

All Eastern Section AAPG Members

I realize this has been a difficult spring and summer for many, if not all. I hope everyone has stayed healthy and safe and are maintaining a positive attitude in spite of the adversity a global pandemic and its related impact on our industry has wrought.

There have been many changes in the **Eastern Section** during this time so I will try to bring you up to date before the fall season begins to kick in.

Eastern Section Annual Meetings

As most of you are already aware, the **2020 Eastern Section Annual Meeting** has been postponed until Oct. 23-26, 2022. This meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Champaign, IL, Sept. 13-16, and hosted by the IGS. Planning was well underway by the General Co-Chairs **Donna Willette** and **Hannes Leetaru** with the theme **Energy Revitalization in the New Decade**. However, it soon became apparent that a large meeting on a university campus would not be practical with the health risks associated with COVID-19.

Planning for the **2021 50th Anniversary Eastern Section Annual Meeting** is well underway. This meeting is scheduled to take place Oct. 2-6, 2021, in Pittsburgh, PA, hosted jointly by the PAPG and PGS. The General Chair is **Dennis Wingrove** and it will be held either in person or virtually subject to the health restrictions in place at the time.

Eastern Section Committees

Due to training and professional development challenges presented by COVID-19 a new **Technical Presentation Committee** has been formed. This is being led by **Chair Brian Panetta**, as well as **Donna Willette**, **Dan Billman** and **Pete Sullivan**. The goal is to provide an annual online live speaker series of eight quality technical talks available to all members of the Eastern Section. This program will be presented via Zoom starting in September 2020, and will augment existing affiliated society programs. In addition, an online **Professional Development Seminar** series is being developed to provide affordable education and opportunities to ESAAPG members. Please feel free to contact committee members with questions.

We have many dedicated Committee Chairs and Members and are always trying to recruit new participants. There is one open Chair position (**Membership**). We are also looking for a replacement for the Young Professional Liaison currently filled by **Andrew Smith**.

Committees are a great way to get involved with the Eastern Section and AAPG. Please take a moment to visit the website and see if there are any areas where you'd like to get involved.

<https://www.esaapg.org/leadership/>

Eastern Section Constitution and By-law Changes

The most recent Council meeting was held virtually June 9, 2020. One of the recommendations which was approved was the dissolution of the **Earth Science Outreach Program (ESOP)**. This was formed as a separate, non-profit corporation in 1999. ESOP's mission was to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the earth sciences, energy resources and the environment among K-12 and college students and their teachers in the Eastern Section. The program provided small monetary grants to

organizations and individuals that facilitate earth science awareness and undertake other activities that furthered the objectives of the Outreach Program.

The reality is that ESOP struggled to generate both interest and funds for many years and ultimately fell beyond the scope of the Eastern Section. **Joan Crockett** was the Committee Chair of this program for many years and we thank her for her many contributions. Part of this program was the **Eastern Section Teacher of the Year (TOTY) Program** which the Executive Committee eliminated effective 2019 due to a lack of both internal and public support as well as changes implemented by AAPG's National TOTY program.

The ESAAPG Constitution and By-laws has been amended to reflect this change.

Honors and Remembrances

Based on the recommendation of the Eastern Section and Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) global leaders, **Lee Avary** has been honored with the naming of the **Eastern Section IBA First Place Lee Avary Award**. Global IBA competition started in 2007 and Lee initiated and organized the first Eastern Section IBA completion in 2008. Lee was the primary coordinator for the next 12 years, leading over 74 teams through the process.

Several key contributors and members of the Eastern Section geological community have passed during the past year. These include:

Dr. Paul Potter (1925-2020)

Dr. Paul Catacosinos (1933-2020)

Dr. Fred Schroeder (1950-2020)

Dr. Jeffrey Reid (1948-2019)

A new page on the Eastern Section website is being created to capture remembrances of these and other members who have made significant contributions to the Eastern Section. Please let me know if there are others we have missed.

Dr. Jeffrey Reid worked at the NC Geological Survey and passed away Dec. 7, 2019. Dr. Reid won the Eastern Section Best Poster Award four times (3 times in a row). Since the Best Poster Award is named after Vince Nelson the Council agreed to rename the **Eastern Section Best Student Poster Award** in honor of Dr. Reid.

2019-2020 Current Officers

- **President** – Scott Gorham – *Consultant, Wexford, PA*
- **Vice President** – Brian Panetta, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV*
- **Secretary** – Donna Willette, *Illinois State Geological Survey, Champaign, IL*
- **Treasurer** – Ian Thomas, *Olympus Energy, Canonsburg, PA*
- **Past President** – Drew Waggener, *Consultant, Charleston, WV*
- **Advisory Council Representative** – Dan Billman, *Billman Geologic, Houston, PA*

The new **2020-2021 Treasurer** will be **Autumn Haagsma**, *Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, OH*. We welcome Autumn to the board and look forward to working with her after the upcoming Council Meeting, Sept. 15.

As always, many thanks to all the **Officers** and **Committee Members** who donate their time to make the Eastern Section and AAPG a valuable part of all of our careers. We encourage all members of the Eastern Section to identify roles you think you'd have a passion for and make your contribution. We'll all be better for it.

Stay safe and healthy and I hope to see you all again in the not too distant future.

Scott Gorham

Eastern Section AAPG President (2019-2020)