

Rensink, A Letter from the Past Presidents of AAPG to the EC, AC, HoD, and all AAPG members in support of the proposed new AAPG Bylaws – May 2024

Fellow AAPG members, we the undersigned Past Presidents of AAPG fully support and endorse the updated Bylaws for the AAPG as part of the Reimagine effort.

Times have changed and AAPG must change to meet the evolving needs of our members and to deal with the business of AAPG in a business-like manner. The AAPG's Executive Committee structure served the association for fifty years and has done a good job of representing our Sections and Regions, however, it was not designed to focus on the scientific products that generate revenue and to connect with the customers and sponsors who pay our bills. AAPG needs a more business-focused structure consistent with best practices as observed across other major scientific and industrial professional organizations around the globe.

Three key improvements are proposed:

- The new Bylaws create a Board structure that will directly link science and technology to AAPG's business - to deliver revenue through events, products, and services for members. On the membership side, Sections and Regions will continue to be represented along with outreach to stakeholders and academia (our customers and sponsors).
- It is now technologically possible for every voting member of AAPG to verifiably vote remotely for future Bylaws changes. We support "one vote per each voting member" which will supplant a system designed when communication was still by surface mail, where each Delegate cast one vote representing 70 AAPG members, all of whom may have divergent views on issues of the day.
- We also believe that our Delegates' roles should be expanded to actively interface with their local societies as AAPG Ambassadors to continue to retain and attract members and to proactively initiate technical and networking/fun activities within their local societies and under the banner of AAPG.

In closing, we realize that change can be uncomfortable, however we are at a crucial juncture for AAPG. We support a Board structure to re-focus AAPG on executing its business and improving revenue generation.

We endorse the proposed bylaws and anticipate that the HoD will also approve the Bylaws changes to allow each Member to directly participate in voting their preferences for the future of AAPG.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Krystinik, Ted Beaumont, Denise Cox, Eddie David, Bill Fisher, Rick Fritz, Jim Gibbs, Gretchen Gillis, Steven Goolsby, Patrick Gratton, Robbie Gries, John Hogg, John Lorenz, Randi Martinsen, Dave Rensink, Ray Thomasson, Scott Tinker, Steven Sonnenberg, Paul Weimer