

EMD President's 2015 Mid-Year Report
Bob Trevail

AAPG Section Meetings

Eastern Section - September 20–22 - Indianapolis, IN

Bob Trevail attended the meeting on behalf of EMD hosted by the Professional Geologists of Indiana, Inc. (PGI) and gave a few brief remarks during the Awards/Plenary Session as well as at the House of Delegates breakfast meeting. The theme of this year's meeting was 'Crossroads of the East', and represented a central location between the Illinois, Michigan and Appalachian basins. Attendance totaled 309 including professional, guests, students (78) and volunteers which was good considering the current industry conditions. Prior to the meeting, the section hosted a very successful Student Expo with 40 students from 17 universities around the Eastern Section take part in the event.

EMD awards presented during the Honors and Awards ceremony included the following:
Gordon H. Wood, Jr. Memorial Award - Terry Engelder, Pennsylvania State University
Ralph L. Miller Best EMD Paper Award - Taury Smith, Smith Stratigraphic, LLC

GCAGS Section - September 20–22 - Houston, TX

Art Johnson attended the GCAGS meeting on behalf of EMD. It was held with the AAPG student expo starting as GCAGS ended so a lot of students attended both. Approximately 80 students presented posters at GCAGS (Art was one of the judges). In addition to the HoD breakfast there was a Student/YP 'Meet and Greet' that Art attended, encouraging participation in local societies and reminding everyone that EMD membership is free. GCAGS had about 1200 in attendance which was more than they had expected as preregistration had been down. All in all, it was a good meeting with oral and poster sessions, field trips, and short courses well attended.

Mid-Continent Section - October 4–6 - Tulsa, OK

Bob Trevail attended the meeting on behalf of EMD and presented a few brief remarks during the Opening Session and Awards Ceremony outlining some of the benefits of EMD membership and noting that membership is free. The technical program topics were wide ranging and the talks I attended were for the most part well presented and informative. The overall atmosphere was more upbeat than that of the Eastern Section meeting. I suspect this may be due the wide variety of plays available to the smaller companies and independents in the Mid-Continent Section area.

Geosciences Congressional Visits Day - September 29–30 - Washington, DC

Bob Trevail participated in the AGI sponsored Geosciences Congressional Visits Day (Geo-CVD) as part of the AAPG contingent. The goal of Geo-CVD was to send the message that strong and sustained federal investments in geosciences will:

- Support resilient communities
- Strengthen our global and economic competitiveness
- Enhance national security
- Sustain a highly skilled workforce

Geo-CVD is typically split into two days. The first day consists of an orientation and Communicating with Congress workshop. We had an opportunity to meet with policy staff from the participating geoscience societies as well as hearing from a panel of Congressional policy staff members. On the second day we were split up geographically and spent time visiting representatives from our local area. My group of four met with representatives of four Pennsylvania Congressmen (Cartwright, Rothfus, Murphy and Thompson), both of Pennsylvania's Senators (Toomey and Casey) and one West Virginia Senator (Manchin). I took the opportunity to provide background on EMD and indicated that EMD members are a valuable resource to be contacted for information related to EMD's many technical committees.

AAPG Mid-Year Business Meeting - October 23–25, 2015 – Houston, TX

AAPG 34th Annual Mid-Year Business Meetings were held October 23–25, 2015 in Houston. EMD, DEG and DPA Leadership was invited. DPA and the HoD held their mid-year meetings while EMD held an Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, October 24. This change was suggested by AAPG President John Hogg as a way to reduce costs incurred from holding individual Division meetings. This meeting also replaced AAPG Leadership Days typically held in August.

Bob Trevail attended the AAPG Advisory Council meeting as EMD's representative. The meeting dealt primarily with a review of the Honors & Awards to be presented at the ACE 2016 meeting in Calgary, AB next June.

Bob Shoup, Chairman of the House of Delegates (HoD), provided an update on revisions of the AAPG bylaws. HoD leadership is taking a multi-step approach to the revision process, the first being AAPG's parliamentarian, Colette Collier Trohan, rewriting the bylaws in plain English ensuring that there are no significant changes in their content. The draft will go to the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Procedures committees for review. It is intended to present the simplified bylaws to the entire HoD at the ACE 2016 in Calgary. If approved, HoD leadership will undertake the next step of reviewing the bylaws and separating out governance from procedural items. This latter process is expected to take a number of years to pass through the HoD. Any changes in AAPG Bylaws would most likely affect the revision of EMD's Bylaws, so it may be best to wait until we see which way the HoD is going with its bylaw revisions before commencing on our revision.

Lee Krystinik gave a 45 minute presentation summarizing the results of AAPG's Governance Review Ad Hoc Committee which was set up to review governance within AAPG. The committee comprises three members each from the House of Delegates (HoD), the Advisory Council (AC) and the Executive Committee. The tasks of the ad hoc committee include:

- Review governance in AAPG and compare to other learned societies.
- Determine best practices in governance and how they might best apply to AAPG.
- Place governance within the context of AAPG moving forward as an organization that serves our members' needs, thrives as a business and best supports our mission into our next century.
- Make recommendations for potential changes in governance and suggest implementation, if required.

The committee's recommendations are scheduled to be released in December via articles in the AAPG Explorer and on the AAPG website.

During the EMD Executive Committee conference call on Saturday, October 24, John Hogg, AAPG President gave a short presentation encouraging AAPG's Divisions to consider implementing Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Technical Interest Groups (TIGs) in the future. The goal is to allow for more flexibility, less bureaucracy and lower associated costs in delivering information to AAPG members. AAPG will build the back-end (website, etc) to support the SIGs and TIGs. I am preparing a proposal to establish an ad hoc committee to investigate whether or not it would be advantageous for EMD to establish TIGs related to its various committees, possibly to replace the current Observation Committees and open membership to both AAPG and non-AAPG members alike.