

DEG Vice President Mary K. Harris attended the AAPG Geo-CVD (Congressional Visits Day) held in Washington, D.C. in October 2008 and May 2009. The purpose of the Geo-CVD Days is to give AAPG members and opportunity to visit with policy makers and their staff on issues that affects geosciences nationwide.

The May 2009 visit focused on three main issues: (1) Future Workforce Needs of the Oil and Gas Industry, (2) Developing Oil and Gas on U.S. Public Lands, and (3) Research and Development Needs of the Domestic Petroleum Industry in the 21st Century.

As of June 1, 2009, DEG membership was 1,204, a 9% decrease from the previous year. Of the 1,204, 1,064 paid dues for 2009–2010 as of June 1, 2009. FY 2008-2009 began with a fund balance of \$42,794, reflecting a \$824 net loss in the previous 4Q. The statement of income, expense, and change in fund balance as reported by the AAPG Accounting Department indicated a \$32,547 net addition to the fund balance for 1Q, a decrease in the net addition of \$8,931 for 2Q, and a \$30,101 net addition to the fund for 3Q bringing the fund balance to \$96,511. Accounting information for the 4Q is currently unavailable. Net gains resulted from receipt of royalty checks from the contracted abstracting services for the journal, EG subscriptions and sales to non-DEG members. DEG also earned a net profit of \$5,939.56 from the 2008 ACE held in San Antonio, TX. The DEG Executive Committee voted to approve a DEG/EG dues split with 45% of an active member's dues going to support EG production costs beginning in July 2009. The Executive Committee also voted to keep EG as a paper publication for at least the next fiscal year.

**Rebecca Dodge, President**

## Energy Minerals Division

The members of the Energy Minerals Division (EMD) strive to be the premier source for information and professional development in twelve different commodity areas: coal, coalbed methane, energy economics and technology, gas hydrates, gas shales, geospatial information, geothermal energy, oil (tar) sands, oil shales, renewable energy, tight sands, and nuclear minerals. Basic information on these technical fields can be accessed by all AAPG members at the EMD website (<http://emd.aapg.org/>) and much more detailed information can be accessed by EMD members.

### Achievements

EMD's achievements this past year were numerous, including a strong program at the Denver convention and other AAPG meetings, progress on numerous publications, sponsorship of an external mudrocks conference, and the addition of tight sand and renewable energy committees.

At the Denver Convention, EMD sponsored 18 technical sessions, 5 field trips, 5 short courses and a very popular luncheon focused on extra-terrestrial sources of hydrocarbons. A big push was also made to sign-up students, resulting in about 85 new members. At the international meeting in Cape Town, an "EMD Day" was held that included about 30 talks and posters followed by an EMD reception. EMD was also well represented at the various section meetings through the outstanding work of our EMD councilors in assembling technical sessions and related activities.

Several EMD sponsored or co-sponsored publications are nearing completion including:

1. "Carbon Dioxide Sequestration in Geological Media—State of the Art," and
2. "Gas Hydrates: Energy Resource Potential and Associated Geologic Hazards."

Work is also continuing on a second edition of the "Atlas of Coal Geology" and the USGS has asked us to publish their recent "Gulf Coast Coal Assessment." EMD is also supporting two new publications that were kicked-off this year entitled "Hydrocarbons from Shale" and "Energy Resources for Human Settlement In The Solar System and Earth's Future in Space." EMD committee chairs also submitted summaries of their energy commodity reports for publication in the scientific quarterly journal "Natural Resources Research."

In February, a mudrocks conference was held that was co-sponsored by EMD and the Houston Geological Society. Approximately 400 people attended resulting in a profit to EMD of about \$78,000. A similar conference is being planned for February 2010. A Tight Sand Committee was added given the desire by members to learn more about these subjects to compliment the existing Gas Shales and Coalbed Methane Committees. A Renewable-Energy Committee was also added as a joint committee with the Division of Environmental Geology

(DEG) to provide information regarding wind, solar, biofuels, hydropower, etc. to AAPG members.

### Recommendations

EMD activity has increased substantially over the past five years as we have added councilors for each of the regions, enlarged our role at multiple AAPG meetings, expanded our website offerings, and begun to sponsor external conferences. The EMD Executive Committee has responded by initiating monthly conference calls this past year to more effectively coordinate the business of the Division. However, to get things done more efficiently, additional administrative assistance is needed in Tulsa.

In response, EMD has proposed adding a full-time administrator. This represents a significant change over the current structure whereby a single administrator is responsible for all three Divisions (EMD, DEG, and DPA). We believe this will help us to be much more effective as we further expand our activities to include participation in Geoscience Technology Workshops (GTW's), external events with affiliated and sister societies (such as SEG and SPE), and region activities tied to the global expansion of AAPG.

EMD currently has a healthy bank balance (\$270,000) that can be used in the short-term to fund the proposed position. In the long-term, the intention is for this position to become self-funded through the profits generated from various EMD-sponsored events. This is necessary because EMD's other income (from dues, publications, and bank interest) does not fully support our anticipated needs.

At the end of the fiscal year, EMD had approximately 1,366 members, which represent less than 5% of the AAPG membership. This number has remained fairly constant over the past 5 years despite the booming industry activity in unconventional gas and considerable effort by the EMD leadership to attract new members. The inability to increase membership is tied to several factors including the annual \$20 dues payment and the lack of recognition as to what EMD offers.

Various ways to increase membership are being explored and include dropping the dues requirement, changing the name of EMD to better reflect its emphasis on unconventional energy sources, and merging with the DEG given that so many energy minerals activities are closely tied to environmental

issues. Although these represent significant changes to the structure of EMD, the overall goal remains the same—to become an indispensable source of information to AAPG members about the various types of energy that are available other than conventional oil and gas. EMD is fully committed to working with its members, the other Divisions, and AAPG to achieve this goal.

#### **Creties Jenkins, EMD President**

## **Division of Professional Affairs**

The Division of Professional Affairs (DPA) is the community within AAPG that focuses on the professional practice of energy resource geoscience, and upholds the AAPG Code of Ethics. Its mainstay is the certification of petroleum geologists, geophysicists, and coal geologists.

The DPA community consists of geoscientists who are committed to standards of competence, to ethical behavior, and to professionalism. Those commitments are furthered and verified through its certification program. Domestically, the DPA is the only organization that specifically certifies the educational background, work experience, and ethical standards for those whose professional practice lies within the petroleum industry.

DPA members actively inform themselves and all AAPG members about the externalities that impact our profession, in particular government legislation and regulatory policy. They represent their profession in engaging with lawmakers and regulators regarding matters of professional practices and professional concern.

## **Membership and Internal Affairs**

The DPA is the largest of the three AAPG divisions with approximately 3,000 members. During the 2008–2009 time frame the Division, in its efforts to secure new members, instituted Town Hall meetings through the initiative of its Membership Committee chaired by Mike Party. The first of these Town Hall meetings was held in Midland, Texas with the main event consisting of an excellent presentation by David Curtiss, Director of the AAPG's GEO-DC office. This first meeting was deemed very successful and as a result more are planned to be offered during the upcoming year.

Also, the Division implemented a new membership level of "Board Certified" in

the recent past. This higher level of certification requires continuing education. In conjunction with this addition, the Division has also implemented a web-based tracking system for use by its members to keep track of the number of PDHs or CEUs and other related relevant information needed for reporting same.

The Division also implemented and released during the time frame of this annual report the first of a series of online ethics courses. This represents a growing list of value-added services that are being made available to DPA members for little or no cost. The Division feels that this membership service, and other core services made available to DPA members, will not only benefit its members but also others, for example non-DPA, AAPG professionals. In that vein, several state boards of licensure/registration, as well as the Division's "Board Certified" designation that was previously mentioned, have mandatory continuing education requirements that include a minimum of 1.0 Professional Development Hours in ethics, annually. Online ethics courses are free for those who are DPA members and for all others there are modest fees (much less than attending a real-time business meeting and presentation when considering perhaps a luncheon, its cost, its availability, time spent traveling to the luncheon and associated costs, etc.).

Additionally the DPA continues its affiliation with the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG), the group that has developed, maintains and updates the examinations that determine whether a geologist is minimally qualified to publicly practice geology in 29 U.S. states and one U.S. territory (Puerto Rico)—all of which have state/jurisdictional licensure/registration authority governing those geologists who publicly practice geology.

Further, the DPA continues to interact with other professional and certifying organizations (SIPES and AIPG) on mutual projects. We are in the process of updating and developing new model contracts for use by geoscientists in the course of their professional practice.

The first business plan of the Division was compiled by then Division President Tom Ewing and vetted through the DPA Council. During this reporting period, that Business Plan was reviewed and maintained with some minor revisions.

The Division's Executive Committee also initiated monthly telephone conference calls to promote continuity within the Division of its ongoing projects and in turn each member of the EC

initiated telephone calls to committee chairs to ensure that progress was being made on the activities of each. It is anticipated that these conference calls will continue in the future.

Lastly, the Division also made available to its membership a legislative tracking service that monitors state and federal legislation that may have the potential of impacting their professional practice of geology in the U.S. This legislative tracking service, tied with the GEO-DC office, has been an invaluable tool to keep abreast of legislation on all levels and provides timely reports updated every 24 hours to the geoscientist professional so s/he may contact their respective lawmakers to express support or non-support of legislation that may impact their livelihoods.

## **Government Affairs**

The Division, through its Government Affairs Committee (Carl Smith, chair) has remained very active in numerous related areas. Carl and his committee have maintained a very active role with participation in the continuing successful development of the Geoscience and Energy Office in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the AAPG Governing Board of GEO-DC. DPA's financial support, sponsorship and participation in this office continues to be a major commitment provided through the DPA Council.

The revised AAPG Statements that guide all our efforts in government affairs are in place along with new position statements that are continually being conceived and developed. As noted in the immediate, previous annual report of this Division, there now exists a procedure in the development of new position statements as well as a procedure to regularly review and update these statements.

The DPA continues to successfully participate in the Congressional Visits Days (CVDs) the last one being held in mid-May of 2009. The Washington Advocacy Group (Deborah Sacrey, chair) continues to work with the GEO-DC office and has fielded a record number of dedicated professionals to interface with our elected representatives and their staff. Plans are under way to participate in a "Geo-CVD" this fall.

The DPA has also been represented with a booth at the National Conference of State Legislators, held in New Orleans in August 2008. This was the second time we had a presence "on our own" at