



# AAPG

## Eastern Section

Dear fellow ES-AAPG Member,

I'd like to focus a short discussion this month to explain 'SIGs', 'TIGs', and representation to the House of Delegates by 'Members with a capital M' in the Eastern Section. But wait, that all sounds kind of boring, so first let me digress...

Welcome everyone to another promising new and exciting year, 2016! If you are reading this letter it is because you are part of one of the world's greatest scientific organizations-AAPG, living in one of the truly greatest places on this earth-Eastern Section, and have chosen one of the most amazing career paths imaginable-geology, or as we like to say today, geosciences! Whether you are currently a student or are working in some geology related field, one thing that we all share is the love of the earth and dedicating our academic and/or professional lives to better understanding and describing her incredibly fascinating complexities. What a cool group to be part of! Geoscientists really do like to get together and party and talk about stuff that most of the rest of the world doesn't think is very interesting. Hard to believe, but I'm told it's true. I've even heard that there are some people who don't know what azimuthal anisotropy is. Imagine that.

So as geoscientists, we are part of something much larger than our individual selves. AAPG provides a means for you to grow in your career through its many educational opportunities. It also provides the framework to attend all those really terrific annual meetings and conventions. There are limitless opportunities to publish scientific work, and to present the results of that work orally or as a poster presentation before your peers at any of these great AAPG meetings. A visit to AAPG's website is a great way to gain a quick overview of everything the organization offers.

### **SIGs and TIGs**

Special Interest Groups or SIGs, are becoming a popular means for like-minded geoscientists to get together and discuss ideas and topics of mutual interest. The Young Professionals or YPs, have blossomed from these roots. Where these areas of interest are specific at a technical level, AAPG also encourages the formation of Technical Interest Groups, or TIGs. For example, reservoir deformation researchers working in some Texas basin might choose to form a TIG where only topics specific to their interest are discussed or presented. One such TIG began in 1977, and has now become a newly formed division of AAPG known as the Petroleum Structure and Geomechanics Division, or PSGD. This division falls in line with DPA, EMD and DEG.

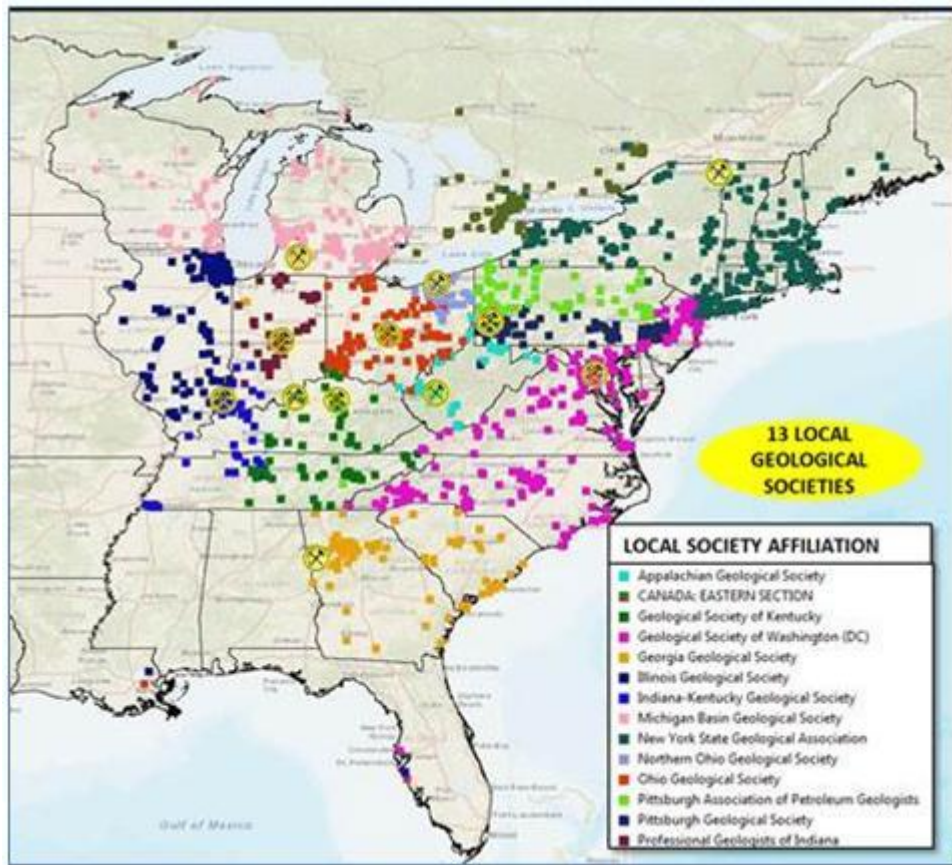
These groupings are not intended to make us more diverse and compartmentalized, but rather to serve as a means to bring already like-minded people together in order to further stimulate scientific discussion at the highest levels. We would all likely agree that the furtherance of the science is the most important aspect of our organization, and truly the primary reason for its existence. But just as everyone

has their specific area of expertise in their discipline, each of us also has a unique part of the world which we call home.

### Local Affiliated Society Representation by Delegates

Within each section, there are geographically and geologically distinct areas that differ from one another in sometimes very subtle, yet identifiable ways. Each state has its unique culture, rich in petroleum, mining or industrial history, which makes it stand out, and is special to those who live there. Every single basin has its hidden secrets and unique geologic history. Geologists whose careers are spent there appreciate and take pride in having a better understanding than outsiders on 'what make things tick.'

All of the 13 local affiliated geological societies in the Eastern Section were established because of some specific set of geological problems or curiosities that were the focus of attention in that part of the world. In addition there are cultural, historical, and even climatic differences that make each part of our section distinct from one another. It is this aspect of membership in the AAPG that calls for representation of its members to the national AAPG.



Membership map showing local society affiliation within the Eastern Section

Just like in any democratic society, there is always representation of constituents to a larger governing body. In the AAPG we have several leadership groups at the national level, which provide leadership, guidance and direction to the organization. Among them is the House of Delegates, or HOD. This is the part of the governing body which consists of representatives from each of the sections and international regions.

### **How Delegate allocation is determined**

The way that your local geological society area is represented is by the election of one or more delegates to serve in the HOD. These are 3 year terms and the number of delegates is determined by the size of the membership within the capture area for any given local society. Every local society gets at least one delegate for its first 70 Members, even if the society has far fewer than 70 Members. If a society has more than 2 X 70, or 140 Members, then they get 2 delegates. And it keeps going on and on for every additional 70 Members.

But, there is a catch. Only 'Members with a capital M' are counted (plus Emeritus, Honorary and Life.) Associates, Students, and Student YPs do not go toward the tally for determining delegate allocation. So here is my pitch to all of the Associates and Student YPs. If you qualify for **Member** status, please upgrade your membership this week so that you can be counted toward delegate allocation for your local society. More Members, mean more potential delegates for your society!

Remember, according to AAPG:

“Membership is open to those with at least a bachelor's degree in the geological sciences and a minimum one year's experience in the professional practice or teaching of geology.”

What they are referring to here is the type of membership entitled 'Member'. If you are a geoscientist with these qualifications, this is the membership type for you. If what I described here sounds like you, it's quick and easy to transfer your membership from Associate to Member status. Just follow this [link](#), log in, and select '**New Applications**'. You will then choose '**Transfer to Member Application**' from the list of applications and follow the prompts.

It's really quick and simple to upgrade your membership, and with Member status, there are many added benefits and opportunities. Of course, one enormous reason that you should do this is for representation of the part of the section where you live, or with which you have chosen to be affiliated.

So for the New Year make it your resolution to become part of your local society's representation by upgrading your status to Member!

Wishing the best to each of you in this New Year.

Sincerely,



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