

Advocacy Committee Report

February 28, 2018

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- **Committee Membership:** The Advocacy Committee members are shown below. As of February 28, 2018, the Advocacy Committee includes six members.
 - Eldon Gath;** Southern California
 - Stephen Semmens;** Colorado School of Mines
 - Phyllis Steckel;** Washington, Mo. (Chair)
 - Paul Weaver;** Greensboro, N.C.

Briget Doyle has resigned from the committee due to work commitments and demands of her work with the AEG Foundation. **Maddie German** has resigned because of work commitments and her work with the Carolinas Chapter and becoming the Regional Director for AEG.
- Last year, **Stephen Semmens** became aware of some **AGI fact sheets** that were to be reviewed by AEG members. Our general consensus was that the readability was way too high (at a college-graduate level), and suggestions were made for improvements. Additional discussion with the AGI staffer, Ben Mandler, resulted in the creation of a new AGI Fact Sheet on the earthquake hazards and risks associated with the New Madrid fault system.
- The Advocacy Committee has realized a need for an **AEG organization chart:** the many committees, task groups, working groups, and other ad hoc efforts make it difficult to understand the lines of communication, authority, reporting, and responsibility. Because all of us are volunteers, it was decided that a ‘road map’ of AEG may be helpful. **Stephen Semmens** volunteers to draft one or two versions, which would then be reviewed within the Advocacy Committee, then sent on to the Executive Committee for review and concurrence. Stephen’s draft AEG organization chart was ready for internal review by the Executive Committee about the time that Offinger Associates announced that it was closing its doors. The Advocacy Committee realized that the Executive Committee and others would be overwhelmed with other AEG duties during this time, and decided to table the AEG organizational chart effort until a time when the reviewers would not be so busy. On February 27, 2018, on a Strategic Initiatives Committee call, Dave Fenster offered to be the point of contact for getting this AEG organization chart to other AEG reviewers.
- **Phyllis Steckel** has written both **op-ed and reported articles** to the *AEG Insider* and the *AEG News*. Both articles addressed the need for AEG members and the geoscience community at large to become a voice in government affairs. Articles included practical information on how to approach state legislators, based on the history of geoscientists in Missouri, as well as an opinion piece on why geoscientists must become politically vocal. Silence is no longer an option.
- **AEG Media Kit:** Progress is well-intentioned, but still not moving forward. Again, the recent distraction of the dissolution of Offinger Associates and the preoccupation with finding a replacement has effectively tabled progress. When complete, the AEG Media Kit will include a roster of *Technical Experts who are Available for Media Queries and Interviews*, a working schedule of *Proactive Press Releases*, a list of *Suggested Topics for Op-Ed (opinion-editorial) Pieces and Letters*, a list of *Suggested Topics for Feature Articles*, a *Sample Press Release*, and other tools for both proactive and reactive media contacts.
- The **Advocacy Committee** could use several new members: maybe two or three if volunteers are interested. However, we are functional now, albeit a bit irregular due to travel schedules of our members.
- There are **no expected budget needs** for the Advocacy Committee in the near future.