

7. Continuing education culture – DPA offers Professional Development Hours (PDHs) through short courses usually held at the AAPG annual meeting or at Section/Region meeting. Examples of DPA short courses are Black Belt Ethics and Geosteering.

6. Conferences culture – DPA is providing new opportunities for professional development in the form of the Playmaker conferences. The primary purpose of Playmaker forums is to bring leaders from industry to present their ideas, successes and even failures in developing new plays. A secondary purpose of Playmaker is to provide training for professionals in prospect generation and presentations.

5. Career development culture – a key purpose of DPA is to provide mentors to help guide professionals in their careers. Support is provided by a community of top professionals with knowledge and opportunities for development. This is a great area for young professionals to plug into DPA.

4. Networking culture – one of the most important aspects of DPA is the opportunity to make and build business contacts. Many DPA members are active explorers and we have a heritage of success in business.

3. Ethics culture – Professional values are an important aspect of DPA certification and it is important for DPA to promote a “gold standard” for ethics within our industry. The DPA offers short courses and online training for ethics.

2. Certification culture – the original purpose of DPA was certification for petroleum professionals. Unlike government certification DPA provides peer certification. This is an important distinction. Whereas government certification is primarily for control

and taxation of professionals, DPA exists to support and promote its members.

1. Leadership! All of the above is about leadership. Since DPA was formed many of AAPG past presidents were DPA members. Many of AAPG’s leadership positions are held by DPA members.

Energy Minerals Division

The purpose of Energy Mineral Division (EMD) is to advance the science of geology as it relates to unconventional energy and alternative energy resources.

Unconventional Resources Group

Coalbed Methane
Gas Hydrates
Tight Gas Sands
Shale Gas & Liquids
Bitumen & Heavy Oil (Oil Sands)
Oil Shale

Alternative Resources Group

Coal
Uranium (Nuclear Minerals and Rare Earth Elements)
Geothermal Energy
Supporting Committees
Energy Economics & Technology
Publications

We are arranged in two groups and two supporting committees:

During the past year, EMD has experienced a downturn in membership of approximately 16.6% of the previous year’s paid membership. Most of the decrease was seen in the student and young professionals (–448, or –8.93%), with a less decline in associate (–197, or –3.92%) and Active (–184, or –3.66%) members. One identified hindrance has been that the EMD website’s home pages have not been updated, although we hope that these revisions will be forthcoming in the new fiscal year. This is a vital part of our division – and is the one doorway that all the technical information on “Unconventional Energy Resources” is made available to the world – (one through the public and one for EMD members only, <http://emd.aapg.org>). Another issue, which has been raised a number of times, is the proposal to change the division name to truly reflect the types of commodities we are dealing with – the unconventional energy and alternative energy resources.

Achievements

The EMD co-hosted a very successful symposium on oil sands and heavy oil with the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, the AAPG Canada Region and the AAPG (with a net profit to AAPG of approximately \$40,000). Over 300 people attended and participated in this event, which was held October 2014, in Calgary, Canada. The title of the symposium was “Oil Sands & Heavy Oil Symposium: A Local to Global Multidisciplinary Collaboration,” and it covered the whole gamut of world-resource/reserves, reservoir characterization and development, new technologies, environmental

concerns, social licence, and aboriginal liaisons. Representatives of AAPG EMD have attended and participated in URTeC; the Eastern Section AAPG 42nd annual meeting; the Bakken/Three Forks Geoscience Technology Workshop; and the AAPG ICE in Australia and the AAPG ACE in Denver.

EMD is continually looking for new AAPG publications to help sponsor, if needed. Requests for financial assistance can be made to the EMD by sending a letter to the president or vice-president, who will bring it to the EMD EC for consideration. At present, we are not supporting any technical publications on these topics for AAPG.

The Denver ACE was a major success, with large support from EMD. EMD hosted one field trip, one short course and a large number of sessions (both poster and oral) at the convention. Fran Hein, president of EMD, presented the EMD luncheon talk, “Oil Sands: Big Challenges, Big Rewards.” Initial planning is under way for the Calgary ACE in 2016, with EMD co-chair Sharleen Overland assigned to the planning committee.

The Future

EMD is planning to reach out to all AAPG members and make them aware of our existence through email blasts, website postings, and next year through social media, such as LinkedIn accounts. We hope that by engaging people at all levels and through all media we will continue to grow as a vital division that is building our unconventional energy strategy today and into the future.

Frances J. Hein, President