Boy and Girl Scouts Day 2019

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The Board usually meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 AM; all members are invited to attend. Please contact a Board Member to confirm time and location.

Letters, articles, announcements, ads, etc. must be received by the Editor by the end of the fourth full week of the month preceding publication. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to the editor at: summitdatasvcs@msn.com (Microsoft Word format is preferred.)

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Change of email:
Change of email notices and other contact information changes for the CPG should be sent directly to:

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Letters, articles, announcements, ads, etc. must be received by the Editor by the end of the fourth full week of the month preceding publication. Letters, articles, ads, announcements, etc. accepted on a space available basis. Submission of articles, etc. via e-mail is the preferred method. Copy can be accepted in most PC formats, but DOC or DOCX are preferred. Call or e-mail James Russell for details on submission of copy or advertising at 303-815-3901, summitdatasvcs@msn.com.

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Editor’s Remarks

James Russell

Winter is coming. Winter is coming.

Autumn’s weather reminds us that winter is around the corner and that it is time to get the winter gear ready for ‘fun’ field work conditions. Now that I am semi-retired, I do not miss sitting on a drilling rig with the wind blowing in my face and wind chills below freezing. I am sure we all have ‘wonderful’ stories about working outdoors in the winter. Now I can just sit back in my warm, temperature controlled den and compile newsletters. This newsletter includes biographies of the 2020 Section Executive Committee members, information on changes to the bylaws, and an excellent piece by Doug Peters on volunteering.

Call for Articles

If you have any articles that you would like to share, please let me know (your editor).
Dinosaur Ridge typically holds Boy Scout Day in May, but this year it was held on September 28th, three weeks prior to Girl Scout Day (October 19th). Both events presented excellent opportunities for AIPG’s Colorado Section to present itself to the public, and through the efforts of devoted volunteers (Ron Pritchett, Danielle McDowell, Gianna Antunovich, Fred Barnard, and Jessica and Ayda Davey). Both events were extremely successful.

Dinosaur Ridge registered 250 Boy Scouts (many of whom were female), with an estimated total of 500 visitors, while Girl Scout Day registered 677 Scouts, with an estimated total of 950 visitors. All were treated to a wide range of science-oriented exhibits and specialists, from astronomical societies, to local parks, to painting clay molds of dinosaur footprints. And, of course, the Colorado Section booth had a great sampling of minerals, rocks, and fossils. In addition, Ron Pritchett and Fred Barnard brought along various “give-aways,” which went over very well for both Boy and Girl Scout Days. The enthusiasm of the visitors was refreshing, and their interest in the various booths was exceptional. No one seemed to be in a hurry...they were there to observe, listen and learn...which is exactly what happened!

Dinosaur Ridge is a Colorado treasure, and an excellent venue for AIPG’s outreach efforts. The visitors, especially the younger students, are a target audience not only for geological education, but for the sciences across-the-board. AIPG’s outreach effort can always use volunteers to help “man-the-booth,” to contribute mineral specimens, rocks, and fossils, and to share their love of a truly enjoyable and challenging profession.

Hope to see you all next year!
2020 Executive Board Members

President  Tom Harp
President-Elect  Jessica Davey
Treasurer  Gary D. Davis
Secretary  Rick Allison
CPG Editor  James Russell
Leg./Reg. Chair  Ron Pritchett
Advisor 1  Mark Mathisen
Advisor 2  Doug Peters
Advisor 3  Tom VanArsdale
Advisor 4  Louis Bull

Executive Board Biographies and Goals

Tom Harp AIPG President 2020

Both my parents were research scientists (microbiology and biochemistry) who conducted critical work in pharmaceuticals (penicillin antibiotics and anthrax vaccines) and national defense (biological and chemical warfare). Though “occupational hazards” ultimately lead to their early demise (I was orphaned by age 15), their love of science influenced me greatly. Today, my career involves developing and implementing state-of-the-art biotic (biological) and abiotic (chemical) technologies to treat toxic solutes found in the subsurface. My background as a scientist (bachelor’s degree in geology from Tulane University), engineer (master’s degree in fluid mechanics from Colorado State University), and manager (master’s degree in business administration from University of Missouri) has allowed me to be involved in many complex and exciting challenges.

The trajectory of my professional life began as an engineering geologist for a major consulting firm (Shannon & Wilson, Inc. – St. Louis office) in the late 1970’s. I performed geotechnical- and foundation-design tasks for everything from nuclear-power plants, gas-processing plants, high-rise office buildings (30+ stories tall), mine-tailings dams, to major hydro-electric dams. Gaining invaluable experience working on projects throughout the country, I set my sights on even bigger targets – international opportunities. I took leave-of-absence in the early 1980’s to earn an MBA to help me excel at large-project management, including pipeline construction in Saudi Arabia.

In 1984, I took a position with Dames & Moore (now AECOM) in Denver, where I began to focus my applied-geology skills on environmental defects at CERCLA, RCRA, and USATHAMA sites. Changing disciplines opened an entirely new set of opportunities. To be better equipped as a practitioner, I returned to school in 1987 and earned a master’s degree in civil engineering – groundwater hydraulics and chemical transport.

In 1990, I re-entered the work force with Terracon Companies in Denver. Over a 13-year tenure, I managed projects to remediate complex petroleum-hydrocarbon and chlorinated-solvent groundwater plumes throughout North America (United States and Canada) and Europe. I became a member...
of AIPG in 1998 (CPG-10339). In 2003, I left the world of “mega-consulting firms” to become a Principal and Director of Technical Operations at a small, but very talented firm, LT Environmental, Inc. (LTE), where I helped grow the company from 20 to over 130 professionals on staff.

In 2018, I retired from LTE, but still wanted to remain active in the commerce of subsurface remediation, so I founded Remediation Risk Reduction, LLC (R³) in Golden. I also became a major contributor to the RPI Group, a broad consortium of companies from across the U.S.

In 2017 and 2018, I was the Secretary of AIPG, Colorado Section and in 2019, served as President-Elect. I now very much look forward to serving as President of the Executive Board for 2020.

**Goal Statement: President for 2020**

I am honored to serve as President of the Colorado Section of AIPG for 2020 and am dedicated to the highest standards of personal integrity and professional conduct. I will perform all duties expected of the head of the Executive Committee to the best of my ability and will adhere to the canons, ethical standards, and rules of conduct set forth by AIPG’s National Committee. I look forward to working with the other talented Executive Committee members in continuing to improve the services AIPG provides our members and the public, in general. 2020 promises to be a very challenging and exciting year, especially during the upcoming legislative session. Let’s work hard and commit ourselves to excellence!

Jessica Davey AIPG 2020 President-Elect

Jessica Davey is a geologist at Sproule, an international energy consulting firm. She received her undergraduate degree in Applied Geology from MSU Denver and her Masters in Global Energy Management from the University of Colorado. Jessica possesses geological field experience in Ireland, Germany, and the United States, and has provided geologic support on projects in Australia, Europe, Africa, South America, and throughout the oil and gas basins of the United States and Canada. Jessica is passionate about well rounded economic and feasibility studies in oil and gas and minerals development projects and has presented at several conferences including AIPG Annual Conferences on topics including resource evaluation, environmental studies, and business and professional ethics.

Jessica has served the Colorado Section as Treasurer for 2018 and 2019 and as sponsor to the MSU Denver Student Chapter. She will also serve the National Executive Committee as Young Professional Member in 2020.

**Goal Statement: President-Elect 2020**

Beyond fostering the AIPG goals, my goals as President-Elect in 2020 are two-fold. First, I plan to strategize with the Colorado Executive Committee ways to increase membership value for our members here in Colorado. We hosted a couple of great multi-organizational events in 2019 that
Jessica Davey Goal Statement (continued)

we can build on and emphasize the AIPG name to other professionals in the state. Second, as a Young Professional member, I plan to encourage more active participation in our Student, Young Professional, and Professional membership groups by planning relevant and meaningful activities.

Gary Davis AIPG 2020 Treasurer

Gary D. Davis has been involved in the upstream and midstream oil and gas industry for over thirty-five years, the most recent more than twenty years in upper management and executive roles, including several privately-backed start-up ventures. His direct experience spans most of the ongoing plays and basins in the Lower 48 of the United States as well as Argentina, both conventional and unconventional. He is known for his depth of knowledge and practical experience in technical, operational and financial aspects of the oil and gas business as well as teaching and mentoring new talent in the business. He appreciates that for the big picture to be successful the details must be properly executed. And, those details must conform to investment requirements: manage cash flow to ensure positive return to all stakeholders.

Mr. Davis became involved with M&A in 1986 and has successfully closed more than 50 transactions. He has orchestrated early-stage strategic entry and exit in four of the most active unconventional plays in the United States. He currently advises start-up ventures in formulating business plans and securing funding.

Mr. Davis began his career during college as a geologist in the Appalachian basin. He moved to Texas to work in exploration and production for a Fortune 20 oil company which later moved him to Denver, Colorado. He pursued a graduate degree in geology at the University of Houston, graduate course work in petroleum engineering at the Colorado School of Mines and completed his MBA degree at the University of Denver, with honors. He maintains his licensure as a certified petroleum geologist and remains current with technology while managing ventures for profitability. Gary is an avid cyclist, skier, golfer and outdoorsman. He resides in Golden, Colorado.

Goal Statement: Treasurer 2020:

1. Learn, abide by and implement the AIPG Mission Statement;
2. Provide timely and accurate reporting of the financial condition of the AIPG; and
3. Extend the reach of professional geology to the surrounding community.
Rick Allison 2020 AIPG Secretary

"Richard (Rick) Allison is an Environmental Protection Specialist (EPS) at the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC). Rick has been at the COGCC since 2010 and works to ensure oil and gas industry compliance with COGCC Waste Management Rules and with the CDPHE Water Quality Control Standards for oil and gas related activity. He works for the COGCC in a field office in the northern DJ Basin (northern Weld and Larimer Counties) and responds to allegations of threatened or actual oil and gas related impacts to groundwater or surface water. Rick conducts investigations of stray gas in the subsurface, and conducts special environmental projects for the COGCC to document environmental conditions prior to, during and after oil and gas development. Rick recently completed a project documenting the water quality and presence of methane in the Upper Pierre Aquifer. Prior to working at COGCC, Rick had a total of 10 years of environmental consulting experience conducting investigations at Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfills and conducting investigations and remediation projects at Leaking Underground Storage Tank sites. Rick has a BS in Geology from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and a MS in Geology from Idaho State University. Rick is a CPG (11285) and maintains his PG in Wyoming.

Rick has lived in Colorado since late 2001, and in Loveland since 2004. Rick is married with two teenage daughters. He and his family enjoy camping, hiking and traveling together. Rick volunteers in his community with Habitat for Humanity and trail building on local hiking/mountain biking trails as time allows. He has served his local church as Council Representative and President and has been a homebrewer for over 20 years."

James Russell 2020 AIPG Newsletter Editor

My 43 years of experience as a mining and exploration geologist has included mapping, sampling, drilling, reserve estimation, and economic analysis of mineral properties. My first position after graduating from Purdue was working for United Nuclear as a underground geologist and later managing a development drilling project on the Navajo Reservation. Between 1985 and 1991 I was Senior Geologist for National Gypsum Company. In 1987 I helped in debugging remote sensing software developed by Ecole des mines de Paris, France (now called Paris School of Mines). This software was used to identify areas near existing gypsum operations for further evaluation in Arizona, California, and Nevada. Later in 1992 I used said software to map vegetation classes in the San Juan Mountains, Colorado using multispectral imagery provided to me by the Indian government.

I have evaluated potential reserves and development costs of uranium, precious metals, industrial minerals (gypsum, sand and gravel), coal, and oil and gas deposits in western U.S., Mexico, and Central America. From 1991 until it’s demise in 1996 I worked for the U.S. Bureau of Mines. In 2017 I retired from federal service as a geologist with the Division of Mineral Evaluation, Office of Valuation Services, Office of the Secretary of Interior. I have been a CPG since 1987, Register-
ed Geologist (Wyoming), EFG (European Federation of Geologists), GISP (GIS Professional, GISCI), and PMP (Project Management Professional, PMI). Educational Background: B.S. Geology, Purdue University, M.S., Mineral Economics, Colorado School of Mines, and M.S., GIS and Management, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. I have held the position of President, Colorado Section, AIPG in 2002 and as Treasurer of the Colorado Section. Other outside interests that keep me occupied include choral music, scuba diving, stellar photography, and dabbling in esoteric/arcane forms of digital radio communications as a licensed amateur radio operator.

**Goal Statement: Newsletter Editor 2020**

As newsletter editor I will endeavor to produce informative newsletters that include current useful information on geologically related activities to the membership, articles pertaining to our profession, other topics that would be of interest to our readers, and to provide a new headshot picture of myself for the next edition of the newsletter.

**Ron Pritchett AIPG 2020 Leg/Reg Chair**

Farmington, New Mexico in the '50s was a small desert town where a young fellow like me could love wide-open spaces, colorful jagged land, and oil-field culture in family and friends. The trail led to the Front Range of Colorado, and education in Littleton, Ft. Collins, and Golden at Colorado School of Mines. In the early '70s I began a career in the oil and gas industry, influenced by brave and skilled professional geologists and engineers who were associated with AIPG, including John D. Haun, Tom Fails, and Cliff J. Nolte. I joined AIPG in 1986, served on the Colorado Section Board in 1989, and was Chairman of the 32nd Annual Meeting in 1995. Somewhere in the archives is a conference paper titled, "Applied Geology, Prosperity, and Growth in the United States" predicting dire consequences for a country detached from advocacy of natural resource development. In Denver I worked for Charles Einarsen of Viking Exploration, Caswell Silver of Sundance Oil, and a French-financed company in Denver called Eurafrep. I consulted for 18 years thereafter, enjoying a variety of challenges defining resource projects in most petroleum basins in the USA. I came to appreciate the beauty of a well-designed disposal well and the necessity of business decisions based on economics, contrasted with desire or politics. Industry cycles led me to the University of Denver for an advanced degree in Technology Management, and I finished the 20th century with a tour of rigs from Wyoming to Texas as a mudlogger. The drilling operations experience was most valuable; thereafter I joined engineering teams working to conquer multi-pay oil & gas zones of the Wattenberg Field north of Denver with Snyder and Patina Oil and Gas. In the last ten years of my career working for corporations (finishing with Noble Energy), it was fun to be engaged in business transition from vertical wells to design and execution of horizontal wells. In years 2017-2019 a technological revolution is ongoing in the resource development business, and political influence tends to work against technical solutions.
for human problems. More and more people have been excluded from counsel in the ways of wealth. It is a privilege to participate in the adventure as a member of the Colorado AIPG Board, for public education needs are ongoing in a world that requires natural resources for actualized quality of life.

Goal Statement: AIPG Legislative/Regulatory Chair for Year 2020

Ron Pritchett Goal Statement:

I will adhere to the AIPG Mission: "(To) advance the geological sciences and the profession of geology....and represent, and advocate for, the geological profession before government and the general public." Through Year 2020, I will monitor Colorado and National legislation and report to the Colorado Board on trends that may harm or enhance the geologic profession and the general public. Recommendations will be included for action by the Board and Colorado AIPG members. Reporting and recommending are appropriate roles, because AIPG is a 501 (c)(6) non-profit corporation, allowing lobbying for the geologic profession. Most other professional societies may not advocate for or against laws that affect the geologic professions, at risk of their non-profit tax status. Thus Leg./Reg. reporting is essential to the AIPG "brand" as a unique institution.

Mark Mathisen AIPG Advisor 2020

Mark Mathisen is a Principal Geologist at Roscoe Postle Associates (RPA) with over 30 years’ experience in the mining industry, with focus on uranium and gold exploration in the North, Central and South America, Africa and Asia. His work at RPA is principally directed towards resource modelling, Mineral Resource estimates and audits, review and preparation of NI 43-101 Technical Reports, and conducting due diligence reviews in support of market transactions.

Prior to joining RPA, Mr. Mathisen was Director – Project Resources for Denison Mines Corp., where he oversaw Canadian National Instrument 43-101 (NI 43-101) compliant resource evaluations and recommendations for Denison’s national and international uranium projects. As a Geologist/Geophysicist for International Uranium (USA) Corporation, Mr. Mathisen was responsible for the design, development, and implementation of the geophysical program for an American-Russian-Mongolian joint venture project in the Gobi Region of Mongolia. Mr. Mathisen has designed and led both green-fields and brown-fields exploration drilling campaigns, geophysical programs, and developed supporting QA/QC programs.

Raised the son of an exploration geologist, his younger years had him moving a lot as his father searched for the next big ore discover. On occasions when he accompanied his dad on these exploration trips or “hunts”, he developed an interest in how geology taught one to read the rocks to uncover the past and a lifelong passion to see the world. His career has taken him to five of the seven continents, from the deserts of southwest USA to the steppes of Mongolia and he continues to be fascinated by what the rocks are telling him not just of the past but the future. Mark served as Treasurer of the CO-AIPG Section from 2016-2017 and as an Advisor since 2018.
Doug Peters  AIPG Advisor 2020

Douglas Peters has over 40 years of experience in geology and mining, including applications of remote sensing and GIS technologies. Doug has both private and public company management experience. Doug is the owner of Peters Geosciences, a management, remote sensing, and GIS consultancy in Golden, Colorado which began business in 1996. Doug received M.Sc. degrees in Geology and Mining Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and a B.Sc. in Earth and Planetary Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh. Doug is an AIPG Certified Professional Geologist (#8274), and has served on the Colorado Section Executive Committee multiple times (including three times as President). He is a licensed Professional Geologist in Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Doug also presently serves as President and CEO of TUVERA Exploration Inc. and President of Magma Gold Corp., in charge of property evaluations and all company operations and exploration activities.

Goal Statement: AIPG Advisor 2020
Please see Doug’s article ‘Just Do It’ in this newsletter

Tom VanArsdale AIPG Advisor 2020

Tom received his undergraduate degree in geology from Rutgers University in 1979 and proceeded to Oklahoma City to work as a “mud-logger” in the oil patch. After 14 months of living on oil rigs throughout Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle Tom took a staff geologist position with Asamera Oil (US) Inc. in Denver, Colorado in 1981. The stint as a prospect geologist was interrupted by the severe down-turn of the mid-1980s, so Tom returned to school and received his MBA from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in December 1987. Tom, and a partner, then began “Geochemical Data Services,” conducting soil-gas surveys for various oil companies in the pursuit of drillable prospects. By late 1998 Tom began working as an independent prospect generator. Since January 2017 Tom has been the Manager/Executive Director of the Denver Earth Resources Library. Tom’s future endeavors with CO-AIPG will concentrate on improving current out-reach programs, while looking for opportunities to expand the out-reach programs.

(Louis Bull Biography on next page)
Louis Bull (CPG #8161) AIPG Advisor

Franklin and Marshall College, BA - 1982
California State University, Long Beach, MS – 1985
Professional Hydrologist – Groundwater  American Institute of Hydrology #1598
Certified Hydrogeologist  California #381
Professional Geologist  California #5455
My professional experience expands over 34 years primarily in the environmental arena including specialization in environmental compliance of groundwater and surface water, geochemistry, methane migration, water treatment/recycling, and soil and groundwater remediation. I look forward to continuing my association with everyone at CO-AIPG in 2020.

Goal Statement: AIPG Advisor 2020
I look forward to another year working closely with the other executive committee members to advance the geological sciences and the profession of geology, hydrogeology, and groundwater remediation. As groundwater and safe drinking water resources become more critical to our communities and societies around the world, it is important to be a leader in education and a promoter of awareness to enhance the general public’s knowledge of the challenges we face to preserve our most precious resource. Working with AIPG members with interest and expertise both in geology and hydrogeology is an important component to filling voids in this profession and I will provide guidance to both young and experienced professionals in this arena. I am excited to work with the varied expertise with AIPG to debate and hopefully resolve important geologic and hydrogeologic issues that impact us all.

Night at the Library
Tom Van Arsdale

On Wednesday, October 30, 2019 the CO-Section of AIPG was one of six sponsors of the, “Night at the Library,” held at the Denver Earth Resources Library (DERL). The other five sponsors were DERL, RMAG, SPE, DWLS, and SEPM. Although the weather was not ideal (cold!), it is estimated that at least 50 people attended the event. Food and drink were provided at no charge, and the attendees enjoyed a delightful evening meeting various professionals representing a broad range of geoscience backgrounds. With the current Colorado political attitude, especially concerning the extraction industries, it is believed more such events need to occur so as to build a comradery among the various geoscience organizations, industries, and practitioners.

The Denver Earth Resources Library was established in 1986, and through numerous and constant donations, has become the largest such library of its kind within the US. Its data covers more geographical area than any such library and provides unique data to the oil and gas industry, the mining industry, and the water resources industry. It is located in the heart of downtown Denver (17th Street and Stout) and its website is derlibrary.com. Give it a look.
Changes to Colorado Section Bylaws

The Executive Committee of the Colorado Section of AIPG made several changes to the Section bylaws concerning membership at its January 8, 2019 meeting. After feedback from the AIPG National Executive Committee, the Colorado Section made additional changes to the Section Bylaws. The following changes have been approved by both the Colorado and National Executive Committees and went into effect June 29, 2019:

Delete the Vice President's position. This proposal required several changes to remove the Vice President office from the bylaws and reassign its duties to the President-Elect. The duties of the Vice President in the current Bylaws are to (1) assume the duties of the President in the President's absence or incapacity and (2) to serve as the program chair arranging for speakers at monthly meetings. In practice in recent years, the President-elect rather than the Vice President has assumed the President's duties in the President's absence or incapacity.

The Section has been unable to hold regular meetings for some years primarily due to the fact that a large percentage of the membership no longer work in downtown Denver and so such meetings are no longer scheduled.

Increase the number of Advisors from 3 to 4. Increasing the number of Advisors from 3 to 4 maintains the number of voting members on the Executive Committee, while eliminating the Vice President.

Encourage at least one voting member of the ExCom be a Young Professional Member. Encouraging at least one voting member be a Young Professional aligns with the Colorado Section and National goals to engage with Young Professionals and develop their membership and participation. Encouraging a Young Professional be a voting member states our desire to have Young Professional representation on the Committee, but does not obligate the Executive Committee to seat a Young Professional Member if no candidates can be found.

Require that all members of the Screening Committee be CPGs. The National AIPG Bylaws, Section 7.2.5, require that all members of a Section screening committees be CPGs because only applicants for Certification are screened. This change adds this requirement to the Colorado Section's Bylaws for purposes of clarity.

Require that the offices of President and President-Elect be held by a Professional Member or a Certified Professional Geologist. This change does not disallow a Young Professional to hold these offices, but the Young Professional would need to register as a Professional Member.

All Colorado Section Members may access the current and past Section Bylaws in the Section Dropbox at: https://www.dropbox.com/s/agfh7gah7w28sz8/2019COSectionBylaws2-5-19.pdf?dl=0

Contact Rick Allison, Colorado Section Secretary, or any Colorado Executive Committee Officer with questions regarding the bylaws.
Just Do It
Douglas C. Peters  CPG-8274

When the call went out to the current Colorado Section Executive Committee (ExComm) for essays for the Colorado Professional Geologist (CPG), it came to mind that a commentary on why I have engaged and still engage in multiple volunteer efforts for the section and AIPG (and other societies) would be timely. This is especially true with many societies looking for candidates their annual officer elections, often starting in the Winter or Spring of each year.

Many people, perhaps most, that comment about why they get involved in geological and mining societies, state that they are doing so to give back to their profession as a result of their successes and interest in that profession. This is an excellent reason to get involved and stay involved in running societies, especially those run entirely or mainly by volunteers.

I come at the process from perhaps a more basic viewpoint. I see jobs that need done, that are within my capabilities technically, financially, and in terms of time available, and I just do it (i.e., volunteer and follow through) when positions need filled. Yes, this still “gives back” to the organization and I guess my profession as a whole (or at least I hope so). However, the “job” simply needs done and will not get done without an active volunteer or group of volunteers to get there.

If you ever have served as a volunteer, and especially as a leader among volunteers such as an officer of an organization, you know very well how hard it can be to find people who are both willing to aid the organization AND follow through by being active when and where needed. It can be a terrifically frustrating task to come up with a full slate of officer candidates or even a group of volunteers of sufficient critical mass to get something done without burning out one or a few repeatedly active people. So, when the need arises and my name gets called, and I am able to handle the task at hand, I just do it!

That does not mean I volunteer or say yes to all tasks that come my way (although some may wonder just how many times I have said no). Being an active volunteer over a long period tends to get you tagged repeatedly (albeit over a long cycle time many times) for positions and recurrent tasks. You have to balance the desire to help with the reality of work, family, health, and sanity. NOBODY can do it all the time without inevitable burnout and “falling off the edge” for acceptance of future activities. I’ve seen many good volunteers in more than one organization run through a 3-7 year high activity cycle and then disappear due to having gotten overwhelmed and/or conflicted with other activities or just life. If I simply cannot handle what is presented to me, for any reason, I say no or take a very minor role in the activity at most. If I do have the capacity to handle the position or task that has a need for my services, then I say yes and just do it. That means a full commitment to do the task and stay with it to completion once I have given my acceptance.

In nearly all cases, “just doing it” has been rewarding and educational. Sometimes obtained the hard
way, but educational nonetheless. Many relationships among my professions have been generated this way, and hopefully the others in those relationships have found my participation and advice worthwhile as well.

I recommend extending the “just do it” viewpoint to other aspects of life and work as well. For example, health and safety is a key issue in any profession and job site, as well as in our everyday lives. If you see a problem or potential problem you can fix without endangering yourself, just do it. This can be something as major as a potential failure (e.g., equipment or rock slopes) that you observe starting and getting the appropriate staff or officials to respond to it. It can be something minor with potential imminent effects, such as a rock on the road or tree limb that has fallen across a road that you can move to prevent an accident or damage to someone. The latter example happened multiple times when I lived in the mountains between Golden and Black Hawk. I stopped in as safe a way and location as possible to take rocks off the canyon road that clearly were big enough to cause damage to tires or undercarriages of vehicles. A couple times I had to cut trees and limbs that had blown down during wind storms in my neighborhood or go to the nearest county office to alert them to the need to remove a large tree that was blocking a lane and leading to vehicles crossing into the oncoming lane on a tight bend on a heavily travelled road. Homes are rife with situations that may just need a little nudge (e.g., moving a toy or sharp object) to keep them from causing harm that could have been avoided. Keep your eyes open for anything in your daily life that can be “fixed” easily.

In closing, nurture the ‘just do it’ viewpoint in your activities whenever feasible. Volunteer when and where you are able to improve and maintain the organizations and people you care about. Be the one to “do it” and not the one wishing something had been done that did not get done due to the lack of an active volunteer!
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