



# AAPG

## Eastern Section

November 30, 2015

Dear ES-AAPG Member,

I hope all of you enjoyed your time away with family and friends over the Thanksgiving Day Holiday. It is a great American tradition that all of us look forward to this time of the year when we can reflect on what we are thankful for, and be among those we care about most. Although times are not necessarily great right now for all of us in the geosciences, our future as geoscientists is bright. The leadership and committees in the Eastern Section are committed to making the geoscience profession a better place for you by communicating useful and important information on a regular basis. Although there are dozens of important topics to discuss, I have 3 main points that I want to share with you this month. They are:

1. Why we should remain optimistic about the future of geosciences
2. Why it is so great to be a part of the Eastern Section AAPG
3. What you should do to today to increase your value as a geoscientist

### **1. Why we should remain optimistic about the future of geosciences**

So much of the economic success that we enjoy in this country is directly related to the fact that we enjoy abundant affordable energy resources. The last decade has been truly amazing when we consider the amount of new reserves of natural gas and oil we have found as an industry, and a very large part of this is due to your talents and efforts as earth scientists. In many ways we are victims of our own success by having identified and produced more quantities of hydrocarbons than our markets are prepared for. Simple economic principles dictate that with over supply we should expect lower commodity prices and this may lead to temporary lower rates of activity. This imbalance will not last forever, as increasing demand will continue and our industries will rebound, as it always has in the past. Whether you work or have worked in the exploration and production industry, in the service sector, in academia-either educating or learning, in government positions responsible for assessing these resources, or many other aspects of geology, your efforts have cumulatively escalated our country to new heights in energy independence. As geoscientists, it is vitally important to recognize the *value* of what we know and understand about the earth and its systems. This unique perspective is often taken for granted and unappreciated by ourselves and our peers. Persons outside of the geoscience community do not have the same overall comprehension of the earth, as we do as earth scientists. Because so few people in our community spend their training and careers to learn and study the earth as we do, this knowledge brings both opportunities and responsibility. Think about this next time you read or listen to the news, or talk with a friend or neighbor.

## 2. Why it is so great to be a part of the Eastern Section AAPG

First of all, the AAPG is one of the largest geological societies on the planet, with about 38,000 members. There are larger geophysical organizations, such as AGU, but for geoscience in, AAPG is right up there, with more members worldwide than GSA or SEG. AAPG has great resources for all geoscientists, and if you are not aware of all that is offered and available, visit the AAPG website again and check out all the rich content contained there. In the US, there are **six sections** that make up AAPG. Of all those sections, Eastern Section stands out in many ways. Listed below are just a few highlights that make Eastern Section truly great:

- The **most states** of all sections – **23 states** plus DC and Ontario
- The **most universities with geology programs** of all sections – **244** (plus 21 in ON)
- The **most students members** of all sections – **637**
- **46 student chapters**
- **14 IBA Teams** competing since 2008, including 2015 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner PSU
- **13 Affiliated Societies** (2<sup>nd</sup> only to GCS)
- Home section of **current DPA President** – Michael Canich
- Home section of **current EMD President** – Robert Trevail
- Home section of **current DEG President-elect** – Timothy Murin
- Not to mention, **the Drake well!!!**

As you can see, we have well over half of the geoscience universities in the US, giving us the opportunity to reach out to and serve more students than any other section. This must be a focus for us in the coming years as we continue to educate our students so that they may find new and better ways to fuel our increasing energy needs. Our students are the future of our profession and need our guidance as they develop in their careers.

## 3. What you should do to today to increase your value as a geoscientist

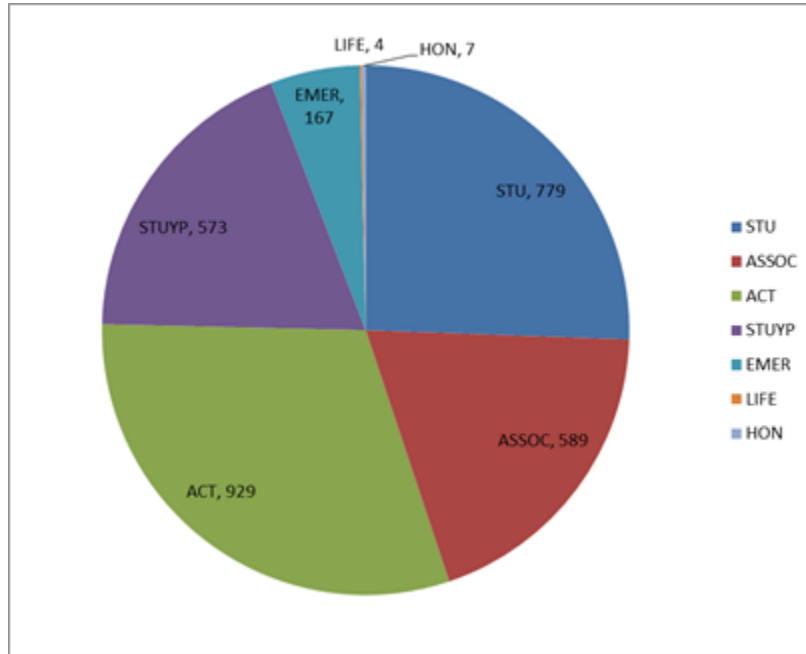
Times are difficult for many of us in the energy industry. There are low commodity prices and many companies are cutting back on staff. Many students who had planned on getting jobs when they graduated are now wondering where they will find work. Many recent grads who had worked for a year or two are now unemployed and looking at other options for survival. Our world has virtually endless energy needs and it will be up to geoscientists to identify and help to produce these resources. You have opportunities in AAPG to elevate your status and help your career by becoming a **Member**. Surprisingly within the Eastern Section, less than a third of our total membership are actually **Members**.

Within the AAPG, there are 4 main membership types:

- **Student**
- **Student-YP**
- **Associate**
- **Member**

(In addition to these, there are 3 types for distinguished senior members: Honorary, Life and Emeritus.)

In terms of numbers for the Eastern section, the largest membership type is **Member** (formerly known as 'Active'), with about 929 or 31%. **Associates** account for 589 of us or 19%. **Students** (779) and **Student-YP** (573) types account for 26% and 19%, respectively.



**Membership Types in Eastern Section**

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 '**Member**' type. If you are a geoscientist with these qualifications, this is the membership type for you.

According to AAPG, 'Associate Membership is open to qualifying individuals not eligible for Membership or Student membership. Graduates of a college of acceptable standards whose employment is associated with geology may apply for election as an Associate member.' Typically this is a membership type for non-geoscientists who are *associated* with geoscience in their work. Looking through the membership list for the Eastern Section, I see many **Associates** who clearly qualify for **Member** status. There are no dues increase and the benefits of upgrading are significant and important to both you professionally, and to the future of our section.

If what I described here sounds like you, its 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.

There is no increase in dues for this transfer to Member status.

It is important to note that the Student-YP type is a transition membership class that allows early career geoscientists a continuation of student dues rates (\$10/year) for just 2 years past graduation. If you are 2 years past graduation now and no longer a student, you too should upgrade your membership to **Member**.

Below is a partial [list of benefits of Membership in AAPG](#), specifically targeted toward Student-YPs and Associates who may qualify for **Member** status.

Both Associates and Members get these benefits (from AAPG website):

- Explorer - Print Edition (optional)
- Bulletin - Electronic Edition
- Bulletin - Print Edition (optional)
- Bulletin - Annual CD (optional)
- Discounted tuition for select educational opportunities
- Discounted books
- Access to the AAPG Career Center

Members only, get these added benefits (from AAPG website):

- Ability to join and participate in DEG\*, EMD\*, and DPA
  - Ability to vote in elections
  - Ability to run for elected office
  - Ability to lead a standing committee
- (\*Associates may also join DEG and EMD)

However, there are some other important reasons for Associates (or eligible Student-YP's) to transfer to Member status:

- Increase delegate representation in local societies
- Increase the number of local societies in our section
- Gain greater credibility with National AAPG with respect to hosting future ACEs, URTECs, etc. in Eastern Section cities
- With Member status, allows professionals to be eligible for DPA membership, which in turn allows for attainment of CPG (Certified Petroleum Geologist)
  - Attaining CPG in turn elevates your credentials and credibility as a professional geoscientist
  - DPA is about networking, professional skills, and prospecting
  - This is good for your professional career and is an important resume builder as well

So, these are some things to think about and act on if you are interested in elevating your career to the next level. I wish each of you a joyous holiday season and look forward to what the new year will bring to all of us here in the Eastern Section of the AAPG!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig". The script is cursive and fluid.

Craig A. Eckert  
ES-AAPG President

Geoscience Advisor  
EQT Production  
625 Liberty Avenue  
Suite 1700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
[eckertc@eqt.com](mailto:eckertc@eqt.com)  
412.395.3927 w  
412.327.9418 c