

Division of Professional Affairs

Who is the DPA? DPA is a community in AAPG focused on science, business and policy. Our 3,000+ members commit to our profession and the highest standards. DPA offers peer certification from a global organization and a supportive network among the best oil finders in business. DPA members focus on science, business and policy.

Officers

It has been an honor serving as president of the Division of Professional Affairs for the 2012–2013 term and a pleasure working with the dedicated professionals on my Executive Committee—vice president Paul Pause, president-elect Valary Schulz, secretary Mark Gallagher, treasurer Debbie Osborne and past president Marty Hewitt. Incoming officers include Rick Fritz, president-elect; Mark Gallagher, vice president; and Terry O'Hare, secretary. Thanks to each of them for their commitment to DPA, AAPG and our chosen profession.

Councilors

Thirty-seven leaders serve as councilors or alternate councilors in each of the U.S. Sections and global Regions. Currently there are 12 elected councilors in six U.S. Sections, six elected councilors in six global Regions. Councilors give voice to their local geographic areas at the global level. With all eligible councilor spots filled in 2012–13 DPA truly had global representation. Thanks also to Norma Briggs and AAPG headquarters staff.

Committees

DPA has 14 committees. Each of these has had vacancies and turn over in recent years. A substantial effort was made at the beginning of FY2012–2013 to fill every committee with dynamic leaders. As content engines, committees are at the heart of a well functioning DPA.

- Bylaws: New Bylaws change will allow DPA President to appoint YP Advisor
- Board of Certification: New members, streamline process
- Continuing Education: Reserves Course, opportunities for partnerships with best in industry
- Committee on Conventions: Full slate of programs

- Governmental Affairs: GEO-DC Support, Congressional Visits Day
- Honors and Awards: Full Slate
- Long Range Planning: Develop a strategic plan, and update tactical business plan
- Membership: Recruiting AAPG Leaders, email campaign, Web enabled modules
- Nomination: Full Slate
- Publications: (Correlator): High quality quarterly newsletter
- State Registration & Licensing: Watch dog status
- Reserves & Resources: Courses in planning stages for Cartagena ICE and Houston ACE
- Website: Playmaker and GeoDC videos; downloadable publications
- Young Professionals (ad Hoc): YP networking/recruiting, outreach
- Discovery Thinking Forum: This ongoing program is co-sponsored by AAPG 100th Anniversary Committee and DPA. Chaired by Charles Sternbach, co-leaders include Ed Dolly and Paul Weimer. Each year, this popular forum draws 500–800 attendees for talks on significant discoveries (including technical and professional issues) by those who know them well. Currently there are 15,000 Web hits on AAPG Search and Discovery "Discovery Thinking Special Collection."
- New Publications: Back in 2003, Bob Shoup, Deborah Sacrey, Charles Sternbach and Rick Nagy edited the popular DPA publication: "Heritage of the Petroleum Geologist." Available in print from the AAPG store, or as a download on the DPA Web page, HOPG features inspirational stories and advice from 44 industry leaders plus a special address from Michel T. Halbouty. In February 2013 these same editors decided to add 56 more leaders for "HOPG, volume 2" in time to celebrate AAPG's 100th Anniversary in 2017. On March 15th Charles Sternbach invited AAPG Region presidents, AAPG Section presidents, Industry Advisors Committee, and AAPG Foundation Trustees to nominate candidates for the publication. Global participation is especially welcome, and forms are available from Norma Briggs.
- Continuing Education Initiatives: New DPA short courses are being planned for the fall of 2013 in Cartagena and Houston. Bob Shoup and the Education Committee plans one-day "Reserves Forum – Evaluating the Prize", Oct. 31, 2013 City Centre, Houston. The Forum will be followed by One-Day Short Course Friday Nov. 1, SEC Reserves Rules and Unconventional Resources Instructor Dr. John Lee.
- Geoscouts: DPA is considering launching an idea of Rick Fritz (past AAPG executive director). Rick's vision involves mobilizing AAPG's vast library resources and Web links to provide key information to explorers. (You also can see Rick's talk about this exciting future resource on the DPA Web page.)

Programs Expanding Relevancy and Value

- Playmaker Forum (225 attendees, 50 YP's): This inaugural one-day event was held January 24, 2013 at the Norris Conference Center, near Hotel Sorella, Houston. Speakers included 14 of the best oil finders in the business, including keynote speaker Mr. Harold Hamm (CEO Continental Resources). This event has been written up in the *AAPG EXPLORER* (April 2013 issue, page 45). The Forum was organized and moderated by DPA president Charles Sternbach. DPA co-sponsored this program with the AAPG Continuing Education Department. Linda Sternbach produced videos of the talks now posted on the DPA Web page. Thanks to dedicated AAPG HQ staff. Plans are being made for Playmaker 2.0 Jan. 23, 2014 in Houston and also possibly a Playmaker Forum associated with an AAPG Region outside the United States (going global).
- Videos on DPA Web page: Videos posted on the DPA Web page landing site include the Playmaker overview video (Charles Sternbach), The 10-Habits of Highly Successful Oil Finders (Dan Tearpock), Exploration Creativity (Ted Beaumont) and Leveraging Your Career with AAPG/DPA resources (Rick Fritz). Other Playmaker talks also are posted on the DPA Web page for DPA members.

Monthly Leadership Conference Calls

DPA leadership held monthly conference calls (generally on a Thursday, 11:00a.m.). Each call used Webex and Power Point slides to facilitate discussions on various themes. Special invitations were extended to DPA leaders to facilitate conference topics and goals. On April 11, DPA leaders in Barcelona and Kuala Lumpur joined U.S. callers across many time zones for a particularly productive teleconference.

Leadership Visibility And Involvement

During FY 2012–2013 DPA Leaders traveled, presented, or addressed audiences on professional topics at each Section or Region Meeting, ACE or ICE conference more than 22 times around the globe. In particular, leadership connected with hundreds of young professionals at various events and forums to encourage participation in AAPG, and when eligible, DPA.

Communicating the Mission: “Empowering Geologists to Discover Oil and Succeed in Business”

AAPG Explorer Quarterly articles by DPA president and bylines:

- “From Prospect to Discovery Professionalism leads the way” (July 2012)
- “DPA plans Playmaker Forum” (October 2012)
- “Playmaker Debuts this Month” (January 2013)
- “DPA- Riding a Wave of Momentum” (April 2013)

In addition, DPA published four informative issues of the *Correlator*, under the leadership of Chandler Wilhelm as editor. Articles included continuing education, GEO-DC, science, business, and policy issues of the day. The *Houston Chronicle* ran several stories on the January Playmaker forum. In particular, these included an interview with Dan Tearpock on “10 Habits of Highly Successful Oil Finders”, Steve Brachman “How to Market Your Prospect,” and Harold Hamm “My Vision for Energy.” DPA’s Web page posted scientific and professional video. Emails informed members of exciting new programs, inviting prospective members in July and March (10,000).

GEO-DC Office

Edith Allison assumed GEO-DC directorship in September 2012 at the AAPG office in Washington, D.C. Edie writes a monthly Policy Watch column for the *EXPLORER*, organizes forums at ACE and upcoming URTEC conferences, and hosts Congressional Visits Days

(CVD) to advance the Geo-DC Mission, which is to

- Advise government science and energy policy organizations
- Communicate to AAPG information on legislation and regulations
- Equip AAPG members to contribute to the policy-making process, elevate the discussion.

Congressional Visits Day

April 16–18, 2013 DPA members from the states of TX, OK, OH, PA, CA, SC, MD told representatives, senators and congressional staff that AAPG encourages: good science, congressional support of research and development, and an “all of the above” approach to energy. Members of DPA’s Government Affairs Committee Pete MacKenzie, Paul Britt, Jim Hill, AAPG Executive Director David Curtiss, all three AAPG Division presidents Tom Temples and Andrea Reynolds, Norma Briggs (AAPG’s manager of Divisions), Edie Allison and others explained hydraulic fracturing and the economic multiplier effect of new shale plays to congressional staff, DOE and BLM.

Annual Conventions

ACE Pittsburgh May 18, 2013
Congratulations to DPA Awardees: Life Membership, Mike Party; Heritage Award, Harold Hamm; Distinguished Service Award, Chandler Wilhelm and Pete MacKenzie; Certificates of Merit, Bob Shoup and Jeff Brame; Special Award, David Curtiss; and Best Paper, Arild Jorstad for his paper at Singapore ICE. Special thanks to DPA members involved in organizing Pittsburgh ACE 2013: Mike Canich, General Chair, Dan Billman, General Vice Chair and Bob Trevail DPA vice chair. ICE, Singapore, September 16–19, 2012. DPA held a luncheon and hosted or co-hosted six sessions. Special thanks to DPA vice chair, Bob Shoup.

Web Resources

These include download links for the Heritage of the Petroleum Geologist publication, model forms and contracts, career development, news and legislation. You can also download AAPG historical documents. I find the historical volume by Ed Turner 1965 to 1991 particularly informative on events and traditions that shape AAPG today. In particular, I find the chapter on the origin and need to create DPA by George Bole (Past DPA president and past chair HoD) enjoyable and enlightening. It states the “Eight Purposes of DPA” and reasons for forming the Division back in 1968. It includes the quote: “Between the Amateur and Professional... there is difference not only in degree but in kind...” Bernard De Voto

DPA’s hallmark for the past 45 years is “pride in professionalism.” As we plan for the future and DPA’s 50th anniversary, DPA supports AAPG’s strategic plan. DPA is also reinvigorating our own long-range planning committee. I’ve appointed Rick Fritz and Mark Gallagher to chair and co chair this important initiative.

Heartfelt thanks to all DPA councilors, committee members, and officers many of whom are shown at our annual convention in Pittsburgh (below). AAPG leaders, you belong in future photos like this one. DPA seeks the highest caliber councilors, committee chairs, and officers. In my assessment it’s not about the awards we receive, the offices we hold, but what we do while in office and the friends that we make. DPA seeks creative, energetic, doers. As incoming DPA nominations chair, call or email me (carbodude@gmail.com) and let’s get you in the picture.

Charles A. Sternbach, President



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