

Notes from AEG Advocacy Committee

Conference Call – Thursday, March 16, 2017

By Phyllis Steckel – psteckel@charter.net

1. Those on the call: Briget Doyle, Maddie German, Phyllis Steckel, and Paul Weaver
2. Briefly discussed the AGI Fact Sheets that were routed to the Committee just after the last conference call (~January 19) by Stephen Semmens. Stephen received them from AGI (not sure if they were sent to him specifically or if he just ended up with them via Colorado School of Mines); AGI had requested our input for more Fact Sheets. Also not sure if they were asking for more fact sheets on topics of our choosing, or if they were assigning topics. Generally agreed that the fact sheets that we had seen were written at a level that was not understandable by the general public: too technical. No more communications about this was received from AGI that we know of, so this item is tabled until further notice.
3. Generally agreed that the Advocacy Workshop, which was given as a 1- to 2-hour workshop at the annual meetings in Pittsburgh and in Kona, will be divvied up and presented as three or four regular talks in the Advocacy Technical Session at the annual meeting in Colorado Springs.
4. Briget Doyle, Maddie German, and Paul Weaver volunteered to each give one of these talks. Scott Byrnes was suggested as another possible speaker in this session, although he usually has quite a few talks to give.
5. Phyllis Steckel will ‘dissect’ the PowerPoint from the Advocacy Workshop and send the various sections to these volunteer speakers for them to tweak to their preference.
6. Paul Weaver requested that we ask Paul Santi that the Advocacy Technical Session NOT be scheduled for Friday afternoon, as he (Paul Weaver) will be in the Board Meeting at that time.
7. Discussed the March for Science, which will be held in Washington DC and ~394 other sites on Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day). Short article for The AEG Insider was written and submitted by Phyllis Steckel about this event.
8. General concern about the proposed budget released this morning, which calls for significant cuts to almost all agencies (ranging from ~32% cut to EPA to ~11% to Department of Interior). Concerned, and urging all AEG members to contact their senators and representatives.
9. Next call will be Thursday, April 20, 2017.