

DEG Founding Members

Amoroso, John J.
Argen, Ralph J.
Baer, James L.
Bishop, Richard S.
David, Edward K.
Ferns, C. Kipp, Jr.
Fisher, William L.
Fox, Timothy
Gerhard, Lee C.
Gibbs, James A.
Green, Willard R.
Hanson, Bernold M. Bruno
Hartman, James A.

Hass, Eric K.
Jackson, James R., Jr.
Jordan, Robert R.
Kiser, Susan C.
Kohl, Barry
Larré, Gay L. H.
Lewis, Donald W.
Longacre, Susan A.
Meyer, Richard F.
Meyer, Willis G.
Murray, William G.
Petersen, Neil F.

Pyron, Arthur J.
Rollins, Thomas W.
Ross, Carolyn
Shanks, Kathryn A.
Sides, Jerry M.
Strunk, Paul M.
Townes, Harrison L.
Ward, John Robert
Weimer, Robert J.
Wermund, Edmund Gerald, Jr.
Woodfork, Larry D.
Wright, Thomas Lawton

Division of Professional Affairs

For the past several years, the Division has grown from about 10% to 12% of the Association's membership; however, that reflects a gradual decline in AAPG members from about 35,000 to 30,000, while DPA membership has remained steady at about 3,500. Finances also are sound. DPA is a \$160,000 business, running a \$40,000 surplus, with some \$360,000 in reserves. The Division's reserves are invested jointly with the Association, above a required \$25,000 cash operating balance.

The current term began in somewhat of a turmoil. Our president-elect, Rick Fritz, was obliged to resign because he accepted the position of AAPG Executive Director. This required a hurried election to replace him. Despite rigorous adherence to our Bylaws, the special election process was criticized by certain members. Eventually our new president-elect, G. Warfield "Skip" Hobbs, enjoyed general acceptance. Further, the new AAPG administration insisted upon joint management of all three divisions, ending DPA's exclusive management by Norma Newby. Uncertain terms required initial resistance to this plan. By the time of our mid-year meeting, Fritz had offered a clarified plan, and it was approved. So far, it seems to be working, with savings accruing to all divisions.

The contested election stimulated a review of DPA's Bylaws, not restricted to the election process. Ad hoc chairman, Past-President Steve Sonnenberg, has submitted a draft revision. Sonnenberg also is working on a mentor program, as well as developing a new Explorer's Award for AAPG.

The president approved nine AAPG Position Papers. These policy statements were developed by the Governmental Af-

fairs Committee, under chairman Clint Moore. This committee conducted a forum, as is customary now, at the AAPG New Orleans Annual Meeting. It hosted a trip by AAPG dignitaries to the nation's capital to meet with congressmen, and plans similar ventures.

DPA conducted or participated in a large number of technical sections at the New Orleans meeting.

Certification of geophysicists began during this term and continues in satisfactory numbers.

The president represented the Division at all AAPG section meetings but one (Southwest, because of duties related to a Gulf of Mexico OCS Lease Sale) during his year in office. Unfortunately, convalescence from eye surgery precluded his presence at the AAPG Annual Meeting. At most meetings, an exhibit booth and a luncheon promoted DPA.

Robert W. Sabaté, President

Energy Minerals Division

The AAPG Energy Minerals Division has 1,700 members who share interests and experience in the science and technology of energy minerals, including:

- Coalbed Methane
- Coal
- Geothermal
- Oil Sands and Oil Shales
- Nuclear Minerals
- Gas Hydrates
- Remote Sensing
- Energy Economics

The EMD is the center of activity within AAPG in all of these fields. It promotes the exchange of information through professional meetings, publications and other media. In addition, together with the Division of Professional Affairs, the Di-

vision encourages professionalism and professional recognition for energy minerals geologists.

Dues have remained at \$20 per year. Thanks to two successful conventions, the support of the AAPG executive and headquarters, and the careful administration of our treasurer, our finances are healthier than they have been for some years, and new projects can be carefully supported.

EMD's accomplishments this year are

- A full EMD program for the New Orleans Annual Meeting, including nine oral and poster sessions and two short courses. Chacko John was our vice chairman for this event, and our luncheon speaker was Charles G. "Chip" Groat, director of the U.S. Geological Survey and EMD past-president, speaking on USGS strategies for energy minerals.
- The EMD completed its first year as co-sponsor of the journal *Natural Resources Research*, published by Plenum Press under the primary sponsorship of the International Association for Mathematical Geology, an Associated Society of AAPG. Doug Peters is the assistant editor of the journal selected by the EMD, working under Daniel F. Merriam. The cooperative arrangement, for an initial term of three years, will see the EMD contributing editorial and review expertise, as well as writing and soliciting technical papers.
- A second pressing of the *Atlas of Coal Geology CD-ROM* was authorized, and advertised in the *AAPG Explorer*. An earlier publication, *Geology in Coal Resource Utilization*, has now also been brought back in-house and is being offered to EMD members for a special price of \$35.
- A Division lapel pin has been produced to increase identification with the division, and help officers be identified at

conventions. These pins were given to EMD members who came by the joint-Division booth at New Orleans, and can be mailed to members on request. We also have new full-color EMD stickers and other promotional items.

- In conjunction with other presidents of divisions and the new executive director, we worked on improving the relationships of Divisions to AAPG and to headquarters. Substantial progress was made through "Division Summits" at the Annual Meeting and the AAPG Leadership Conference. A coherent policy on publication of Division-sponsored publications is now being worked on.
- Environmental Effects of Coalbed Methane Fracturing: A federal court in Alabama ruled that fracturing of coal beds is covered under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and must be regulated under the Underground Injection Control program. Fracturing has previously been exempted from the injection rules. A group from EMD has worked with the DPA Government Affairs Committee to develop a policy statement which was subsequently approved by the AAPG Executive Committee. EMD Projects now underway are:
- Planning for the Denver 2001 Annual Meeting includes special sessions in coalbed methane and gas resource is-

suces, and the highly successful field trip to the Raton Basin for coalbed methane resources. Tom Fouch is our vice chairman for this event.

- A full EMD representation at the International Meeting in Bali in October, 2000. Ron Grubbs is our vice chairman for this event.

The EMD plans to sponsor an International Full Cycle Symposium to be held in 2001. This conference will provide a complete review of specific energy mineral projects from exploration to reclamation.

- A new publication (or publication set) on coalbed methane is currently in preparation. The centerpiece will be a review of coalbed methane resources, production and potential by basins. Other coalbed methane publications and courses are also planned
- A new publication on the sequence stratigraphy of coal-bearing strata is also in preparation, based on the successful technical session at the New Orleans meeting.
- We are in the process of designing a Map of North American Energy Resources, showcasing energy minerals developments on a continental scale. Work on this map is proceeding in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and other interested parties.

- All members were asked, in the members newsletter, to consider affiliating with an EMD committee. The division will be gathering members' responses and comments and setting up a correspondent structure for Committees. This should increase member involvement and help to supply our future leadership.

The EMD Executive Committee for this year consisted of Thomas E. Ewing, president; Ronald L. Grubbs, president-elect; Andrew Scott, vice-president; Brian Cardott, secretary; and Mike Wiley, treasurer. Sectional councillors comprised Jane McColloch, Eastern; Roger Tyler, Gulf Coast; Sam Friedman, Mid-Continent; Roger Kolvoord, Pacific; Bob Grant, Rocky Mountain; and Rick Richardson, Canada. We were assisted by an able group of Technical Committee chairs, namely: Jack Pashin, Coal; Walt Ayers, Coalbed Methane; Rebecca Dodge, Remote Sensing (replaced by Roger Kolvoord mid-year); Tim Collett, Gas Hydrates; Jeremy Platt, Energy Economics; Dennis Nielson, Geothermal; John Dyni, Oil Shale; Brian Rotenfusser, Oil Sands; and Warren Finch, Nuclear Minerals.

Thomas E. Ewing, President

Reports of the Sections

Eastern Section

The 28th annual meeting of the Eastern Section was held September 18–21, 1999, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The theme for the 234 members attending the meeting, "Peak Performance: Energy, Education and Environment," was reflected in the field trips, workshops, poster sessions and technical sessions presented.

The meeting was co-hosted by the Professional Geologists of Indiana, Center for Earth and Environmental Science, Indiana Geological Society, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Natural Gas and Petroleum Technology. The two field trips included: (a) analogs for reservoirs in the Illinois Basin based in quarry exposures of Devonian carbonates and Mississippian carbonates and (b) karst hydrology and geology in Mississippian carbonates.

Workshops on integrating geology and astronomy, the "Rocks in Your Head" program and the new technology available to both environmental and subsurface studies were offered. Eight technical sessions were presented along with three poster sessions. The annual meeting also had a Deal Room and a full Exhibitor turnout.

Honors and Awards presented at the 1999 Eastern Section meeting included

- John T. Galey Memorial Award: Wallace de Witt Jr.
- I. C. White Memorial Award: Robert C. Milici
- Ralph L. Miller Memorial Best EMD Paper Award: Steven Greb and Gerald Weisenfluh
- DEG Best Paper Award: Christopher Reich, Eugene Shinn, Todd Hickey, Ann Tihansky

- Vincent E. Nelson Memorial Best Poster Award: Christopher Laughrey, Daniel Billman, Michael Canich
 - A. I. Levorsen Memorial Award (best paper): Lawrence Wickstrom, Joshua Stark
 - Presidential Award: Kenneth Dale Owen, Jane Blaffer Owen
 - DEG Meritorious Contribution Award: Peter J. R. Buttner
 - Gordon H. Wood, Jr. Memorial Award: Robert B. Finkleman
 - Outstanding Educator Award: John A. Chamberlain Jr.
 - George V. Cohee Public Service Award: William S. Condit
 - Distinguished Service Award: David C. Harris
 - Honorary Membership Award: Douglas Patchen, William Murray
- Officers elected at the meeting for fiscal year 1999–2000 were Katharine Lee