

FAPG Annual Meeting

July 17, 2021; 9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Attendees:

Clint Noble (President)

Bill Aley (Newsletter Editor)

Joey McKibben (Legislative Liaison)

Kim Arnold (Secretary)

Troy Bernier (Past-President)

Wink Winkler (Board Advisor)

Tom Herbert (Board Advisor, 10:00 a.m.)

Harley Means (FGS, 9:30 a.m.)

Natalie Kato (FAPG lobbyist, 10:15 a.m.)

Anne Murray (Past President, 10:40 a.m.)



Officers: Clint reported that Christina McCoy has stepped down as Treasurer. Recommended Harley Means, Lou Bush (Board of Professional Geologists) and Rick Morrison (BOPG) be added as Board Advisors. Clint will ask Samantha Andrews if she would like to be treasurer. An FAPG web master may be another needed position. Kim may help Bill with web site.

Clint will attend the national AIPG conference in Sacramento in October. He plans to submit an abstract on state licensure challenges. Bill may attend as well.

Kim will follow-up with FGCU regarding starting a student chapter at the school.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the 2020 annual meeting were reviewed and approved. Minutes from the June 2021 leadership call were reviewed.

State of the Geologist by Harley Means: Jon Arthur now leads AGI (stepped down as State Geologist). Harley Means is acting State Geologist, has been encouraged to apply for permanent position. Harley asked for PGs to BOPG attend meetings. Bill said he would message members in advance of meetings. Harley said more diverse membership is needed on the BOPG, several positions vacant. Kim said she and another female geologist had applied to be board members in the past (both solicited), but applications were ignored. Harley said more engagement is needed with young professionals—field trips, etc. Harley reported that the FGS has not taken any financial hits and has several new hires. The FGS is in the process of updating the State's surficial geology map. FGS has also received funding through the Earth MRI project for minerals of strategic importance. The FGS web site can be used to access geological data generated by FGS. The State has 5 sites of Geological Importance and is adding a 6th. The FGS has a new hammer rig good for coring. And is going to acquire a larger drill rig. (Harley leaves call).

Legislative Session by Natalie Kato: Last year's legislative priorities were reviewed and compared to what happened in 2020/21 and current priorities. Companies to solicit for donations to PAC were discussed. Natalie reported that the DBPR deputy secretary liked the idea of CEUs for geologists. If sign-off from the governor is obtained, it could be added to the department package. If not, it could be pursued via other channels without blow-back. ASBOG has model CEU rule language. Natalie was asked whether if PGs got CEUs added they could stand down on the ASBOG exam fee subsidy issue. The group agreed CEUs should be priority considering this discussion. PGs are currently the only profession without CEUs and want parity. Eleven other states with professional licensure currently have CEUs for PGs. (Anne joins call at 10:40 a.m.) Anne said that FAPG drafted CEU language a few years ago in a bill that didn't go anywhere and used engineering language as the model and looked at language from other states. Anne will distribute draft language and recommended sharing it with other interested groups so no one can claim surprise if it makes it into a bill. Natalie will reach out to engineers. It would be good to have AIPG, ASBOG, etc. review CEU language.

Sunset/deregulation: Not much discussion following the Surfside condo collapse. There may be a pullback on deregulation in light of the collapse. Perhaps FAPG should support a bill for professional legislative review in order to educate people about the profession. Some companies that may support PG licensure and CEUs might be contacted as allies. PGs also need to watch for defensive threats. The group discussed the current geology business licensure language and the discrimination some firms have faced in going after solicitations. Draft language for more parity as a design profession will be circulated for review.

PAC: Joey will be the chair, and the PAC will be made official within a week. Group discussed fundraising. Would be good to have \$5-10k. Landscape architects do a legislative preview and solicit sponsors. FAPG could do the same, and/or mid- and post-legislative updates. A PAC Trustee status sponsorship could be offered. Natalie will set-up a specific Paypal account for the PAC. Funds should be kept separate. The PAC should be mentioned in all newsletters. Joey suggested we do a group call to solicit sponsors, could do StarChapter email. Troy will help Joey with Mail Chimp emails.

Lobby Day: Should be held during committee week or early in the session. November 3rd was decided on. It should be open to all membership and student groups could be invited.

Legislator of the Year: Group needs to select a recipient and do an awards ceremony. Several legislators were proposed. Group decided to do an award for the House and an award for the Senate (2 awards). Agate bookends (agate is Florida State rock) will be the award with a plaque reading "2021 Legislative Rock Star of the Year." Albritton was selected for his help with the Petroleum Restoration Trust Fund, and Ingoglia was selected for working with FAPG on legislation.

Legislator education: Take them into the field—maybe a remediation site, drilling site, State Park, FSU wells. Wink suggested a trip to a State Geologic Site or a mine tour. Harley could lead the tour.

Joey started an FAPG Twitter account for political-related issues: @flageologists. FAPG also has an active Facebook account, but no one knows who is running it. Newsletter items could be posted on social media. (Natalie leaves call).

Group breaks for lunch

Newsletter review: Bill discussed ideas for the next newsletter

Treasurer's report: Approx. \$9.5k was spent in 2020. FAPG usually has \$9K in checking.

Kim volunteered to assume the treasurer's role if no other volunteers, if filling the secretary role might be easier. She would do both jobs.

Other items: Anne has been elected AIPG vice president and can serve as a liaison between FAPG and national. Anne said national is willing to offer support in the fight against deregulation but not funding.

FAPG needs to interface with FGWA more. Clint is an FGWA member as well.

SEGS had good, profitable field trips. There are 2 upcoming in November.

Need to develop FAPG committees?

The email database has been updated.

Scholarship committee: Anne reported there is scholarship money. University department heads should be contacted to advertise the FAPG scholarship.

There are pamphlets on geoscience education and a flier on geoscience in Florida that could be used as educational materials

The group discussed setting a recurring day for the monthly leadership call, maybe the 1st or 2nd week of the month.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.