate (unless otherwise a voting Delegate - PJFG). This resolution passed.
2. To amend the Constitution and Bylaws in order to render them gender neutral. This resolution passed.
3. To require 200 instead of 50 members' signatures to originate amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws. This resolution was defeated.

Item 1 and 2 above were subsequently adopted by HoD/AAPG. The minutes of the House are sparse on item 3 and the only reference is "It was the sentiment of the House that the amendment process should not be made any harder." Readers are reminded that amendments are also proposed by resolutions of 1) the Executive Committee, 2) the House of Delegates and additionally, in the case of the Constitution, by 3) a special constitutional committee appointed by the President.

Resolutions Committee

by J. Michael Party, Chair

The Resolutions Committee has had a request for affiliation with the AAPG from the Geological Society of America (GSA). The review process is under way and barring any unforeseen complications, the request will be brought up for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

The committee is also working on getting all of the societies that are affiliated with the AAPG to elect all of the Delegates that they are entitled to by the Constitution and Bylaws. The societies who have no elected Delegates but are entitled to have one or more are: Abilene, Alabama, Association of Missouri Geologists, El Paso, Fort Smith, Georgia, Grand Junction, Professional Geologists of Indiana, Geological Society of Iowa, Miami, New Mexico, New York State Geological Association, Northwest Energy Association, Sacramento Petroleum Association, San Angelo and Southeastern. The following societies are under represented: Austin, Fort Worth, Illinois, Los Angeles Basin, Michigan Basin, Mississippi and Shreveport. If you notice that your local society is on this list, please e-mail me or Donna Riggs (driggs@aapg.org) and you may be able to help us resolve this situation.

The final item that the committee is reviewing is a way to resolve the dilemma of societies having a majority of their Delegates elected in one year. This can cause some problems with continuity for the societies with their delegations. In a perfect world, a third of the delegates would be elected each year, however, because of societies gaining and losing Delegates each year this is not the case. The committee will be exploring possible avenues to help rectify these circumstances.



Membership

by Terry Hollrah, Chairman-Elect

On August 17, 2001, AAPG President Robbie Gries and Executive Director Rick Fritz convened a Membership Ad Hoc Committee summit in Albuquerque, New Mexico to discuss retaining current members and recruitment of new members for AAPG.

AAPG's current membership is between 29,000 and 30,000 members. Currently, AAPG is still losing approximately 2000 members per year, but new member enrollment is up from last year. This committee met to consider ideas that will maximize membership development and minimize future declines in enrollment.

Several recruitment ideas have been put in place and others are being considered. Those in place include:

- 1) Follow-up letters and a "grace period" for reinstatement of dropped members
- 2) Associate discount for on-site membership at conventions
- 3) Interim Associate membership during the processing time of Active membership applications
- 4) Student member applications have been sent to approximately 1500 universities
- 5) Non-member pre-registrants for international conferences are sent an application form

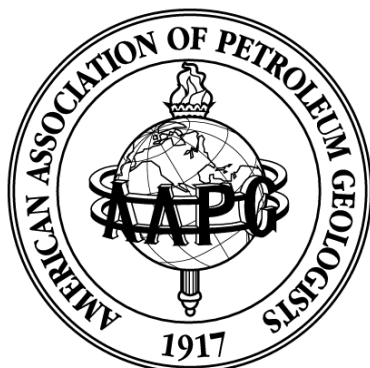
New ideas include:

- 1) Members' names who have been dropped and can't be located will be put on the website
- 2) Interim applicants will be sent the *Explorer* and *Bulletin* while their application is processed
- 3) International group membership in certain countries
- 4) SEG/SPE membership reciprocity
- 5) Streamlining membership applications
- 6) Geologist Enabling Membership program for AAPG members willing to fund qualified potential member's dues

Many ideas for membership retention were discussed. Many have already been implemented. They include:

- 1) Reduction in publication costs
- 2) *Bulletin* offered as a digital option
- 3) Ordering publications on line
- 4) Constantly improving the website
- 5) AAPG's newly implemented Prospect and Property Expo (APPEX)
- 6) Planning to give the AAPG members all or part of the digital archives
- 7) On line registration for short courses and conferences

There were many good ideas considered at this meeting by a lot of active and growth-oriented individuals. Personally, other than a member dying, I can't understand why anyone would give up the benefits of being a member of AAPG. New ideas for recruitment and retention are always welcome. Please feel free to voice your opinions.



GeoVest Retirement Savings Plan

by Terry Hollrah, Chairman-Elect

Approximately ten years ago, past-president Jim Gibbs initiated a 401(K) investment and profit sharing program for AAPG members. In late 1993 and early 1994, this program became effective under the management of the Retirement Trust Fund Group. This plan was moderately successful and was primarily used by small companies or self-employed individuals.

The problem with the original plan was that not all members of AAPG could participate and members who left larger companies could not transfer their 401(K) accounts. In April 2001, the AAPG Investment Committee (this group oversees all of AAPG's investments) met and recommended to the Executive Committee that the member retirement program be moved from the Retirement Trust Fund Group to Milliman USA, Inc. effective October 1, 2001.

Milliman USA, Inc. is now the record keeper for GeoVest. They have offices located in twenty-nine cities in the United States plus Bermuda, Hong Kong, London, Melbourne and Tokyo. Marquette Alliance, which has a long-standing relationship with the AAPG Pension and Operating Funds, will be the financial advisory group and provide the investment direction. Charles Schwab, Inc. will provide the investment choices.

Individuals will be able to choose from fourteen selected mutual funds such as value, growth, large cap, mid cap, small cap and international funds. The AAPG Investment Committee has approved all funds. The GeoVest funds will have the same-day exchange so participants can make trades at daily market close prices.

Milliman is dedicated to make this program work. Perhaps you have already met with their representatives at the conventions. Participants will be able to access their accounts through the Internet to find current balances, change contribution percentages, apply for loans or withdrawals, or redistribute balances among the funds offered.

This is truly an exciting program offered by AAPG. As past-president Gibbs states, "We may be the only professional society in the world with its own customized retirement savings plan."

For more information on GeoVest, contact Gerald Erickson with Milliman USA, Inc. at (800) 652-6672.

**AAPG House of Delegates
Officers and Committees — 2001-2002**

OFFICERS

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Marty Hewitt, Secretary/Editor	Canada	403-290-2544	marty_hewitt@pcenergy.com

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

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	or	214-363-3337	(daytime option)

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Marvin Smith	Gulf Coast	713-952-2007	

NOMINATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE

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CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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George Eynon, Candidate for Chairman-Elect	Canada	403-531-4375	geynon@cera.com
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The Delegates' Voice

A Newsletter for the
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