

State Registration and Licensing Committee

Registration has been approved by the Texas state legislature. DPA has followed the registration process in Texas from inception in 1988 to approval in 2000. This committee follows legislative issues regarding registration in all 50 states and territories. Current registration activity is ongoing in New York and Utah.

Board of Certification

George Bole continues in the interim role of Board of Certification chairman. The board continues to function well and applications are processed in an expeditious manner.

Governmental Affairs Committee

Lee Gerhard serves as chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee. The committee currently has position papers on the following topics:

- United States national energy supply
- Climate change policy
- Tax reform
- Natural gas supply concerns
- United States land withdrawals
- Offshore OCS access
- National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska access
- Alaska National Wildlife Refuge access
- Reformation of the Endangered Species Act
- Reformation of the Clean Water Act—wetlands access
- Regulation of hydraulic fracturing
- Grandstaircase-Escalante Monument access
- Research and development needs of the domestic petroleum industry in the 21st century
- Preservation of geological and geophysical data
- Professional geologist licensure and standing in Texas

Robert Sellars and Lee Gerhard co-chaired a session at the Houston Annual Meeting entitled "U. S. Energy Policy—Progress or Political Stagnation." The Committee is also seeking to achieve greater representation in Washington, D.C.

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is composed of Will Green (chairman), Pat Gratton, and Skip Hobbs. The Committee recommended Robert Sellars for the Distinguished Service Award. This award was presented at the DPA awards dinner in Houston on March 9, 2002.

No recommendation for Honorary Life Membership was made.

DPA Council

President-elect Tom Mairs has been busy securing nominations for the Council. The following DPA members were successfully elected to the Council:

- Gulf Coast Section: Raymond N. Blackhall, Paul W. Britt, Dwight E. Cassell, and Michael Fogarty
- Mid-Continent Section: William E. Harrison
- Southwest Section: Allen D. Frizzell and Dexter L. Harmon

The Council met at the mid-year meeting in Dallas but functioned as an Advisory Board and met for the first time as a Council at the Annual AAPG Meeting in Houston.

DPA Correlator

David Abbott assumed editorship of the *Correlator* in March 2002. The next issue of the *Correlator* is scheduled for publication in late June. David plans to expand the *Correlator* and give it a new look.

DPA Annual Meeting

Bob Shoup did an excellent job on the DPA Annual Meeting activities along with his assistants John Dombrowski and George Bole. The technical program was excellent, and we held two short courses and a careers workshop. Additionally, DPA hosted a luncheon with the theme of "The Heritage of the Petroleum Geologist." Michael Halbouty was the keynote speaker and the luncheon was sold out.

Financial Report

The Division of Professional Affairs remains on track to meet budget objectives for fiscal year 2002 (July 1, 2001–June 30, 2002). The Division is stable financially and our cash balance is strong. We are on track for a good year financially. A copy of our financial statement is available at AAPG Headquarters.

In conclusion, I am pleased to report that the Division is having an excellent year. I have attended section meetings in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Amarillo, Texas and anticipate attending section meetings in Anchorage, Alaska in May and Ruidoso, New Mexico in June. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of the AAPG Division of Professional Affairs. I look forward to serving with you all for the remainder of the business year.

Royce P. Carr, President

Energy Minerals Division

The Energy Minerals Division (EMD) is celebrating our 25th Anniversary in 2002. The division was formed to become the center within AAPG for activity on energy minerals and unconventional energy re-

sources. The division originally focused primarily on coal, nuclear minerals, geothermal energy, oil shales, and tar sands. However, we have expanded our focus, and today our most active unconventional resource areas include coalbed methane and gas hydrates. Additionally, we are now showing how the application of geospatial information (remote sensing) and energy economics can be used to exploit conventional and unconventional energy resources.

Since inception, our membership has remained relatively constant, averaging approximately 1700 members (active, associate, and student), which is very close to our present membership in 2002. Although the number of active members dropped below 750 in early 2001, we currently have more than 830 active members and expect the number to increase as we continue to add new members and actively encourage associate members to become active members.

One of the biggest changes in EMD membership over the years is the number of international members. International membership has grown from about 8% in 1979 to nearly 24% in 2002, and we now have members from 63 countries.

Financially, EMD has never been in such good shape, which provides us with the opportunity to use our financial resources to provide better member benefits. For example, we are in the process of completing a poster on unconventional resources of North America that shows the geographic distribution of EMD unconventional resources and provides a description of each energy resource. This will provide a valuable reference on unconventional resources to EMD members.

Additionally, we will continue to provide our membership with significant discounts on EMD-sponsored short courses, field trips, and publications, and we will expand the members-only section of our Web site.

There are many pressures on world energy resources that will become more acute over the next 25 years. The energy demand for many countries is significantly increasing as economic conditions and the standards of living improve. Peak world oil production probably will be reached within the next few years, indicating that other sources of energy will be needed. By far, the most pressing demand on conventional energy supply is world population growth, which continues to expand at an almost exponential rate. As population continues to increase, and concerns about global warming and/or

air pc
cusec
more
as na
placir
becat
unco
Coa
were
of na
venti
gress
meth
1985
and r
of na
terna
sourc
cover
the d

Eas

The
Secti
2001
the M
The t
Mana
reflec
short
sessi
Nin
along
Dunc
ment
ogy, i
old p
Silur
landf
Mich
short
bona
start
macl
short
from
Ho
200
the fi
•Jol
D.
•Hc
B.
•Dis
Le

air pollution in general become more focused, there will be a greater demand for more environmentally friendly fuels such as natural gas or possibly nuclear energy, placing the Division in a unique situation because we specifically focus on such unconventional energy resources.

Coalbed methane and gas hydrates were not considered significant sources of natural gas in 1977, yet these unconventional resources are becoming progressively more important. Coalbed methane production rose from 85 bcf in 1985 to more than 1500 bcf in 2001 and now represents a significant source of natural gas in the United States and internationally. Gas hydrate in-place resources may exceed 300,000 tcf, but recoverable estimates remain unknown. As the demand for natural gas increases for

co-generation and hydrogen fuel cells, these unconventional resources will have to be exploited. As world oil production starts to decline, tar sands and oil shales may once again become an important source of hydrocarbons, particularly in the United States, which has in-place resources of more than 30 billion BOE. However, the largest unconventional source of energy in the United States is geothermal energy with an estimated 430 billion BOE recoverable if this resource can be exploited economically.

Over the past several years, EMD has provided short courses on both coalbed methane and gas hydrates at national and sectional AAPG meetings and has also provided a variety of field trips to coal mines and coal-fired power plants. A field trip to a nuclear facility last year was

cancelled because of the tragic events of September 11. Additionally, EMD has sponsored geospatial information workshops and short courses and will continue to promote the value of this technology. We are in the process of completing our "members only" section of the EMD Web site, which should prove to be a valuable source of information for those who are interested in unconventional resources. Over the past eight years, I have seen the Energy Minerals Division grow into an active and dynamic organization. I'm very optimistic about the future of our division because of the energy and enthusiasm of those with whom I have worked closely with over the years, and particularly, the EMD membership.

Andrew R. Scott, President

Reports of the Sections

Eastern Section

The 30th annual meeting of the Eastern Section was held September 22–26, 2001, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, hosted by the Michigan Basin Geological Society. The theme for the meeting, "Resource Management in the 21st Century," was reflected in the field trips, workshops, short courses, posters, and technical sessions.

Nine technical sessions were presented along with posters. Talks ranged from Dundee reservoirs in Michigan, environment geology, history of petroleum geology, gas storage, and new reserves from old plays. The two field trips visited the Silurian reefs of the Chicago area and the landforms and sediments of the Lake Michigan Lobe. Gerald Friedman taught a short course on the exploration for carbonate stratigraphic reservoirs before the start of the meeting. Dietmar Schumacher and John Clark taught a second short course on "Improving Recovery from Old Fields."

Honors and awards presented at the 2001 Eastern Section meeting included the following:

- John T. Galey Memorial Award: Robert D. Hatcher, Jr.
- Honorary Membership Award: William B. Harrison III
- Distinguished Service Award: Katharine Lee Avary and Jim Drahovzal

- George V. Cohee Public Service Award: Norman C. Hester
 - Outstanding Educator Award: Carlton E. Brett and Robert H. Washburn
 - Gordon H. Wood, Jr. Memorial Award: Kenneth J. Englund
 - A. I. Levenson Memorial Best Paper Award: John R. Hogg
 - Margaret Hawn Mirable Memorial Best Student Paper Award: Jennifer McIntosh and Lynn M. Walter, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
 - Vincent E. Nelson Memorial Best Poster Award: Mark Obermajer, Lavern D. Stasiuk, and Fariborz Goodarzi, Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary, Alberta
- Officers elected at the meeting for fiscal year 2001–2002 were Michael E. Hohn, president, Hannes E. Leetaru, vice president, Steven P. Zody, secretary, and Murray Matson, treasurer.

In recognition of their contributions, three members of the Eastern Section were given awards at the AAPG Annual Meeting in Houston. Dick Beardsley was awarded the first Outstanding Explorer Award, Paul Potter the Distinguished Educator Award, and Gayle McCulloch the EMD Distinguished Service award.

Section Activities

The Eastern Section is involved in numerous activities from hosting an annual technical program, outreach programs such as Rocks in Your Head through the

Eastern Section Outreach Program, and PTTC workshops.

Finances

The Eastern Section continues to be on solid financial ground. Total assets of the Section as of December 31, 2001 were \$37,806.40. Our Eastern Section Outreach Program (ESOP), chaired by G. Warfield "Skip" Hobbs, also has money available to provide financial help for worthwhile projects/programs submitted by individuals or groups and approved by the Eastern Section. Maximum awards have been \$500 per project. At the end of year 2001, ESOP had a balance of \$2,959.16.

Hannes E. Leetaru, Vice President

Pacific Section

The Pacific Section of AAPG is composed of seven affiliated societies ranging geographically from southern California to Alaska. Our members comprise a diverse group of geoscientists working in some of the most difficult hydrocarbon producing areas in the world. Our primary methods for disseminating information continue to be through monthly society meetings, our bimonthly publication *The Pacific Petro-*