

# Atlanta Geological Society Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, February 15, 2022

Submitted by John Clarke, Secretary

Attendees: Pam Gore, John Salvino, John Clarke, Bill Waggener, Burton Dixon, Scott Harris, Abigail Knapp, Ben Bentkowski

Discussed **membership renewals**. Pam would like to have John Salvino send an updated list each month shared among her, Burton Dixon (Membership chair), and John Clarke (newsletter).

**Reviewed by-laws of AGS.** Are we doing our mission? Who are our honorary members? Bruce O'Connor is our sole honorary life member. Past presidents qualify as honorary directors, who served as ex officio members of the executive committee. Only the immediate past president may vote.

**PG Workshops:** Abigail Knapp discussed efforts to recruit speakers for the monthly sessions. Scott Harris suggested an outline of topics be developed based on the PG examination topics. A pool of potential speakers will be developed. Will continue to contact geology departments throughout the state for possible instructors. Will also put an article in the newsletter and via social media to publicize need for instructors.

**Officer changes due to the death of President Nils Thompson:** Examination of the by-laws indicates that Pam Gore as Vice President, should assume duties of President until the next election. This leaves a vacancy for the Vice President. Scott Harris was nominated and unanimously approved by the board to serve as acting Vice President until the next election. His appointment will be certified at the upcoming February meeting of AGS by members in attendance in person and on line. *Secretary's Note, February 23: Scott's nomination was certified unanimously by member in attendance and online during February 22 meeting.*

**AGS incorporation:** Discussed whether AGS is incorporated and if it should become a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. We are registered with the State of Georgia as a "Domestic Profit Corporation." Need to determine if this offers adequate liability protection for officers of the organization. Benefits and drawbacks for becoming a non-profit organization were discussed. For now, it appears that drawbacks outweigh benefits. Would need to submit annual tax return and risked possibility of audit for little anticipated gain in donations to the organization.

Bill Waggener provided discussion of the **Ga Science Teacher Association annual conference** held last week in Peachtree City, GA. Over 500 teachers attended the event. Forty copies of a flyer describing the earth science mini-grant program prepared by Bill Witherspoon were distributed to attendees. QR codes on the flyer were also accessed. Seventy-four contacts were established. The grant is being offered as a partnership between AGS and the Georgia Mineral Society (GMS). The hope is that the names of the two grant programs will be merged into one. The name change will be discussed at the next GMS Executive Board meeting (currently scheduled for 13 Mar).

Discussed development of a **student scholarship in honor of Nils Thompson**. Scott Harris suggested a good venue would be to award a prize to a student at the annual State Science Fair for high school students. This would be an inexpensive way to honor Nils and the awardees. A plaque or certificate, prizes such as "Roadside Geology of Georgia" by Gore and Witherspoon, and monetary award were discussed. Dixon Burton volunteered to try and solicit donations from consulting firms and Scott Harris volunteered to contact the State Science Fair to determine appropriate description of such an award.

**Partnering with other organizations for meetings/presentations:** There was consensus that this was a good idea and has worked well in the past. Organizations such as AIPG and AEG were mentioned as possible partners.

The meeting was then adjourned.