



AAPG

Eastern Section

September 11, 2016

Dear ES-AAPG Member,

As I write to all of you today I know that not only is Summer almost over, but so is my tenure as your President. What an amazing and rewarding experience it has been! I have had the pleasure to serve you, our great membership in the Eastern Section for the past 12 months and want to thank all of you for that honor and privilege. I thoroughly enjoyed working with my executive committee and all of our committee chairs and liaisons. It has been fun and energizing attending so many of our local geological society meetings, this year's ACE in Calgary, and numerous IBA, YP, and DPA events. Although requiring long hours and a lot of work, it has been a learning experience and a pleasure, and I would highly recommend this to any Member who has the desire to serve at our section at the highest level. I am also confident that the progress we made will continue into the future.

Passing the baton

This term invokes thoughts of running a race, and was used recently as the theme for a YP/DPA event featuring five Experienced Professionals (EPs), giving career advice to YPs (and students), The event took place recently at Cioppino of Pittsburgh, organized by Merrill Stypula and Mike Canich, and moderated by Dan Billman. Student Chapter Liaison Dan



Chandonais had the event professionally filmed, and you can now watch in its entirety on our YouTube channel [here](#) (and soon to be embedded on our website too!)



In the case of Eastern Section leadership, the passing of the baton to incoming President Dr. John Hickman will take place during our annual meeting in a few short weeks. I am confident that the future of the Eastern Section will be in very good hands under the leadership of John and his incoming executive committee. Joining our executive committee as newly elected treasurer is Scott Gorham of Seneca Resources. In addition, I was elected to represent the Eastern Section on the AAPG Advisory Council for a three-year term. As your Section Representative to the Advisory Council, I will also be a member of our Eastern Section Executive Committee for the next three years. Sincere thanks to all who voted in this year's election. I also want to say thank you to both Jim Pancake and Joan Crockett for agreeing to run against Scott and me in the elections. I am confident that Jim and Joan will both continue to pursue active involvement in the Eastern Section.



Incoming Treasurer
Scott Gorham

How it all began for me

Looking back at where all of this began, I recall that it was just a few short years ago while playing golf with Dan Billman, who had served as our President in 2008. I'm pretty sure it was on the 15th hole at Conley's Resort on Route 8, sometime in July of 2013. Dan asked if I would consider running for Treasurer of the Eastern Section, but that it would really be a 5-year commitment in the progression of leadership through serving as past-President. I told him I would give it some serious thought, soon after agreed to run, elections were held, and I was subsequently elected.

At that point my involvement in AAPG had been steadily intensifying. I chaired the Short Courses committee for the 2013 ACE, and had made many visits to local universities both on behalf of my work at EQT and AAPG. I had been a regular attendee and contributor to AAPG meetings and events, presenting papers ranging from Coalbed Methane, Devonian stratigraphy, and Appalachian basin tectonics at local, sectional and national meetings. My focus at the time was purely on the science and I spent much time researching and absorbing literature from past technical journals.

My first year on the Eastern Section Executive Committee was to serve as treasurer, where I was responsible for managing the finances of the organization. We had just held the AAPG ACE in Pittsburgh in June of that year and we had received some very large checks as our cut of the meeting profits. This coupled with proceeds from the previous year's meeting in Cleveland suddenly rocketed our Eastern Section treasury balance to new heights. During the next couple of council meetings and in between, we spent a fair amount of time discussing how to best manage and make good use of this new found wealth. Jim MacDonald, who was President at the time, wisely constructed our first ever 3-year budget, so that we could responsibly manage our future finances.

Note: The majority of Eastern Section's focus on giving out monetary awards always has been and continues to be student focused. We offer travel grants to student presenters for both annual and national meetings, award students for our annual Student Expo Poster competition, supplement, support, and provide monetary awards to the IBA program, and annually fund our two Grants-in-Aid Endowments for students, just to name a few.

45th Annual Meeting in Lexington, KY, September 25-27, 2016

So fast forward to today, where we are all eagerly anticipating and preparing for our 45th Annual Meeting in Lexington,



KY, September 25-27, 2016. General Co-Chairs Dave Harris and Rick Bowersox along with the rest of the organizing committee have so much in store for our membership in the form of technical talks and poster sessions special events, guest speakers, workshops and field trips. There is an immense amount of behind the scenes planning, organizing, letter writing, meeting, and preparation required to make a successful annual meeting happen. Please, when you see any of



these fine folks in Lexington, thank them for the hard work and effort they provided for you, our members, to ensure another great event. And of course, if you have not yet done so, please [register today](#). You will not be disappointed!

Honored Guests and Speakers

Several members of AAPG's Executive Committee and national leadership, along with some of our national and sectional Honorees will be in attendance. This impressive list includes: AAPG President Paul Britt, AAPG President-elect Charles Sternbach, AAPG Vice President-Sections Dan Schwartz, Chair, House of Delegates James McGray, DPA President



Chandler Wilhelm, DEG President Tim Murin, DPA Past President and 2016 John T. Galey Memorial Awardee Mike Canich, 2016 A. I. Levorsen Awardee Dr. Thomas (Marty) Parris, and 2016 Sydney Powers Awardee Dr. Paul Potter. Throughout the three days of our meeting, you all will have the opportunity to meet and talk with these honored guests. My hope for all students and YPs is to learn from these leaders about how they navigated the sometimes turbulent waters in each of their careers, bringing them to where they are today. Everyone's stories are unique and often provide solid practical advice on ways to overcome obstacles that you may be experiencing today or in the future. There will also be several opportunities to hear them speak, such as during our Sunday Opening Session where each will be introduced, during our Honors and Awards ceremony where Mike Canich will deliver the 2016 John T. Galey Award Speech, and at the Tuesday All Division Luncheon, where AAPG President Paul Britt will deliver the Keynote speech. There is still time to get registered, so please join us and be part of this year's hallmark event in the Eastern Section!



In Closing...

My last words are those of sincere thanks and gratitude to my Executive Committee: past President Joan Crockett, VP John Hickman, Secretary Patrick Gooding, Treasurer Andrew Waggener, and Past AC Representative Pete McKenzie for all of their dedicated work and support in the past year.

Sincerest Regards,

Craig A. Eckert
ES-AAPG President
<http://esaapg.org/>