

# The Delegates' Voice

Newsletter for the House of Delegates of AAPG

## What's all that noise in the House?

By Don Clarke, Chairman of the House of Delegates

I just got back from the AAPG road show. In the last month I held House of Delegate events at the AAPG International Meeting in Paris, France, at the Eastern Section Meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia and the Rocky Mountain Section Meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Check the AAPG Web site for pictures. Val Schulz held the Delegates breakfast at the Mid-Continent Meeting in Oklahoma City. At each location we had lively discussions on the current challenges before the House. We also reviewed the significant accomplishments of the last year. Sadly, the Gulf Coast Section Meeting was cancelled because of Hurricane Katrina. Our prayers go out to the storm victims. (See related article page 6)

Let's jump right into it. The big discussion at these meetings is about the petition candidates. In the last several years petition candidates came forward four times. Prior to this time I'm not aware of a petition candidate coming forward for national AAPG election. The procedure for officer candidate selection has been crafted with care to bring some of the best people forward to serve AAPG. Candidates are nominated by the members and brought forward to the Advisory Council for consideration. The Advisory Council reviews the credentials of the candidates including their endorsements. Next a member of the Advisory Council nominates and speaks for a candidate. A discussion follows the introduction of each candidate. The nominated candidates are listed and a vote is held. Ballots continue until two candidates are selected for each office. The Advisory Council is composed of three past AAPG presidents, the past Chair of the House, representatives from each of the United States Sections and each International Region based on membership (see Constitution and Bylaws, Article V, Section 8). There are invited

guests who observe and assist if necessary, but do not vote. The guests include the Executive Director of AAPG, the current AAPG President and the current Chair of the House. This is a select group that represents the electorate and advises the Executive Committee. The recommendations of the Advisory Council then go to the Executive Committee for approval. The Executive Committee usually accepts the list as is.

The judgment of the Advisory Council has been questioned in the past. Changes were made. The result was that the Advisory Council's recommendations are now stronger and it is harder for the Executive Committee to change the AC's recommendations.

Their choices for candidates have been made with the best interests of AAPG in mind. As carefully thought out as these decisions are there are some who feel that they could be better. Because of this people have been brought forward as petition candidates. In each of the four recent petitions the candidates were well qualified and had years of AAPG service under their belts.

The questions that people have been asking me are: "If the ability to petition in a candidate has been there all along then why was it not used in the past?" "Now that everyone is aware of how the system works will not the larger societies use this process to exclude the smaller sections from office?" "We need to fix this right away before someone abuses it again." "Can I petition in as a candidate to get AAPG to subsidize my travel?" These are just some of the questions that I have been asked but they give a flavor of what everyone is talking about without getting too pointed. So now what do we do?

I have spoken with the Executive Committee and the Chairman of the Adviso-

## Orang Utan versus Orang Tua

By Bob Shoup, Secretary/Editor

Having lived on the island of Borneo for a year, I have had the opportunity to see Orang Utans in the wild. Yes, the correct spelling is two separate words as opposed to one, and it translates as People Jungle. I have on many occasions seen Orang Utans in zoos, and on one occasion in Singapore, had tea with one. But it is not until you see them at home in the rain forest that you can fully appreciate how magnificent these animals are – and how appropriate their name is.



In the wild, you hear them before you see them, the sound of rustling leaves overhead and occasionally the snap of a broken branch. It is easy to find their nests or beds, a cluster of leaves and

branches high in the trees that they used for one night. More often than not, that is as close as you get to seeing them. But on occasion, a falling branch will betray them and you will be able to see them moving through the trees. The babies are adorable and highly entertaining as they scramble through the trees to play and at the same time keep up with their mother. However, at least for me, it is the adult males who are most impressive. An adult male Orang Utan weighs over 200 lbs., yet can move through the canopy like a trapeze artist, and do so with such ease that even Tarzan would be envious.

The Orang Utan is a highly endangered species. Having seen them in the wild, I can say that it would be a shame if this magnificent animal were to disappear

completely. Fortunately, Malaysia and Indonesia are both working hard to save the species.



Another endangered species is the Orang Tua, which by virtue of my (prematurely) grey hair is one of the things I am called here. Orang Tua translates as People Old. Now do not get me wrong, old people are not an endangered species per se, but I believe that old explorationists are. I hope to convince you that like Orang Utans, Explorationists Old are also worth saving, not just for the good of the Association, but for the health of the petroleum industry.

If you look at the age distribution of the of the AAPG membership (see related article in this issue), which is a reasonable proxy for the age distribution of explorationists within the industry, you can see that we are aging. Over 30% of our members are over 55, an age where many Orang Tuas begin to consider retirement. But what would the impact be on the association, and on the industry, if they do retire?

The aging of the association's membership poses two challenges to us Delegates. The first is the challenge of sustaining our membership; the second is to find ways for us Orang Tua to pass on our experience to the next generation.

The first challenge is an admittedly difficult one, and I am unable to offer a solution. We have tried numerous strategies including letter campaigns, telemarketing, and membership drives, all failing to result in an increase of members, although we have seemingly slowed the rate of loss.

The second challenge, to find ways to pass on our experience, may however, help us to solve the first challenge. If we can find ways to develop publications and courses that allow us Orang Tua to pass on our experiences, and if we can conduct workshops or fieldtrips that facilitate interaction between young and old, perhaps we can attract more young members and retain more old ones.

If we succeed in this second challenge, we will also positively impact the overall health of the petroleum industry. Over the last decade, improvements in seismic processing and seismic visualization have allowed fewer people to produce more, so the impact of the older explorationists retiring may at first seem minimal. And in fact, the impact would be minimal if there were more young explorationists coming into the industry, and if they were as capable as the older ones who are leaving it. Unfortunately, I do not think they are.

It is also more complicated than the fact that there is no substitute for experience. I am afraid that many of the younger explorationists have fallen victim to what I call the technology trap – that is the belief that whatever comes out of a box is good. I have heard some individuals claim that sand maps and net pay maps are obsolete now that we can image that with 3D. I have seen a map of seismic inversion data titled grain size distribution map, even though the author of the map seemed to know that the resolution of that inversion data set was 30 or so feet.

There seems to be a complete lack of understanding that a map, whether it is well-based, 2D-based, or 3D-based, is only as good as the interpreter who made it. And I have seen many 3D maps that are very poor quality, suffering from numerous miss-ties, incorrect correlations and interpretation of bad data as good. But, they look great, and because they look great, they tend to be accepted without question, after all, it is 3D. However, because many of the newer generation of explorationists have never hand-contoured a map, they do not know how to tell a good map from a bad one, or for that matter a good prospect from a bad one. And this is not good for the industry; indeed, this has in part contributed to the reason so many companies have had to recently revise their reserve estimates.

Another concern is that at least some of the younger explorationists in the industry today seem to consider the experience of us Orang Tua to be of no value. What a shame, because we have much to teach them. By the way, did I mention that the term Orang Tua is a compliment? Here in Malaysia, they respect the People Old and value their experience and judgment.

Selamat Datang

#### What's All That Noise - From page 1

ry Council about this. I have also given this matter to David Hawk the Chairman of the House of Delegates Constitution and Bylaws Committee to evaluate. Bob Cowdery, the Chairman of the Rules and Procedures Committee has also taken on the problem. Please feel free to share your ideas with David, Bob and myself. With luck we will have an answer to this by the annual meeting in Houston.

One last thought. AAPG works. It works because we take an active part in the operations of our society. I feel that the rules for a petition candidate are adequate and fair. It is up to us to not abuse the safety valve known as petition candidates. It is up to us to know the difference between when this process is used correctly or when it is abused. And it is up to us to vote for what is best for AAPG and the membership. The officers serve AAPG not the other way around. If a change to the constitution and bylaws is necessary then I will work hard to implement those changes.

## The AAPG Feature Staffer

**Editors Note:** This issue of The Delegates Voice includes a summary of AAPG Membership statistics. Therefore it is only fitting that the AAPG feature staffer for this issue is our one and only Vicki Beighle, Manager of the Membership Services Department. I have been fortunate to have known Vicki for a great many years and have come to value her advice and treasure her sense of humor. So, here is Vicki Beighle, in her own words:



I've been at AAPG for almost 25 years and have always worked in Membership. I was promoted to Manager eight years ago (1997). I have done every job within the department, including processing of applications and submissions to delegates for review; and I am very pleased to say that has allowed me the opportunity to become good friends with so many of you!

Continued on page 5

# AAPG Membership: Challenges and Opportunities

Jeff Lund, Vice Chair

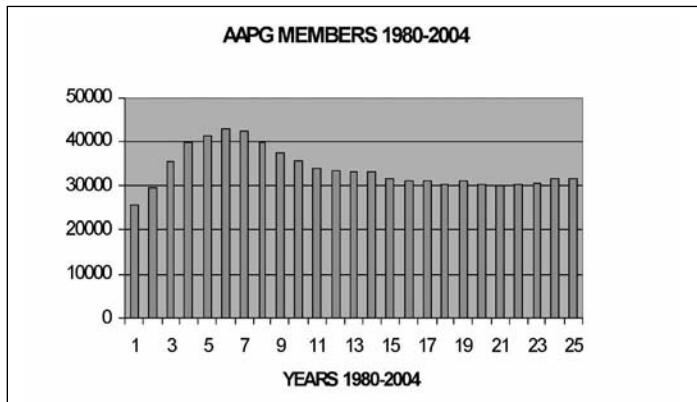
AAPG Membership Coordinating Committee

Members are the lifeblood of any organization. Attracting new members and retaining existing members is an ongoing challenge and requires constant attention. AAPG faces a number of issues and I hope some of the information provided here will stimulate your interest.

In 2004, AAPG President Steve Sonnenberg requested the AAPG Advisory Council meet to formulate a new Strategic Plan. Past President Dan Smith chaired the effort. The Plan has been reviewed by the Executive Committee and published in the Explorer. It sets out a number of strategic goals as follows:



Clearly, the EC and the AC consider membership to be a top concern. Even more significant, is the vision of the new Strategic Plan that establishes the compass for AAPG's future course. It provides the organization a core purpose for the 31,681 members. Membership peaked in the mid-80's and has now declined to the 30,000 range.



The AAPG Strategic Plan sets the following course:

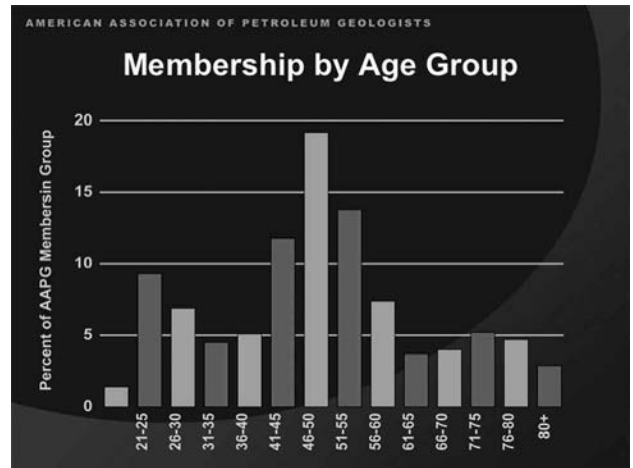
## CORE PURPOSE

**To advance the science and profession of energy-related geosciences worldwide.**

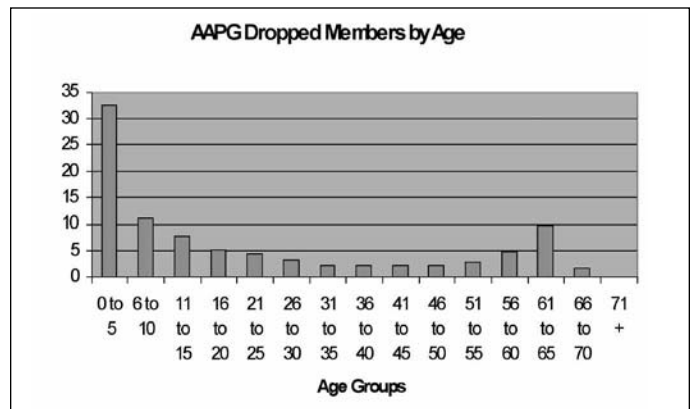
## BIG AUDACIOUS GOAL

**To be indispensable to all professionals in energy-related geosciences worldwide.**

One of the fundamental challenges AAPG faces in achieving these lofty goals is the very nature of the demographics of our membership. A graph of the current age distribution of the worldwide membership shows the characteristic bimodal distribution, with a mean age of 49 years. The bulk of AAPG members are within 15 years of retirement.



One positive feature of the demographic distribution of AAPG is that a youth "peak" exists in the young professional age group of 20-30. One challenge that is cause for concern is apparent when one reviews the age distribution of the AAPG members whose membership will drop due to non-payment of dues. This drop stems, at least in part, from the fact that after graduation, members losing their student status are no longer eligible for free membership courtesy of Halliburton. We must address the challenge of retaining this critical group of young people and encourage them to remain as members and recruit their brethren.



In August of this year, AAPG's EC formed a new "Membership Coordinating Committee", with Dan Smith as Chair. It is actively addressing the member recruiting and retention

## HOUSE Keeping

**D**elegates, this section of the Delegates Voice will help keep you informed of various issues pertaining to the House and House business. Here are two items included in this section, notification of the headcount deadline and the deadlines for this years House business.

### ***Delegate Election for the term July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009***

In December US Affiliated Society and Int'l Region Presidents will be notified of the number of paid Active AAPG members in their respective areas. This member count determines the number of HoD members each area is entitled to elect for a three-year term starting July 1, 2006. If an election is needed to add more delegates or to replace delegates whose terms are expiring, this information will also be

enclosed. Please remember that the president may need your help in setting up a Delegate Nominating Committee to select eligible nominees. This is especially true if the society president is not an AAPG member. Each society and region has the option of holding their own election or of asking AAPG to conduct it for them.

### ***Scheduled Meetings***

The annual meetings that will take place during this term will be Long Beach, California in April 2007; New Orleans, Louisiana in April 2008 and Denver, Colorado in June 2009. The only international conference with a definite date is Perth, Australia, November 5-8, 2006. International meeting venues for 2007 and 2008 have not been finalized. If there are any questions contact Donna Riggs at AAPG (driggs@aapg.org) 918-560-2612

### ***Key Deadlines***

Nov. 30, 2005	Delegate Headcount (see above)
Dec. 01, 2005	Proposed Constitution and/or Bylaws changes, if published in the <i>Explorer</i> , need to be submitted for the January issue.
Dec. 30, 2005 (100 days)	Mid-Year meeting of officers, chairs and invitees on <u>or before</u> this date.
Jan. 09, 2006 (90 days)	Proposed changes to the AAPG Bylaws must be with the HoD Chair. If <i>Explorer</i> publication deadline was missed, an alternate means of publication must be made to the voting membership.  Proposed changes to the Rules & Procedures of the House must be in the hands of the Chair, HoD.
Feb. 08, 2005 (60 Days)	Proposed changes to the Rules & Procedures of the House must be mailed to the Delegates.  If previous publication and mailing deadlines were missed, proposed changes to the Constitution must be sent to the voting membership.
Feb. 24, 2006	Committee and Officer written reports need to be at Headquarters for printing.
Mar. 03, 2006 (35 days)	Last day for mailing meeting agenda and pertinent enclosures to the Delegates.
Mar. 10, 2006 (30 days)	Last day for mailing comments re proposed amendments to Delegates.
Mar. 24, 2006 (15 days)	Names of appointed alternate delegates should be in Headquarters office.
April 8, 2006	Delegates Reception: Houston, Texas US
<b>April 9, 2006</b>	<b>Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates: Houston, Texas US</b>
Jun. 08, 2006 (60 days)	Minutes Approval Committee should have completed review and approval of 2006 minutes.  Last day to mail ballot to members re Constitution changes.

**Note:** *Bylaws changes approved by the HoD are effective immediately and do not require a vote of the membership.*

## HOD Committee Reports

### Nominations and Elections Committee

**Edward Dolly (Rocky Mountain Section), Chair**

**C**ommittee members: Royce Carr (Gulf Coast Section), Will Green (Southwest Section), John Hogg (Canada Region), Terry Hollrah (Mid-Continent Section), John Kaldi (Asia/Pacific Region), Bob Lindblom (Pacific Section), Doug Patchen (Eastern Section), Deborah Sacrey (Gulf Coast Section), Steve Veal (Europe Region)

The HoD Nomination and Election Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of officer candidates for 2006-2007:

Chairman-Elect

George Bole, *Gulf Coast Section*  
Marty Hewitt, *Canada Region*

Secretary-Editor

Paul Britt, *Gulf Coast Section*  
Jeannie Mallick, *Gulf Coast Section*

A biographical sketch for each candidate, including AAPG and HoD participation, honors and awards, will appear in the next edition of *The Delegates' Voice*. All are highly qualified and experienced delegates to the House and active members of AAPG. As is customary, the election will be held at the next annual meeting of the HoD, which will take place in Houston at the 2006 AAPG convention.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Nominations and Elections Committee for all their help in putting together an outstanding slate for the House officers.

### Honors & Awards Committee

**Chair: Jeannie Fisher Mallick, (Chair)**

The Honors & Awards Committee has the gracious task of acting to recognize those that have given much to make the House of Delegates function well. It is important to show appreciation to those who have devoted their time and talents to give shape and form to the AAPG and make it a truly professional society.

*"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others."*

-Cicero

It is the great pleasure of the Honors & Awards Committee to announce the 2006 Awardees for the AAPG House of Delegates. The 11-member committee, made up of delegates from 10 AAPG sections or regions, has chosen to honor the following delegates:

Honorary Member of the House:

**Valary Schulz** Southwest US- Dallas

Distinguished Member of the House:

**Sandi Barber** Gulf Coast US - Houston  
**Peter Gray** Gulf Coast US - Lafayette  
**Terry Hollrah** Mid-Continent US- Oklahoma City

House Long Service:

**Glen Blumstein** Mid-Continent US- Tulsa  
**Jeffrey Lund** Gulf Coast US- Houston  
**J. Michael Party** Southwest US- Midland

The recommendation of these honorees completes the primary function of the Honors & Awards committee. Sincere appreciation is due all members of the Honors & Awards Committee who made this possible.

Jeannie Fisher Mallick	Gulf Coast Section (Chair)
Mark Rainer	Southwest Section (Vice Chair)
Cesar Ardiles	Latin American Region
Ken Caruthers	Canadian Region
Robbie Gries	Rocky Mountain Section
John Griffin	Mid-Continent Section
Inda Immega	Gulf Coast Section
Robert Lindblom	Pacific Section
Francois Roure	European Region
Sarfraz Siddiqui	Asia-Pacific Region
Steve Zody	Eastern Section

The Honors & Awards committee encourages the participation of all delegates in the award nomination process. HoD Honors & Award forms are available online at: <http://www.aapg.org/business/hod/awards/>. Once an online nomination form is completed, the information is forwarded to the current Honors & Awards Committee Chair.

---

*Feature Staffer - From page 2*

Some of my current responsibilities, in addition to overseeing the department staff, include...maintaining records of changes within the membership - as pertaining to growth and loss, recording statistical data, provide member lists to benefit providers as well as local society, section and regions representatives, oversee the operation of the General Store at our annual meetings, staff liaison for the membership committee, and various other duties. I also assist the Business Director in the implementation of the strategic plan as it pertains to Membership. I have helped with HoD, DPA, EMD and DEG on several occasions, and continue working with SEG and SPE on intersociety cooperation. I enjoy traveling for AAPG and appreciate the opportunity to meet and visit with our members.

Nancy Ince, Jan Dorman, JoAnn Trippett and Mike Mlynek work with me in the Member Services Department. They are very conscientious of their responsibilities and service to the members and perform their duties professionally with the utmost kindness, courtesy and respect for each member and their individual needs. I feel very blessed to work with each of them.

On a personal note: I am happily married to my wonderful husband Austin and have two terrific sons, Derek and Jace, who are my greatest joys. Derek is a junior at Oklahoma State University and Jace is a senior in high school. They are both remarkable young men who always make me proud and I am blessed to be their mother. We live in Broken Arrow and have a Labrador named Whoopie.

Vicki

## “New tracks to new highs”, this is exactly what happened in Paris.

By Jean-Marie Masset

Despite some pre-convention concerns, this year's International AAPG Convention in Paris has been a great success. The organizing committee and AAPG did a great job in having everything ready for the success (congratulations to all of them). Even if conciliating positions was not always an easy task, Pete Rose did a fantastic job understanding French positions and translating them in American language (we all know that this cannot be reached on all subjects). He definitely is a great AAPG President (ready for the U.N.?).

Allow me to illuminate some of the major highlights of the meeting:

- 1) Second best attendance ever for an international meeting (can we compete with Rio?)
- 2) A great opening session with an Energy Minister delivering a clear and motivating message to the attendees
- 3) A Management Forum that was honoured by the presence of a number of high level E and P executives (thanks to Pinar and Yves)
- 4) A Technical Program that was enlarged to include highly successful new theme sessions such as 3D/4D, heavy oil and EOR (thanks to Christophe and Bernard)
- 5) Owing to a prime location in the exhibition hall, a very-well attended Poster Session (thanks to Keith and Jean-Jacques).
- 6) A great field trip to the “Anot sandstone” (thank you Alain(s))
- 7) Active participation of students who are the future of our industry, I have no doubt that they will be our ambassadors to attract the younger generation and will help changing our industry's image. In addition the possibility of AAPG granting two scholarships for students in ENSPM in 2006 would be greatly appreciated.
- 8) A fantastic “point d'orgue” : the AAPG VIP event in the Louvre. Instead of glancing at Mona Lisa, participants had the chance of their life to stare at her (as long as they could stand it). All could check that the body next room had been removed (see D. Brown).
- 9) The friendship of the French people was the last discovery made by some AAPG geologists who promised to come back if another conference is to be held in Paris.

So, yes, definitely Paris was the place where the entire petroleum geologist's community, met. And as you may know, Armstrong is a famous name in France so allow me to paraphrase these historic words from a famous Armstrong: “A big step for the petroleum geologists and, may be, a small step for humanity”.



## Section and Regional News

Delegates, check this section of *The Delegates Voice* to find out what is going on around the Association. Check the AAPG Website for more information.

### Section Meetings

All of the sections have given very positive reports on their meetings this year – record attendance; good student turnout; good industry support; excellent presentations and high spirits.

Attendance figures for each Section Meeting, with Delegate's Breakfast attendance in parentheses.

Eastern	319	(27)
Mid-Continent	400	(23)
Rocky Mtn.	700	(35)
Southwest	409	(29)
Pacific	1,004	(22)
Int'l-Paris	1,902	(32)

### Gulf Coast Section Update

As most of you are aware, two Hurricanes, Katrina and Rita, devastated much of the Louisiana and Mississippi coastal region, affecting somewhere between 800 and 900 members. To the best of our knowledge, no members lost their lives, but many have been displaced. All of the large companies operating out of New Orleans have successfully relocated either to Lafayette or to Houston. The University of New Orleans, home to one of our Student Chapters was particularly hard hit, but all students have been successfully relocated to other schools.

The GCAGS is surveying as best they can their members to find out what types of support is needed and ways to stay in contact. The New Orleans Geological Society is not expected to resume meeting until mid-2006. Many of the NOGS members relocated to Lafayette and Houston so those two societies are including them in their activities. The HGS delegate group has made a special effort to invite NOGS delegates to attend their delegate meetings.

### AAPG Support for Hurricane victims

To see all that AAPG is doing to help Katrina and Rita victims, check out the following web address: <http://www.aapg.org/katrina.cfm>

Also, the Message Board on the AAPG web site is going to be used as a communications point for the dispersed network that is in the process of reconnecting. Brett Hampton, President of the New Orleans Geological Society said that many of the active players in NOGs have been in touch, but they are looking to connect with others. The NOGs office is intact, but their Web site is down so they are going to use AAPG as their Message Board. They are planning to mail a newsletter in January and meet in February. However, they have to find a new place, since the Fairmont suffered major infrastructure damage and will be out of commission for about a year.

### Financial Support

AAPG is prohibited by law from making contributions directly to individual members, even for the purpose of support in the face of a major disaster. So too is the Foundation. AAPG, through its affiliation with the OTC has made a contribution to the American Red Cross.

issues through a new “targeted marketing” concept that will target the career needs of our members by age group. Instead of viewing our membership as a uniform group, this approach will target specific services and benefits to “natural” groupings. For example, young professionals rarely worry about insurance, whereas; senior professionals have a profound interest in group insurance programs etc.

An AAPG Headquarters staff member has been assigned to each “targeted group” to help coordinate this program and it will extend to the Divisions and to inter society relationships.



The Membership Coordinating Committee is also in the process of launching a “Recruiting Initiative” focusing in its initial phase in Houston, the largest concentration of AAPG members. This is an attempt to mine the Houston Geological Society (HGS) membership data base in conjunction with the AAPG membership data base to identify potential new members for both societies. Although many Houston geologists belong to both HGS and AAPG, surprising numbers belong to only one or the other. The “Recruiting Initiative” will experiment with the new marketing concepts on the individuals who are motivated enough to join one society.

The overarching issue in all this, of course, is for AAPG and its Divisions to become even more vital and stimulating organizations which attract and retain members by the essence of what they do. Marketing is critical, but we can only market real programs, services, and benefits and preach the importance of networking and professional association. It's up to all us to help AAPG achieve its core purpose!

---

## Letters to the Editor

### Some more thoughts on the Petition Process

*Bob Countryman*

**A**APG was formed in 1917 and has had 92 elections for officers since then. Like most organizations, the candidates selected to run in these elections have been chosen by nominating committees composed of knowledgeable AAPG members. Selection criteria include demonstrated skills, experience, talent, and other factors such as geographic balance. Prior to the election of the 2002-03 officers, AAPG had never had a petition candidacy. In four of the past six elections, we have had petition candidates. What has changed? Why are we having this sudden onset of petition candidacies? Is the Advisory Council suddenly not doing a good job of candidate selection or are other issues causing this development? A lot of debate has been occurring around this topic including HoD committees reviewing whether or not the petition process needs to be revised.

My take on these past few years is that there are two interpretations on what is happening with regards to the petition candidate process: 1) it is being abused by some individuals that are pursuing personal ambitions or agendas that may or

may not be in congruence with what is good for AAPG or 2) there is a real problem with the process by which the candidates are selected and are coming out of the AC. It could even be both. I'd like to believe it is the latter situation.

Let's first focus on the potential “abuse of the process” problem. I don't want to believe that this is what is happening but an argument might be made that the process is being abused by either specific ambitious individuals for their own personal promotion or agendas and/or the process is being used to the advantage of large regions/sections. Of the four petition candidates, all were/are from Texas and three of the four from Houston (while the fourth was recruited by Houston based individuals). The four petition candidates ran mostly against candidates from outside of Houston (Rocky Mountain vs. Pacific Sections, Pacific vs. Eastern Sections, Gulf Coast Section vs. Latin America Region, and European Region vs. Eastern Section). The cynic in me presumes that these particular races may have been targeted, in part, because a peti-

*Continued on page 8*

Additionally, the Executive Committee, under the leadership of Clint Moore, has investigated how to provide support and relief to those members who need it. The most plausible solution is to form a separate Limited Liability Corporation with the aim of receiving donations from AAPG members and providing relief funds to those who most need it.

There are two potential drawbacks to this approach. First, AAPG still does not have a full understanding of how many individuals have been impacted, or how severe the impact was. Secondly, contributions to an LLC would not be tax deductible. ***Please let Clint know of your support and/or concerns about setting up an LLC for the purpose of providing relief to our members.***

tion candidate from Houston, or Texas in general, might have an advantage by having a larger natural voting base. I don't believe this is a healthy trend for AAPG in that it will prove to be divisive to AAPG in the long term to have leadership only derived from the Texas region while others are excluded. What kind of signal are we sending to smaller sections and regions when their candidates are targeted by people from larger sections? How does an international member feel when they get a candidate on the AC nominated slate but then get potentially pushed aside by petition candidates (as has happened in two of the last three presidential races)?

If this argument is a valid one, then it argues for tightening up the petition process using some of the methods previously discussed in HoD committees. This might include steps such as 1) requiring a larger number of signatures (either a larger arbitrary number or a set percentage of the Active AAPG members) and/or 2) requiring a minimum number of signatures from say 3/4 of the sections and regions with no more than a certain percentage coming from one section or region (to ensure a broad level of support for the petition candidate across AAPG). Perhaps we need a combination of the above. Any steps taken along these lines need to be done by the HoD. Any steps taken will be controversial and contentious but perhaps they are needed.

If the problem is the second identified issue, that is in the identification and selection process, then steps need to be taken to improve either 1) the process by which the nominees are identified for consideration as candidates or 2) the process of selection of the final candidates by the AC Nominations committee. Note that changing these processes need to be done by the AC and not directly by the HoD. I believe that there are improvements that can be made here.

Getting a sufficient number of candidates for the AC to vet is essential to ensure that the best candidates are nominated. There have been complaints (both inside the AC and outside) that recently too few members are being reviewed for consideration as candidates. This may contribute to the concerns that the AC is not doing its job. It is my opinion (as a former member of the AC) that the mechanics of how the AC selects candidates is working well but they are not currently getting enough candidates to review. This is quite a change from when I was on the AC when the complaint was too many candidates to consider. Maybe the AC needs to revisit how long the names stay on the list for consideration (it was reduced a few years back from 5 to 3). Perhaps the AC members have to be more involved with the actual recruitment of candidates. Perhaps there needs to be a way an individual can self-nominate for candidacy. Perhaps the process of getting a name in front of the AC needs to be streamlined a bit. Perhaps the list of nominees under consideration should be more transparent and widely known so others can make sure their favorites are on that list (and if not, arrange to submit their names).

It is my opinion that the process of actual selection is fairly robust and fair but the process of bringing forward potential nominees to be considered may be flawed and cumbersome. As it is currently configured, someone has to nominate the candidate, determine their willingness to serve, get their sig-

nature on a form, gather the supporting documents and submit it to the AC. That's a lot of work for an individual to do when everyone is busy and it tends to favor organized groups, the "activists" and the "incumbents". Some might call it the good old boy (gal) network.

Improvements need to be made as to how the potential candidates are identified and brought to the attention of the AC. One way would be to make the AC members more responsible in identifying several candidates from their section/region for each office and to push the paper work through the process. Another would be to allow members outside of the AC to submit names of people who might be considered as candidates and having an AAPG staff person contact that individual to assess their willingness to run. If they are, then they (the nominated individual) are responsible to get the paper work submitted. If they don't, they're not considered. The individual originally submitting the name could then canvas for and submit letters of recommendation. In this way, the labor is spread wider and we'd end up with larger lists and more qualified candidates from which to select.

Then there is the issue of how to get candidates willing to run and to serve. Perhaps some effort to identify why so many are unwilling to put their names forward needs to be undertaken. Is it the amount of travel required, the costs involved, the multiple years involved or is it some other factor? You can't solve the problem without understanding what it is.

In closing, my advise would be to do the following:

- 1) Ask the AC to look at how to surface more candidates and to make the process less arduous for everyone involved. There would be no HoD involvement in this effort, unless there is a joint committee. Some of the ideas outlined above might help that process.

- 2) Investigate (survey??) why it is so hard to get people to put their names forward as candidates. Perhaps they're just not being asked or perhaps there are serious roadblocks that discourage them. Based on the information gathered, make appropriate recommendations to make it easier for people to put their names forward. A joint AC/HoD effort might make sense in gathering this information and making recommendations.

- 3) If the above doesn't stem the flood of petition candidates, then a decision needs to be made to either tighten up the process or just accept petition candidates as a fact of life. The risk of the latter is of alienating the smaller sections and regions if it is perceived that the larger sections/regions are abusing the process to exclude candidates from the smaller sections or regions. These sections and regions may gradually disengage from AAPG. If that happens, the AAPG may cease to be an International Organization, or even a large US National organization, and become merely a large Regional (Texas oriented) organization. This is probably not what most of us want for AAPG.

#### **Editor's Note:**

Delegates wishing to offer comments on this or other key issues and challenges before the House are encouraged to email their Letters to the Editor as an attached Word document to Bob Shoup at [bshoup@knowledge-reservoir.com](mailto:bshoup@knowledge-reservoir.com)

# House of Delegates Mid-Year Meeting Summary

The mid-year meeting of the HOD was held in Long Beach CA on 19 November, 2005. Attending the meeting were:

Don Clarke; HoD Chairman  
Bob Shoup; HoD Secretary Editor  
Larry Jones; HoD Chair-elect  
Lee Billingsley; AAPG President-elect  
George Bole and Marty Hewitt; Candidates for HoD Chair-elect  
David Hawk; Chair Constitution and By-Laws Committee  
Patrick Gooding; Chair Credentials Committee  
Sigrunn Johnsen; Chair Resolutions Committee  
Pat Gratton; AAPG Advisory Council

Joining the meeting by way of teleconference were

Pete Rose; AAPG President  
Clint Moore; AAPG Treasurer  
Bob Cowdery; Chair Rules and Procedures Committee  
Paul Britt; Candidate for HoD Secretary Editor  
Will Green; Petition Candidate for AAPG President-elect

## Attention All Delegates

A number of key issues were discussed at the mid-year meeting. A summary of the discussions on these key issues is included for your information. The issues discussed below are works in progress; we will be working on resolving them over the next year or two. Please give them your careful consideration. Should you like to weigh in on any of these subjects, please forward your letter to the editor to me at [bshoup@knowledge-reservoir.com](mailto:bshoup@knowledge-reservoir.com).

## Petition Candidates

The issue of Petition Candidates was addressed as a result of the large number of concerns raised on that issue during the various section and international meetings (see Chairman's column and letter by Robert Countryman).

It was the consensus of those present that the reasons that there were a number of petition candidates in recent years is due to several problems:

- 1) The AC is not providing the quality of candidates expected by the EC. The EC has over last 3 sessions had questions concerning several candidates, and twice have removed a candidate by super-majority.
- 2) Too much influence by past presidents on the AC.
- 3) The AC is poorly understood, as is the nomination process
- 4) Timing of nominations to the Advisory Council is often an issue. Late nominations not as fully considered.
- 5) Insufficient number of nominations.

The recommendations coming from the mid-year meeting to address these issues were as follows:

- 1) Keep the Petition Process as is.
- 2) Ask the AC to restructure, keeping past presidents on the AC, but not as chairs.
- 3) Better publicize the role of the AC and the procedures they use to vet candidates.
- 4) Charge the HOD and the sections/regions with doing a better job of submitting candidates by the required deadline.
- 5) Call for candidates from the membership by way of the *Explorer*.

## Change the requirement for Active membership from two AAPG sponsors to one AAPG sponsor and two additional signatures of qualified geo-professionals.

This change was requested by AAPG President Pete Rose to address the problem that many professionals in more remote

areas have difficulty in finding AAPG Members to sponsor their application.

This is a highly contentious subject that has been considered several times in the past. Although those present at the mid-year meeting felt that there is some merit in changing the application process to allow both AAPG sponsors and qualified references, it was felt more important to first address the issue of standardizing the process of reviewing and approving applications. Some societies have a rigorous screening process where delegates call applicants supervisors whereas other societies simply review the provided sponsorship forms. *The Rules and Procedures Committee has been charged with examining the applicant review process and recommending a standard procedure for the delegate check.*

## Adoption of a dues structure keyed to international salary scales.

This change was also requested by AAPG President Pete Rose to address the problem that many potential members in third world countries cannot afford AAPG dues. Pete noted that SPE has adopted a dues structure based on international standard-of-living levels.

This too is a highly contentious issue that has been discussed previously. One factor that has to be considered in regards to this issue is that AAPG must treat all members equally which will prevent us from providing the same services to members paying different dues. The newly expanded AAPG membership Committee, following a membership Workshop held in Houston on November 13, is also examining several possible revisions to our membership categories including some that include graduated dues structures.

Two actions were taken on this issue: 1) The Constitution and Bylaws Committee was requested to examine a limited benefit membership category where we provide electronic access to AAPG publications for a reduced cost. 2) Clint Moore was requested to conduct a financial impact study of adapting an international dues structure similar to that of SPE.

## Increase EC representation from International members through the addition of an EC position titled International Secretary.

There was considerable discussion in regard to this issue, including whether or not a special EC position was needed for international members, and if so, should this position be voted on by all members or selected from the international regions. It was subsequently recommended that rather than have a special international representative on the EC that we change the current position of the Vice President to two positions, a Vice President of Sections and a Vice President of Regions. This recommendation provides a good solution to the concerns raised by Pete and provides a means for improving communication and relations with both the sections and the regions (see next issue).

## Improve Relationships between the Sections and Regions

The issue of improving the relationship between AAPG and the Sections and Regions was raised by Lee Billingsley on behalf of the AAPG Executive Committee. This issue has become a concern over the last few years as a result of several problems, notably convention planning. The recommendation to change the current Vice President position on the EC to a Vice President Sections, and a Vice President Regions addresses this issue.

# AAPG House of Delegates

## Officers and Committee Chairs - 2005-2006

OFFICERS			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>Don Clarke - House Chair</b>	<b>Pacific - Lakewood, CA</b>	<b>1.562.212.9934</b>	<b>dclarke@shpi.net</b>
Larry L. Jones - Chair-Elect	Gulf Coast - Houston, TX	1.281.493.1022	ljones1239@houston.rr.com
Robert Shoup - Secretary/Editor	Gulf Coast - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	6.03.2164.4022	bshoup@knowledge-reservoir.com
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>David Hawk - Chair</b>	<b>Rocky Mountain - Boise, ID</b>	<b>1.208.389.7306</b>	<b>david.hawk@simplot.com</b>
Bob Lindblom - Vice Chair	Pacific - Menlo Park, CA	1.650.854.6954	rglgeo@aol.com
Carroll Kinney	Mid-Continent - Edmond, OK	1.405.232.7770	mdavis495@aol.com
Dan A. Billman	Eastern - Mars, PA	1.724.625.3461	danaret@zoominternet.net
Mark Rainer	Southwest - Dallas, TX	1.214.446.0890	mrainer@arcadiae-p.com
Edith C. Allison	Eastern - Rockville, MD	1.202.586.1023	edith.allison@hq.doe.gov
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Sigrunn Johnsen - Chair	Europe - Oslo, Norway	047.21.303034	sigrunn.johnsen@rwwe.com
Peter Lloyd - Vice Chair	Europe - Falcon, France	33.49.398.0194	lloyd@rivieramail.com
Bob Countryman - Vice Chair	Pacific - Tupman, CA	1.661.763-6178	robert_countryman@oxy.com
Alan De Good	Mid-Continent - Goddard, KS	1.316.263.5785	alan@americanenergies.co
K. Lee Avary	Eastern - Morgantown, WV	1.304.594.2331	avary@geosrv.wvnet.edu
Paul W. Britt	Gulf Coast - Sugar Land, TX	1.281.494.3155	pbritt@texplora.com
Jeffrey A. Jones	Southwest - Albany, TX	1.325.762.3353	jeffjones@wtconnect.com
John Kaldi	Asia/Pacific - Adelaide, SA, Australia	61.88.303.4291	jkaldi@asp.adelaide.edu.au
RULES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>Robert D. Cowdery - Chair</b>	<b>Mid-Continent - Wichita, KS</b>	<b>1.316.267.9030</b>	<b>sbc@southwind.net</b>
Steve Sonnenberg- Vice Chair	Rocky Mountain - Golden, CO	1.303.607.3490	ssonnenberg@kmg.com
Karen Blake	Pacific - Bakersfield, CA	1.661.395.5214	kblake@plainsxp.com
Ricky G. Cox	Southwest - Midland, TX	1.432.684.4293	rcox@latigopetro.com
George R. Bole	Gulf Coast - Houston, TX	1.281.870.8716	grbole@sbcglobal.net
Mary E. Dowse	Rocky Mountain - Silver City, NM	1.505.538.6352	dowsem@email.wnmu.edu
Ed W. Heath	Rocky Mountain - Durango, CO	1.970.375.1997	ewheath@frontier.net
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>Bob Shoup - Secretary/Editor</b>	<b>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</b>	<b>6.03.216.4022</b>	<b>bshoup@knowledge-reservoir.com</b>
Larry Jones, HoD Chair-Elect	Gulf Coast - Houston, TX ex-officio	7.281.493.1022	ljones1239@houston.rr.com
Don Clarke, HoD Chair	Pacific - Long Beach, CA ex-officio	1.562.212.9934	dclarke@shpi.net
HONORS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>Jeannie Mallick - Chair</b>	<b>Gulf Coast - Houston, TX</b>	<b>1.281.580.9414</b>	<b>jmallick@sbcglobal.net</b>
Mark Rainer - Vice Chair	Southwest - Dallas, TX	1.214.446.0890	mrainer@arcadiae-p.com
John Griffin	Mid-Continent - Lincoln, NB	1.402.472.4632	jgriffi@uninotes.uni.ed
Ken Carruthers	Canada - Calgary, AB	1.403.215.8481	ken@ribboncreek.com
Robbie Gries	Rocky Mountain - Denver, CO	1.303.296.3435	rrgries@aol.com
Francois Roure	Europe - Rueil-Malmaison, France	33.14.752.7362	francois.roure@ifp.fr
Steve Zody	Eastern - Wooster, OH	1.330.262.4323	zodyoil@sssnet.com
Bob Lindblom	Pacific - Menlo Park, CA	1.650.854.6954	rglgeo@aol.com
Sarfazar Siddiqui	Asia-Pacific - Islamabad, Pakistan	92.51.229.6796	susiddiqui@marigas.com.pk
Cesar Armando Ardiles	Latin America - Lima, Peru	51.1.616.4029	Cesar_Ardiles@oxy.com
Inda Proske Inmega	Gulf Coast - Houston, TX	1.713.661.3494	immega@swbell.net
NOMINATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>Edward Dolly - Chair</b>	<b>Rocky Mountain - Denver, CO</b>	<b>1.303.825.3389</b>	<b>edolly@houstonexp.com</b>
Will Green - Vice Chair	Southwest - Midland, TX	1.432.685.0103	wgreen@midland.edu
Bob Lindblom - Vice Chair	Pacific - Menlo Park, CA	1.650.854.6954	rglgeo@aol.com
John Kaldi	Asia/Pacific - Adelaide, SA, Australia	61.88.303.4291	jkaldi@asp.adelaide.edu.au
John Hogg	Canada - Calgary, AB	1.403.645.2533	john.hogg@encana.com
Doug Patchen	Eastern - Morgantown, W V	1.304.564.2331	doug.patchen@mail.wvu.edu
Steve Veal	Europe - Wheat Ridge, CO	1.303.233.3585	sveal@ix.netcom.com
Royce Carr	Gulf Coast - Mount Pleasant, TX	1.903.572.3600	royce_carr@sbcglobal.net
Deborah Sacrey	Gulf Coast - Houston, TX	1.713.468.3260	dsacrey@auburnenergy.com
Terry Hollrah	Mid-Continent - Oklahoma City, OK	1.405.773.5440	hollexco@sbcglobal.net
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>Patrick Gooding - Chair</b>	<b>Eastern - Paint-Lick, KY</b>	<b>1.859.389.8810</b>	<b>gooding@uky.edu</b>
George R. Bole, Cand. HoD Chair-Elect	Gulf Coast - Houston, TX	1.281.870.8716	grbole@sbcglobal.net
Marty Hewitt, Cand. HoD Chair-Elect	Canada - Calgary, AB	1.403.645.2544	marty.hewitt@encana.com
Paul W. Britt, Cand. HoD Sec/Editor	Gulf Coast - Sugar Land, TX	1.281.494.3155	pbritt@texplora.com
Jeannie Mallick, Cand. HoD Sec/Editor	Gulf Coast - Houston, TX	1.281.580.9414	jmallick@sbcglobal.net
MINUTES APPROVAL COMMITTEE			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>Bob Shoup - Secretary/Editor</b>	<b>Gulf Coast - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</b>	<b>6.03.2164.4022</b>	<b>bshoup@knowledge-reservoir.com</b>
Paul W. Britt, Cand. HoD Sec/Editor	Gulf Coast - Sugar Land, TX	1.281.494.3155	pbritt@texplora.com
Jeannie Mallick, Cand. HoD Sec/Editor	Gulf Coast - Houston, TX	1.281.580.9414	jmallick@sbcglobal.net

## Delegate Poll

Following the recently-held mid-year meeting (see related article) we would like to solicit your opinion on a number of key issues. Please take a moment to respond to the following survey. E-mail your responses to Donna Riggs at driggs@aapg.org or mail to address below.

- 1) When conducting a Delegate check of an applicant you do not know, what do you do? (Check all that apply)
  - A) Call someone other than the sponsors to confirm the applicants credentials
  - B) Call the sponsors
  - C) Call someone at applicant's company
  - D) Contact someone in the local society
  - D) All of the above
- 2) As a Delegate how often do you meet with other delegates to confirm applicants
  - A) Once a month
  - B) Every few months
  - C) Never, we correspond by e-mail or by teleconference
  - D) Never
- 3) Currently, applicants for Active Membership must have 2 Active AAPG members sponsor them and attest to their credentials. Would you be like to see that requirement:
  - A) Stay the same
  - B) Changed to allow a combination of Sponsors and qualified References (i.e. an Associate Member or other practicing geoscientist)
  - C) Changed back to require 3 Active AAPG Member Sponsors
  - D) No sponsors or references
- 4) Would you like to see an "Affiliate" Membership Category which would have only digital access to publications and limited member benefits? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
- 5) Would you like to see the development of several membership categories that allows AAPG to tailor your services and dues to your career? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_  
For example:
  - A) Student
  - B) Active 1 (Young Professional)
  - C) Active 2
  - D) Active 3 (Senior)
  - E) Active 4 (Retired)
- 6) In regards to the Petition Process for Officer Candidates. Would you like to see the number of signatures:
  - A) Stay the same (50)
  - B) Increased to 100
  - C) Increased to 75
  - D) Decreased to 25

7) In regards to the Petition Process for Officer Candidates. Would you like to see:

- A) At least 10% of the signatories from a different region or section
- B) At least 1 signatory from every section and region
- C) Signatories can be wherever the candidate finds them

8) Please offer your rating from 1 (low) to 10 (high) of the following in regards to your opinion of their functionality and job performance.

AAPG Headquarters Management	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AAPG Executive Committee	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AAPG Advisory Council	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AAPG HoD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Thank you for your time and your response.

Bob Shoup

AAPG  
Attn: Donna Riggs  
P.O. Box 979  
Tulsa, OK 74101

---

## Mexico, Central America, South America and Caribbean Delegates

Currently, the AAPG Bylaws list the Latin American Regions name as the *Mexico, Central America and South America Region*. As you might expect, that cumbersome name gave way to the more commonly used Latin American Region, which is the name shown in the Region's Bylaws. Therefore, as a matter of general housekeeping, we should change the name of the region in the AAPG Bylaws to be consistent with what is listed in the Region Bylaws.

Before we officially change the name of the Region, we would like to hear what members of the Region would like to see it called. What is your preference?

- A) Latin American Region (consistent with the current Region's Bylaws)
- B) Central and South American Region
- C) Caribbean – Latin American Region
- D) Everything south of North America Region
- E) Other

Please send your preferred Region Name to me at bshoup@knowledge-reservoir.com.

# The Delegates' Voice

A Newsletter for the  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

of  
**AAPG**

P. O. Box 979 - Tulsa, OK  
74101-0979

## This Issue at a Glance

Chair's Corner	Page 1
Orang Utan	Page 1
AAPg Feature Staffer	Page 2
Membership Challenges	Page 3
HOUSE Keeping	Page 4
Committee Reports	Page 5
New Tracks...Paris	Page 6
Letters to Editor	Page 7
Mid-Year Meeting	Page 9
HoD Committees	Page 10
Delegate Poll	Page 11