HGS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 19th, 2024, Meeting held via Zoom
Quorum confirmed, meeting called to order by Paul Britt (HGS President)
Time: 6:15 pm

2023-2024 Board Members

Paul Britt (P)	Penny Patterson (PE)	Kenneth Mohn (S)	Linda Sternbach (VP)
Fang Lin (T)	Glenn Lowenstein (TE)	Caroline Wachtman (E)	Ted Godo (EE)
Bill DeMis (D2)	Troy Meinen (D3)	Judy Schulenberg (D1)	Sharma Dronamraju (D4)

Board Present

Paul Britt (President)	Troy Meinen (Director)
Caroline Wachtman (Editor)	Bill DeMis (Director)
Fang Lin (Treasurer)	Ted Godo (Editor Elect) Joined late
Sharma Dronamraju (Director)	Judy Schulenberg (Director)
Penny Patterson (President Elect)	Glenn Lowenstein (Treasurer Elect)
Kenneth Mohn (Secretary)	Linda Sternbach (Vice President)

Paul Britt – Meeting started with Quorum of 11 Board Members present, Ted Godo joined after the Meeting started.

First Order of Business Discussion and Approval of the Minutes: Paul Britt asked if everyone reviewed the Minutes from February. Kenneth Mohn noted that there were two set of comments provided in the draft review, 1) Penny Patterson added language about the HGS Africa Conference and the AAPG wanting to integrate this into the IMAGE Convention. There was discussion on this that will be covered later in the Minutes. 2) Paul Britt had a question about some language in the notes under Judy Schulenberg Continuing Education. The Secretary went back and listened to the recording and clarified this language that was incomplete. After review and discussion of the Minutes, there was a Motion proposed. Linda Sternbach noted she had not read the Minutes, but she was not at the last meeting, so she did not have any opinion at this time. Penny asked to have the discussion on the HGS Africa Conference be added to the agenda. It was added without any objection.

Motion:
Motion to approve the February 2024 Minutes, with the revisions discussed, as Final. Bill DeMis so Moved and Judy Schulenberg Second the Motion. There was no discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

The Final corrected Minutes for February can be found in the HGS Dropbox under: Dropbox\HGS Committee Report & Board Minutes\Monthly Meeting Minutes Reports\2023-2024 Board Minutes\Final

Agenda:

Paul Britt continued with the agenda and asked if there were any issues, changes to the agenda. .

Penny added the **Africa Conference discussion**. There was a discussion on how we make decisions by Bill DeMis who was noting that the back and forth e-mails is confusing and hard to follow. When we have something to discuss, we need to have a Zoom call. The Secretary asked about documenting the discussions that are held outside of the Board Meeting. Judy Schulenberg noted that according to Robert's Rules of Order, an item brought up for Vote must be documented. This is so noted by the Secretary. No other Changes were made to the agenda.

Paul said there is no need for a Motion to approve the Agenda. Everyone agreed with Paul Britt.

Consent Agenda

Formal approval of the Decision made through the E-Mail Vote to select Officer Candidates for the Election to positions on the Board for Next year. Paul noted we have enough Board Members present to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion:
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Judy Schulenberg Moved and Sharma Dronamraju Second the Motion. There was no discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Fang Lin

The Treasurer's Report for March is found in Dropbox. Total Equity increased slightly this month. Operational Revenue was $25,628 with a net gain of $884.78. February Investment Revenue was $1,995.11. Total Profit was $60,691.64 which includes contributions to the Scholarship Fund that will be distributed in future months.

Revenue after costs is removed that will go to Scholarship Fund is around $36,500.

Fang Lin noted that no shares in the Schwab investment account have been sold since May of 2023. No cash has been withdrawn from Schwab accounts since June 2022. HGS has enough cash to cover the next two to four Months, based on HGS actual expenditures in the past six months (based on average monthly expenditures of $39,300 per month for past six months).

We had a net operating loss of $3,531.20 this month.

Fiscal year-to-date we have a $60,077 in Profit. Fang noted the profit will go towards the Scholarship Fund at the end of the Fiscal Year in June.

Total operating revenue

HGS Total Net Operating Revenue was $884.78 for February 2024 and $65,134.90 for the Period from July 20023 to February 2024.

Paul Britt noted the following: Starting in February 2024 the rent went down 45% as we moved into a smaller office space. Payroll spending was larger than last month, we brought in more revenue than budgeted.

Bill DeMis asked why did we lose money in December 2023? Fang Lin noted that we had to pay for the Sheriff Lecture Series and there were more costs than anticipated on Sporting Clays.

Fang reviewed **Profit and Loss by Activity**:

Fang Lin noted the top 3 profit generators were:

- The Student Expo - $33,499.65
- The 100th Anniversary Gala - $24,280.72
- The Golf Tournament - $20,219.78

Sporting Clays brought in $3,810. There is a complete list in the Treasurer's Report.

Fang Lin noted the Bulletin is not making a profit. The biggest Negative Value on the budget are G&A costs.

Paul Britt noted the Bulletin Loss was buried in the G&A in the past. Now we track Bulletin costs separately, so we know it is an expense and we are aware of the cost. Fang Lin asked Paul Britt if he wanted to keep tracking the Bulletin as it is. Paul said yes.

Linda Sternbach asked Where do you put contributions from GCAGS in the Books? Linda said she would have to go back to look at where it was recorded. She thought it was something like $14,000 to the Bulletin and $10,000 to the Gala.

Linda Sternbach said the Gala Sponsorship Money made the profit for the Gala. We had a lot of funds in that category. The Gala earned $29,000 in Sponsorship Income. The cost of the Gala was around $17,754. Linda made the point that we should try to raise Sponsorship Revenue from other companies. Paul agreed with Linda and mentioned he publishes a monthly tabulation recognizing Sponsors in the Bulletin every Month. It was discussed that we need someone dedicated to going after Sponsors for events.

Paul made a comment that the Student Expo held in February 2024 raised serious revenue for HGS. The Student Expo is our Flagship event. It goes to supporting the HGS. AAPG gave it up and we took it over. It has been a "Grand Slam Home Run" for the HGS.

Motion:

Glenn Lowenstein motion that we Approve the Treasurers Report

Sharma Dronamraju Second the Motion.

No Further discussion.

Vote: All in Favor, Motion is Approved.

Paul asked Treasurer if there was anything else Fang wanted to add. Fang said she spoke with the PKF accountant about there continues to be a discrepancy between the Quick Books and the Back Statement. She is trying to get the discrepancy resolved.

Secretary Report – Kenneth Mohn

New Membership Applications Report:

Secretary cleared up confusion from the Membership Report of last month and some Members that were not included in the nominations for the prior Month. We approved February 2024 membership report that had the rest of January names. We missed four names who were not approved from January. This is due to the partial voting on Membership and my absence in the last meeting. The following four applications from January need to be considered:

15 Active and 6 Associate						
February 2024 membership report (for February 2024 meeting)				The Rest of January Names - 4 Active		
First name	Last name	Membership	AAPG #	HGS sponsor	Employer	Degree, Major, University
The rest of January Names						
Todd	Longbottom	Active	No		Pioneer Natural Resources	PhD - Geosciences, Baylor University
Joe	Koenig	Active	Yes		Lago Verde Exploration	MS - Geology, Baylor University
Jon	Primm	Active	Yes		Chord Energy	MS - Geology, University of Utah
Stan	Teerman	Active	Yes		School of Geosciences University of Louisiana -Lafayette	MS - Geology, Southern Illinois University

The Rest of February names that were not approved in the last Board Meeting are listed below. I vetted these names and moved four of the 12 candidates for Active Membership to Associate Membership.

The following Applicants were moved from Active to Associate by the Secretary before the meeting. Wenping Zhou has PhD in Chemistry, Azeez Alrifaie has a degree in Biology, Larry Welch has a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Emiliano de Lillard has a MS Geoscience in GIS. There was discussion on these names and the first three were moved to Associate. **Sharma did some research while we were looking at the rest of the names and determined GIS degree is not a Geology degree. It was agreed to keep Emiliano as Associate Member.**

Below is the rest of February Membership Applications submitted for approval:

		The Rest of February for March Meeting			8- Active and 4 Associate	
February 2024 membership report (for March 2024 meeting)						
First name	Last name	Membership	AAPG #	HGS sponsor	Employer	Degree, Major, University
Jonathan	Membreno	Active	Yes		Arena Energy	Geophysics - Rice University
Charlie	Zhu	Active	Yes		Exxon	PhD - Geochemistry, Bristol University
Fabian	Pena	Active	Yes		MicroSeismic Inc	MS - Geology, Texas Christian University
Theodore	Curiel II	Active	No		Currently looking	MS - Geology, Stephen F. Austin State University
Juliet	Irvin	Active	No		Former ExxonMobil	Petroleum Geophysics - Imperial College London
Rob	Dudley	Active	No		Ikon Science Americas	Earth Science, Staffordshire
Leslie	Bernal	Active	No		Terrasond	MS - Geophysics, Universidad de Guadalajara
Kathryn	Young	Active	No		Sharp Reflections Inc	MS - Geophysics, UT Austin
First name	Last name	Membership	AAPG #	HGS sponsor	Employer	Degree, Major, University
Wenping	Zhou	Associate	No		University of Texas at Austin	Doctoral - Chemistry, University of Houston
Azeez	Alrifaie	Associate	No		Premier Corex	Associate - Biology, University of Basra, Iraq
Larry	Welch	Associate	No		Retired SLB	Mechanical Engineering - UT Austin
Emiliano	de Lillard	Associate	No		Woodside Energy	MS - Geoscience, Texas A&M University - Geographic Information Science

Membership Applications from March. The list below shows the new Applications from the first half of March:

What we have in March					3 - Active candidates and Two Associate Candidates	
March 2024 membership report (for April 2024 meeting)						
First name	Last name	Membership	AAPG #	HGS sponsor	Employer	Degree, Major, University
Joseph	Stone	Active	Yes		Riley Permian	MS - Petroleum Geology, University of Houston
Keith	Reeves	Active	No		YR & KR Consulting LLC	MS - Geology, Sul Ros State University
Burch	Wylie	Active	Yes		Jetta Operating	BS - Geology, Missouri State University
First name	Last name	Membership	AAPG #	HGS sponsor	Employer	Degree, Major, University
Ethan	Young	Associate	No		Jetta Operating	BS - Petroleum Engineering, Texas A&M University - College Station
Sarath	Devarajan	Associate	No		Lapis Energy	MS - Petroleum Engineering, University of Texas at Austin
First name	Last name	Membership	AAPG #	HGS sponsor	Member since	Age

What we have in March for the April meeting there were three Applicants who were clearly Geologists, then two Applicants for Active Membership who are Petroleum Engineers. One is a reservoir engineer; the other is a petrophysicist. Linda Sternbach pointed out that Associate Member cannot run for office, but they get all the benefits of an Active Member. Do we want other degrees running for office in the Active Participation in the Society? Troy pointed out that we have to stick with the Bylaws. Linda pointed out that Geological Engineering, Environmental Geology. Secretary took both Ethan Young and Sarath Devarajan off the list and we will Re Address them in April.

There have been no Student Members since the last meeting.

It was decided that we would review the Bylaws and get back to the Board at the next meeting.

Sharma asked if there was a chair for the Membership. Kurang Mehta puts the list together and I do the research. Sharma said it should be vetted by Kurang.

Motion:

Paul Britt asked for a Motion to approve the New Membership Applications with the exception of two Active Applications that will be set aside for further review. These two applicants are Ethan Young and Sarath Devarajan who will be reviewed by the Secretary for the next Board Meeting. Judy Schulenberg made the Motion to accept the New Membership Applications. Bill DeMis Second the Motion. There was no discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

Paul said we can continue to do the interim voting on Membership. Secretary said it became a difficult to keep up with the new Applications during the holidays.

Major items for Discussion:

Paul had the following.

Office Move: We're Moved. There were a lot of people and committee members moving materials. There is still some ongoing work to clear stuff. Paul is calling for the committees to place their items on the shelves so they will know where their items are in the office. There is a ton of material, and they will be calling Committees to come by and review.

Bill DeMis said Diana Phu and Bill DeMis went through Books and Documents. There was a lot of research done by the HGS in the past. A lot of this information is captured by Datapages. Paul suggested we could open the office as a data library, as well as a conference room for Members to use. We could sell items (Books and Documents) that are duplicates. Bill DeMis asked if the books and documents are scanned? Paul Britt said he was not sure. A lot of these books, we might have the only copy. We want to sell the extra books, but we would like to get some of the originals scanned and put into Datapages. We must look into this.

Andrea is going to be working virtually more often. She wants a cell phone dedicated to the HGS so she knows when a phone call is for the HGS. The cost of any of these choices is $50 per month.

Part Time Contractor: We hired a part time contractor, Jeanette Kennedy, Mike Salazars wife to help sorting out some of these things and were some of the things can be handed off. The decision to retain her was she had a choice of working full time or remaining as a part-time contractor. We capped her hours at 30 hours a month in terms of what she would do for us.

Linda is not in favor of this. She is doing graphics and Linda has been doing graphics. Linda is not sure what the value is or what she will be doing. It does not take a lot of hours. Linda spends a part of Sunday doing the graphics. Volunteers can do this easily. Linda is not in favor of this. We don't have a scope on her job, we don't have a salary, Andrea told Linda we don't need her anymore. Linda does not see what she would be doing in the Summer when we have no meetings.

Paul said she is a part time contractor. We will watch her time closely and see how it goes. It will be up to Penny next year to see how she is utilized. She will never be in the office; she will be outside working from home. There will be fewer members using the office. Paul suggested the office could be used as a conference room. Paul feels there is a lot of work to get done during the Summer. She will be working from home. The office will provide a meeting space for Members. We would like to run the whole meeting with volunteers. Andi does a really good job of looking ahead.

Linda said we are talking about voting on things. If this is a $6,000 per year cost, will there be no board meeting vote on this. Paul said this was discussed extensively in the last meeting and we all agreed unanimously to move forward with this. Judy Schulenberg asked if we had a job description for this person. Linda asked if she could make phone calls for advertising and get more financial support from the consultant. She is contracted Hourly at a rate of $30 per hour capped at 30 hours per month. Paul agrees we may or may not need her, but it would be helpful for getting things done.

Troy Meinen asked for clarification, if we need x-flyer, she gives a time estimate for that item and she gives us a time estimate for the work and that becomes the cost of the task at that time. We do not have volunteers that would be willing to sit in the office or on a computer. Linda points out that she is glad the HGS is fiscally strong and can support this consultant. Linda points out that we currently do not have another 100 Year Anniversary Gala next year or other fund raising activities coming in the following year. We are talking about computer time, not office work. Troy said, if Andrea needs graphic work she sends it to you, and you do it for free. Linda said I am not that person, which is the point Troy was making. Troy's point is Chairs can make their own flyers and so there would be no charge for those. Paul said he has spent the last two years breaking habits in the organization. When you ask someone to do something, they call Andrea instead of doing the work themselves. People make the request, and the office does it because it provides job security. We can discuss this again next month.

Upcoming Elections:

Linda Sternbach is working with Paul Britt on this. The Ballot was filled and sent out for voting.

Africa Conference: Do we want to discuss more about this? Penny put this on the list. Penny wanted a brief vote to go forward on the Africa Conference. We do not want to give up the branding just because the AAPG decided to land in our pasture. Fang Lin said, from a financial standpoint, we made a $2,200 deposit for the Africa Conference. Linda pointed out there are a lot of other conferences we can have our Africa Conference and they can have their Africa Conference with no overlap in the conference. Her point is there is plenty of room for Conferences.

Paul Britt suggested we take to the Africa Committee Board Support for the HGS Africa Conference going forward. Paul said our obligations to PESGB should continue.

Glenn Lowenstein Guadalupe Trip – Break-even was 15 people we only ended up with 10 people. We had some people who were disappointed and suggested we make the Guidebook available. If we want to revisit the trip, do we want to join with another society (West Texas) to try to get the right numbers. Glenn said he would try twice, but not going to keep doing this if it doesn't get funded.

Bill DeMis said WTGS has field trips for new Geos and Geotechs to get exposed to Permian, others are trying to put up field trips. Paul said he would like to kick this back to the Committee level to see if this can be coordinated with other societies. Sharma suggested virtual field trips who can enlist more people. Glenn said There is nothing better than being on the outcrop. Linda shot 10 hours of Video with Bob Lindsey so if you want to do a Zoom watch party. Glenn would like to monetize this. Paul made a list of everyone interested in following up on fieldtrips.

Bill DeMis wanted to talk about rates. Scott Tinker agreed to a luncheon and Bill will pay $1,000 to Switch and get Scott to give a 1 hour talk. What do we charge for this event? What is the sweet spot in prices. Sharma said $35. **Judy Schulenberg noted that this topic was to be a part of Judy Schulenberg's Director's report.** Linda said we did $20 for members, $25 for non-members. There was discussion on a zoom call. Paul suggested $19.99 for Members and Students… $20 and $25 were proposed. Bill was concerned about being too low. Troy pointed out that the value is in attendance, not price and this is a zoom meeting.

Bill DeMis asked if we should have a mini zoom on these issues when they come up. Bill said we should convene a zoom meeting on prices to get to an answer in one mind (Including the Director).

Various reports and lightning Round

Linda Sternbach – Vice President's Report

Report on file.

We just recently closed Noris for April and June. We had a May meeting on the 20th at the SCA. We can invite people to come to our Happy Hour.

Judy Schulenberg - Directors report

Fundamentals of basin modeling produced $1,700 in income. The Applied Biostratigraphy course was postponed until the Fall. All others are in the Report on file.

Social Media Report is on file. There was a question about the Director of the Social Media Report.

Sharma Dronamraju – Directors Report

Shrimp Peel is moving forward. Most registrants are last minute. No other information.

Bill DeMis - Directors Report:

Science and Engineering Fair Report — working to make sure we have a little bit of money for Scientific American subscriptions to some of the winners. Paul said we can do this, but HGS will do the subscriptions so we can get information on sponsors. It is around $400 cost for this. Paul said there is some internship if supported by Sponsorship. Paul said the budget supports two internships and Paul will get money for a third internship.

Paul said Dorene West was selected for a Distinguished Service Award and she will receive this at Geo Gulf Conference.

President-Elect Report – Penny Patterson

Penny submitted the HGS Calendars, and they were uploaded to the Dropbox.

Penny Patterson updated the planning calendar which is updated.

Editor and Editor Elect Report – Caroline Wachtman Ted Godo

Editor – Caroline Watchman – need to get the Bulletin finalized early as she will be on vacation later in the month. We are on track for this next Bulletin. Paul said the election information would be important to have in the Bulletin.

President's report and office management report – Paul Britt

Paul had no time to work on this due to office move.

Time report priority is getting a G&A number so we can get the money off to the Scholarship recipients.

President's Night: Request for nominations from Board Members for President's night. Paul is asking all to submit names that are appropriate to Paul Britt. If you send it to me and you do not receive a response please resend it.

Penny asked for a spreadsheet of the recipients from previous years. Penny will look for one online.

Old Business – North Siders Luncheon discussion with Bill DeMis. We need a champion for the North Siders participation.

Guest Night – Paul is looking at a facility in Sugarland for Guest night. Trying to find a speaker. Linda went down to Sugar Land, and it does not have auditorium space. Linda likes Sugarland but they do folding chairs and can do food outside. Sugar Land says they can accommodate 200 people. Paul is open to any ideas if we think we can make it happen. The Houston Museum of Natural Science has people who can give talks. There was discussion about the pro's and Con's.

Neil Bokoven and Dan Worrell are possible people who can give talks.

The next meeting is on April 16th, 2024

Motion

Motion to adjourn Penny Patterson

All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.