HGS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 9th, 2025, Meeting held via Zoom
Quorum confirmed, meeting called to order by Patricia Walker (HGS President)
Time: 6:18 pm

2025-2026 Board Members

Patty Walker (P)	Bryan Guzman (PE)	Caroline Wachtman (VP)	Catherine Strong (D2)
Bryan Bottoms (S)	Angela Hammond (T)	Andrea Reynolds (TE)	Lauren Robinson (D3)
Lucia Torrado (E)	Sharma Dronmaraju (EE)	Bill DeMIs (D1)	Amanda Johnston (D4)

Board Present – Red were absent Green Were Present

Patty Walker (P)	Bryan Guzman (PE)	Caroline Wachtman (VP)
Bryan Bottoms (S)	Angela Hammond (T)	Andrea Reynolds (TE)
Lucia Torrado (E)	Sharma Dronmaraju (EE)	Bill DeMIs (D1)
Catherine Strong (D2)	Lauren Robinson (D3)	Amanda Johnston (D4)

Patty Walker – Meeting started at 6:18 pm with Quorum of 11 Board Members present.

First Order of Business Discussion & Approval of the Minutes: There were no edits received. No other board members had any proposed changes.

Motion:
Motion to approve the August 2025 Minutes. Bryan so Moved and Catherine seconded the Motion. There was no other discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

The Final Minutes for August can be found in the HGS Dropbox under: Dropbox\HGS Committee Report & Board Minutes\Monthly Meeting Minutes Reports\2025-2026 Board Minutes\2025-08\Final

Motion:
Motion to Approve Agenda. Patty Walker so moved and Catherine Strong seconded. The Vote passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Angela Hammond

HGS Treasurer's Report
August 2025

This report provides an overview of the financial status of the Houston Geological Society (HGS) as of the end of August 2025. Note that the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget is yet to be finalized, therefore no graphs are included in the August Report.

Executive Summary:

- HGS Total Equity increased $39,411 from July 2025 with a decrease in expenses due in large part to a credit of $22,000 for the Golf Tournament
- Budget – We are back up to about 2.5 months of reserves from 1.7 months in July, much better shape, but still less than the desired 3 months of reserves.
- August 2025 Summary: The Investment portfolio continued to steadily increase from July 2025 to August 2025 by ~$16,251. Revenue increased by $23,160 from July 2025 to August 2025 due to a decrease in expenses and revenue outweighing the expenses by by almost 8X. Expenses from July 2025 to August 2025 decreased by ~$35,400, there was no website upgrade expense this month and the credit to the Golf Tournament offset the majority of expenses. Overall, Net Revenue for August 2025 increased $15,858.
- As stated in last month's report, Student Expo donation and sponsor income has helped offset expenses. Membership renewals went down again from July by about 3X along with publication royalties significantly decreasing from ~$4,400 in July to $100 in August. On the flip side, registrations have doubled from July and sponsors income has increased about 6X, mostly due to the Student Expo.

Still in the black, still have 2.5 mos. Expenses down and revenue up.

Membership renewal revenue down.

Motion: Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bryan moved and Andrea second the Motion. There was no discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

Secretary Report – Presented by Bryan Bottoms

New Membership Applications Report:

Only one new Emeritus Status Update this month. Will look into website functionality for new membership applications and if it seems to not be working.

Motion: Motion to approve the one Emeritus Membership Status. Bryan moved and all seconded the Motion. There was no discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

President Agenda

Major items for Discussion

1) **Status update of Website rebuild – plan to launch September 27th**
   a) Will encourage us to try and "break it" once live to make sure it's all working correctly

2) **Budget prep for 2025-26 - budget work is progressing**
   a) Have all except Clay Shoot, but he is working on it.
3) **Committee chairs still sending in budget request worksheets. Budget build continues**
4) **Request from the SPE-Gulf Coast to be a collaborating professional society for their annual hiring event. We did this last year, same request this year.**
   a) Doesn't cost anything, but just advertise it on our website and they list collaborating societies.
   b) Motion to approve to be a collaborating society done by Catherine, Bryan seconded. All approved.
5) **SAGE - Field Camp for Geophysicists – can we advertise it? Underwritten by ExxonMobil**
   a) If publish in Bulletin, and charge for the advertisement in the Bulletin. Flyer will be sent to Amanda so that they can advertise at Student Expo.
   b) Comment from Caroline, that if we want to advertise this, should also advertise IBA, Evolve, and other programs. IBA bought a booth at Student Expo to encourage.
   c) Patty will get back with them and notify that we typically charge for advertisement and see what they can do.
   d) Discussion around if we advertise, maybe we can get an in kind/reciprocal advertisement at no cost.

Bryan Guzman – President Elect

Africa Conference for Houston 2026 – will build a committee for this, open to suggestions for people willing to help lead. Catie Donohue suggested and Sharma volunteering

Calvert Scholarship Fund – Will follow up to see if funds have been withdrawn. Expect an update by next board meeting. Would like to make a marketing email/post to highlight this once confirmed its public knowledge. Post on LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter, email, etc.

GeoGulf 2027 – to be hosted in Houston, will be coordinating further with GCAGS for third week of April. Good Revenue made last time we participated.

Editor – Lucia Torrado

Bulletin coming along well. Looking for papers for future issues. If any pictures from Chair Fest.

Proposal Public access to the Newsletter via the HGS website – will help drive activity and visibility to the website. Biweekly, monthly, or weekly?

Have connected the advertisements in the Bulletin to respective LinkedIn pages increasing functionality.

Should we add business card ads to Newsletter? Motioned to approve, unanimously approved.

Vice Presidents Report – Caroline Wachtman

Venues booked out, speakers mostly booked out with a few slots remaining.

Need to advertise heavily for September talks

Currently only one person registered for September Dinner.

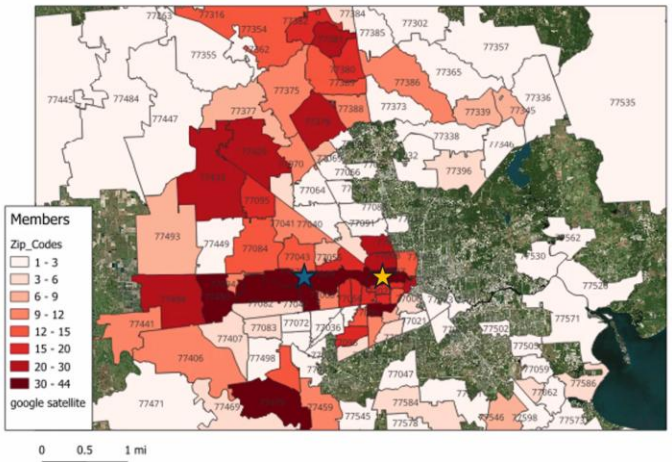
Great maps below showing where members are located vs. Venues. Trying to give some optionality to members outside of Energy Corridor.

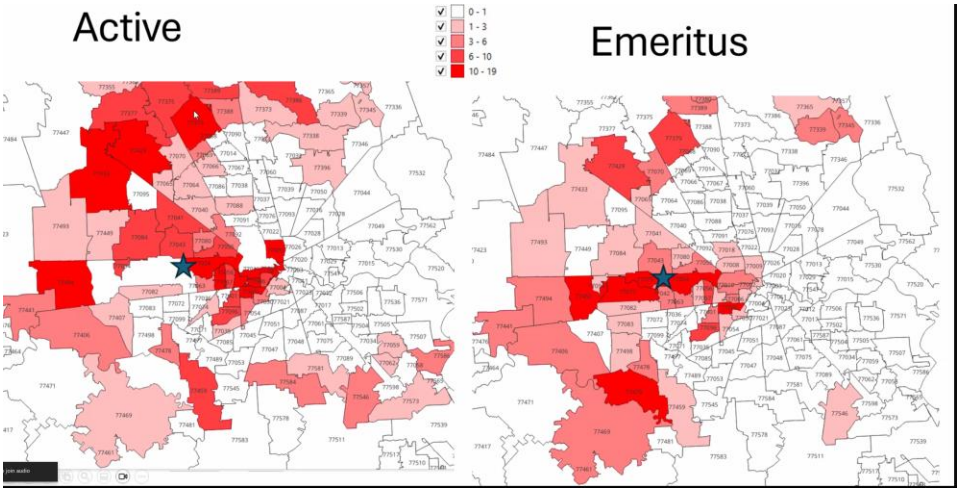
General Dinner / Lunch 2025-26, Sept update

- **Highlights**
  - Venues are 100% booked
  - Speakers are >60% booked
  - 14 sponsorship requests sent (1 decline; 1 tentative)
- **General meeting look ahead:**
  - Identify Legends speaker; ideas welcome
  - Send out targeted emails to members advertising September lunch and dinner
- **E&E:**
  - No speaker in Sept; planning for Oct

Type	Date	Location	Speaker	Price (M/NM/S)
Dinner	9/29/2025	Spaghetti Western	Sashi Gunturu; AI for Geos	$45/50/$45
Lunch	9/24/2025	Oxy, C106	Bryan Bottoms; Lower 48	$30/$35/$25
Happy Hour	10/13/2025	Federal Grill, Shepherd	Equinor, Smackover Lithium	$45/50/$45
Lunch	10/22/2025	Murphy	Panel: Pivoting your career	$30/$35/$25
Dinner	11/10/2025	Norris, Magnolia	UH, Dr. Jiaxuan Li, seismology	$65/$75/$40
Lunch	11/19/2025	Oxy, P118	Panel: IBA, EVOLVE, GWOB	$30/$35/$25
Happy Hour	12/8/2025	Federal Grill, Shepherd	ExxonMobil, Energy Outlook	$45/50/$45
Lunch	12/17/2025	*Virtual (or Apache)*	Rene Jonk	*$15/$20/$10*
Dinner	1/12/2026	Perry's at Memorial	Legends	$65/$75/$40
Lunch	1/21/2026	Murphy	Cantium, Main Pass 313	$30/$35/$25
Dinner	2/9/2026	Norris, Magnolia	Scholarship Night	$65/$75/$40
Lunch	2/18/2026	Total	Bill DiMis	
Dinner	3/2/2026	Spaghetti Western	Penny and Jerry, Buffalo Bayou	
Lunch	3/18/2026	Apache	Mark Hamzat	
Dinner	4/13/2026	Perrys at Memorial	UT, Katie Smye	$65/$75/$40
Lunch	4/22/2026	Woodside		
Dinner	5/4/2026	Spaghetti Western	Oxy, Bruce Trudgill	
Lunch	5/20/2026	Woodside		

HGS members





Directors Reports:

Bill Demis

Grand Canyon Field Trip – nothing to update

Sporting Clay & Shrimp peel – nothing to update

Tennis Tournament – considering Pickleball tournament still

Catherine Strong

Case Study Seminar – January 15th at the Norris Center, coming together well. Advertising will start in November. Pricing at $275, inclusive of lunch and happy hour. $325 for walk-in's. Speakers and students get a break in price.

Science and Engineering Fair – sponsoring the internships, all is going well. Lucia did a great job representing this in the Bulletin

Earth Science Week – coming up and they have volunteers. Looking for volunteers for GIMS (Girls in Mathematics and Science) event

Lauren Robinson

Neo Geos – budget submitted

Student Expo committee – coming up

Social Media committee – nothing new

Amanda Johnston

Continuing Education - First event coming up in November

Museum & Field Trip Committee – nothing to comment on

K-12 Outreach Committee – did first meeting and put together 9 events. Salt Party coming up

Earth Science Week – coming up

Exhibits Committee – nothing new

Student Expo – Coming up next week. All good. 276 people signed up. Expecting around 300 students to attend.

Presidents Report:

Office Report – nothing new

Old Business – nothing new

New Business – nothing new

Next Meeting Date – To be scheduled by the new incoming President Patty Walker. Tentatively Tuesday October 14th 2025 @ 6:15pm.

Placeholder will be sent from Andi to all board members for meetings on second Tuesday of the month.

Motion:

Motion to adjourn the meeting Catherine and seconded by Bryan.

All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.