AIPG
Section History
The beginning of the Arizona Section appears to be credited to Bill Greenslade, Walt Heinrichs, Ben Dickerson, Ted Eyde, Paul Manera, and Richard Hahman. In some of the Section’s archival records (those boxes that are passed along each year and are seldom purged of extraneous material), there is a letter referencing some of the early beginnings. Bill Greenslade was at a meeting with Walt Heinrichs in February 1975 regarding an Arizona legislative issue and at this meeting Bill and Walt discussed some ideas about forming an Arizona section of AIPG; Walt followed up with a letter in March 1975 to Bill and others to solicit thoughts and to investigate the feasibility of an Arizona Section of AIPG. The earliest record of the Section is from a copy of the Bylaws of the Arizona Section. According to the Preamble “WHEREAS, there are now ten or more Members of the Association who reside within the State of Arizona and who desire to organize an Arizona Section....” The Section was established on November 9, 1977. The adoption of the bylaws was certified by Paul Manara and endorsed by Richard Hahman.

In the early years, the AZ Section hosted the 12th Annual National meeting at the Sheraton Pueblo Inn in Tucson in October of 1975 (the Section didn’t even officially exist yet). The committee members who organized the meeting included Chairman Walt Heinrichs, Jim Sell, Lyman Hart, Woody Simmons, Jim DeCook, Don Williamson, Dick Thomssen, Al Perry, Ted Eyde, Stan Keith, Ben Dickerson, and Bill Greenslade. About 200 people attended and Ted Eyde is credited with almost single-handedly putting the program together. The general program theme was “Geologists – Tell It Like It Is – to the Public, Our Lawmakers and Ourselves”. Jean Heinrichs organized the ladies activities. The “wives” went shopping in Nogales – there must have been very few woman geologists anticipated at the meeting (times have certainly changed). Profits from the annual meeting helped establish the Arizona Section. The annual meeting included a field trip to Twin Buttes Mine. The meeting was deemed as “one of the best ever”.

Arizona was an early pioneer in the registration of geologists, starting in 1958, prior to the formation of AIPG. In the later part of the 1970s, there was a lot of activity focused on registration of geologists in the State and the registration exam. The examination used for registration was administered by the Arizona Board of Technical Registration (ABOTR) that, at the time, did not even have a geologist on its board. The ABOTR’s exam at that time was written by university faculty, had essay questions mostly related to academia and not practicing geologists. The exam was determined invalid by a psychomatrition. The section offered itself to the ABOTR to assist in developing a valid exam and the adoption of a nationally-accepted exam. This offer was accepted. The Arizona Section began work on developing a valid geological registration exam. Ed Dapples, Dick Rush, Bill Greenslade, Ralph Weeks, Frank Turek, Erick Weiland, Steve Noel, Bill Wellendorf, and Jim Furlow were involved in the early stages of developing a valid exam. These exam questions were part of the early stages in the development of a National exam – ASBOG- that began in October 1992. The Section also successfully worked through the legislature to have a position on the ABOTR specifically for a geologist. Bill Greenslade, Jim Furlow, Dick Rush, Ralph Weeks, Joe Rominger, and Paul Manera were some of the people instrumental in these efforts.

In 1985 the Arizona Board of Regents voted to no longer allow credit for earth science as a laboratory science course for students enrolling in the Arizona university system. As a result, school system began dropping earth science as a course offering. AIPG prepared a position paper in support of earth science education, obtained endorsements from other professional societies,
and eventually had the decision reversed. Earth science classes gained equal standing with chemistry, biology, and physics. Erick Weiland helped lead the effort.

The AZ section hosted a very successful National AIPG meeting in Flagstaff in October 1994. The committee members included Chairperson Dale Nations, Mike Greeley, Bill Greenslade, Larry Fellows, Steve Noel, Lisa Worthington, Dave Kirchner, Erick Weiland, Barbara Murphy and Gary Hix. We even had John Wesley Powell give a talk about his trip down the Colorado River. The field trip to the Grand Canyon included snow! AIPG national chose to hold the annual meeting in Flagstaff again in 2008 with Barbara Murphy serving as general chairperson in conjunction with two other organizations (Arizona Hydrological Society and International Professional Geology Conference). Once again Flagstaff and the attractions of northern Arizona provided a beautiful backdrop for field trips and the meeting events. The meeting was very successful.

In 1985 our State Geologist, Larry Fellows, asked the Arizona Section to conduct a review of the activities of the Geological Survey Branch of the Arizona Bureau of Geology and Mineral Technology. Ralph Weeks chaired the committee and other members included Frank Turek, Ken Euge, Walter Heinrichs, and Dale Nations. The committee produced a splendid report that was influential in getting the Geological Survey Branch removed from the University of Arizona and established as the Arizona Geological Survey (AZGS). Larry Fellows was State Geologist and Director of AZGS from 1979 to 2005, and was followed by Lee Allison. Both have been active members of the AIPG Arizona Section.

The AZ Section established a committee (Alan Coope, Dawn Garcia, Walter Heinrichs, and Erick Weiland) to perform a review of the activities of the Arizona Geological Survey relative to the agency’s mission. The results were published in November 1997 and have been very useful for budget and continuance issues with the State legislature. The AZGS faces Sunset Review every 10 years as part of the legislative process and annual budget reviews. AIPG members continue to offer letters and testimony of support to the State legislature. AZ Section members have also offered letters of support and testimony for the Arizona Department of Mines, US Geological Survey, and at the Congressional Subcommittee on Mines and Mining.

In the early days – the late 1970s – early 1980s, it appears that most of the AIPG meetings were focused on Section business issues and were held in Casa Grande, sort of a central meeting point between Phoenix and Tucson. This was a compromise because the Phoenix meetings were poorly attended by Tucsonans, and vice versa (The Casa Grande meetings were poorly attended by both those from Phoenix and Tucson!). Practically the only thing we discussed for several years was the geology exam. We worked closely with the psychometrician to prepare good questions and to review and modify those that exam-takers appeared to have the most problems with. Smaller, focused committees completed a lot of work. In the mid-1980s our section meetings included the business meetings but also more technical speakers and presentations on regulatory/legislative issues. We began having more field trips to entice our members to meetings and to share information in their areas of expertise. It also was a great way to see the geology of Arizona. We began including spouses, children, and friends on our field trips. For many of us, the weekends were a time to spend with family after long hours at work and so some of the AIPG meetings included family. It was also viewed as a way to promote the understanding of what a geologist does. This has continued to the present and has promoted a broader participation from our members.
Some of our memorable field trips include: several trips to the Grand Canyon area, Roosevelt Dam, the mining town of Jerome and the Verde Valley, Cottonwood, the Pinacates volcanic field in northern Mexico, the unforgettable “field trip from hell” across the San Bernadino volcanic field in southern Arizona with 3 flat tires and walking what seemed to be miles across lava flows covered with waist-high burrs and jumping Cholla cactus, dormitory camping in Portal near Chiricahua National Monument, Sedona, the Holbrook sinkholes and potash deposits, Meteor Crater, Tucson Mountains, Phoenix Mountains, Bisbee mining area, the Herradura gold mine in northern Mexico and San Pedro River, and working with paleontologists near Safford.

Our other tradition for many years has been an annual meeting held in February in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, the world’s largest show and sale of rocks, minerals, gems, and related fun geologic items. For many of these meetings, National Executive Committee members and colleagues visiting from other states have joined us for our dinner social, a business meeting at the AZGS, and then our trip to the gem and mineral show. Larry Fellows and more recently, Lee Allison, our State Geologist and Director of the Arizona Geological Survey kindly allowed us to use their agency meeting room for our annual business meeting. They also provided updates on what's happening with geology in the State of Arizona.

The Arizona Section has prided itself on a commitment to serving at the National AIPG level as well with the following members elected to national office: Dale Nations (Editor and Vice President), Lisa Worthington (Advisory Board), Frank Turek (Advisory Board), Dave Palmer (Advisory Board and Secretary), Dawn Garcia (Advisory Board) and Barbara Murphy (Advisory Board, Vice President, and President in 2012).
History of the California Section of AIPG

The California Section has supplied many important national leaders to AIPG, including the first AIPG President, Martin Van Couvering (1963-1965), Henry H. Neel (1970), Arthur O. Spaulding (1975), Richard Proctor (1989), and Stephen Testa (1998). In addition, the California Section is proud to have sponsored several meetings including the 5th Annual meeting in San Francisco in 1968, chaired by Daniel J. Pickrell, the 19th Annual meeting in Pasadena in 1982, chaired by Bruce Barron, and the 27th Annual meeting in Long Beach in 1990 chaired by Stephen M. Testa.


The AIPG California Section is well represented in state government. The current California State Geologist is John Parrish who was the former Executive Officer of the State Mining and Geology Board, and prior to that, the Executive Officer of the Board for the Registration of Geologists and Geophysicists. Since 2005, Stephen M. Testa, also an AIPG member, has held the Executive Officer position at the State Mining and Geology Board.

California was one of the first states to license geologists. Registration in California had its basis in the very heavy rainfall in the winter of 1951-1952 which caused numerous landslides and mudslides in Southern California. Most of those slides occurred within the City of Los Angeles. Many of the landslides were precipitated by extensive excavation that had been completed by housing developments in hilly areas during the post World War II housing boom. The City of Los Angeles wrote an ordinance aimed at regulation of these practices of excavation and grading. The ordinance required that a geologic opinion was required to in the event that the City Building & Safety Department believed that the area presented a geologic hazard. An Engineering Geologists Qualification Board was established by the City of Los Angeles in 1957. The purpose of the board was to review the qualifications of those geologists practicing engineering geology in the City of Los Angeles and to establish a list of those whose reports would be accepted. The County of Los Angeles, followed the lead of the City of Los Angeles and established its own grading ordinance and Geologist Qualification Board in 1959. Over the next several years, about 20 more local geologist qualification boards were established in California. By early fall 1966, the City and County of Los Angeles, requested that the state assume the responsibility of registering, qualifying, or certifying geologists in the field. Many worked on the process, including Martin Van Couvering, as well as Henry “Hank” Neel. The Geologists Act was passed in 1968, effective in 1969. Licensure for geophysicists (early 1970s) and the title acts for specialty licensure for certified engineering geologists (in the original act) and certified hydrogeologist (mid 1990s) also occurred. A Board for the Registration of Geologists (later the Board for Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists) was formed under the Department of Consumer Affairs to license Registered Geologists. At some point it was noted that dogs and sex offenders were also registered in California, so the...
designation of Registered Geologist was retired in favor of the more socially acceptable Professional Geologist title.

Over the years, the California Section of AIPG has lobbied to protect the Board of Geologists and Geophysicists many times over the past two decades as board sunset hearings occurred. In a last minute act in 2009, legislation was passed that eliminated the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists and transferred all of the duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction to regulate the practices of geology and geophysics to the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Effective January 1, 2011, the name of the Board was changed to the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.

For lobbying, since about 1995, AIPG was instrumental with other organizations in California to form the California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO). AIPG California Section members active in the CCGO founding included James Jacobs, David Sadoff and Stephen M. Testa. James Jacobs has since been the California Section representative for CCGO, serving as CCGO president of the organization for five years. The CCGO has arranged the annual Sacramento Drive-Ins in the spring legislative sessions since about 2000, and the California Section of AIPG has played a major role in the annual Sacramento Drive-Ins as part of the state legislative outreach.

The California Section has had meetings, and hosted co-field trips over the years. For the past 13 years, the California Section has participated in providing judges and prizes for the California State Science Fair, held every year in Los Angeles. David Sadoff was the primary judge with help from James Jacobs, Mehmet Pehlivan, and Mark Rogers. State officers over the past two decades include James Jacobs (president and vice president), David Sadoff (president and vice president), Mehmet Pehlivan (vice president), Karel Detterman (treasurer) and Mark Rogers (secretary). Earlier, Stephen M. Testa, Rob Larson and Chris Sexton served as section president for a series of years and Chris Sexton was a newsletter editor.

In 2010, UC Davis Student Section was founded with Professor Robert Zierenberg as advisor and James Jacobs as sponsor. Since then, monthly meetings and field trips have occurred opened to AIPG members and student members. Speakers included Rob Sydnor, John Parrish, David Sadoff, James Jacobs and others.
AIPG’s Colorado Section has been prominent throughout AIPG’s history beginning with the Founding Convention in at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden in November 1963. The Colorado Section was the second section formed in 1964. Of the 743 Charter Members of AIPG, 120 listed Colorado as their address. Interestingly, several Charter Members who were active and generally recognized as being from Colorado were not living in Colorado at the time they became CPGs including John Rold, Fred Kady, and Ben Parker, Jr. Colorado has been the home of the AIPG National office since Ben Parker Sr. convinced Art Brunton to become AIPG’s first paid Executive Director in 1964. Bill Knight, an Oklahoman, lived in Colorado during his service as AIPG’s Executive Director, as has our current Executive Director, Bill Siok, who recently received the Colorado Section’s first award of Honorary Membership. The Colorado Section has hosted 11 AIPG annual meetings, including the first four (1963 through 1966), and will be hosting its 12th annual meeting in October 2013. Many members of the Colorado Section have served on the National Executive Committee in various positions including several Presidents (Ben H. Parker, Sr., John Haun, John Rold, Susan Landon, , Thomas Fails, and Larry Cerrillo). Robert Merrill, was an active member of the Colorado Section prior to his move to Texas, where he lived when he was AIPG President.

The Colorado Section has always been an active AIPG Section because the majority of the membership has been and is located in the Denver metropolitan area. The Section has always held monthly meetings between September and May. For many years, these meetings were held at the Denver Press Club, but they moved to the University Club, then the Petroleum Club, then the Wynkoop Brewery, and most recently to a Golden Corral restaurant. In addition, for many years, a summer potluck picnic has been held at the home of one or another member, usually in the Denver area. The section has also held an annual field trip somewhere in the state, often going over to the Western Slope so that members in that area could participate. For many years, in connection with the National Executive Committee’s summer meeting in the Denver area, a picnic for the ExCom and Section members has provided some social time for the ExCom. For several years, the Section has also arranged for a field trip in connection with the ExCom meeting as well.

The Colorado Section has had a monthly or quarterly newsletter for many years. From 1975 through 1983, Ed Warren was the editor and put out a more lively publication than AIPG’s national newsletter at the time. Warren would publish papers when he could get one along with pictures of Section events and of national meetings, which Warren regularly attended and recommended others to do as well.

Part of a Section’s responsibilities is watching the state legislature to see whether any laws or regulations affecting the practice of geology would crop up. For many years Ray Robeck served as a volunteer lobbyist for the Section. Eventually, the Section retained the part-time services of a professional lobbyist (Betsy Murray) for this purpose. The Section continues to be very active in legislative affairs and in tracking and support of the Colorado Geological Survey and other relevant state agencies. The Section has an award, called the Geologic Heritage Award, which is reserved for government officials who have been instrumental in any year in support of geologically important legislation or policy issues.
History of the Georgia Section of AIPG
1981-2012

The Georgia Section was formed and the by-laws approved on October 14, 1981. The four original members included: Earl Hoover, Robert Dickerson, Serge Gonzales, and Charles Spiers. Their first meeting was held on January 29, 1982, which included the selection of officers for 1982. Earl Hoover was the Interim President and elected as the first Georgia Section President. By April of 1982 the membership had grown to 14 members. During the first year they had joint meetings with Southeastern Section of AEG and AIME. For the next two decades the section president would generally serve from two to three years and included: Charles Spiers, Serge Gonzales, Kenneth Nelson, Charles Thomas, Anthony Roberts, Sam Pickering, Harold Gill, and L.T. Gregg.

Dr. Serge Gonzales was the first section member to be appointed to an AIPG National committee as chairman of the Education Affairs Committee. At the 1986 national meeting he received AIPG Presidential Certificate of Merit. He was also the first Georgia Section member to be elected to National Secretary for 1988-1989. The section’s second national officer was Dr. Thomas Jones, who was elected as National Editor from 1991-1992.

The section for many years would plan to have two meetings per year generally around a field trip followed by a business meeting at a restaurant. Many of these meetings would be visits to different types of open pit mines or landfills. In 1993 the section was visited by AIPG Executive Director Bill Knight.

In 2002 Ron Wallace was elected as section president. A few years later Eric Lowe became vice-president and the two have held the positions or switched. Glen Faulkner has been section secretary-treasurer since 1994. During most of this time, the section planned four meetings per year, mostly around field trips. In 2003 the section started giving a student membership plaque initially to four of the universities that offered geology degrees. By 2007 the section annually awarded a plaque at all six universities that grant geology degrees. Starting in 2010, each of the six students receive a $250.00 scholarship along with the membership plaque.

In response from a request from student members in 2005, a student chapter was formed at Georgia State University. This was followed by another student chapter at University of West Georgia in 2010. An additional two student chapters were formed in 2011, one at Columbus State University and the other at the University of Georgia.

To support the activities of the section, a day and a half environmental remediation conference was organized in 2008. Since then there have been three additional conferences that have been expanded to two full days. In 2011 Ron Wallace was elected to National President–elect. The membership has grown over the years from the section beginning with four members to a total membership in 2012 of over 270.
History of the Hawaii Section of AIPG

The Hawaii Section was started by Mark Rogers in early 2003. Mr. Rogers relocated to Honolulu, HI from Anchorage, AK in 2001, where he had previously served on the Alaska Section Executive Committee (ExCom). The Hawaii Section has supported the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) National ExCom through Mark Rogers’ as technical presenter at the 41st Annual Meeting in Lexington, KY (2004), participation in the CPG Practicality Committee in 2005, as National Secretary (2006-2007), and as National Advisory Board Representative (2008-2009).

At its inception in 2003, the Hawaii Section had a total of 12 members which included:
Glenn Bauer – State Geologist (CPG-10855), Kenton Beal (CPG-09107), Robert Chenet (CPG-10225), Harold Clark (CPG-09042), Benjamin Collins (CPG-07066), John Lockwood (CPG-09806), Dennis McElrath (CPG-08131), John Mink (CPG-01693), Jan Reichelderfer (CPG-08150), Raymond Robeck (CPG-00013), Mark Rogers (CPG-08926), and Glenn Shepherd (CPG-01019). Currently, the Hawaii Section has a total 13 members which include six original members (G. Bauer, K. Beal, R. Chenet, M. Lockwood, D. McElrath, and J. Reichelderfer) plus Kevin Gooding (CPG-10856), Troy Rosenbush (CPG-10777), Charles Begeal (MEM-2365), Ning Li (CPG-10761), Christine Meyer (AS-0051), Conrad Stephenson (CPG-07076), and Mark Weber (CPG-02821).

The Hawaii Section has been well represented in state government. The Hawaii State Geologist was Glenn Bauer (CPG-10855) until his retirement in 2008. Hawaii, however, is still one of few states that has not established a state board to license geologists. From 2006 – 2008, Mark Rogers worked with Kenton Beal and several Hawaii state representatives in lobbying the state house / senate to adopt National Association of State Board of Geology (ASBOG) as a means of establishing a state board for licensing geologists. These legislation efforts to adopt ASBOG eventually failed in late 2008 as the state house responded “that the protection of public health and safety was adequately maintained by the Department of Natural Resources (Glenn Bauer’s former office) and the USGS’ Mauna Kea field office on the island of Hawaii”.

The Hawaii Section has had meetings, and hosted field trips over the years. From 2003 until late 2008, the Hawaii Section hosted five to six meetings a year at various locations in Honolulu, as well as meetings at the University of Hawaii – Manoa campus. State officers have included Mark Rogers (president 2003-2005 and 2008), Kenton Beal (president 2006-2007), and Robert Chenet (vice president 2005-2008). The Hawaii Section has since gone inactive, due in part to Mark Rogers’ relocation from Hawaii to California in late 2008.
History of the Kentucky Section of AIPG

During the early years of the American Institute of Professional Geologists and prior to the formation of the Kentucky Section, the function and growth of AIPG at the state level was delegated to the Coordinators of Institute Affairs. Local coordinators were appointed by the AIPG national president. Frank Walker, Kentucky’s first Certified Professional Geologist, and James K. Vincent served successively as Coordinators for Kentucky until membership grew enough to allow the Kentucky Section to be established.

On November 10, 1967, the Kentucky AIPG membership held an organizational meeting and petitioned national AIPG for section status. Formal recognition of the Kentucky Section was granted in early 1968. James K. Vincent served as the Section’s first president. Since then, KY-AIPG has operated as an integral chapter of AIPG for 45 consecutive years.

In 1987 and 2005, the Kentucky Section was host to AIPG national annual meetings. Geologists from across the nation attended each of these meetings, both of which were held in Lexington.

KY-AIPG has held annual sectional meetings since its inception. These meetings have been held at locations throughout the commonwealth and have typically been held in conjunction with a geologic field trip. As a result of efforts by the state geologist in 2012 to optimize the capabilities of geologic organizations in the commonwealth through a consortium, KY-AIPG has suspended offering field trips and is concentrating its efforts and resources toward providing continuing educational activities.

In 1992, the Kentucky Section of AIPG, along with other geologic associations in the state, lobbied for and succeeded in getting a bill passed by the Kentucky legislature to register professional geologists (KRS 322A). Since that date, more than 2,000 professional geologists from across the nation have become registered in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The KY-AIPG created several honors to be awarded every year, solicited from members and professors. In 1989, two $500 student scholarships were created to reward two geology undergraduates (with a junior status or above) attending a college or university in Kentucky for maintaining a high grade point average and their outstanding efforts. In 1996, the Lifetime Achievement Award was created for KY-AIPG members who through the years have been noteworthy in their geological careers. In 1999, the Outstanding Geologist Award was created for any Kentucky geologist who has made a significant contribution in geology that was considered beneficial to geologists during the previous year. Starting in 2009, the KY-AIPG makes a cash contribution every year to the Kentucky Science and Engineering Fair and, based on the recommendation of our volunteer judges, awards a monetary gift and a geology-related book to the best high school and/or middle school earth science entry.

In 2008, the 60th United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2008 to be the International Year of Planet Earth. The Kentucky Section of AIPG hosted a symposium, “Climate Change–Manmade Catastrophe or Natural Cycle: Two Perspectives on its Causes.” In 2009, KY-AIPG continued the symposium program with Dr. Dennis Stanford from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, who delivered “Seeking the First American.” With the success of these symposiums, KY-AIPG
began timing the lecture series to coincide with Charles Darwin’s month of birth and designated the
series as the Darwin Lecture Series. The Kentucky Section hosted Dr. Jack Horner in 2011, Dr. Eugenie
Scott in 2012, and Dr. Phillip Currie in 2013.

In 2010, KY-AIPG participated in the introduction of a bill to amend KRS 332A, to change renewal from
annual to biennial, require continuing education as a condition of registration renewal or reinstatement,
remove exemption from registration for individuals preforming geologic work at both the state and local
levels, and to permit the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists to impose a $1,000 fine for
violation of provisions of KRS 332A by a registered geologist. The bill passed the House, but was not
heard by the Senate, and therefore did not pass.

In 2012, the 20th anniversary of passage of KRS 332A, KY-AIPG assisted in introducing another bill to
amend KRS 332A. Senate Bill 162 included provisions (1) to change the renewal period from annual to
biennial, (2) to remove the exemption from registration for individuals performing geologic work at both
the state and local government levels, (3) to permit the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists
to impose a maximum fine of $1,000 for violation of the provisions of KRS 332A, and (4) to allow the
state geologist, who is a permanent member of the Board of Registration, to be able to designate a
second party to attend board meetings on behalf of the state geologist. This bill (SB 162) passed both
the House and Senate by unanimous vote and was signed into law by Gov. Steve Beshear on April 11,
2012.

KY-AIPG began offering short courses for professional development in 2010. The first short course was
“Overview of Contaminated Site Investigation and Remediation.” In 2011, KY-AIPG continued with a
two-day program on karst hydrology. In 2012, KY-AIPG offered two courses; the first was an eight-day
short course in the Bahamas, “Modern Carbonate Analoges for the Geologic Record,” and the second was
“Overview of Environmental Geophysics.” Those who attend these short courses are credited with
professional development hours. Geologists registered in other states who attend may use these credits
when renewing their licenses.

KY-AIPG created a Web site (ky.aipg.org) and a Facebook page (accessible from the KY-AIPG Web site) to
keep members and the interested public current on our meetings and events.
History of the Michigan Section of AIPG

On November 17, 1976, Michigan members of the Association of Professional Geological Scientists, as we were then known, met to organize the Michigan Section. Bylaws were proposed and subsequently sent to the Michigan members for adoption. On December 10, 1976 the adopted bylaws and a petition for approval signed by ten members were transmitted to then Executive Secretary Arthur Brunton. These were accompanied by a request from C.E. (Chip) Prouty that they be reviewed and approved at the forthcoming January 8, 1977 Executive Committee meeting to be held in Oklahoma City. That done, the Michigan Section of AIPG was off and running.

The petition signatures of that initial effort, read like a who’s who of geology in Michigan. These include many well known geologists in industry, consulting, academia and government. Jeff Sutherland, Don Malott, Bob Minning, Michael Jaron, Peter Hudec, Chip Prouty, George Gallup, Andy Mazola, Merlin Johnson and Richard Bissel. By the time the National directory was published in 1977, the Michigan Section included 23 names from all over the state.

Prior to that meeting and those efforts, little documentation remains although it is clear that Michigan members of the APGS were active in statewide professional affairs. At least one effort was made in 1972 to effect registration which was followed by further attempts in future years. However some dichotomy existed between the membership which was primarily environmental geologists and consultants and geologists in mining, energy and regulatory fields. Registration was simply not a possibility in that context.

Over the next few years following the 1976/1977 approval of the Michigan Section Bylaws, growth brought the membership ranks to 50-60 where it remained until the 1990’s. Meetings were moved around the state to make it easier for members to attend them and meeting topics ranged from technical to regulatory affairs to technology. Field trips and social gatherings were occasionally held. Michigan Section activities also included active liaison activities with the National Water Well Association (NWWA, now NGWA), Michigan Well Drillers, Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) and others. In the 1970’s much of the geologic work effort was focused on water supply and wastewater treatment issues with the emerging land application technology for wastewater treatment. In the 1980’s environmental investigation and remediation gained greater popularity with implementation of enhanced federal and state regulations.

In the early 1990’s, efforts directed to the legislature were redoubled to ensure the geologist and hydrogeologist were recognized within the statutes related to environmental affairs. The inclusion of AIPG’s CPG as an indicator of competency for those seeking Michigan’s Certified Underground Storage Tank Professional, or CP, status brought a flood of applications and the Section’s ranks doubled, then tripled and quadrupled, in just a few short years. As of 2013, the Michigan Section is about 450 strong, and includes CPG’s, Professional/Young Professional Members, Associates and Student Adjuncts in three Student Chapters across the state.

Meetings have grown from a few individuals in those early days to quarterly meetings that often exceed 50-75 attendees. In 2007, the Michigan Section hosted AIPG’s annual meeting in Traverse City with then record attendance. Since that event, our activities have included an annual golf outing, family friendly weekend field trips in the summer, and cooperative participation with other professional organizations in and around Michigan. We sponsor an annual scholarship poster contest and a K-12 earth science educational grant. The last two years we have participated jointly with Michigan’s Department of Environmental Quality to present timely seminars updating professionals on changes in policy, statute, and procedures.
Michigan Section of AIPG brought together many of the leaders in the geologic profession in our state’s history during the time of the enhanced environmental and scientific expansion of the 1970's. Today the Michigan Section endeavors to carry on their tradition of competence, integrity and ethics that comprise the professionalism for which we strive.
History of the Nevada Section of AIPG

1981-2012

The Nevada Section was formed in 1981. Nevada is a large state with the main population centers of Las Vegas and Reno being 450 miles apart. Of the nineteen AIPG members domiciled in the state in 1981, five lived in Las Vegas, six lived in Reno and the rest lived in rural areas. It is doubtful that there was much interaction between members living in the two major cities. A Las Vegas member named Joseph H. Kenny formed the state section and for a time filled all three positions himself: president, secretary-treasurer and screening board chairman.

There is no record of any further action by anyone in the Las Vegas area regarding an AIPG organization, but by 1983 there was a small gathering of AIPG members at a local Reno watering hole called the Gold and Silver restaurant. An original group consisting of Bill Nork, James Cooper and Dick Thomssen (from Carson City) were later joined by Jim Taranik, Michael Johnson and Kelvin Buchanan. Taranik had the misfortune to not be at the first nominating meeting, so naturally, he was elected president. Buchanan was elected screening board chairman, a function more related to getting new members than actually screening new applicants.

Money was hard to come by. If a mailing was contemplated, someone donated a roll of stamps. Gradually, the membership increased to about 70 members. The lack of funds was cured in 1989 when some hardworking members, Earl Abbott, Mark Stock and Bob Levich, among others, launched a dual pronged tour of the Nevada Test Site and Yucca Mountain, 85 miles northwest of Las Vegas, as well as tours of several mining properties between Reno and Las Vegas. One bus left from Reno, one bus left from Las Vegas, and both groups met in Tonopah, the location of the Hall molybdenum mine, midway between Reno and Las Vegas. For the Reno members, the March field trip was a good excuse to visit the sunny climes of southern Nevada. The Reno Gazette Journal newspaper sent a reporter with the Yucca Mountain tour, and in addition to the publicity, the Nevada section generated sufficient funds to sustain future section meetings and create a newsletter. As a result, enthusiasm for AIPG grew. As an example, the annual December AIPG Exploration Round-Up, with an average attendance of 100 geologists, has been held for the last 23 years. The Exploration Round-Up, the brainchild of Ellen Hodos, updates AIPG members and other geologists on the activities of major and junior mineral exploration companies. It is also a great party that provides an opportunity for non-member geologists and students to see the benefits of AIPG membership.

Following the lead of the Colorado section, over the years, the Nevada section has hosted several career days for the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Students from California also ventured across the Sierra to these sessions. These career days brought professionals from various disciplines of the geological profession (mineral exploration, mining geology, hydrology, exploration geophysics, environmental geology, engineering geology, university teaching and government applied research and
regulatory programs) together with undergraduate and graduate students to discuss such issues as job opportunities, what employers seek in résumés, workplace skills to learn while in school, precautions to take when working overseas, professionalism and ethics - topics not often covered in university classrooms. The students saw that AIPG members truly love being geologists.

The Nevada Section hosted AIPG Annual Meetings at Lake Tahoe in 1992 and in Reno in 2002. Robert S. (Steve) Friberg was the first Nevada member to hold a national office - Vice President in 1991. Jonathan (Jon) G. Price, Nevada State Geologist, was elected AIPG National President in 1997. Kelvin (Kel) J. Buchanan, HB Engineering Group, was elected AIPG National President in 2007. In 2008, an AIPG student chapter was established at the University of Nevada, Reno. The Nevada Section is growing, in part due to importance of the designation of Qualified Person that membership in AIPG provides, and state membership is presently well over 200 members.

Prepared by Kel Buchanan and Jon Price
February 2013
History of the Oregon Section of the AIPG

The primary impetus for licensing as professionals in Oregon takes its seeds from a long history in the search for excellence and public credibility as much as it was the collision between the old school ways of engineering, their textbooks of the 1950s and the generation of scientists.

My late father was a licensed engineer and surveyor in Oregon from 1950 forward. He was a very intelligent man and a good problem solver his entire career. But by his own admission, the education he received at what was then called Oregon State College, taught aspiring young engineers only ONE class in soils and no geology. Regardless, they were still allowed to delve into areas where a smattering of knowledge could prove dangerous. I have seen his transcripts. Today, happily Oregon State University has entire departments in all aspects of engineering as well as independent schools in the geotechnical world including a world class School of Oceanography. This is a delight to all of our science specialists and a benefit to the American scientific community. The point of this discussion is to show a personal and real life example of how education has changed over time to better benefit the world’s needs.

Inter-twinned in the reasoning for licensing is the public protection issue, government desires to regulate everything where consumers might be affected and for us as professionals to be able to stand alone. The Oregon chapter fought like its counterparts in other states for years, for a singular identity, and freedom from a somewhat foreign licensing board (engineers) who held different perspectives of the geological arena. Few were aware of or prepared for the rapid expansion of the overall geological marketplace. Personally I watched engineers who lost their licenses because they weren’t prepared and lacked sufficient background to meet the challenges of our part of a rapidly changing world. Most of these individuals were likely good at engineering, but ventured into the geological/geotechnical areas and encountered numerous educational “landmines”. Having been raised by an engineer, and having been educated and practiced in the environmental and engineering side of geology as well as soils engineering, I have seen the difference and the pit falls, which is why licensing exists today. It was never the production of volumes of work that mattered, but the challenges of the next problems that lay outside of the comfort box.

FOUNDING FATHERS IN OREGON

Somewhere in the mid-1970s The American Institute of Professional Geologists gave birth to the Oregon chapter. Looking back at the old files is challenging as few copies of their minutes and thoughts exist. Oregon’s early section roster did include a broad spectrum of specializations including, but not limited to; academia from no less than six universities, private practitioners in geology, representatives from two or three state government offices and other parties with interest.

Amongst the first group we find the names of John Eliot Allen, educator and professor emeritus; Ewart M. Baldwin, educator and author; Lawrence L. Brown and Jerry Gray (not related) from government offices; Raymond E. “Andy” Corcoran, a former State Geologist; Ken Dodds, practitioner; Paul E. Hammond, an educator in mineralogy, etc.; Herbert G. Schlicker, Consultant; and many more. Some were my undergraduate professors, mentors and friends
forever. We miss those that are now gone, and all for their intense love of, and contribution to this profession.

Despite the condition of the chapter files and lack of continuity at times, I thought the readers might appreciate the timelines of activity which could be reconstructed and which will become a part of the more permanent records of this chapter for future reference. Should anyone find errors, please forgive as this is as good as it gets based on current evidence.

**TIMELINE INFORMATION RECONSTRUCTED**

1969-76 National membership and employment widely spread over the areas of geology, engineering geology, geophysics, hydrogeology, mining, geochemistry, paleontology, geomorphology, petrology and petroleum, et al.

1976 The Oregon chapter was based on 20 active members representing every sub-discipline in the sciences including academia from six universities across the western half of the Beaver State.

1977 Oregon Chapter of AIPG was in conversation with several groups regarding the status of whom the geologist in the state should be and their relationships with engineers—an ongoing issue. Paul E. Hammond was the section Secretary/Treasurer until December 1, 1977 when Richard C. Kent stepped up, partially due to Paul’s retirement. The Oregon Chapter retained 20 members on the roster, and Arthur F. Brunton was the National Executive Director.

1977 February 10, 1977 meeting of the section at Randall’s Chuck Wagon Restaurant, Salem, Oregon. The “hot” topic of the day was the always present and ongoing conversation about the proposed registration of geologists in Oregon, and the possible formation of a State Department of Resource Management, which would absorb DOGAMI, the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. Paul Hammond, a professor at Portland State University was still pushing retirement.

December 1, 1977 minutes detailing the recent meeting of the Association of Professional Geological Scientists, Oregon Section, on November 17, 1977 in Salem, the state capital. Mr. Saleem Farooqui was elected section President for 1978. Richard C. Kent was elected to the position(s) of Secretary/Treasurer.

1977 The “Mineral Resources Crisis Statement” was produced in the vein of the industries and the profession aiding government to better see issues potentially affecting our economy and profession.

1977 A period of high activity for those in the profession posturing for AIPG, AEG and other group offices with the state licensing matters arising in the market. The section was working hard at recruitment of new members.

1982-83 Ken Dodds was elected President, with Bob Gainer as Vice President of this 27 member section.
1982 Senate Bill 480 was formed and hot-bed discussions were flying around due to the nature of potential liability risks for professionals due to the manner of language being used. The primary concerns boiled down to the fear that such regulation would chase off Professional Geologists, Engineering Geologists, and CEG practitioners licensing from other states.

1983 National Director of AIPG, Victor C. Tannehill was elected.

1982 Oregon chapter elections resulted with: President, Allen Agnew (a long-time friend and educator); Vice President, Durga Rimal; Treasurer, Jerry Gray; Secretary, Jeanne Kinney, and the outgoing President was Robert L. Gamer.

1984-85 Early activity was supported by newsletters from other chapters including, but not limited to: Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. The National Director was Russell J. Jackson, with the Illinois State Geologic Survey.

1985 The AIPG magazine, “The Professional Geologist” bore the article, “USGS Postures and Lobbies Capital and EPA”. The article addressed the hot environmental issue that not all asbestos minerals were equally dangerous.

The Professional Geologist carried the article, “Professional Self-Regulation Lauded by The White House”.

1984-85 A period of discussions and impending legislation in the wings regarding national matters surrounding minerals, metals, and hard assets issues.

1985 Oregon Chapter status comprise of 14 members plus 6 retired, with a national membership of 4012.

1984-85 Oregon Chapter President was Allen F. Agnew from OSU, Corvallis, OR. Go Beavers!

This was a period of AEG and AIPG enlistment issues. Records show that this may have been the first time that the Oregon Chapter adopted the “SMOG” title. This acronym stood for “Society of Miscellaneous Oregon Geologists. As usual, the by-laws were receiving an overhaul.

1989 We had 23 members, however no messages were found to indicate what mattered most.


2012 The Oregon chapter of AIPG continues to use the path of communication with other chapters by directly requesting their newsletters. This has permitted us to see other parts of the country through the eyes of other professionals, and to dream about having that extra time to visit and partake in their local geological field trips, meetings and conventions. This chapter has included the talents of past and present governmental agency personnel, college professors (several of them my own), specialists in mining and economic geology, prolific writers that have educated thousands of the up and coming, and much more. Their lives were and remain today, challenging, hard, productive and rewarding. They are a most impressive collection of talents and experiences that live on forever through each one of us still practicing today. We learned from them and grew to become the best, serving industries, government, and education, while providing a myriad of solutions through science for the greater American and global markets.
The market demands growth, new technical products, better transportation systems, and improved construction materials and methodologies, and we have produced them at a frightening pace. Very exciting!

SUMMARY

The past 25 years as a member of AIPG’s Oregon chapter and as President, I have shared all of the duties of its operation and particularly enjoyed those random calls from the new national officers. Hearing from other larger chapters through their newsletters is always a treat and serves to remind us that others remain on the forefront of science as well. Students and older practitioners alike are often highlighted in the monthly “TPG” issue, which we applaud. It is heart warming to hear that students get to “shadow” politicians and view the government machine in action. To this, we say, “use it, don’t lose it” folks as not everyone has those opportunities in their career.

The Oregon Chapter of The American Institute of Professional Geologists salutes the organizers and our predecessors for giving more than just their experience to the organization—you are gold! Feel free to look up the current Oregon Chapter members and to reach out and have discussions. I have always said there is too little time in life for a lot of things needing attention, but the choices here are not those of others, but remain yours for the future.

John H. Gray
President, Oregon Chapter, AIPG
One thing about having a relatively small to medium-sized Section (~55 members); even in a geographically large state like South Dakota, you get to know one another! The South Dakota Section has been in existence for 18 years, but we have a 39-year history.

Eleven years after the founding of AIPG in 1963, 15 CPG’s (12 residing in North Dakota and three in South Dakota) petitioned AIPG Headquarters to form the “Dakota” Section. The three petitioners from South Dakota were John Paul Gries, John C. Mickelson, and Jack Kume. As a result of that petition, the Dakota Section and its Bylaws were formally established in 1974 consisting of members from both states. The Dakota Section existed for 21 years until 1995 when the South Dakota Section was formally established and the two states became separate Sections. The South Dakota Section developed proposed Bylaws in 1995, but they weren’t formally approved until 2010 after Section President John Foster Sawyer took the initiative to complete the process.

Gary H. Haag served as the first President of the South Dakota Section, as well as Chairman of the Regulatory and Legislative Committee. Gary faithfully led the Section for many of its early years along with Vice President Timothy Vogt, Secretary-Treasurer Steve Jorgensen, and Screening Board and Membership Chairman Tom Durkin. The current President is Tom Durkin, serving his third non-consecutive term in that position. Other CPG’s who have served as Presidents include Perry Rahn, John Foster Sawyer, and Larry Stetler. John Foster Sawyer currently serves as AIPG National Secretary.

The members of the Section were honored this past year to have hosted AIPG’s 49th annual meeting in Rapid City, SD in September 2012; the first time the national meeting had ever been held in South Dakota!

The South Dakota Section holds its annual meeting in March, in conjunction with the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ (DENR) annual Environmental and Ground Water Quality Conference in Ft. Pierre, SD. In fact, the Section’s first organizational meeting was held during the DENR conference in 1995. The annual DENR meeting always attracts a large number of local environmental professionals, several of whom are AIPG members. Holding the Section meeting at the DENR conference provides consistency and assures a good turnout of AIPG members along with geologists considering membership. The Section has been growing in recent years and currently stands at about 55 members.

Nine years ago, the SD Section established the J. P. Gries Geologist of the Year Award in honor of longtime geology professor John Paul Gries of the SD School of Mines & Technology. The award is provided annually by the Section to a South Dakota geologist in recognition of exceptional work and service to the profession of geology at large, or in some recognized specialty within geology.

The SD Section holds an annual field trip during the summer for members and their families. This is always a fun event where we visit a geologically interesting area, learn about it, collect rocks, raffle an item of geologic significance, and, of course, eat!

(photos included with history can be seen on the AIPG website)
The following are several photos from field trips and award ceremonies over the last 12 years.

October 2000 Field Trip to Homestake Mine. Photo taken at 7,400 foot level of mine.

August 2001 Field Trip to Badlands National Park. Photo taken at “School of Mines Canyon”

2003 Trip to Jewel Cave National Monument

2008 Field Trip to Sanford Underground Research and Engineering Lab at Homestake

2009 Hydrogeology Field Trip in Black Hills

2010 “Float Trip” along Missouri River in eastern SD
2011 Field Trip to Bear Butte State Park

2012 Field Trip to Pegmatite Mine (one of 8 field trips offered at 2012 AIPG Annual Meeting)

Recent award photos:

Tom Durkin (left) presenting 2012 J.P. Gries Award to Mark Fahrenbach (right)

Gary Haag receiving Outstanding Service Award from John Foster Sawyer (2010)

Tom Durkin (left) presenting 2010 J.P. Gries Award to Perry Rahn (right)

2007 Annual Meeting, SD Section
History of the Texas Section of AIPG

From the early 1990s through 2001, the Texas Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG-TX) was very active in the multiple efforts to craft a bill and to muster professional and legislative support to license the practice of geoscience in the State of Texas. The Texas Section hired a lobbyist to represent the Section before the Legislature and many members personally met with State Senators and Representatives to help make the case for licensure. Initially we had opposition from the engineering, environmental science and geography professions, but after much – at times heated – discussion and negotiation, won general support. The Texas Section worked with the broad geoscience community to focus the legislation on the practice of Geoscience in the public sector and to exclude from licensure those practicing in the private sector, such as the earth resource exploration/extraction (oil and gas, mining) industry or as academic geoscientists. The legislation was focused on geologists, geophysicists and soil scientists practicing in the public sector. The legislation that created licensure was called the Texas Geoscience Practice Act and was passed by the Texas State Legislature in 2001. The legislation became effective on September 1, 2003. The Texas Geoscience Practice Act created the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) which is governed by a nine-member Board, all appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Texas Senate. The Board consists of six Professional Geoscientists and three public members, who serve staggered six-year terms. The Texas Section has provided the Governor’s office with recommendations for appointments to the Board.

The Texas Section maintains a website that is run by several Section members. The Section website has a column called the Wise Report that is periodically updated. The report summarizes and addresses issues of relevance to Texas CPGs and to geoscientists in general. The Wise Report typically contains news of activities in the Texas State Legislature and state regulatory agencies which might impact geoscientists, possibly warranting political action by Texas CPGs.

A group of Texas CPGs has been very active in monitoring Legislative and Texas regulatory agency actions and rulings, as they might potentially affect the practice, and licensure, of geoscience in Texas. They have been present at, and testified before, Legislative Committees and the TBPG, to ensure that the voice and interests of Texas geoscientists are recognized and that the Texas PG program is respected and maintained. These geoscientists have successfully interceded on several occasions to block Legislative and TBPG actions that, if implemented, would have been detrimental, if not fatal, to the proper and effective licensure of geoscience practice in Texas.

For additional information on AIPG-TX and the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists, go to:

AIPG-TX: www.aipg-tx.org

TBPG: www.tbpg.state.tx.us
History of the Wisconsin Section of AIPG

Wisconsin and Minnesota shared a combined chapter until 1984. In 1984, Wisconsin geologists felt it was time that geologists be registered and certified like engineers. An Ad-hoc committee in Wisconsin led to forming the Wisconsin AIPG chapter. Our next activity was scheduling geology field trips in Wisconsin and then hosting the 2000 AIPG Annual Conference. Since then, the Wisconsin chapter has sponsored Geology Day at the Capitol, additional field trips, work days with the National Ice Age Trail Association, helped establish a training program for the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Association and is now working with University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to sponsor a Earth & Water Student Presentation Day.