

The Delegates' Voice



Newsletter for the House of Delegates of AAPG

SPRING 2009

Chair

George R. Bole



HoD has a fine slate of officer candidates for 2009-10. They are David Hawk and Terry O'Hare for Chair-Elect, and Patrick Gooding and Laura Zahm for Secretary/Editor. The election will be held at the HoD meeting on Sunday, June 7th. David, Terry, Patrick and Laura will be attending the House reception on Saturday, June 6th. This will give everyone who attends a good opportunity to meet and get to know the candidates before the election. Each candidate will present themselves to the Delegates from the podium at the Sunday meeting.

A Recap of the HoD Mid-Year Meeting

The mid-year meeting was held in Houston, TX on January 17, 2009 at the Courtyard by Marriott Houston West. There were 19 members in attendance: five Executive Committee Members; four HoD Committee Chairs; three HoD Officers; three HoD Officer Candidates; two Advisory Council Members; and two guests.

The agenda included the following topics with short reports:

- AAPG's Strategic Plan was reviewed by President Tinker with emphasis on building bridges among energy, environment and economy. Offices in Singapore, London and Bahrain are being developed. Tinker's letter to some 3,000 inactive AAPG members resulted in about 400 "re-enlistments". A suggestion was made that the Strategic Plan should be reviewed annually by the Executive Committee.

See *Chair* on page 2

Chair-Elect

Stephen A. Sonnenberg



The Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2009 in Denver, CO. I have been a delegate for 20 years and look forward to serving for many more years. I want to encourage all of you to attend the meeting and also to be prepared and informed. In my preparation to become the Chairman of the House, I was reviewing the duties of the members of the House, amongst other things. The duties of a House Member are:

- Being familiar with the Association's Constitution and Bylaws;
- Being acquainted with the Association's current policies and programs;
- Informing the leaders of their society or region regarding the Association's program of activities, especially as it relates to cooperative participation and service;
- Processing requests from the Executive Committee for information regarding eligibility of applicants for membership in the Association;
- Serving as local certification committeemen by processing requests from the Board of Certification for information regarding applicants for certification by the Association;
- Actively soliciting applicants from eligible geologists for membership in this Association.

I want to encourage all of you to work on the last bullet. Have you solicited any applicants during the year? If not, please do so! Membership is an important gauge to the overall health of an organization. In the Association's strategic (long-range) plan, our goal is to be indispensable to energy-related geoscientists worldwide.

At this year's meeting, several important amendments to the AAPG Bylaws are being proposed. These proposed amendments have been vetted by the House Constitution and Bylaws Committee, AAPG legal counsel, Craig Blackstock, and House officers. The vetting process results in some modifications before they are presented to the House of

See *Chair-Elect* on page 2

Secretary/Editor

Sigrunn Johnsen



As many of us are preparing to attend the **Annual HoD meeting in Denver on June 7th**, make sure that if you cannot attend, that you are represented by an alternate delegate from your Section or Region.

The deadline for sending the list of name(s) of your alternate delegate(s) to Donna Riggs at the Headquarter in Tulsa, is May 23, 2009. Appointments made after that date should still be sent to AAPG Headquarters just so the appointee can be pre-cleared and the Credentials Committee Chair informed. A qualified alternate delegate is an AAPG Active Member of your Region or Society.

If your Region or Society is too late to list alternative delegates with AAPG Headquarters before the HoD meeting takes place, it is usual that qualified alternate delegates, who show up on Sunday, June 7th at 08:00 hrs for the meeting will be accepted by the House as voting participants. So don't be shy!

As an AAPG member outside of U.S. and Canada, I am interested in seeing that AAPG is successful internationally. The start has been a little bumpy, but, eventually, it is clear to me that AAPG wants to have global impact; see the articles of our President, Scott Tinker and Vice President, Rusty Riese, on AAPG Global Corporate Structure in this issue of *The Delegates' Voice*. With more international experiences and some adjustments, AAPG will be well positioned to lead!

One sign that international involvements are increasing is the fact that at the Annual meeting in Denver, several international members are getting awards. As an example, the European Region nominated a record 13 professionals for 2009 awards to the AAPG Advisory Council. Out of these, six were accepted and will receive their awards in Denver.

Our President, Scott Tinker, talks about building bridges – strong global bridges connecting fossil fuels and non-fossil fuels, science and policy, energy and economy, energy and the environment, industry and academy, industry and government, to name a few. Scott Tinker has used his term

See *Secretary/Editor* on page 2

Chair from page 1

- The Executive Director's report showed that we have approximately 33,000 members with more than 1,000 using graduated dues. Corporate memberships are being solicited from some 20 companies. The Association's financial picture remains stable at this time despite the slowdown in the economy. Advertising in the EXPLORER is slowing but remains at planned levels, while meeting sponsorships and exhibitions are softening, this will not significantly impact this year's financial results. He also announced the new Education Director.
- Executive Director Rick Fritz and President Scott Tinker reviewed the concept of a Global Corporate Structure (GCS) that will enable AAPG to incorporate outside of the United States under international laws. Doing so will allow AAPG to more effectively conduct business in the international domain and at the same time provide a liability shield to protect AAPG's assets. *Note: Please refer to the article elsewhere in this report, by President Tinker, that summarizes GCS activity to date.*
- HoD Committee reports were received from the attending Committee Chairs. Credentials Committee (Marilyn Cisar) will validate those who can vote for HoD Officer Candidates at our June 7, 2009 meeting. Constitution and Bylaws Committee (Terry Hollrah) vetted eight proposed Bylaws changes and recommended placing seven of them before the House for a vote. Nomination and Election Committee (Mark Rainer) recommended four candidates for HoD Officers – *David Hawk and Terry O'Hare for Chair-Elect, and Patrick Gooding and Laura Zahm for Secretary/Editor.* Newsletter and Minutes Approval Committee (Sigrunn Johnsen) discussed future issues of *The Delegates' Voice* and has the San Antonio, TX meeting minutes for review and approval. Rules and Procedures Committee (Bob Suydam) reported there are no impending issues to be brought before the House. Resolutions Committee (David Dolph) will contact affiliated societies that have not attended recent HoD meetings focusing on membership in the Regions.
- Advisory Council (Will Green) reported that certain award amount increases have been approved. The AC is also seeking nominations for officer candidates for the AAPG.

More On Bylaws Changes

As we look forward to the AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE) this year in Denver, CO, the House of Delegates will conduct its annual meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2009 starting at 8:00 a.m. In addition to the various reports that will be presented by the Association's Officers and Committee Chairs, there will be eight proposed Bylaws changes to be reviewed, possibly modified, then accepted or rejected by the Delegates. These changes have been published and circulated to the membership at large, as well as the House of Delegates, via previous issues of *The Delegates' Voice* and the EXPLORER. Prior to the meeting, please take time to review the proposed changes and be prepared to ask questions, and to participate in the discussions that will ensue from the floor of the meeting.

As part of the preparation process and to provide some additional information (insight) relevant to one of the proposed changes – that which speaks to the experience requirement for Active Membership – I ask that you carefully review a letter to the Editor in this issue of the *Voice*, submitted by Dan Smith and Jeff Lund who have worked diligently over the past several years on membership issues.

Holler if you have questions or comments. You know my e-mail address and phone number.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Denver. ♦

Secretary/Editor from page 1

as AAPG president well in trying to help build several bridges to ensure that AAPG will have a voice in global energy policy. It is now important that we all support the continuation of the building of the bridges.

AAPG has focus on students. Student Chapters have been around for some years. However, the **AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program** is really an outstanding program as it includes students and faculty members, globally, in an educational activity aimed at preparing students for work in the industry. The program deserves all the support we can give! Individuals or companies who want to be judges may contact Bob Stewart, IBA, Judging Sub-Committee at bob.stewart@exxonmobil.com. Companies interested in sponsoring the 2009 IBA Program are invited to contact Erik Mason, IBA Sponsorship Sub-Committee Chair at erik.mason@shell.co. For general information: www.aapg.org/iba.

See you in Denver on the 7th of June! ♦

Chair-Elect from page 1

Delegates for consideration. One of the main duties of a member of the House is to "be familiar with the Association's Constitution and Bylaws" and you should also be "familiar" with the proposed changes. Please let us know if you have any questions.

I am looking forward to the coming year and serving as Chairman of the House. Please send me your questions, comments, and any recommendations. I look forward to seeing you in Denver. ♦

2009 AWARDS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The House is pleased to announce the recipients for the 2009 awards.

Honorary Member of the House Award — presented "in recognition of a record of consistent, dedicated, and exemplary service to the HoD through committee work and officer service."

Terry L. Hollrah, Oklahoma City, OK (Oklahoma City Geological Society)

Distinguished Member of the House Award — presented "in recognition of the unique or exemplary service to the House through committee work."

Susan M. Landon, Golden, CO (Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists)

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."

Marilyn Taggi Cisar, Cypress, TX (Houston Geological Society)

D. Keith Murray, Lakewood, CO (Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists)

House Recognition of Service Award — presented "the outgoing Chairman of the House of Delegates and Secretary/Editor at the end of their term of office."

George R. Bole, Chairman of the House (Houston Geological Society)

Sigrunn Johnsen, Secretary/Editor (European Region)

See Awards on page 3

The following Delegates will receive a 15-year Certificate of Service

Robert Ardell
Robert Cowdery
Alan DeGood
Gerald Friedman

Willard Green
Sigrunn Johnsen
Margaret Rogers
John Tubb

The following Delegates will receive a 9-year Certificate of Service

James Bedford
William Boyd
David Campbell
Thomas Cronin
Rebecca Dodge
John Griffin
James Howell
Bryan Lee

Richard Lorentz
Bonnie Milne-Andrews
Arthur McCarroll
Craig Morgan
Debra Osborne
Douglas Patchen
Sarfaraz Siddiqui

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proposed Bylaw Changes Regarding Membership

Dan Smith and Jeff Lund



Dan Smith

Preface after Bylaws Changes Emerged from the AAPG Constitution and Bylaws Committee in February, 2009

*The outgoing AAPG Membership Leadership (Smith and Lund et al) was disappointed to find out that AAPG's current CBL Committee has modified the unanimously approved proposal coming from the Membership Committee's meeting in San Antonio in April, 2008. Subsequent to that meeting, the proposal which is discussed below, was forwarded to the 2007/2008 HoD Leadership and the AAPG Executive Committee. Both of these august bodies unanimously approved the proposal as a resolution to be considered by the new 2008/2009 CBL Committee before advancing as a bylaws change at the June 2009 AAPG HoD meeting. The change made by the current CBL Committee to the Membership Committee's proposal is to **retain** an experience requirement of one year. The problem is **that this modification to the proposal fails to solve the issue of using the Associate category as a "parking place" for new applicants who would otherwise become Active Members and perpetuates the large pool of inappropriately classified geologists.** Further, the HoD, the Membership Committee and the general membership spend large amounts of time trying to locate, contact and convince Associates who are qualified to be Active Members, to go to the trouble of applying to upgrade. **More than three years of reviewing this issue led the San Antonio Membership Committee meeting attendees to unanimously agree that elimination of experience as a requirement for Active Membership was the best solution.***



Jeff Lund

PROPOSAL TO SIMPLIFY AND ALIGN MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

The AAPG Membership Committee, under the leadership of past manager Dan Smith, has spent much of the past three years formulating some proposals for changes to the AAPG membership categories in order to simplify and align the system and terminology.

This article will explain the reasoning behind these proposals and solicit your support. The intention is for simplification and alignment to encourage qualified candidates to become AAPG Active members early in their careers. **The driving factor; however, is to end the growing "pool" of Associates who are fully qualified to be Active AAPG Members but do not take the time and trouble to apply to do so.**

The fact that the dues structure (graduated dues) is now separated from the membership categories makes these amendments possible.

The Experience Factor

The Membership Committee, after long discussion and vetting, has recommended removing the experience criteria from the requirement for Active Membership. New Active Members must be engaged in the practice or teaching of geology and have

appropriate degree(s). The arbitrary and inconsistently applied three year experience requirement is counterproductive and adds negligible value at best.

New Active members would have voting privileges when they join.

The Membership Committee seeks with these changes to foster a spirit of inclusiveness and participation by all who meet the requirements. Feelings of "second class citizenship and ill will" are generated by the current requirements. Large amounts of time are spent debating and often misinterpreting applications to determine whether new applicants have the three year requirement of experience. We feel any perceived "danger" in this change is overwhelmingly outweighed by the positive it will bring. This change is strongly advocated by some of the most dynamic young leaders in AAPG who properly observe that many new graduates wish to be identified as "Active Members" and make immediate contributions including voting, committee membership, etc. This change will motivate young geoscientists to join AAPG and participate quickly! AAPG should embrace young geologists in order to maximize their opportunities for participation, mentoring and exposure to positive career experiences, which should in turn further strengthen AAPG. The temporary "solution" of diverting a young geologist to "Associate" status sends a negative exclusionary message.

Using the "Associate" Category Properly

The Membership Committee proposes that the Associate category be used only for those applicants who fit only the Associate requirements and will therefore never qualify for Active Membership in the Association (unless they earn an appropriate degree or are granted a waiver by the EC).

Current practice uses the Associate category as a temporary "parking place" for new applicants. Geoscientists with degrees from great universities, already launched on wonderful careers, are classed as Associates along with non-geoscientists who will never qualify for Active Membership. Senior geoscientists with decades of experience sometimes find out, only when they are nominated for high office in AAPG, that they have been an Associate since joining and "forgot or didn't make the effort" to apply for Active status. **HoD members spend hours and hours, year after year, contacting Associates who are fully qualified for Active membership, urging them to apply for Active status. In excess of 5,000 remain to be "enlightened"! This is a huge inefficiency!**

These inappropriate and counterproductive policies can be rectified by the proposed change.

Note that the AAPG Bylaws specifically state "An Associate is not a member of the Association." Any wonder a bright, eager young geoscientist is "turned-off" to be classified as an Associate.

Definition of Geological Science

In addition to the changes mentioned above, the EC will propose some progressive language to further define degree requirements by describing some of the degree fields that would be

Letters from page 3

acceptable for the required “degree in geological science,” to “include, but not limited to geology, geophysics, earth science, geological engineering or environmental geology”. Again, the purpose is to update and reduce confusion.

What About Student Members?

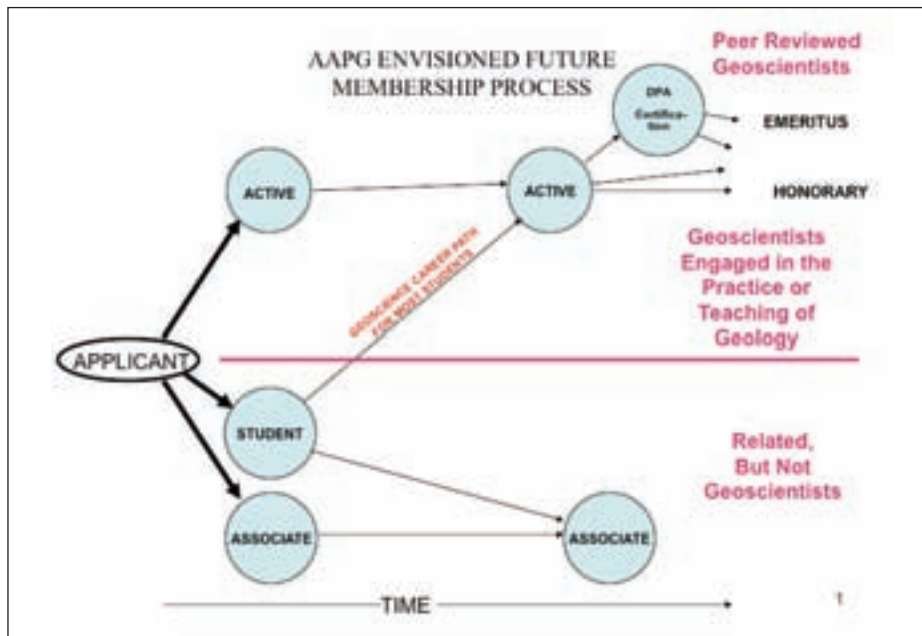
The Student member category is not affected by the proposed changes. A person, when no longer classified a student, must decide to apply for Active or Associate categories if they wish to continue their activity with AAPG. The most intractable and regrettable feature of the present system, which will remain essentially unchanged with the Bylaws amendments presently proposed, is that once “academic enrollment” is terminated, a Student Member – who has already demonstrated interest in AAPG and taken the initiative to join – becomes suddenly not qualified for Active Membership and is classified by default as Associate – expressly described in the Bylaws as being “not a member of the Association.” This is truly a counterproductive fea-

ture of our system, and is the real impetus for the recommendations which were approved unanimously by the Membership Committee in their 2008 meeting in San Antonio.

For your reference, we have included a diagram created by the Membership Committee to help visualize the “Envisioned Future” of the membership process.

We hope you agree these changes will be a positive for the Association. The primary concept is to align the “system” so Associate and Active categories apply to appropriate candidates for membership, and people in each category follow a path aligned with the individual’s career path and educational qualifications. It aims to make new young Active members feel “welcome”, “included” and “motivated” to participate in the Association and eliminate unnecessary confusion and time spent processing applications and convincing Associates to “upgrade” to Active status.

We solicit your questions and support. ♦



Scott Tinker, AAPG President



Delegates, the AAPG strategic plan, approved by members in 2004, anticipated and called for globalization.

Our goal the past few years has been to be as thoughtful, thorough, and transparent as we can be, and involve representatives from various AAPG stakeholder groups in the process. With Executive Committee membership transitioning every year, continuity is a challenge, and AAPG staff have served a very important role.

The time has come to move forward with a new Global Corporate Structure. At the House of Delegates meeting in Denver on June 7 there will be a discussion about the Global Corporate Structure (GCS) to initiate the process.

With input from the Executive Committee, I appointed a “presidential committee” of four Active Members—Marty Hewitt, Chair; Kay Pitts, AAPG Treasurer; Dave Cook, European Region President-elect; and Jeff Lund, Membership Committee. The committee’s charge is to incorporate all input from various sources the past several years, and propose a new legal and governance structure that will enable AAPG to operate worldwide, while safeguarding the Association’s assets.

The final report from the “special committee” and other background information will be distributed to the Delegates in early May for your review and consideration. It will include such things as:

1. A “high level” white paper that will show reasons why a GCS is needed, how it will further the goals of AAPG, and the advantages that a GCS structure will afford the Association members.
2. A flow chart of the process to be used to effect the change.
3. Proposed structure(s) for a GCS accompanied by legal opinions not only from our counsel but also from attorneys who specialize in setting up GCSs.
4. An analysis and assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of similar global models, such as the SPE, and the pros and cons of applying these models to AAPG.
5. A financial plan for globalization, which will show the estimated cost.
6. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Web site where members can provide feedback to the plan.

The above information, and perhaps additional materials, will be placed on the AAPG Web site for your convenience.

Following the House and Advisory Council discussions in Denver, the HoD Constitution and Bylaws committee will consider the language. After the CBL committee’s response, there will be at least six months of review by the AAPG membership before the issue is considered at the New Orleans Annual Convention and Exhibition in April, 2010.

President from page 4

Globalization of AAPG is happening and it is exciting. I believe there are benefits for all members. It is our job as members of the House to make sure globalization is done in a well considered manner, to be open to various possibilities and structures, willing to seek the compromises which most certainly will be required, and ready to work and adapt as we move forward to ensure success.

Rusty Riese, Sections Vice President AAPG Geoscience Advisor, BP Alternative Energy

Dear HoD Delegates,

The following is a letter which was initially sent to the Section Presidents. It is published in this pre-annual meeting issue of *The Delegates' Voice* in an effort to get information and thoughts out to the delegates in as timely a manner as possible. Please, follow up on the suggestion to think through the points raised in the letter, and discuss them with your membership.



This note is my attempt to open dialog with you on the issue of corporate structure, about which you have heard a bit lately (specifically in the most recent President's teleconference). In particular, I want to try to break the topic into two or three distinct pieces so that it's easier to get our minds around it. So, that said, please bear with me as I try to articulate an explanation of something which is, in large part, nowhere near being sorted through.

First: Corporate structure in its purest (legal structure) sense and why any need to change?

AAPG started out as a purely U.S. organization (and some would suggest that by virtue of behavior it still is, but that's another story). Thru time, and as an organization, we accepted the necessity for engaging and embracing petroleum geoscientists around the world. This was the reason for establishment of Regions, splitting the VP position into two (one for Regions and one for Sections), for graduated dues, and for opening small service offices in non-U.S. locations. These non-U.S. offices provide a measure of outreach to the Regions in which they are located, but they also help provide some of the support structure and coordination which Sections provide in the U.S. when it comes to meetings. Sections draw heavily on (local) volunteer time to pull Section meetings together, but that is not so easily accomplished in the rest of the world where a Region's membership is more dispersed and has access to fewer local resources.

AAPG has also been a very successful organization in that it has benefited greatly from both prudent fiscal governance through the years and great generosity on the part of many members. This being the case, AAPG has accrued a strong asset base.

The convergence of these two vectors - global expansion and large asset base - have now created a conundrum: the expansion required a strong financial position to enable it, but the expansion into non-U.S. jurisdictions has the potential to put that same asset base at risk. It is unfortunately the case that the legal frameworks in many jurisdictions do not offer the same advantages that we enjoy in the U.S. *vis-a-vis* asset protection from legal/liability actions which may be brought against us. Neither do they adequately protect the assets of the parent organization.

This situation of risk exposure—the risk of losing core AAPG assets to non-U.S. legal actions—cannot be allowed to remain the case, and in some cases, has already been handled by the ECs and HQ. What is needed, however, is a coherent, forward looking approach and a thoughtfully constructed architecture that will facilitate further international growth while at the same time protecting AAPG's core asset base and identity.

That is the first and primary reason why a change in corporate structure is necessary.

Thank you in advance for reviewing these materials prior to the Denver meeting and for all that you do for the AAPG.

Warm regards,

Scott Tinker ♦

Second: How should AAPG's present governance (structure) respond to this need?

In its simplest, it would appear that AAPG can simply continue to create offices in new locations, incorporate under local law, and continue on as it has. But the catch is "local law," and the inadequate protection it presents to the parent organization.

So, what then? Well, what needs to be created is a *global corporate structure* (vs the current U.S. corporate structure with non-U.S. "extensions") which will establish a *legal and liability firewall* between the non-U.S. "corporation" and the parent AAPG organization. That is the legal advice which SPE received when that organization started down this path several years ago, and it is the advice which we have also received.

Which brings us to present state governance and obligations. The ECs and HQ have identified the problem and dealt with it on an "as needed" basis so far, but that is not enough. Further, because the core of AAPG's governance is the HoD, it is that body which will ultimately need to take action and formally authorize a change in AAPG's corporate structure. That step seems to me to be easily (clearly) justifiable; and in my mind should be acted on quickly—sooner rather than later. But what then? What *Pandora's box* will we have opened?

Third: Will a change in corporate structure require a change in governance structure?

Well, clearly *something* will need to happen if a truly protective firewall is emplaced: those non-U.S. offices will need to report to some sort of governing body. Who will it be? How will it be elected or appointed? How will *it in turn* relate back to the parent organization? *These* are the questions with which we are now grappling and which will be dealt with by the "new committee" which was mentioned in the last telecom with you - a committee which will represent all the areas of AAPG which may be affected: HoD, Regions, Sections, and Divisions. That committee will (I believe) be charged with:

- 1) educating itself about the scope of the issue(s);
- 2) framing a comprehensive set of recommendations for action;
- 3) framing the timing and pathway those recommendations should conform to;
- 4) helping inform the HoD and broader membership about their recommendations and why they should be implemented.

Meanwhile, *you* should each be thinking about these four issue points, discussing them with your memberships, and convey thoughts and fears to the EC and to the Committee when it is formed. These are important issues and they will *require* socialization with all the members. That is *our* job.

(Note: the committee was formed, has done much of its work and submitted a draft report. A final version will be available at or prior to the Denver meeting.)

REGIONS AND SECTIONS

Eastern Section President

Robert Jacobi



For 28 years I taught sedimentology, stratigraphy, structure, and tectonics/plate tectonics at the University at Buffalo. I performed tons of research which included marine geology in the Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean, structure/tectonics in Newfoundland and the Taconics, and structure and its control on deposition in the northern Appalachian Basin, and consulted for mines, earthquake concerns, and for oil and gas. A year ago, I semi-retired from the University at Buffalo (still have a few students

and teach a few courses a year) and became Director of Special Projects at Nornew, Inc.

During my term as President of the Eastern Section, one of my goals is to promote ideas that others might generate (rather than being a “No” sort of person). It is very important to shepherd these concepts along, and to recognize that not all will be completed during the short tenure we have. So, two new ideas that we are working on at the Eastern Section are:

- 1) Storing all the presentations from the regional meeting on a Web site that is linked to the AAPG Eastern Section Web site. The thoughts and data from the incredible talks at the regional meetings therefore are not lost, but easily accessible. This approach requires no additional work for the presenter, unless the presenter needs to edit proprietary data.
- 2) We are beginning to create a list of potential oil and gas speakers (with potential presentation titles) that will be listed on the Eastern Section Web site so that geology departments may contact these individuals to give presentations. This is similar to the AAPG speaker series, although the Eastern Section cannot, as yet, support the talks monetarily. We will send an e-mail to the geology departments in the Eastern Section to alert them of this service.

In addition, the Imperial Barrel Award Committee, which is headed by Lee Avary, is working hard—we have five teams competing in the regional event, and the committee is attempting to secure funds to support the competition travel costs. In general, the Eastern Section has benefited from the interest generated by the black shales, including, of course, the Marcellus. We hope the regulations get sorted out, and the black shale play does prove to be a blockbuster. ♦

Asia-Pacific Region Treasurer

Mick McWalter



The Asia Pacific region of AAPG, as defined in our bylaws, contains at least 33 nations and territories. I say – at least, because, there is a certain imprecision that arises when one embraces such a large and diverse part of the world. One can readily debate what constitutes a nation or territory. For instance, Hong Kong, once a treaty territory of the British is now an autonomous part of China. Within the Pacific, for instance there are many island nation states, which we fail to count and where few oilmen

tread for work, but where many of us might fancy taking our well-earned vacations. However, I did hear recently that some intrepid explorers were going back to the offshore areas of Fiji to look for oil and gas.

The region has rich cultures and ancient civilizations aplenty. There are nations bountifully endowed with oil and natural gas, and yet others with scarcely any petroleum resources. All manner of geological basins are present – some more foxing than others for the mind of the petroleum geologist. Our affiliated local societies are

strong and well developed in some places, but weak and in need of care and nurture in others.

Within the region, local representation is gaining momentum; this is vitally necessary for regional association ownership. AAPG in the Asia Pacific region is no longer a gathering of AAPG members, who just happened to have found themselves in the region. It is becoming increasingly a gathering of Asia Pacific petroleum geoscience professionals of the region. They work within their home countries, and are proud to be members of the wider global community that AAPG represents. The student chapters are fostering this regional ownership of AAPG by introducing the association to the fertile minds of many young professionals in the making.

It is a long way for some of us to travel to attend the annual House of Delegates meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Convention and Exhibition. However, it is a journey that our Asia Pacific AAPG House members and alternates have made faithfully over the years, so that our voices may be heard. We may be jet-lagged and tired on those Sunday mornings, but we are proud consistently to add our numbers to the House quorum and put our views forward.

Please let me invite you to visit our Asia Pacific Web site at: www.aapgasiapacific.org and see what we are doing, and if you are in the region for a visit or a longer stay, do contact us, the Asia Pacific executive and/or your country representative, so we can help you, and you can help AAPG Asia Pacific. ♦

The Regions Celebrate 10 Years!

Peter Lloyd



Up until 1999, AAPG members living and working overseas could only be represented through their Affiliate Societies, if indeed, they were lucky enough to have one. It was rare for more than 20 international HoD delegates to attend the annual House meetings, no internationals sat on the Advisory Council, and only three internationals had ever been voted onto the EC. Representation on AAPG standing committees

was also sparse.

Ten years later the regions are entitled to almost 60 HoD delegates, and two thirds of these regularly attend the annual House meeting. The regions now have six seats on the Advisory Council and a permanent presence on the Executive Committee. The regions have more than 75 volunteers on the various AAPG standing committees, HoD committees and on the Division Advisory councils and committees. Several of these international leaders chair subcommittees in their own region where more volunteers are being actively recruited. All but half a dozen of 1999 Affiliates continue to enjoy strong ties with the regions, and still have a place in the House through the regional structure. New affiliates have replaced those that have dropped out. The student base has grown with vibrant chapters in each region, and flourishing Visiting Geoscientist, Distinguished Lecturer, Imperial Barrel Award and Grants-in-Aid programs to keep them engaged. Students are also heavily involved in the overseas Hedberg and conference programs.

Disturbingly, however, membership numbers in the regions (if one discounts the student numbers) have declined over the last ten years. And this despite all those student members, numerous membership drives, and it now being much easier for non-North Americans to join the association than previously. There are now fewer than 4,000 active members in the regions compared with just over 4,150 in 1999. Indeed, since peaking in 2001 (4,500 active internationals) numbers have dropped by 18%. This is clearly a worrying trend as oilfield activity has expanded dramatically outside North America and sister societies like the SPE and many of the regional societies are all showing healthy growth in membership and their activities. Continued improvements in global AAPG branding and service delivery will

See *Regions* on page 7

Regions from page 6

be needed if we want those many thousands of petroleum geoscientists who live and work outside North America to consider AAPG membership as “indispensable” to their continuing education, professionalism, networking and technical development.

Peter Lloyd is an Honorary Professor at Heriot Watt University's Institute of Petroleum Engineering. He is an Honorary Member of the AAPG, a past vice-president, past regional president as well as a visiting geoscientist. He co-chairs the International Regions Committee, and is the HoD delegate for Indonesia. ♦

Vice President from page 5

Fourth: How will the Sections be impacted?

There is no impact foreseen with regard to the sections *unless they choose to make changes*. Having said that, allow me to make some observations and frame a few rhetorical questions (an activity often perceived as grenade tossing, but which I am definitely NOT trying to engage in):

- We have at least two Sections which appear to have insufficient active critical mass to sustain their primary reasons for being: the organization and conduct of meaningful conferences for the educational and professional benefit of their memberships. It would appear to me that a merger, or two, may be in order in the not too distant future. Have any of you considered that?
- Perhaps a cleaner structure would see the Sections reincorporate as part of the parent organization and become essentially another Region? This might have the advantage of bringing more centrally located resources to bear when conferences are organized? It may also require some changes in HQ staffing, I don't know.
- Perhaps there should be a North American Region?

Folks, I don't have answers to any of these points, and I'm certainly not pressing any of them at this time. But they are all issues which will have to be dealt with in the coming (few) year(s), and my sense is that if significant change is necessary, we should do it right the first time and be done with it. I say that in part because of the difficulties which attend changes like this when the *people involved keep changing*. These are complicated and, for some, very emotional issues; and I suggest that getting it all done while there is the possibility for some *leadership continuity* is in our organizations' and memberships' best interests.

Closure

The action points I ask each of you to take are to give the points I've raised some reflection and begin describing to broader groups the issues which attend the **First** topic at the head of this note. I also ask that you please call if you'd like to discuss this or brainstorm it or even just tell me it's all crazy. I hesitate to call you first because you all have day jobs and I don't want to intrude inconveniently on you; and secondly because it takes a heck of a long time to have this conversation eight or nine times or more, and I have a “day job” (or two) too!

I hope this provides some additional background for you on the topic and that you will be able to help move these very important issues forward to closure on AAPG's behalf, and that we can do it together in 14 months.

Thanks for your time and help. Now, please talk to me. ♦

IMPORTANT DATES:

Names of appointed alternate delegates should be in Headquarters Office by May 23, 2009.

Annual Meeting of the AAPG House of Delegates, Denver, CO – June 7, 2009.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES

DEG President

Rebecca Dodge



The division of Environmental Geosciences (DEG) was established in 1992, when “the House of Delegates of the Association indicated support for the concept that basic environmental issues be addressed from a geological point of view, thereby transferring the profession's understanding of geological, geochemical, geophysical, and hydrogeological principles and methodologies to the solutions of environmental problems.”

The purposes of this Division include:

- EDUCATING the membership of AAPG and the general public about important issues that affect petroleum energy minerals exploration and production.
- COMMUNICATING to the general public and government agencies the Association's commitment to protect the environment while developing the world's natural resources in a responsible manner.
- APPLYING the expertise developed in the petroleum/energy minerals industries and hydrogeology to resolve environmental problems.
- PROMOTING environmental self-regulation within the petroleum/energy minerals industries.
- PROVIDING relevant educational opportunities and services for professional development of the AAPG membership through seminars and conferences in environmental geosciences, hydrogeology, and related fields.

DEG seeks to fulfill these purposes in several ways. We develop programs for AAPG annual, sectional, regional, and international meetings that include oral and poster presentations, short courses, panel discussions, and field trips. We also publish the peer-reviewed *Environmental Geosciences Journal*, a quarterly publication that covers petroleum-focused environmental issues as well as a range of other environmental issues. We seek to identify and foster the conduct of research needed to improve understanding of environmentally sound practices related to energy industry activities. We are focused on establishing outreach to new members and offering opportunities for networking, cooperation, coordination and leadership worldwide. We also maintain an online resource and communication site to foster communication and dialog. Activities in all of these areas are supported by the efforts of DEG's Committees.

Our committees that directly contribute to new programs and publications include:

- Annual Meeting Committee
- Continuing Education Committee
- CO2 Sequestration Committee
- Environmental Geophysics Committee
- Environmental Health and Safety Committee
- Geohazards Committee
- Hydrogeology Committee
- Publications Committee

Please visit our Web site at <http://deg.aapg.org/> for more information about our activities, leadership, and committees. We ask that you consider joining DEG in applying geological perspectives to solving environmental problems. ♦

COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

<http://www.aapg.org/business/hod/committees/>

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	Page 1
Chair-Elect	Page 1
Secretary/Editor	Page 1
Awardees	Page 2
Letters to the Editor	Page 3
Regions and Sections	Page 6
Important Dates	Page 7
Division of Environmental Geoscientists	Page 7