

The Delegates' Voice

Newsletter for the House of Delegates of AAPG

MARCH 2007

Letter from the Chair

Larry Jones, Chair



As the AAPG approaches its annual meeting in Long Beach, CA, I would like to pause for a moment to reflect on the performance of the HoD during this 9-month period starting with changeover last July 1st. By the end of this Convention, the HoD Committees will have wrapped up most of their business for the year. The House functions with eight committees and a total of 55 members have been active in these super-performing groups of participants.

I compliment all of the Committees, their Chairs, the Tulsa Staff and the HoD Officers. All of the reports and required actions were delivered in a timely manner. I would especially like to recognize the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Chaired by David Hawk and Vice-Chaired by Paul Hoffman and the Resolutions Committee, Chaired by Peter Lloyd and Vice-Chaired by Paul Britt (Sections) and John Kaldi (Regions). The Constitution and Bylaws Committee dealt with a multitude of critical issues in preparation for the HoD annual meeting, and the Resolutions Committee is bringing three new societies to recommend for Affiliate or Associate status. It has been a long time since that has been achieved. The Resolutions Committee (Sections) has been attempting to revitalize sleepy US societies. Well done to all committee members and staff!

My only recommendation to the Committee structure is that I feel it is necessary to attract more active Region members to the Constitution & Bylaws and the Rules & Procedures Committees.

The House of Delegates will really miss the wonderful efforts on its behalf by Donna Riggs, who has retired from AAPG (but not totally).

On a more sober subject, I have been involved in all phases of the leadership of AAPG this year; Executive Committee, Advisory Council, Graduated Dues Com-

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Letter from the Chair-Elect

Marty Hewitt, Chair-Elect



Graduated Dues – A Regional Perspective

In the January issue of *The Delegates' Voice*, I referred to AAPG's strategic plan and the six goal areas that we hope to achieve over the next decade that will define our future success. The achievement of these goals will move the Association towards the realization of our envisioned future of being indispensable to all professionals in the energy-related geosciences worldwide. One step towards achieving our goal of global presence is the implementation of an ability-to-pay graduated dues structure that we will debate and vote on at our upcoming annual meeting in Long Beach.

To become indispensable, however, we must ensure we are accessible. A large number of geoscientists around the world view the AAPG as a prestigious organization; although inaccessible, because it is unaffordable.

Salaries and compensation systems are typically lower internationally, in comparison to the United States, Canada and Europe for example. Looking at the AAPG's latest salary survey, a geoscience graduate with 0-2 years experience can

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Letter from the Editor

Jeannie Fisher Mallick, Editor



Geoscientists and the energy industry are enjoying an upswing now. Remember the mid-80's plea: "Please, if you give me another oil boom, I promise not to mess it up this time!" In good times, the wise

prepare for not-so-good times. AAPG can prepare now by directing its funds and talents toward delivering products our members will value. We can take a significant step forward by modernizing our infrastructure, improving our website, and offering more digital products, or we can let this opportunity pass us by.

As Chair of the AAPG Membership Recruitment committee, I understand the barriers to increasing our membership. In discussing the issue of membership upgrade with eligible Associate members, I am left with offering only one benefit. I say, "Upgrade to Active, and you can vote in AAPG elections". Their responses are not encouraging.

This week, I spent time showing the geoscientists in my office how to use version 1.0 of the Geographic map-based Search. It's available on the AAPG web site for "Members Only" and was rolled out last November. "Cool", was the most frequent comment I got, when I showed how hours of searching the Bulletin archive for articles by keyword could be reduced to 5 minutes by clicking on a map.

Presenting benefits to members, such as this, is a more rewarding experience. It's exciting to think of the reaction if access to all of the geoscientific literature (Data-pages, for example) was a benefit of Active membership. We can accomplish this, though it will require focused effort and financial investment.

The demographics of our industry have changed. Now geologists are less often at the top of the corporate ladder, and this loss of influence has been painful. The failure of energy corporations to see

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mittee, Houston HoD Delegation, HoD Mid-year Meeting, and AAPG Leadership Conference. I have noted certain unfavorable things in the past relative to "Hot Topics", but this year my concerns have been greatly increased.

I enjoy the benefit of working on a marvelously harmonious Executive Committee that has a lot of issues on its plate, but I see "storm clouds" elsewhere that could cause AAPG great pain. There is presently way too much "hardball politics" being injected into our system, whether it be efforts to march to the top leadership of our society or whether it be a "pet issue" that can cause frustration to many of our membership. One of the prime tools of an "activist politician" is to keep the population "worried about something" in order to strengthen their agenda

Issues are to be defined and debated with civility and when the issue is resolved, Officers and House Members need to support the actions voted upon by the House of Delegates. If these resolved actions do not work, we can always change them in one to two years. I strongly believe we must resolve "personal" and "issue" differences, and emphasize getting together as one society, not drifting apart.

I would request that each Delegate support the recommended motions of the Constitution & Bylaws, Rules & Procedures, and Resolutions Committees.

Thank you for your service to AAPG. ♦

beyond the last downturn led to layoffs and lower academic enrollments for over a decade. This caused a low tide in the talent pool for geologists. Now our industry is struggling to overcome years of neglect. This diminished flow into the pipeline has decreased membership in all geological societies.

Additionally, Harvard MBA's, with the blessing of Wall Street, introduced the concept of the employee as a task-specific entity to be utilized and discharged as needed. As a consequence nearly 50% of our current membership identifies itself as "independent". AAPG must adapt to a wider spectrum of career experience and a wider geographic area more than ever before. A key way to do this is to ramp up our online information services. Meeting the growing demand for information-piped from the AAPG server to the member's PC-- will add value for our existing members and attract new ones in record numbers.

"We need more young people to join AAPG", is said so often now that it is the new buzz phrase. Yet we expect young members to simply "show up" without doing enough to attract them. Especially with what they, and all of us, increasingly value--electronic communication. This must come in the form of e-mail messaging, chat rooms, online forums, and more and more value delivered online in a way that respects the member's time. Technology offers us powerful tools to increase member participation, offer faster and more frequent communication, and heighten awareness of member services if we are willing to implement them. Younger members won't join because we need them to, but only if they see clear and tangible benefit.

Increasingly, we are obliged to be self-reliant. I type my own letters and am glad to fire them off without a postage stamp via e-mail. I can find online logs and information in seconds that used to take a geotech hours to gather on paper. Today's jobs demand we do it all and we manage to get it done, because electronic communication and data access increase

expect a salary close to \$70,000 US dollars. In several emerging economies, a graduate with similar experience can expect to make approximately 20% of that total or less. The comparable pay scale does not change dramatically as experience level increases. AAPG dues are cost prohibitive for many international and some domestic geologists with limited disposable income.

I don't need to tell you the demographic need to make AAPG more accessible, both domestically and internationally -- just take a look around the room at the annual HoD meeting or your last local society meeting. Picture AAPG in 20 years given the status quo!

Some may view graduated dues as a threat to domestic membership. The proposal is not geographically restricted and will benefit existing and potential new domestic members. Others may say, that members who are paying a higher dues level are subsidizing members overseas. This is not the case, as not all dues categories receive the same products. I believe we should view this proposal as an investment in the future of our association, science, and profession.

Here you'll find background on the proposal in articles by House Chair, Larry Jones and AAPG President, Lee Billingsley. There is also a forum where you can post your thoughts on the proposal and read the views of your colleagues.

Think about AAPG and its importance to your career. Was it a Bulletin article that sparked an idea? Did you read about a conference in The Explorer that led to you to meet a new contact? Was it the Continuing Education course that provided you with a new skill? Was it the field trip that reminded you why you fell in love with this science and why you chose to pursue a career in the geosciences?

Let's provide more geoscientists with the opportunity to be enriched by AAPG. With time, several will become active in our Association and will give back technically and financially. ♦

The HoD Leadership encourages you to be informed regarding the proposed changes to the Bylaws titled Graduated Dues. Detailed information is available at <http://bylaws.aapg.org/>

our efficiency. We value these tools because time is the new currency.

Information Technology improvements and online services are crucial to outreach and membership growth. They have the value, if designed well, of being very quick and easy to use. Membership growth should be our priority, yet we need to have the electronic infrastructure to serve existing and new members. Our current industry upswing is the time to invest in these changes when our financial health is strong. It's a time to plan and build, not for the next 5 years, but for the next 5 decades. We should modernize AAPG to enable more member participation and think about how we will serve and involve members worldwide. ♦

Letters from Delegates

by **Steve Earle**

Editor's note: Steve Earle's initial comments and Lee Billingsley's reply may be viewed on the AAPG web site:

<http://bylaws.aapg.org/?p=3#comments>

We are being asked to consider and approve a new dues structure for AAPG. Now I'm no financial wizard, just a hard-working explorationist who takes pride in his work. And right now I'm screening a deal called "graduated dues."

With all respect to Mr. Billingsley, the percentage of total revenue represented by dues, a number that has been trotted out as justification of this new test, is statistically misleading. If dues were as insignificant as he seems to claim, then the dues increase would not be needed. This is not to argue against such an increase; we are not privileged to see that data. The point is that dues are a critical part of the income stream.

In order to properly understand what the financial impact on the society would be, we first have to separate fixed overhead from other costs. The income and expense statement for fiscal year 2005-'06, available online, shows total expenses of \$13 million (MM\$). Of this, I have broken out 7.3 MM\$ as fixed overhead, slightly more than half the total. This includes essential costs to run AAPG such as salary and benefits, building and office expenses, fees for professional services, travel budgets and miscellaneous. How does our Society pay this? The largest contributor is profit on conferences and meetings. Last year this amounted to 1.1 MM\$. Dues are the second largest source of funds bringing in 1.77 MM\$. Based on this back-of-the-envelope calculation, I offer that dues represent 24% of the critical revenue stream.

Other interesting data that falls out of the financial statement is that the Bulletin and Explorer are currently paying for themselves; times are good and advertising revenues are up. Based on what data is currently available, it would seem that the financial benefit of adding one incremental new member at any level would be a plus. What is uncertain is this: How might expenses be impacted by the addition of 1000 new members paying reduced dues? What about 5000 new members? Any financial model worth the time and effort putting of it together should address these questions. Only then can we know how the new dues structure might impact the Society.

The long-term financial impact is more uncertain. As the demographics of our members change, as is inevitable considering our aging population of active members, the pressure to fund overhead costs will continue to increase. If graduated dues are approved, my wild guess is that in 10 years only 50% of the members will pay at Level 1 (the full dues paying level). I would welcome a more educated guess and some discussion about the facts that led to it. Anyone who thinks it's 90% is being overly optimistic. Will this cover overhead? I don't know the answer. I was hoping someone had worked out an answer based on good assumptions.

Proponents of graduated dues keep referencing the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) model. Not being familiar with this organization, I did some research. Interestingly, their triggers for reduced dues are substantially lower than what is proposed for AAPG. An SPE member older than 30 earning more than \$18,000 a year has to pay full dues. This raises the question of what the reasoning was for the income levels selected for AAPG membership since they are so different from that of the SPE.

Finally, in response to my question about the cost of regional offices, Mr. Billingsley states that the offices will pay for them-

selves. While I think this is a possible outcome, and one that could be enforced by a hard-headed board, it is not a certainty. Let's be honest here, if AAPG has 3000 members in some part of the world that are only being paid \$18,000 a year, there will be a lot of pressure to open an office, but they won't be buying books or attending conventions in any far flung places, and any local conferences will likely not generate any revenue; in fact, they will probably request that AAPG subsidize their activities.

These are, I believe, legitimate questions that we should know the answers to before investing in the graduated dues deal.

Both Misters Earle and Billingsley would appreciate your additions to the forum. ♦

"Serious Issues in Opposition to the Proposed Graduated Dues Structure"

by **Clint Moore**

Until last July, I was AAPG Treasurer, Executive Committee Member, and Chairman of the Audit Committee, responsible for the fiduciary authority of AAPG. As a result of my experience in those offices, I have major concerns about the proposed changes to the AAPG Bylaws, related to the proposed "Graduated Dues" Structure. At the very least, it contains unacceptable financial implications and risks, and should be rejected by the HoD.

We will attract more members and do a better job of retaining existing members when we concentrate on how and what a global organization can provide better than a local or regional society. We should intensify our efforts on how "to be indispensable to all professionals in the energy-related geosciences worldwide", as stated in our AAPG Strategic Plan.

AAPG should not subsidize new memberships to anyone, other than students who are just starting their careers. To institutionalize this welfare-like system into AAPG's cost/revenue structure, with full voting rights to the subsidized members is grossly unfair to full-dues paying members. More dues increases on those that have the so-called "ability to pay", seems inevitable under this structure.

Discount members will NOT likely boost net income in future years, and the opposite is more likely to occur. AAPG will incur more costs than revenues, if say, 5,000 new \$20 members pay in \$100,000 per year and demand services that will cost many times that amount. Most of these \$20 members will occur in non-US countries. US membership will perpetually be subsidizing these international members, and understandably, a lot of the US membership is unwilling to do so.

Here are the "**Top Ten Reasons to Vote Against the "Graduated Dues Structure"**

- 1) Cheapens Professional Membership - This codifies an unequal membership standard at all professional levels in AAPG. Socialistic tax rate-like "ability to pay" dues structures have no place in a professional organization like AAPG.
- 2) Dilutes Voting Rights - it is offensive to grant voting rights to members paying discounted dues, who have not otherwise earned those rights by achieving Honorary member or Emeritus Member status.
- 3) Fails to Verify Income - We live in a world that does not share common values and definitions of honesty and integrity.

Report from the Nomination and Election Committee

By Edward D. Dolly, Chair



The House of Delegates Nomination and Election Committee chose the following slate of officer candidates for 2007-2008:

Chair-Elect

Sandi Barber, *Gulf Coast Section*

George Bole, *Gulf Coast Section*

Secretary/Editor

Dave Farmer, *Southwest Section*

Bob Webster, *Southwest Section*

A biographical sketch of each candidate, including their participation in AAPG, the HoD, and honors and awards received, along with participation in their respective AAPG sections and local geological society, appeared in the January 2007 issue of *The Delegates' Voice*. This full biographical information can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.aapg.org/business/hod/2007/01jan/candidates.cfm>. 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 annual meeting of the House of Delegates, which will take place on Sunday, April 1st in Long Beach, California at the 2007 AAPG Convention.

The delegates serving on the Nomination and Election Committee are as follows:

Ed Dolly, Chair, *Rocky Mountain Section*

Royce Carr, *Gulf Coast Section*

Joe Eubanks, *Gulf Coast Section*

John Hogg, *Canada Region*

John Kaldi, *Asia/Pacific Region*

Brian Keith, *Eastern Section*

Bob Lindblom, *Pacific Section*

Peter Lloyd, *Europe Region*

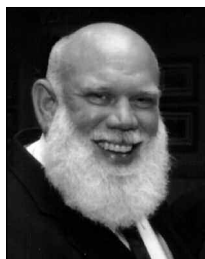
Jim McGhay, *Mid-Continent Section*

Mark Rainer *Southwest Section* ♦

Delegates! Make sure you are qualified, your society has proper representation, and you register at the desk at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.

A Report from the Credentials Committee

By Patrick J. Gooding, Chair



Committee Members (and candidates for HoD office)

George R. Bole, Sandi Barber, David Farmer and Robert E. Webster

Registration for House of Delegates Meeting

The House of Delegates meeting will be held Sunday, April 1, 2007, in the Regency Ballroom (D, E, F, and H),

Hyatt Regency Hotel, and Long Beach, California. The meeting will be called to order by the Chairman of the House at

8:00 AM and will end when house business is concluded. The registration table will open at 7:00 AM., and delegates are encouraged to check in early.

Responsibilities of Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee is responsible for:

- (1) Checking in and verifying all elected delegates, elected alternates, and appointed alternates to the House of Delegates for the meeting.
- (2) Presenting to the House for seating any representatives that were not cleared 15 days before the meeting.
- (3) Submitting to the Chair of the House an attested roll of delegates, alternate delegates, and appointed alternate delegates who are qualified and present, and the number needed for a quorum.

Two members of the Credentials Committee other than the Chair will greet delegates at the entrance to the meeting room, present a ribbon to them, and direct them to the registration desk. The other two members of the committee will staff the registration desk. At 7:30 AM, committee members who have been greeting delegates will switch duties with the committee members at the registration desk. The Chair will be near the registration desk, working with AAPG staff to solve any problems that may arise.

When called upon by the Chair of the House, the Credentials Committee Chair will report the number of delegates that were cleared. In addition, the Chair will report the number of persons who did not get their documentation in on time and requested to be seated in the House. The names and organizations that they represent will be read aloud by the Credentials Committee Chair. The Chair of the House will then make a motion to the members to seat those persons in the House. If the motion is accepted, the Credentials Chair will report the total number of delegates seated in the House and the number needed for a quorum. Each member of the Credentials Committee will then sign off on the report and submit it to AAPG headquarters as part of the record.

Registration

Documentation will be provided by AAPG headquarters to the credentials committee. This official list of representatives by society and region includes the names of all the elected delegates, elected alternates, and appointed alternates received before the deadline. After clearance by the Credentials Committee, the hand of each delegate will be stamped, which will allow the delegate to be seated in the voting section. The stamp ensures that delegates will be permitted back into the voting area without having to be re-checked, should they leave the meeting room for any reason.

Eligible appointed alternates whose documentation was not submitted on time, or who have come to the meeting with a request (written or verbal) to serve, must remain outside the voting area of the House until they are officially seated by a vote of the other delegates. They will then have their hands stamped and may join the voting delegates. In the event of a dispute over credentials, the Credentials Chair shall place the matter before the House. In this case, the committee will submit to the House its reason for withholding accreditation, verbally and in writing. Immediately thereafter, the designating society as well as the nominated delegate or alternate may submit reasons to support accreditation, verbally and in writing. The House will then vote on the dispute, with a majority vote governing.

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Ineligible appointees are welcome to stay for the proceedings in order to report back to their societies; however, they cannot be seated in the voting area. Anyone may attend the House of Delegates meeting; in fact, all AAPG members are invited to do so, and there are chairs outside the voting area for visitors.

Qualified Delegates

Only delegates chosen by means given in article IV of the association bylaws are considered qualified. A qualified delegate must be a full voting member in good standing of the association, as defined by the constitution and bylaws at the time of designation and during tenure in the House of Delegates. Qualified society delegates shall be members of the affiliated society or region they represent. Delegates cannot represent other societies or regions that have vacancies.

Appointed alternate delegates whose names are not received in writing by the headquarters office of the association at least 15 days prior to the meeting of the House of Delegates for which they are appointed to serve are not qualified to serve as delegates at such meeting unless seated by the house. Only active members in good standing may serve as delegates. Members who are not active will not be permitted onto the floor of the House of Delegates to vote.

Notification

Delegates should notify their society or region president if unable to attend the House of Delegates meeting. The society or region president should then contact the elected alternate, and if the alternate cannot attend, the president may appoint an alternate for the purpose of representation at the annual meeting only. The president must notify Donna Riggs at AAPG headquarters, driggs@aapg.org, in writing, 15 days prior to the meeting of any appointed alternates who may be representing their society or region. Delegates are encouraged to take the initiative and contact their presidents to ensure that credentialed representatives attend the meeting. ♦

37th Annual Meeting AAPG House of Delegates

**Ballrooms D-E-F-H
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Long Beach, California
Sunday, April 1, 2007
Call to Order 8:00 a.m.**

***Delegate Check-in with Credentials
Committee begins at 7:00 a.m.***

One Delegate's Voice

The purpose of the column, "One Delegate's Voice", is to promote understanding of what it is like to be an AAPG delegate in different sections and regions. The duties of a delegate are the same for us all, but learning how other delegates face the challenges of carrying out their duties under unique circumstances benefits every one of us. It offers a voice to those outside the traditional HoD leadership roles, who have kindly agreed to share their experiences and strategies for recruiting new members and how they may have become an AAPG ambassador to their community.

Voice of One Delegate

By Francois Roure, European Region



Sigrunn Johnsen, Francois Roure, Vlasta Dvorakova, John Brooks, Istvan Berczi, and Stuart Harker, European Region.

The number of foreign members in AAPG is growing and similarly increasing the number of foreign delegates in the House. I, François Roure, from Rueil-Malmaison, France, former treasurer/secretary of the European Region, will describe my first contact with AAPG and my current role as an AAPG delegate.

I have been involved with AAPG since 1988. I became an Active member of the AAPG, in 1998, and have served as a delegate for the European Region, since 2004. For a number of years, I was a rather distant user of AAPG services, occasionally attending the annual meetings in the US, and a few international meetings. I went to conventions in Nice, Mexico, and Caracas. My involvement in AAPG increased, when David G. Howell, then at the USGS in Menlo Park, proposed that I coordinate the planning of an AAPG field seminar on the topic of "Petroleum and Tectonics in Mobile Belts", in Piazza Armerina, Sicily. The seminar was successfully presented twice in 1990 and 1992.

My involvement with these seminars as well as two post-meeting AAPG field trips, organized with Alain Villien and Michel Séguret, in the Pyrénées in 1988, and with Uk Valbona and Yzedin Sadikaj, in Albania, in 1995, gave me a better idea about how one person could serve the international community of explorationists beneath the umbrella of the AAPG. More recently, AAPG allowed me and Rudy Swennen to organize a Hedberg Conference, again in Sicily (in Mondello, near Palermo), focusing on "Fluid Flow, Tectonics, and Reservoir Appraisal in Foothills areas".

Activity in the European region has been growing tremendously during the last few years, thanks to Sigrunn Johnsen

and John Brooks, our past and current presidents. The first international meeting organized for the Region was held in Prague in 2004, organized by Vlasta Dvorakova (our current treasurer/secretary), and Juraj Francu. After another Hedberg Conference on Carbonates held in Mallorca last Spring, the European Region is quite busy again, preparing for the Athens Conference, to be held on November 17-20, 2007. We now benefit from the support of a regular Newsletter, edited by Carol Lucas, who also coordinates the evaluation of new member's applications. It is important to mention, there is a new AAPG office at Imperial College in London. Steven Veal, Director of the London office, provides constant support for AAPG members on this side of the Atlantic.

Although my first contribution as an AAPG recruiter concerned outreach to French colleagues, I am constantly asked for information and help on "how to join AAPG", by young colleagues from abroad that I encounter when traveling in the course of teaching or pursuing my research. These colleagues hail from many continents, including Europe, North Africa, South America, and the Middle-East. Magdalena Scheck-Wenderoth, of Task Force-6, of the International Lithosphere Program on Sedimentary Basins, and I try to promote small yearly international workshops involving young scientists as well as colleagues from the universities and companies. Our 2007 meeting will be hosted by AAPG Affiliated Society, MAPG, the Moroccan Association of Petroleum Geologists, in Marrakech, Morocco, October 28-31st. This international conference, sponsored also by the African Region of the AAPG, and held during the "International Year of Planet Earth", will surely be an excellent opportunity to recruit new members for AAPG. ♦

Voice of One Delegate

By Katharine Lee Avary, Appalachian Geological Society, Eastern Section, U.S.



As the only delegate for the Appalachian Geological Society, I don't process a large number of applications each year. I almost always know the applicant personally or know one or more of the applicant's references personally. The local geological community is rather small, but close-knit here in the Eastern

Section. Most of the applications are from people in West Virginia, but some are from adjacent parts of western Virginia, not covered by the Geological Society of Washington.

I recruit members when the opportunity presents itself. Last fall, at the Eastern Section AAPG meeting, one of my colleagues said that the reason he had never moved from Associate to Active Member status was that he couldn't find the needed sponsors locally. I grabbed a membership application from a stack President Lee Billingsley had conveniently made available, and wrote in my name as a sponsor. I then passed the form to two other people standing nearby for them to do the same thing. I filled out the on-line sponsorship form late last year for him so I know that the application went forward. Sometimes, it's just a little thing that can make a difference in getting someone to join or move from Associate to Active membership. I think the new on-line method is great!

All delegates for societies affiliated with the Eastern Section have an additional responsibility as a member of the Eastern

Section Council which oversees the activities of the Eastern Section. Delegates participate in the section's annual business meeting held during the section's annual technical meeting.

I became a delegate because I volunteered and because I usually attend the annual AAPG meeting as well as the annual Eastern Section AAPG meeting. Many Appalachian Geological Society members typically attend the Eastern Section meeting, but usually only a small number of them are able to attend the AAPG annual meeting.

I try to participate in "everything AAPG" that I can. I am very fortunate to have the support of my agency's management in terms of both time and funding for my AAPG service. Most of my information about the HoD comes from *The Delegates' Voice* and *The AAPG Explorer*. ♦

Be, "One Delegates's Voice." Share how and where you do your job as an AAPG Delegate, in the June issue of *The Delegates' Voice*, deadline: May 20, 2007.



Donna Riggs, receives flowers from Houston House of Delegates, in honor of her retirement from 38 years with AAPG

Thank You, Donna Riggs

By Jeannie Fisher Mallick

Donna Riggs, Senior Manager, Special Projects, has been an important part of AAPG during her 38 years, but she has been an indispensable source of knowledge, assistance, and help to AAPG delegates for as long as I can remember. Donna knows when and what we delegates need before we do. She has been our corporate memory and helped the HoD maintain high standards of conduct. Her guidance ensured we would play by the rules, and there are lots of rules! Donna is retiring, but will return as a consultant part-time at headquarters. Donna, this is a heartfelt "Thank you", for a tremendous job well done. ♦

To propose this without income verification system is a mistake. This is a "Trust and Don't Tell Us" policy.

4) Unnecessarily Endangers Essential Dues Revenue - AAPG dues are the most essential revenue in our budget at about \$1.8 MM, and to describe their "small" portion as 11-13% of budget, unfairly and inaccurately deemphasizes their critical importance. This is the critical revenue earmarked to pay the essential costs of the HQ staff and basic operations.

5) Will Cause Member Conversions - The loss in existing dues revenue from this structure, as a result of the incentives to convert to a discount level, could easily exceed the revenue gain from adding discount members.

6) Risks Tax Issues with the IRS - Timing a dues rate hike with this new discounted structure raises potential inurement issues with the IRS. The IRS provision for 501(c) 6 Business League organizations such as AAPG, states that it, "preclude(s) furnishing benefits for some members at special rates, at the expense of other members." One complaint, regarding discount dues for some with simultaneous dues increases for others, risks the cost of an IRS review.

7) Empowers Future Executive Committee Subsidies - The final sentence in this amendment gives the EC, not the HoD, the power to reverse the "digital products only" provision for the lowest dues category and restore delivery of hardcopy of the Bulletin and Explorer back to all discount dues members.

8) Missing Sunset Provision - There is no expiration provision to automatically reverse this change if it has a negative

impact on AAPG. The ability to amend this structure declines as discount membership grows.

9) Ignores fundamental differences between SPE & AAPG - SPE's growth is a direct result of the fact that local petroleum engineering societies are local SPE chapters. Local and global societies are one in SPE, but not in AAPG. Most of their growth is unrelated to discount dues, but rather, to this major difference in organizational structure.

10) Poor Transparency to Delegates and Members - Not shared with the HoD are the existing pro vs. con internal AAPG analyses. Key documents yet to be posted on the HOD website are: 1) the ad hoc Graduated Dues Committee Report, 2) the multiple-scenario financial analyses, 3) the tax attorney's written opinion on the inurement issue, and 4) the AAPG attorney's letters regarding voting rights and on the advisability of extending them to discount dues members.

Advocacy for a graduated dues structure comes from motivations to increase membership at any cost, regardless of the potential negative long-term financial and existing-member loyalty impacts on the organization. We must stop focusing leadership energy and time on dissolving our professional membership standards and dues requirements through bylaws changes such as this and become indispensable to the world's energy geoscientists by adding greater value to their careers. When we start focusing on value, the membership issue will be solved. Please vote "No" on the Graduated Dues Bylaws amendment. AAPG can be the world's premier association of petroleum geoscientists without it. ♦



Pres. Lee Billingsley, addressing the Leadership Conference, held Feb 9-11th in Tulsa.

The Editor wishes to express sincere thanks to Linda Ramsey, Systems Supervisor, for her help in preparing the layout for *The Delegates' Voice*.

AAPG House of Delegates Officers and Committees - 2006-2007

OFFICERS			
NAME	SECTION/REGION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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The Delegates' Voice

A Newsletter for the
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

of
AAPG

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

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Honors & Awards Committee

By Mark Rainer, Chair

Committee purpose



The purpose of the Honors & Awards Committee is to recommend members of the House to receive special awards for service to the House of Delegates. The Committee supplies names for award consideration and encourages the participation of all delegates in the award nomination process. The Committee considers nominee qualification and selects by vote those members to be recommended to the HoD Chair for approval. If approved, they are honored at the next AAPG Annual meeting.

HoD Honors & Award forms are available online at: <http://.aapg.org/business/hod/awards/>. Once an online nomination form is completed, the information is forwarded to the current Honors & Awards Committee Chair.

The Honors & Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2007 Awardees recommended and approved by October 31, 2006:

Honorary Member of the House:

Ed Dolly, Rocky Mountain – Denver, CO

Distinguished Member of the House:

Carroll Kinney, Mid-Continent – Edmond, OK

Bob Cowdery, Mid-Continent – Wichita, KA

House Long Service:

David Hawk, Rocky Mountain. – Boise, ID, 20 Years

James Ragsdale, Gulf Coast – Houston, TX, 20 Years

Patrick Gordon, Gulf Coast – Houston, TX, 19 Years

William Howell, Gulf Coast – Houston, TX, 21 Years

The Honors & Awards Committee proposes a change to the Rules and Procedures governing the granting of the House Long Service Award. The House Long Service Award is described in the Rules & Procedures as follows:

III. COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

g. The Honors and Awards Committee

- House Long Service Award -- Presented in recognition of persons who have served as Delegates for a minimum of four terms and have, in addition, taken an active role in the affairs of the House. Annual presentation is not required and there shall be no limitation of the number of annual recipients.

The committee discovered a large number of Delegates that have served 4 terms or longer (12 years or more) are eliminated from consideration by a stipulation in the Rules & Procedures requiring service as a delegate within the previous 5 years (see item 2 below). The Committee will propose that this item be struck from the Rules & Procedures at this year's Annual meeting of the House of Delegates.

Rules and Procedures for Granting Awards

1. All awards shall be given only to recognize persons for their service to the House of Delegates.
2. Only a person who has served as a Delegate within the previous five (5) years may receive an award.
3. The Honors and Awards Committee shall prepare the title and description of, and qualifications for, an award proposed by the committee to be established and shall forward the same to the Rules and Procedures Committee of the House of Delegates to be processed as set forth in subsection A.1.c of this Section III. An award will be presented in the years after the year the award is established.
4. All awards shall be established by amendment to these Rules and Procedures.
5. No HoD Honors and Awards Committee member shall receive an HoD award while serving on that Committee.

In the spirit of encouraging involvement in the House, the Honors & Awards Committee felt it necessary to honor all Delegates who qualify with a Certificate of Service after serving 3 terms, (9 years) and 5 terms (15 years) as Delegates to the HoD. The wording below will be presented to the House at this years meeting for your approval.

Add to R&P III.A.1.g.

Certificates of Service—Presented in recognition of 9 years and 15 years service as a Delegate are to be automatically issued annually to Delegates reaching those milestones. The years of service are cumulative and do not have to be consecutive terms or full 3-year terms. All years of service as a Delegate will count toward these milestones. Certificates of Service are not subject to the “Rules and Procedures for Granting Awards”.

I wish to give my sincere appreciation to all of the members of the Honors & Awards Committee who made all of this possible via e-mail, phone, and “pony express”. You made this job a joy and a fun committee to be a part of.

2006-2007 Honors & Awards Committee

Mark Rainer, Chair, Southwest, Dallas, TX

Larry Wickstrom, Vice-Chair, Eastern – Columbus, OH

John Griffin, Mid-Continent – Lincoln, NE

Bob Phelps, Canada Calgary, AB

Bill Houston, Rocky Mountain - Denver, CO

Michael Hauck, Europe – Kassel, Germany

Royce Carr, Gulf Coast – Mount Pleasant, TX

Deborah Sacrey, Gulf Coast – Houston, TX

Bob Lindblom, Pacific – Menlo Park, CA

Sarfraz Siddiqui, Asia-Pacific – Islamabad, Pakistan

Cesar Ardiles, Latin America – Lima, Peru