

State Registrations and Licensing Committee

The “grandfathering” phase for Texas State Licensing began on October 31, 2002, and will continue through August 31, 2003. Geologists involved with petroleum exploration and development for private industry are exempt. However, if the work involves the state of Texas or any subdivision of the state, you might be required to obtain a license to practice. Also, Utah began its “grandfathering” in September 2002 and will end on January 1, 2004.

Rick Ericksen, committee chair, continues his effort in assisting state legislators in improvising their rules and procedures for registration, and also represents us at the Association of State Boards of Geology, which develops licensure examinations for state agencies. We are currently negotiating with the Canadian Security Administrators to allow members of DPA to be included as “Qualified Evaluators” in their newly proposed guidelines.

Honors and Awards Committee

One of DPA’s highlight events each year is the annual awards banquet, and this year at Salt Lake City, May 10, 2003, was no exception. The committee was composed of George Bole, chairman, Pat Gratton, and Royce Carr who honored the following members: Bob Cowdery, Life Membership Award; Robert Sabaté and Howard Kiatta (not present), Distinguished Service Award; Jack West, Certificate of Merit; and John Howell III, Best Paper Award 2002 for his paper “Implementing Portfolio Management: Integrating Tools, Processes and People.”

DPA Annual Meeting

DPA was, once again, very actively and professionally involved in the annual meeting. Jason Blake, DPA vice chair, and his committee did an excellent job in coordinating our sponsorship or co-sponsorship of a well-planned program, which included two timely forums, one technical session, three continuing education courses, and the well-attended DPA luncheon where 250+ attendees heard an excellent talk.

DPA Council

President-elect Bob Shoup was responsible for securing nominees to stand for election as Councilors for a three-year term, 2003–2006. The following members were successfully elected to the Council.

- Eastern Section: Michael R. Canich Jr.
- Rocky Mountain Section: Marvin D. Brittenham and David Abbott Jr.
- Pacific Section: John M. Armentrout

Publication Committee

With the June issue of the *Correlator*, our Publications Committee chair and *Correlator* editor, David Abbott Jr., successfully completed his fifth edition during the past year. Unfortunately for us, David is becoming very involved with the American Institute of Professional Geologists and must resign as editor of the *Correlator*. On behalf of the Executive Committee and Councilors, I commend and thank David for his effort and successful dedication to this very important communicative venue. Robert W. Sabaté has agreed to assume editorial duties.

One of the highlights this year was to furnish each member of DPA a gratis copy of the special publication *Heritage of the Petroleum Geologist*. This excellent publication was a follow-up to the theme of the DPA luncheon held at the 2002 Annual Meeting in Houston, in which Bob Shoup was DPA vice chair. This is a tremendous contribution by co-editors Robert C. Shoup, Deborah K. Sacrey, Charles A. Sternbach, and Richard L. Nagy. Congratulations and thank you for your innovative dedication.

Bylaws Committee

Having now operated for approximately one year governed by a new set of bylaws, the Council has approved several amendments that will benefit and improve our operations.

The Committee, chaired by Bob Shoup, recommended changes regarding the Councilors’ terms and replacement of vacancies; officer duties and replacement of vacancies; assurance that the presidents of EMD and DEG, or their appointed representatives, shall be standing members of the Governmental Affairs Committee; and defining the Convention and Membership committees and making them standing committees of DPA.

Highlights

- Published *Heritage of the Petroleum Geologist*.
- Published five editions of the *Correlator*.
- Published “Atlantic OCS Resources,” position paper (GAC).
- Currently developing “Coalbed Methane Produced Water: Problems and Solutions,” position paper (GAC).
- Formed the ad hoc Ethics Education Committee.
- Formed the ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee, George Bole, chair.
- Established the Membership Committee as a DPA standing committee.

- Established the Convention Committee as a DPA standing committee.
- Completed an online Membership Directory as approved by the 2001–2002 Council.
- Established that EMD and DEG presidents or their appointed representatives shall become standing members of the Governmental Affairs Committee.
- Sponsored the underwriting of the all-convention luncheon at the International Conference to be held in Barcelona, Spain.
- Assisted AAPG president Dan Smith in forming an AAPG ad hoc Joint Divisions International Coordination Committee for the purpose of increasing the Division’s presence at international conferences and technical meetings. Robert G. Font will represent DPA and chair the committee, which includes Rebecca L. Dodge (EMD) and Steven L. Veal (DEG).

I certainly appreciate the opportunity to have served the DPA membership and have enjoyed working with all of you this year. My hope is that we have fulfilled our goal to grow in professionalism and to provide more benefits to the membership. I want to thank the Council for your professional and cooperative spirit and Norma Newby for her reliable assistance. Finally, I can assure you that our incoming president, Bob Shoup, and the Council will continue the effort to increase services that are beneficial to our membership.

Tom Mairs, DPA President

Energy Minerals Division

The Energy Minerals Division (EMD) has had an active year. Sectional meetings in particular have successfully showcased both EMD commodities and technology tools—each section meeting since July has had both poster and oral presentations on sectional commodities and on geospatial technologies. Perhaps more valuable have been communication links established among EMD, DEG, and DPA, with the help and support of AAPG headquarters.

Several outcomes of cooperative activities include the following:

- Formation of a joint committee among DPA, DEG, and EMD in a concentrated effort to improve our presence and to coordinate division functions at international meetings.
- Revision of the Bylaws of the DPA to state that the DPA Governmental Affairs Committee will now contain a

DEG and EMD representative—either the current president or their designate.

- Appointment of co-chairs representing DEG and EMD to the DPA committee that will develop the “Coal Bed Methane Produced Water: Problems and Solutions” position paper.
- Formation of a working committee between DEG and EMD to solicit input concerning a publication on “Geologic Sequestration of CO₂.” Initial response to solicitation of input has been very positive concerning the need and interest in such a publication. Each division has designated committee members.

EMD currently has three other publication efforts under way:

- Jack Pashin and Robert Gestaldo are editing *Sequence Stratigraphy, Paleoclimate, and Tectonics of Coal-Bearing Strata*. All manuscripts have been revised, and Pashin is currently copyediting the volume for submission to the AAPG Publications Department in June.
- EMD’s “Unconventional Energy Resources of North America” poster is available for purchase. As a follow-up and extension, EMD’s Laura Wray is working to create a companion CD-ROM that provides basic information on the geologic settings, economic resources, discovery and extraction techniques, environmental considerations, and scientific

applications associated with EMD commodities and technologies.

- Alexander Papp is working to produce a second edition of EMD’s *Atlas of Coal Geology*, and is in the process of canvassing the academic community and coal utilization industries on an international basis for contributors, writers, and sponsorship.

EMD also has highlighted our co-sponsorship of the *Natural Resource Research Journal* in our recent *Explorer* column. The *NRR Journal* of the International Association for Mathematical Geology publishes original articles, reviews, and correspondence on all aspects of mineral and energy exploration, resource assessment, and the economics of resource supply, recovery, restoration, and conservation. EMD special issues are in the works.

The EMD fall meeting approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore ways to better communicate with our representatives on AAPG standing and ad hoc committees, in a way that will enhance EMD’s capabilities to serve the needs of our members and to promote membership in EMD. EMD has more than 100 members on AAPG committees. Of the 30 standing committees, we are represented on 28; EMD members chair 11 of these committees. Of the eight ad hoc committees, EMD has representation on five; EMD members chair three.

The fall meeting also resulted in approval of efforts to increase awareness of EMD among our international membership. EMD will begin efforts to find our own representatives within the international regions who can promote EMD offerings at international conferences—poster and oral sessions, field trips, short courses, etc.

EMD’s offerings at this AAPG 2003 annual meeting included eight sponsored and co-sponsored technical sessions, one field trip, and one short course. Planning is already under way for the AAPG 2004 meeting in Dallas, and discussions are under way for sponsoring EMD’s first national-level “Full Cycle Symposium” at the 2005 meeting in Calgary. The Full Cycle Symposium concept will target an Energy Minerals or Petroleum “play” and cover the full cycle, from play analysis, through exploration to development, to depletion and reclamation, and will include technology and energy economics coverage. EMD hopes to promote a sustainable series of such symposia at sectional, annual, and AAPG international meetings, at which presenters could cover a common theme within a flexible venue, i.e., a combination of oral and poster sessions, perhaps with targeted exhibits.

EMD looks forward to continued cooperation among sections, regions, divisions, and headquarters, with a focus on offering more to our members.

Rebecca L. Dodge, President

Reports of the Sections

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

With the very welcome addition of the Asociación Mexicana de Geólogos Petroleros in 2001, 13 geological societies now comprise the membership of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS). Each year the Association’s annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Section—SEPM, attracts the largest attendance among all AAPG section meetings. In 2002 the convention was held in Austin, Texas.

Attendance at the 2002 Austin convention exceeded 1400, and the event returned in excess of \$30,000 profit for the host, Austin Geological

Society and sponsor GCAGS. Doug Ratcliff was a superb general chairman and Scott Tinker assembled a truly outstanding technical program, with more than 110 oral papers, 30 posters, and 11 invited symposium panelists. The annual *Transactions* editors were Shirley Dutton, Steve Ruppel, and Tucker Hentz. For the first time, the official *Transactions* were delivered only on CD, with paper copy unavailable except via special order. The *Transactions* contains more than 1100 pages, not counting material pertaining to organizational and honors/awards materials. The *Transactions* were dedicated to Birdena Schroeder and Robert Boyer.

William L. Fisher received the prestigious Don R. Boyd Medal for

Excellence in Gulf Coast Geology. The GCAGS Distinguished Service Award was presented to Richard A. Edmund, Mark J. Gallagher, Robert J. Ingram, Douglas C. Ratcliff, Charles C. Smith, and Johnnie P. Wanger. Charles J. Corona and Robert W. Sabate were named Honorary Members; Judith A. Schiebout and Barun K. Sen Gupta were named Outstanding Educators; and Jamie Scott was recognized as the GCAGS Outstanding Science Teacher.

Awards for the best papers and posters given at the 2001 convention held in Shreveport were presented to the following at the Austin meeting: Kevin B. Hill; Robert G. Loucks; Asif Muzaffar, J. Richard Kyle, and Bruno Vendeville; Steven P. Tischer, Daniel R. Womochel,