

AAPG International Regions Committee Meeting
Denver ICE
Tuesday, 9 June 2009

Invited

John Hogg, Vice President, Regions
Alfredo Guzman, Vice President-Elect, Regions
Peter Lloyd, IRC Co-Chair
Marty Hewitt, IRC Co-Chair
John Dolson, IRC Vice Chair
Peter Kahn, IRC Vice Chair
James Agbenorto, President, Africa Region
Nosa Omorodion, President-Elect, Africa Region
Joe Lambiase, President, Asia Pacific Region
Abul (Shams) Shamsuddin, Secretary, Asia Pacific Region
John Kaldi, Visiting Geoscientists Program Co-Coordinator, Asia Pacific Region
David Dolph, President, Canada Region
Steve Veal, AAPG Director, European Region
Istvan Berczi, President, European Region
Dave Cook, President-Elect, European Region
Vlastimila Dvorakova, Secretary-Treasurer, European Region
Sigrunn Johnsen, Secretary of HoD, European Region
Steve Hansen, European Region Committee
Nilo Azambuja, President, Latin American Region
Jim Tucker, Secretary, Middle East Region
Abeer Al-Zubaidi, AAPG Director, Middle East
Jeff Lund, Global Corporate Structure, IP Sponsor Coordinator
Gina Godfried, Managing Director of International Pavilion
Scott Tinker, AAPG President
John Lorenz, AAPG President-Elect
Kay Pitts, AAPG Treasurer
Rick Fritz, AAPG Executive Director
David Lange, AAPG CFO
Carol Cain McGowen, AAPG Manager Sections & Regions
Susan Nash, AAPG Education Director

New Action Items

1. Action: The IRC is charged with developing a model for working with the DL Committee and Region Presidents to facilitate the new process. Region Presidents will be contacted to kick off this new structure.
2. Action: Develop a prioritized list of projects for IRC focus in 2010. To be discussed at a future Region Presidents' teleconference.

MINUTES

1. Report from AAPG President – Scott Tinker

New member numbers jumped from 30,000 to 36,000 in one year. Five strategic categories were created to encourage that growth:

- a. Global Scientific Impact
Tinker noted AAPG is represented very well at all international meetings.
- b. Member Focus
Online publications: Search & Discovery, Explorer, Bulletin. An Education Director, Susan Nash, was hired to help AAPG's focus on education. Career Center web page was created with Clint Moore. President's Council, EC Pension plan with help of Kay Pitts. Balanced budget, and force-ranked top 30 focus areas.
- c. Public Perception
- d. Organizational Help
Challenge noted to get money. United States partner established with National Science Foundation.
- e. Financial Strength
Tinker stated there is a challenge to get money. Petro Grants Program launched and intended to fund faculty.

2. Region Reports, Achievements/Challenges, Summary – Peter Lloyd

- a. Issues & Challenges
Reports from IRC received included issues of region elections being held, ICE, and Hedberg Regional Conferences are coming up, looking forward to Brazil. The local offices are being set up. Canada Region donating Data Pages to a local university.

Broadening volunteer base, working better with affiliates with country by country contact, increasing or stabilizing sponsorships and revenues, clarifying communication and the business model with AAPG HQ being biggest leveraging of the local offices.

Challenges were to improve and evolve IBA, with one comment of how do we address absentee HoD issue?

Istvan Berczi mentioned it is not the money that drives the participation of students, but the enthusiasm of the faculty.
- b. London Office Update:
London office is up and running. AAPG is in the process of advertising for a new director.
- c. IBA

Hewitt expressed concern on the future financing of the IBA. This year's tournament broke even with 12 teams. Rick Fritz noted the Corporate Advisory Board is thinking of covering the IBA broadly, each possibly giving \$10,000.00. AAPG CAB is to be presented with a business plan.

d. Asia Pacific Region – Joe Lambiase

Singapore office is not yet open. The society is not registered. Lambiase asked for status of hiring staff person for Singapore office. Fritz noted the budget is being looked at as it is close to budget cycle. They should have a decision at the end of this month. Fritz noted it takes a long time to get offices incorporated. New bylaws are created, and steps have to be taken unless we do a hiring contract.

- e. Membership - Lloyd stated the need to turn students to "Active" AAPG Membership status. HoD did vote on decreasing the 3 year application wait time period to a 1 year wait time period.
- f. Honors & Awards Lloyd encouraged each Region to formalize the process to nominate people for executives as well as awards.

3. International Pavilion – Gina Godfrey

a. IP Mission

IP's Mission is to work with National oil companies, ministries, and government entities, all non-US based orgs to help promote exploration and investment opportunities in their countries. Celebrating 15 years in existence. Website: www.internationalpavillion.com.

b. IP Growth

2005 IP convinced EC to grow the program year round using exhibitions as framework/ foundation for face to face contact. This provides countries to have some continuity and ability to promote opportunities such as licensing round announcements, new activities, etc. IP Showcase was enabled in 18 countries. In 2008, IP entered into Partnership with NAPE totaling participation of 76 booths, and 121 booths in 2009. IP is a sponsorship driven organization. Companies can be involved by emailing Godfrey at: ggodfrey@petroweb.com.

c. IP Future

Godfrey stated IP hopes for a better way to communicate with the different regions.

Lloyd suggested Godfrey be made a member of IRC.

4. Student Initiatives – Bill Houston

a. Student Focus Arena

Landscape of programs: 7 committees, 250 volunteers for 7-8,000 students globally. 3 committees tried to generate point contacts in different Sections and Regions. IBA has Student Chapters of Visiting Geoscientists. Representatives are appointed by Section and Region Leadership, but are not acquainted. Houston wants to have better lines of communication developed to make sure everything is well coordinated up and down the chain of command.

Houston recognized Joy Roth, Chevron in Nigeria, Vice chair of International Student Chapter able to make the meeting.

b. Grants-In-Aid

Grants-In-Aid has given away 250 grants to students. At Student Expos, the Student Program is creating a CD to provide information with Fall as an expected estimated time of arrival. Mike Mlynek does a great blog. Suggest putting blog on Facebook.

Houston reported working on student representation to participate with leadership. Goal is to try to get students on every committee at AAPG.

c. IBA Challenges

Major challenges: IBA's growth for deployment to schools not yet linked with international student expos.

Student outreach with IBA has been the major driver and is very successful.

5. Visiting Geoscientists Program - Edith Wilson, John Kaldi

Goal is to strengthen connections between Sections and Regions. VGP committee has appointed volunteer as designated point person in each S&R. Requested a point person for them to contact. AP & ER already does this and has great success.

Eager to have Distinguished Lecturers make visits to multiple Universities in an area to save time and money.

Encouraged Region leaders when traveling to city with a university, please make a visit as a VG. Very easy to do. All material on website. Slides are available for presentations.

Rick: VGP in the U.S. usually do not charge anything for their time/travel, the situation is different outside the U.S. The AAPG Foundation has a fund not used very much. Please consider for supplemental help on travel costs.

Lloyd: Suggests foundation as a last resort. Affiliate societies have usually sponsored and should be the first place to contact.

Berczi: How to fund different student chapters. Received a number of requests to financially support field trips. This is not the task of AAPG, but of university. Or if University cannot do directly, can do through the sponsorship of companies. It is much better to support the individual students to attend AAPG Conferences, invite VG that is more closely related to the curriculum, and to prepare for the IBA program. The benefit of bringing the students to big AAPG conferences is that we can use this opportunity for mentoring the students.

6. International Growth of the Divisions – John Dolson

Membership Manager, Vicki Beighle, provided information showing steady Region membership growth since 2005 dominated by Asia and Europe. We are still really challenged in Latin America and the Middle East. This is a reflection of the organization in general, needing to enhance services in those areas.

International membership represents about 35% of total membership, and is growing substantially. 60% of total Regions members are students. Challenge to convert students over, and associates make a large amount, active membership is smaller percentage. Nigeria students out of Africa are a large %, ER has a lot more of Active memberships than associate memberships. We need to beef up membership in Canada, Latin America, and Middle East Regions.

Challenges: graduated dues: How much is the growth internationally been due to graduated dues? Per Beighle, it's too early to tell. A lot of the 1275 members utilizing lower dues are really a few in the US. The 6000 growth has occurred during a big down cycle in the industry. I think that the things we've done making it easier to get sponsorship, online forms, may have helped.

Graduated dues have yet to make a significant impact. Chevron sponsorship is incredibly important to us. That gets the students in here. There is a global expansion. We are providing more local services and enable more visibility.

We need more local short courses. Why don't we have more of the week long education or 3-day seminars?

Disappointed in Constitution and Bylaws Committee decision to impose a 1-year waiting period on Associate members before eligible for Active membership. When a student graduates with a Masters or PhD and are hired on as a professional at that point, and we're saying, "No you're not Active until you have someone sign off for you. They don't see any reason for them to sign on from associate to active. Does not think it helps for now 1 year wait. AAPG is competing against other societies likes SPE – they don't require it.

Rick: For graduated dues, it's hard for us to get access to those groups who are not members. In the US, it's not hard because we have closer ties with the affiliated societies. We need affiliated societies or international groups who have newsletters so we can put ads in newsletters, utilize distribution lists, etc. It's critical for us to expand graduated dues and reach groups who are not tied to AAPG. Please work with Regions to do that.

7. Distinguished Lecturer Program – Mark Cooper, Lee Krystinik

How DLs are selected and deployed to the Regions:

The goal is to set up the DL process more effectively than present. We want to have each Region with their own DL sub-committee that's tied very closely with the rest of the Region governance structure. We want to see a chair of DL sub-committee who is responsible for recruiting DL sub-committee members. The sub-committee will take an active role in suggesting DL candidates for that Region. The DL Committee maintains the Master list, but invites each region to submit names.

The Region DL sub-committee will also be responsible for voting for DLs. We would like to see each Region selecting their own DLs. Lee & Mark would oversee process to avoid contacts being used in another Region within a certain amount of time (2 years).

The Region DL Chair and sub-committee are responsible for working with Lee & Mark. Karen Dott at AAPG HQ to organize the year's DL with travel dates and venue. Proposing to implement is something that gives regions more ownership, but also more accountability.

Proposed Structure:

- a. Each region has its own DL Vice Chair and sub-committee. Desirable for one of two people to also be on the Steering Committee for that Region. This will help overall communication issues and success of the tours.
- b. Region officers will suggest two names to Lee and Mark, and they will approve them.
- c. Each Region sub-committee should consist of at least 6 members that are geographically represented. Some of the large regions may need more representatives.

Goal to implement this new DL structure by the end of this year.

AAPG DL Committee, Lee and Mark will provide the current list and ask each Region to supplement it. The DL list will be finalized by the end of October annually.

- d. Proposed DL names must be held confidential within the committees.

- e. Regional DL committee members cannot be named as a DL on the list due to conflict of interest.
- f. Each Region DL sub-committee will use a web-based voting process to vote on DL candidates. This web-based process was used to select U.S. DLs this year and was very successful.
- g. The DL Committee Chair will share computer-tallied vote results with the Region sub-committee chair showing the next year's DLs.

The first step is to get the selection process working more effectively. This will enable sending more DLs to each region, As we get beyond the abilities to fund that with the current structure, then we can address additional sponsorships. A fair degree of thought is needed. We may need to solicit sponsors, or it may be that we go back to the AAPG Foundation.

Action: The IRC is charged with developing a model for working with the DL Committee and Region Presidents to facilitate this process. Region Presidents will be contacted to kick off this new structure.

8. Wrap Up Summary and Conclusions – Alfredo Guzman

Guzman described his position and role is an “EC facilitator” in order to strengthen the Regions and communications between the EC and HQ. A lot has to do with global expansion. Expansion of AAPG presence in Regions and of the membership of IR sector in AAPG. Help promote global corp. structure -- once it's clearly defined, we'll facilitate.

Student involvement and relations – Bill is doing a great job.

Affiliated societies – what percentage of local societies are not tied or affiliated with AAPG? There is a good opportunity there to strengthen AAPG and the local societies.

Presence of Regions at HoD to impact how things are done at the central level.

The technical events and meetings are central to activity of the Regions – these need to be promoted.

Have to improve the image of AAPG and services. Perhaps there is a perception that not as many of AAPG's services are reaching to everybody at the level that they would like to.

IBA program – Russian winning team is example of the Region's presence.

Distinguished Lecture Tours – Lee and Mark hit the mark perfectly.

Election process – Carol has been working very hard together with EC. A lot has been improved and we should take it as far as we can.

Corporate memberships –I think we can push a little bit for this.

Marty suggested a list should be developed of 8 or 10 challenges or items that IRC should focus on in the next year. Minutes from today's meeting need to be itemized and prioritized and be discussed at a future Regions' teleconference.

Action: Develop a prioritized list of projects for IRC focus in 2010. To be discussed at a future Region Presidents' teleconference.

Thank you Peter and Carol for your leadership during the last year.

9. Adjournment – Peter Lloyd

Peter thanked everyone for their attendance and participation, then declared the meeting adjourned.