

Notes from the Advisory Council Corner

This is a belated, and final Notes from the Advisory Council Corner to be written by me to keep you advised on the activities of the Advisory Council. My congratulations to Larry Wickstrom for the Ohio Division of Geological Survey for winning the recent election to represent the Eastern Section from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2004. I have worked with Larry for many years on research projects of the Appalachian Oil and Natural Gas Research Consortium and for the Eastern Section of AAPG and I am fully confident that he will be an effective champion for the Eastern Section.

The Advisory Council held their final two meetings of the year June 1 and June 4 in Denver in conjunction with the AAPG national convention. We had a very full day on Friday, as a variety of AC business items were addressed even before we got around to the 10-point member retention plan that was to be the main item of business. June 4 was a little lighter, with photos and awards for the graduating class and a chance to say our goodbyes after a short business breakfast.

Honors and Awards Committee to Meet in August

Larry's first official meeting will be a meeting of the Honors & Awards Committee in mid-August in Santa Fe. Not a bad place, or way, to start. I always found the H&A Committee meetings to be the most rewarding of any meeting during the year. Hopefully, many of you nominated deserving candidates from the Eastern Section prior to the June 1 deadline.

Member Retention Plan

Councillor Clint Moore from the Gulf Coast Section had written a 10-point plan for the AC to consider as a potential Member Retention Plan. In February, each of us was assigned to one or more of the 10 points, and charged to more fully develop a plan for discussion in June. Much of the meeting June 1 was devoted to this plan.

A motion was passed to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee of the AC to review the scope and content of the **Bulletin, Search & Discovery and the Explorer**, and provide recommendations back to the AC. This committee probably has been appointed since my term ended.

Peter Lloyd and I submitted our plan to **reduce the cost of AAPG short courses and workshops** by encouraging partnering with sections, societies and organizations like the PTTC who are willing to underwrite some of the cost and do much of the promotional and set up work. The AC asked for an executive summary, because our report was quite lengthy, so one was added and the plan was re-submitted for further AC review. Hopefully the plan will be approved by the current AC and submitted to the Executive Committee for action.

The AC endorsed Don Lewis' recommendation that AAPG **support AGI's National Geologic Data Repository System** and submit it to the EC. In other areas of the country

consultants rely heavily on public core and sample repositories in the normal course of their business, and a better system is critical to them.

The AC also agreed to send to the EC a report by Clint Moore that recommended that AAPG develop a **ACareer Skill & Experience Registry and Professional Consultants Marketing System.**[@] Such a database, if it is developed, could be used to hire consultants or company employees.

The AC agreed with the recommendation of Skip Hobbs not to support an AAPG **Government Affairs Office in Washington, DC**, but instead to recommend to the EC that they consider funding a full-time person at AGI to focus on energy matters. This support would be in addition to our current level of support to AGI.

The AC also agreed to encourage the EC to find ways to assist the **Mid-Career Training Centers**, specifically with their marketing efforts and in maintaining their equipment.

A report was prepared and submitted by G. Eynon and D. Bishop in which they did not recommend lowering **convention fees**. The report concluded that the registration fee is not the determining factor in whether or not a member attends a national convention. Instead, hotel costs and airline ticket prices are much more important factors.

The AC endorsed the concept of an **All-Member Survey**, and new President Robbie Gries already has moved forward on this idea by appointing a committee to produce such a survey form. The AC strongly feels that we need to know why members choose not to renew their membership before we can correct some of the problems, whether real or perceived.

Update on EMD's Situation

Those of you who are EMD members may know that just prior to the Denver meeting, Ron Grubbs, President of EMD, was notified that EMD membership on July 1, 2000 was less than the 750 required active members to retain a voting seat on the AC. Consequently, the EMD did not have a vote in either of the June meetings. However, during the Denver meeting, an active membership drive put the EMD over the required active members, so the incoming President will have a vote throughout the coming year.

In my farewell message to the AC, I suggested that A...if any group (Section, Region, and Division) is worthy of affiliation with AAPG, then they deserve equal representation at the AC table. And, to be equal, every Section, Region and Division gets one seat, one voice, one vote, regardless of the number of members in that group.[@] I went on to recommend that each group should have one and only one representative, regardless of their membership numbers. No one should get a second or third seat as their membership increases, and no one should be denied a seat if their membership decreases. The AC is not the HOD where delegates are assigned by population; it is a Council where all groups should have an equal voice to represent them.

Having stirred everyone up. I retired and left Larry to face them in August.

However, the HOD Passed an Amendment That...

On June 3 the House of Delegates passed the amendment allowing all members of the Advisory Council to have an alternate, with that alternate to be the last person to hold the seat.

Therefore, I will be Larry's alternate for the next three years, so he could still make me face the music if he desires.

It Has Been an Honor and a Pleasure...

...to serve the Eastern Section on the Advisory Council for the past five years. Five years - that's 8 AAPG Presidents, 15 Division Presidents, at least 15 Councilors from the domestic sections, and more than a half dozen from the new international regions that I have had the pleasure to meet and work with. I attended 19 meetings without a miss, participated in numerous teleconferences, served on committees, acted as recording secretary for three years, and generally tried my best to represent the Section while staying out of trouble. I wish I had been able to do more; there were excellent candidates from the Section for office and awards that I couldn't get through the pool of equally qualified candidates. But, we did have some success, and Larry has an excellent pool to start with. I'll say it again: I am confident that he can do well, especially with input from all of us when it is time to fill out those nomination forms and get them in before the deadline.

Next deadline: officer nominations, probably around December 1.

Douglas G. Patchen
ES Councilor to the Advisory Council,
1996-2001

June 30, 2001