



AAPG

Eastern Section

February 15, 2016

Dear fellow ES-AAPG Member,

Happy Groundhog Day! Happy Groundhog Day!

Did I say that twice? Whoa, it's like deja vu all over again!

We have all been here before.... Ok enough of that, but really, we have been here before, and there will be light at the end of the long tunnel.

But even if Phil thinks Spring is right around the corner, I doubt if many of us think the next boom will be...

February is traditionally the month we celebrate not only Phil's emergence, but the month we honor our nation's Presidents. The Eastern Section is very fortunate this year to be home section to two of our AAPG Division Presidents, DPA President Michael Canich and EMD President Robert Trevail. In addition, DEG President-elect Timothy Murin also comes from, lives and works in the great Eastern Section. All three of these successful individuals have their roots here, and have greatly contributed to the geologic understanding of many of the oil and gas plays that have been the source of pride and economic wealth for this part of North America.

DPA President Mike Canich's first contribution to the petroleum industry was to the clearer understanding of the origin, influence and significance of the Tyron-Mt. Union lineament. This was the focus of his MS thesis at Penn State. Mike was then hired right out of school by Superior in Houston, where he spent several years before returning to the Appalachians to work for Cabot oil and gas through the tumultuous 1980s. Later, Mike went on to Eastern States Exploration, where he was instrumental in the exploration and development efforts of the Council Run Elk sands Field, in Centre County, PA. Later Mike led EQT's geology efforts as their Geosciences VP breaking records in numbers of wells drilled by an operator in a single year in the Appalachian basin. Along with being a great boss to me for over seven years, Mike is a tremendous leader and a truly outstanding person. Currently Mike is President of Trident Energy and Grandview Drilling.

EMD President Bob Trevail began his career after having received his geology degree from Western University in Ontario in 1978. His first job in geology was working for a small independent for a few years, and then went on to the Ontario Ministry of Petroleum before going working for several oil and

gas companies where the focus of his work was mapping sandstone, porosity, and structure, and drilling an assortment of Devonian, Silurian and Cambro-Ordovician targets around the northern US and Canada. After having worked the Michigan and Appalachian basins chasing reefs, channel sands and HTD's for several operators, Bob went on to manage the exploration efforts of East Resources where they very successfully played the Trenton Black River play in NYS. Always a professional and role model for young geoscientists (and hockey players), Bob currently is exploration manager for Dallas Energy, LLC.

DEG President-Elect Tim Murin received his geology degree from Waynesburg College in 1977 and also began his career as a geologist just before the tumultuous early 1980s. During this time, Tim worked as mud logger, well tender, and operations geologist for a handful of companies. Tim mapped and prospected for both deep Oriskany and shallow Bradford targets all over western Pennsylvania for Fox, Atlas and Ashtola. He then was hired by Summit Energy where he served as Vice President Exploration. During this time Tim also wisely pursued his MS in Geology at Pitt. Next, Tim moved on to VP for Castle Exploration where after several years he was named President of that company until 2002. He later moved on to lead several other oil and gas companies before forming Griffin Oilfield Developers, where he was CEO for 5 years. Currently Tim is Senior Principle Scientist-Geology for URS Corporation consulting for the DOE on a variety of shale and environmental research projects. His rich and diverse background in the petroleum industry, unrivalled leadership abilities and later work consulting for the DOE, has given Tim a unique perspective to lead the DEG in the coming year.

I would certainly be remiss if I didn't tell you that there are significant career benefits to joining any one of these three divisions. Rather than going into detail, I would recommend that you peruse through [AAPG's Divisions page](#) for all the information you will need to better understand the importance of joining the DPA, EMD or the DEG.

So, back to our national Division Presidents/Presidents-elect; what key attributes do these great leaders and geoscientists have in common? Obviously they are all well-educated, intelligent, natural leaders, great team players, and extremely tenacious. Also, and perhaps most importantly they learned quickly how to survive the difficult boom bust swings throughout their careers and found ways to remain relevant and valuable assets to companies for whom they worked, or aspired to work for.

Many of our Eastern Section members are experiencing the difficult waiting game associated with industry downturn and may feel like they are living in survival mode. AAPG offers many opportunities for training, re-tooling and even breaks on dues during difficult times for affected members. Just check out the website for details, or talk to someone at AAPG or another colleague at the next local society meeting or event. Know that you are not alone in your wait and make the best of things that come your way. Going back for a further degree may be the right choice for you, or perhaps it's time to take that next step into consulting or even a swing in a new direction in the geosciences.

I also want to make everyone aware of another one of **Eastern Section's great geoscientist, Dr. Paul Potter**, who has been named this year's recipient of AAPG's highest honor, the **Sidney Powers Memorial**

Award. Dr. Potter is known for his myriad accomplishments as author, professor and geoscience leader in his truly stellar 60 year career. He is widely known for his work on sedimentary geology, and his textbooks have been studied by thousands of geoscientists and students from all around the world. Some of the textbooks that he published and co-authored include the well-known ***Sand and Sandstone*** (with F.J. Pettijohn and R. Siever), ***Paleocurrents and Basin Analysis*** (with F.J. Pettijohn), ***Sedimentology of Shale*** (with J.B. Maynard and W.A. Pryor), and finally his latest textbook, ***Muds & Mudstones*** (Potter, Maynard, and Depetris). Dr. Potter is considered by his peers as one of the world's leading authorities on sedimentology of sandstones and shales, and continues to mentor other geoscientists both locally and around the world, especially in Brazil. He still spends time every month working on research with many of the Eastern Section state geological surveys.

We as Eastern Sectioners are extremely proud of Dr. Potter, and honored to have him as a fellow Eastern Section Member. You can read more about him in December's Explorer magazine, or better, come with us to the **2016 AAPG ACE in Calgary in June** where you will be able to see him receive this highest award!

Lastly I want to thank all those who contributed their time, energy, documents, photos and ideas for helping to assemble our new Eastern Section website. We hope all of you will enjoy exploring the many web pages and benefit from both its timely and historic content. It remains a work in progress but you will steadily see progress and additions as the year goes on. Incidentally, one of the new areas that we will be developing on the website will be our Eastern Section Hall of Fame, an idea that past –President Joan Crockett and several others has been talking about as long as I can remember.

Oh, and by the way if you are an qualified Associate or Student-YP (in other words, if you have 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) and still thinking about taking that next step toward being a Member, try this:



A quick link to get you started toward upgrading your membership status. Think of it like a doorbell, and let it help you open more doors in your career.

Sincerely,



Craig A. Eckert
ES-AAPG President 2015-2016