

# Atlanta Geological Society Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

*September 25, 2023*

Submitted by John Clarke, Secretary

Attendees: Pamela Gore, Scott Harris, John Clarke, John Salvino, Ben Bentkowski, Bill Waggener

2023 Election:

- Alison Keifer was appointed election chair. John Salvino will send list of eligible voters to Alison.
- Scott Harris will set up a google form for remote voting
- The election ballot will include voting on an amendment to the association's bylaws (see discussion below)
- Discussion regarding who are our current lifetime members? Not certain. Need to issue plea for *information via* newsletter and email communication.
- Julian Gray was nominated and approved for lifetime membership unanimously by the board.
- John Salvino discussed the importance of having an active committee chair to lead the membership committee. This person would need to investigate members who's email addresses are invalid or have let their membership expire. Current chair is Burton Dixon.

Bylaw Amendment:

- John Clarke submitted a proposed amendment to the association's bylaws dealing with voting procedures. This would ensure the 4 elected officers and immediate past president will have voting privileges at executive board meetings. Committee chairs shall be designated as *ex officio* members of the executive board, entitled to attend its meetings and participate in its discussions; but would not be entitled to vote on any issues. See attached bylaw amendment.
- The amendment also provides for use of contemporaneous communications systems such as email, zoom, or text to expedite voting on issues needing a quick decision.
- The motion to move forward with the bylaw amendment as passed by a 3-0 margin, with one abstention. Note vote would be 4-0 if Ben Bentkowski's vote were counted (see final item of "Other Business" regarding Immediate Past President position).
- The amendment will be presented in the AGS newsletter, with a 30-day comment period to follow. The amendment will be put on the 2023 election ballot for approval by the membership.

#### Earth Science Teacher Mini Grants:

- 8 applications have been received by GMS/AGS. Officers are currently reviewing the proposals and will send ratings to Bill Waggener, Education Chair.
- Motion to increase AGS contribution from 1 grant (\$300) to 2 grants (\$600). Approved unanimously by the board.

#### Other Business

- Science fair is next April. AGS will once again judge entries and provide Nils Thompson award(s). Scott Harris will once again lead this effort. The Thomson Fund has a current balance of \$800. At some point in the future, we will need to solicit contributions to replenish the fund.
- Alison Keefer was appointed chair of a new committee, "Employment Coordination"
- Corporate members need to renew their memberships for next year. There is a need to solicit more corporate memberships and sponsors in the coming year.
- Immediate past president position: Ben Bentkowski has continued to serve in this capacity even though his 1-year term has expired. John Salvino contends Ben is *ineligible to vote* as part of the board because he is not officially the Immediate Past President due to his 1-year term expiring. This will be a recurring problem whenever a president is re-elected. The AGS bylaws will need to be amended to ensure that this role is filled and accurately defined.

## **Attachment—Proposed revision to bylaws (new article addition)**

### **Article XI – Executive Committee Voting**

1. Each officer (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President) will have one vote. Other members of the Executive Committee shall be designated *ex officio* members, entitled to attend its meetings and participate in its discussions; he or she shall not, however, be entitled to vote on any issues.
2. Once quorum is established, all matters put to a vote will require the affirmative vote of a majority of officers voting on the matter, in the presence of a quorum, unless a greater majority is required by these Bylaws or the Articles. The participation of a majority of the officers, whether present in person or through a contemporaneous communications system, constitutes a quorum of the Executive Committee in order to conduct business.
3. The President may periodically call for a vote outside of regularly scheduled Executive Committee meetings using contemporaneous communications systems such as email, zoom, or text.