

Report from the House of Delegates *ad hoc* Committee on Section and Region Representation

David R. Cook and Bill Houston

Upon taking the Chair of the House, John Kaldi formed an *ad hoc* committee to investigate the suitability of the current procedure for representation in the House.

The committee comprised: Co-Chairs Bill Houston (Asia-Pacific) and Dave Cook (Europe), Herman Darman (Asia-Pacific), Jeff Lund (Gulf Coast), Tara Benda (Southwest), Peter Bucknam (Rocky Mountain), John Hogg (Canada) Lee Avery (Eastern), Kurt Bayer (Latin America and Caribbean) and Nosa Omorodian (Africa).

Delegates are elected from the Sections and Regions by different methods. Delegates from the Sections are allocated to Affiliated Societies within each Section. Each Affiliated Society has at least one delegate and is allocated one additional delegate for each 70 AAPG Members who are members of the society. Region delegates are allocated according to the number of Members in each Region, providing that there are at least the same number of delegates as the number of Affiliated Societies in each Region.

In reviewing the current situation, the *ad hoc* committee observed:

- In general, Affiliated Societies have little interest in the governance of AAPG and most have few AAPG members.
- The Affiliated Society committee and AAPG staff spend an inordinate amount of time establishing contact with Affiliated Societies in order to maintain their representation.
- Providing at least one delegate for each Affiliated Society causes over representation in the House.

The options before the committee were:

1. Elimination of the Affiliated Society model and allocating delegates by the number of AAPG Members in each Section and Region (currently one delegate per seventy Members or larger proportion thereof).
2. Adoption of the Section model within the Regions, i.e., tying the number of delegates to Members who are also members of Affiliated Societies.
3. Retention of the status quo.

The committee deemed Option 2 unfeasible because many members in the Regions are not members of Affiliated Societies. The committee consensus was that Option 1 should be recommended to the Constitution and By-Laws and Rules and Procedures Committees for review and proposal to the Executive Committee. The committee supported this option because all Sections and

Regions would elect delegates in the same manner and would be represented equally with one delegate per seventy members.

If implemented, the impact on the House would be as follows:

- A 15.5% reduction in the size of the House from 187 to 158 delegates.
- The Gulf Coast Section would be the only Section or Region that is unaffected by this change.
- The Southwest and Rocky Mountain Sections would be the Sections most affected by the change, with a loss of three delegates each and an aggregate loss by the Sections of eleven.
- Europe and Latin America & Caribbean Regions would be most affected by the change, with a loss of six delegates each and an aggregate loss by the Regions of eighteen.

The committee believes that basing the membership of the House on the Membership of the AAPG, rather than the number of its Affiliated Societies, will create a body that is truly representative of the organization and reduce the administration associated with the election process. If adopted by the house, this change would become effective in January 2021 and could be implemented by natural attrition by 2024.