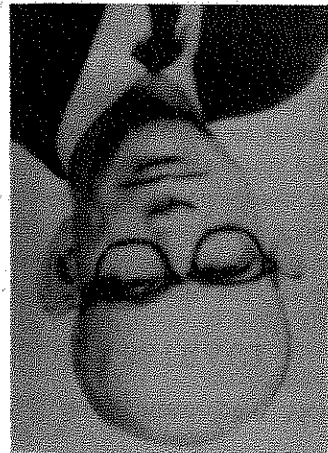
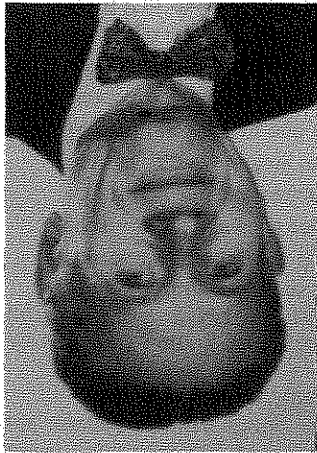




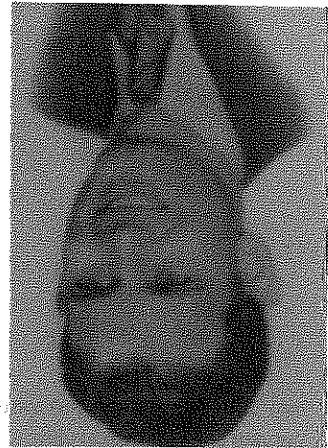
Philip R. Allin



Leslie Bowling



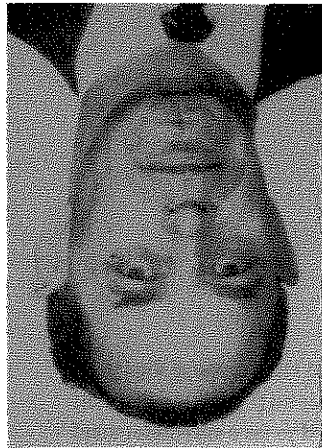
A.P. Claudet



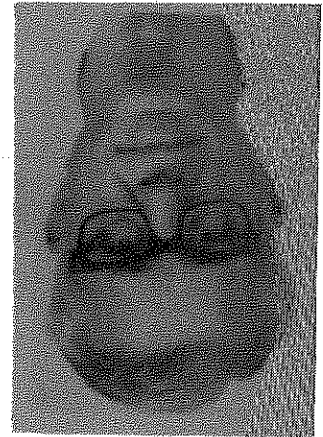
W.B. Neill

These seven geologists met in Baton Rouge, May 12, 1950 and discussed the organization of a regional geological association. As a result, the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies was born on May 15, 1951. Les Bowling, Aime Claudet, and Des Uterback were from New Orleans; Tom Philpott, Shreveport; Phil Allin and Woo Neill, Lake Charles; and Frances Stein, Lafayette (the latter three representing the South Louisiana Geological Society).

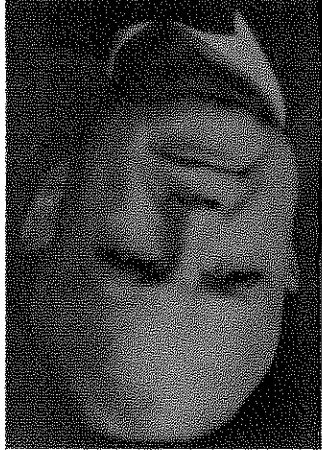
We owe these gentlemen a very large vote of thanks and our everlasting gratitude!



D.D. Uterback



F.B. Stein



Thomas H. Philpott

# THE GCAGS, 1951-1990— A SALUTE TO FORTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

David E. Pope<sup>1</sup>  
ABSTRACT

Four regional geological meetings were held in the Gulf Coast area, 1946 to 1949; all were AAPG sponsored. Attendant limitations thus imposed in the proposal of a unique regional association of local geological societies, to hold annual meetings and to provide for the concurrent distribution of a volume containing the full papers to be presented orally. The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies was founded May 15, 1951. The first annual meeting was held in New Orleans, November 15-17, 1951, with seven societies participating: Corpus Christi, East Texas, Houston, Mississippi, New Orleans, Shreveport, and South Louisiana. Present membership in GCAGS includes those named above, less South Louisiana, plus the Alabama, Austin, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Southeastern, and South Texas societies. Total enrollment of member societies has grown from an estimated 2000 to more than 9000.

The Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (GCS-SEPM) was founded in 1953 and has participated in the annual meetings since 1954. GCS-SEPM has approximately 500 individual members, most of whom are also members of our local geological societies. Traditionally GCS-SEPM members have supplied a very substantial portion of the papers presented at the annual meetings, and have also conducted a number of convention-related field trips.

The forty annual meetings to date have been held in eleven cities of the Gulf Coast. Attendance has ranged from an estimated 800 (New Orleans, 1951) to approximately 3800 (Houston, 1982). Two days of technical sessions may be preceded and/or followed by field trips, and/or short courses, and entertainment and athletic events are also offered. The proceedings of the annual meetings, the *Transactions*, is a highly valued and widely known reference for Gulf Coast geology. In addition to these 40 volumes, there are now available 22 other GCAGS publications, and 27 publications are offered by GCS-SEPM.

In addition to the above cited activities, the GCAGS must also discharge its business affairs. These are conducted by the board of directors, known as the executive committee until 1987, and as the steering committee prior to 1954. In 1987, the constitution and by-laws (originally adopted in 1954) were amended to conform with the corporate structure dictated by incorporation of the Association in 1986. The board of directors consists of the officers of GCAGS plus a representative from each member society. The present executive committee is composed of the officers of GCAGS, plus the finance committee chairman. This smaller body conducts business of the Association between regular meetings of the board, held at annual meetings and at designated midyear meetings.

Five standing committees have been organized over the years: awards and nominations, finance, financial aid to students, long-range planning, and publications. There is also a GCAGS representative to the AAPG advisory committee, and a GCAGS historian. The seven chairmen meet with the board of directors as advisors, plus performing their assigned duties. The finances of the Association are in excellent condition. Revenue comes from convention surpluses, sale of publications, and interest accrued on deposits. Accumulated resources are now more than \$500,000, and there is a substantial inventory of publications. Approximately \$285,000 has been awarded in student aid and other worthy grants since 1978.

Initially there were sharp differences of opinion in reference to GCAGS becoming a section of AAPG, and whether AAPG would accept GCAGS as it was and is now constituted. These differences were finally resolved, and on March 2, 1967, AAPG invited GCAGS to become a section. This was accepted July 10, 1967. All GCAGS/GCS-SEPM annual meetings since 1969 have also been designated as AAPG section meetings. These early events led Leslie Bowling—chairman of the first steering committee, in 1951—to pose the question in the 1967 *Transactions*, "Why and Whither G.C.A.G.S.?" He concluded that the Association "will continue along its present successful road only, and I repeat only, if it maintains its autonomy, its present non-political democratic and flexible aspects and its present communications." These conditions have been amply met. The success and progress of GCAGS over the past forty years is clearly evident, thanks to our founders and to our subsequent leaders and workers. Hope and expectations for the future continue to shine brightly.

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INTRODUCTION

EVOLUTION

In 1967, Leslie Bowling—chairman of the steering committee that governed the GCGS in 1951—published a paper in the *Transactions*, "Why and Whither G.C.A.G.S.?" An answer to this question may be determined by reviewing the highlights of the first forty years of the Association.

The concept of a Gulf Coast regional meeting is attributed to Earl B. Noble, president of AAPG, 1945-1946. Four such meetings were held in the fall of 1946, 1947, 1948, and 1949 in Biloxi, San Antonio, Houston, and Biloxi, respectively. While these were successful in most respects, they did not satisfy many of the participants for various reasons, as explained below.

ORIGIN

The regional meetings noted above were held under AAPG rules of procedure that did not call for publication of complete papers to accompany the meetings. This, and more rigid rules of membership, plus other considerations, apparently induced Leslie Bowling and others in New Orleans to seek a somewhat different approach to the annual regional meetings. The idea of an association of local geological societies was conceived and developed.

At a meeting in Baton Rouge on May 12, 1950, the following geologists met and discussed the issue: Philip R. Allin, W. B. Neill, and Francis B. Stein of the South Louisiana Geological Society; Leslie Bowling, Aime Claudet, and D. D. Uiterback of New Orleans; and Thomas H. Philpott of Shreveport. These seven have been dubbed the "founding fathers of GCGS." They were honored at the annual meeting in Lafayette in 1980, and those *Transactions* were dedicated to them.

Invitations were extended to all local Gulf Coast societies, and on March 14, 1951, a steering committee met in Houston with the following in attendance: Leslie Bowling, chairman, from New Orleans; E. L. Earl, Houston; William F. Farley, South Louisiana; T. H. Philpott, Shreveport; John Sandidge, South Texas; R. D. Sprague, Mississippi; R. K. Theis, East Texas; and W. H. Wallace, Jr., Corpus Christi. At that meeting, specific proposals were submitted, discussed, and then taken back to the local societies for consideration. On May 15, 1951, essentially the same committee (substitute R. W. Eaton for R. K. Theis of East Texas and delete John Sandidge of South Texas) met and adopted the resolutions previously presented. This date (May 15, 1951) is thus considered to be the birthday of GCGS. These seven (Bowling, Earl, Farley, Philpott, Sprague, Eaton, and Wallace) were honored at Jackson as the GCGS founding steering committee by having the 1968 *Transactions* dedicated to them. (They were listed in the 1951 *Transactions*, volume 1 as the governing steering committee at the first annual meeting in New Orleans.)

The first annual GCGS meeting was held in New Orleans, November 15-17, 1951, with seven member societies participating: Corpus Christi, East Texas, Houston, Mississippi, New Orleans, Shreveport, and South Louisiana. Baton Rouge was added in 1952. The following then joined: Lafayette (1953), Southeastern (1953), South Texas (1953), Beaumont (1956), Alabama (1967), and Austin (1974). Meanwhile, the original Baton Rouge society had become extinct (1959) and thus was lost to GCGS, as well as South Louisiana (1962) and Beaumont (1971). A new Baton Rouge society was added in 1980, bringing the total number of member societies to twelve. There has been no change since 1980. Total enrollment of member societies has grown from an estimated 2000 initially to more than 9000 now.

The Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (GCS-SEPM) was founded in 1953 and has participated in the annual meeting as an equal partner since 1954. GCS-SEPM has approximately 500 members—most of whom are also members of our local geological societies—from all areas of the Gulf Coast and elsewhere. They have traditionally supplied one-third to one-half or more of the papers presented at the annual meetings, and have also conducted a number of convention-related field trips. They have held separate concurrent technical sessions at the annual meetings since 1956. The first president was Stuart A. Levinson. Other members of the original steering committee were Jack O. Colle, Fred L. Smith, Jr., Morton B. Stephenson, Frank B. Stephenson, and Charles W. Stuckey, Jr. All were located in Houston.

There was controversy from the beginning as to whether the GCGS should become a section of AAPG, although the member societies were all affiliates of AAPG. This has, in fact, been a requirement for membership in GCGS since its early days. Some local societies wanted strongly for GCGS to become a section; some just as strongly, did not. The fear of the latter group was that of GCGS losing its autonomy and identity. Also, the AAPG has much more stringent membership rules than was desired by most of the local societies, all of whom have members that cannot qualify as members of AAPG. There was also the question of whether AAPG would accept this unique organization as a section. All other sections are composed of individual members rather than of local societies. As a result of the controversy, Houston temporarily withdrew from GCGS in protest of nonaffiliation. South Texas delayed in joining until GCGS made application to affiliate with AAPG. Such affiliation was not to be accomplished, however, until certain differences were solved. The AAPG finally, on March 2, 1967, offered an invitation to GCGS to join as a section. The invitation was accepted on July 10, 1967. The resolution as approved by both parties (Bowling, 1967) is quoted below:

"Whereas the Executive Committee of the AAPG at its meeting on February 10, 1967 unanimously adopted the

The GCAGS has grown from the initial seven to the present twelve member societies, and most societies have continued, in general, to grow. There have been temporary losses or stagnation depending largely on the variations of the fortunes and movements of the oil industry. The demise of our extinct societies can be largely traced to the companies shifting their focus of operations. The original Baton Rouge society folded shortly after a large Shell Oil office moved out of town. The South Louisiana society collapsed when most of the companies moved from Lake Charles to Lafayette and elsewhere. Lafayette and other member societies have been hurt when most of their major companies moved out or slashed their forces locally. The Beaumont society expired shortly after Sun Oil and others moved out. The Southeastern society was severely damaged in the mid-fifties when Humble (now Exxon) and others moved out or cut their forces deeply. And, of course, all were hurt at least temporarily by the industry downturn in 1982, and especially that of 1986. A few member societies then reported losses in memberships of 15% to 20% or more. Some recovery has been made since. Enrollments for some are again moving toward their all-time highs. This is very encouraging.

### ORGANIZATION

The GCAGS is now composed of twelve local societies. It has two basic functions. One is to plan and stage the annual convention, including the publication of the *Transactions*. The other is to discharge the business affairs of the Association. The former is performed by committees of the host society. The latter is conducted by our governing body, the board of directors.

Initially the GCAGS was governed by a steering committee, headed by its chairman. The committee consisted of one delegate from each member society. The chairman was the delegate from the convention host city. As such, Leslie Bowling was the first chairman to thus serve at the 1951 annual meeting in New Orleans. He was followed by W. M. Chaddick, Jr. of Corpus Christi in 1952, and then by R. T. Wade of Shreveport in 1953.

This situation prevailed until 1954 when W. R. Canada of Houston was declared president, in keeping with the newly adopted constitution. The constitution called for an executive committee composed of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, past president, and a representative from each member society. The treasurer and past president were nonvoting members. At that time, any of the officers could be from any city, except that the president was always elected from the city hosting the annual meeting that year. In 1962, this procedure was changed by vote of the executive committee to require that the vice-president be from the city to host the next convention, and that the secretary and treasurer also be from the host city. Under these rules, J. C. Byrd of Shreveport was the first elected vice-president—in New Orleans in 1962—to succeed to the presidency in 1963 in his hometown. These changes were not codified in the constitution until 1972.

Following resolution: "That the American Association of Petroleum Geologists formally invite the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies to become a section of AAPG, and to state expressly that, as a section of AAPG, GCAGS may retain its present name and have exclusive authority to maintain its freedom and its own autonomy related to scheduling of meetings, finances, publications, selection of speakers, and other pertinent matters; furthermore, the geological boundaries now established by GCAGS are recognized by AAPG, and any change in these boundaries must be initiated by GCAGS; and further, that GCAGS has the right to withdraw as a section at any time."

"Whereas said resolution was presented to the Executive Committee of the GCAGS at its scheduled official meeting in San Antonio on March 2, 1967 by M.T. Halbouty, President of AAPG."

Whereas Mr. Halbouty indicated the Executive Committee of the AAPG would consider any revisions in said resolution by GCAGS.

- Then be it resolved "that GCAGS accept the invitation of AAPG to become identified as a section of AAPG with the understanding that irrespective of present, revised or future definitions and/or requirements of a section (or any other category under which the two associations may be related at any time or from time to time) under the constitution and by-laws of AAPG, both shall:
- 1) retain and maintain complete autonomy and shall be completely independent in all affairs of the respective associations, including but not limited to policies, geographical boundaries, meetings, speakers, editorial policies, publications, finances, reports and any other matters pertinent to the respective associations.
  - 2) Either association may withdraw from the relationship by tendering written notice to the other, to become effective thirty (30) days after date of notice."

An attempt was made to have the 1967 GCAGS annual meeting declared a section meeting of AAPG. This failed because of lack of communication, and the matter does not appear to have been pursued in 1968. However, the 1969 GCAGS annual meeting was so designated, as have all since then. The affiliation has certainly been mutually beneficial. None of the fears of the early dissenters have ever materialized.

It should be emphasized emphatically that GCAGS has never attempted to encroach on the authority or functions of AAPG (or any society) as some early detractors of GCAGS seemed to fear. Our objectives and activities in fact supplement the operations of AAPG, and thus each complements the other, making both stronger.

ported that the 1966 San Antonio meeting host, the South Texas Geological Society, was "very disappointed that a size-able profit remained in spite of its efforts to break even." One annual meeting that did not break even was held in Miami in 1969, hosted by the Southeastern Society, with 800 delegates and 600 spouses. It was said that large sums were spent on entertainment, and the exhibits revenue did poorly. Memory recalls that a hurricane threatened or struck the area, which of course didn't help. Another poor showing was in Baton Rouge in 1986. With the oil industry becoming somewhat depressed since 1982, it will be recalled that early in 1986 oil prices fell from approximately \$30 a barrel to about \$10. That year, all national and regional conventions lost money, some very substantially. The GCAAGS had a "negative cash flow" of about \$11,000, although prepaid publications of a much higher value than that were turned in to inventory for future sale.

The format of the annual meetings has become rather standard. The meetings start on a Wednesday with registration, athletic events, a field trip or a short course, or both. The welcoming ice breaker is held that evening, with complementary hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. In recent years (since 1986) the ice breaker has been conducted in the exhibit area. Two days of technical sessions follow, with separate GCAAGS and GCS-SBPM programs, and recently, poster sessions. Much of Thursday morning is devoted to a joint session with welcoming speeches, honors and awards presentations, and usually a key note speaker. The noon break on Thursday is devoted to various luncheons. On that evening, some sort of entertainment is offered, such as a dinner dance, or other festivities. There are activities planned for the spouses during the day Thursday and Friday, along with a hospitality room that is open during the day. A field trip may be offered on Saturday.

The AAPG convention staff now offers its services to section meetings, for a fee. This service covers logistical support only. The host society must still plan and execute the entire technical program and any entertainment, field trips, and spouse activities. It also has full responsibility of producing and editing the *Transactions* and assembling data for the meeting announcement and the program booklet. AAPG will print the latter two, but not the *Transactions*. The host society still organizes full convention committees who work with the AAPG staff, and are basically responsible for their designated assignments. The host society may elect to use all or none of the services offered by AAPG. In 1986, the Baton Rouge society used only AAPG's exhibits assistance. This was the first usage of the AAPG staff by a GCAAGS convention. In 1987, the South Texas society used all services offered. In 1988, the New Orleans society used only the exhibits assistance. In 1989, the Lafayette society did the same in 1990. The Houston society will not use any AAPG services for the 1991 convention. The budget for the annual meetings now is generally in the neighborhood of \$250,000 to \$300,000. A preliminary budget

Another change in the constitution made the past president a voting member of the executive committee, along with the president, vice-president, and one delegate from each member society. Both the secretary and the treasurer were nonvoting members, then and now. In 1986, it became necessary to incorporate the GCAAGS in order to obtain liability insurance and facilitate banking. The resulting articles of incorporation required that our constitution and by-laws conform with corporate structure. The former executive committee thus became our board of directors, and a new executive committee was established, consisting of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, past president, and the chairman of the finance committee. This smaller body conducts the business affairs of the association between regular meetings of the board, held at annual meetings and at designated midyear meetings. These changes were approved by the former executive committee (now board of directors) in 1987, and approved by the member societies in 1988. There have been no further changes to date.

A final development that could be considered as organizational was the employment of Mrs. Birdena Schroeder as executive secretary of GCAAGS on October 27, 1989, after a provisional period of almost a year. She is based in Austin. GCAAGS annual meetings have always been conducted during the period mid-October to early or mid-November. They have been held in eleven cities of the Gulf Coast, as follows: New Orleans and Corpus Christi, 6 times each; Shreveport, Houston, and San Antonio, 5 times; Lafayette, 4; Jackson, 3; Biloxi and Austin, 2; and Miami and Baton Rouge, 1 time each.

Attendance has ranged from an estimated 800 (New Orleans, 1951) to approximately 3800 (Houston, 1982). Prior to the 1982 Houston meeting, attendance had exceeded 3000 for the previous four consecutive years. Since 1982, the numbers have topped 2000 only three times with a maximum of 2330 in Shreveport in 1984. The low point in recent years was 1325 in Baton Rouge in 1986. The average for 1987-1990 is about 1885. These figures represent total attendance, including delegates, spouses, students, and exhibitors.

The annual convention is planned by the convention committees, headed by the general chairman. There is a vice-chairman for each GCAAGS and GCS-SBPM. Usually there are 25 to 30 separate committees to handle the various phases of the convention, many with somewhat overlapping responsibilities. The local officers of GCAAGS (the president, secretary, and treasurer) also are a part of this team, and assist where needed. Although we strive to break even financially on these annual meetings, most have created a surplus. Bowling (1967) re-

ANNUAL MEETINGS

ment for the poster presentations, although full papers are also encouraged to accompany the poster sessions.

The *Transactions* has grown in prestige as well as in size. It is a widely known and most highly valued reference for the Gulf Coast. Inquiries for its purchase come not only from all parts of the United States but from around the world.

In addition to the 40 volumes of the *Transactions*, there are now available 22 other GCGS publications in five categories: readings in Gulf Coast geology, comprehensive index of GCGS publications, bibliography of Gulf Coast geology, GCGS maps, and special publications.

The GCS-SBPM offers 27 publications, featuring the proceedings from 10 annual research conferences on subjects pertinent to the Gulf Coast. These conferences, usually held in early December, consist of 2 1/2 days of presented papers, plus a core workshop—and recently, a poster session.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Awards for the best GCGS papers presented were begun in 1959, while the I.A. Levorsen memorial award for best petroleum exploration-related paper was started in 1966. J. E. Walters was first-place winner of the 1959 award. B. J. Sloan, Jr. was the first Levorsen award winner. Second and third places are also acknowledged for the best paper selection.

The GCS-SBPM began awards for best paper in 1970, with a joint paper by W. W. Hay, S. W. Wise, Jr., and R. D. Stieglitz taking first place. Second and third places were also given until 1981 when awards were changed to best published paper (T. A. Daws, A. V. Applegate, and J. C. Palacas), and for excellence of presentation (C. R. Hanford).

GCS-SBPM established honorary membership awards in 1964. Those honored were Ester Applin, Alva C. Ellisor, Marcus A. Hanna, Henry V. Howe, Hedwig Knicker, Winnie McGlamery, and John R. Sandridge. There are now 32 honorary members, and 4 have received distinguished service awards. The latter was first awarded in 1988, to Michael J. Nault and Richard P. Zingula. In November 1989, nonmember Charles G. Ventress, father of member William R.S. Ventress, was designated as distinguished honorary member, and is the only such recipient to date.

GCGS first awarded honorary membership in 1982. Recipients were Don R. Boyd, Jules Braunstein, Michel T. Halbouty, Frank W. Harrison, Jr., Lee H. Meltzer, and Harold N. Hickey. There are now 23 honorary members, and 11 have received the GCGS distinguished service awards. The latter was also initiated in 1982, with awards to R.E. Boyer, P.B. Souders, and B.C. Tucker.

Best poster awards are given when these sessions are scheduled as a part of the technical program. They have only been staged sporadically since 1981.

must be presented to the board of directors by the host society a year in advance, and a refined version is required at the mid-year meeting prior to the coming convention.

It should be noted that the following are chosen by the host society: The GCGS vice-president who becomes the president at the next annual meeting, the secretary, treasurer, the general chairman, and the person(s) to whom their volume of the *Transactions* is dedicated.

## PUBLICATIONS

The primary publication of the GCGS is the *Transactions*. This is the proceedings of the annual meetings. It is the permanent record of the papers presented. It also contains vital information related to GCGS and member societies, officers' reports, honors and awards, and other information in its front matter. An advertising section is usually appended at the rear of the volume, although some of the fairly early volumes have advertising pages mixed in the text area and elsewhere. Early editions of the *Transactions* carried much of the present eliminates in the back of those publications. The 1953 and 1956 through 1960 editions had rosters of members of the local societies in the back. The 1955 through 1960 editions also carried indexes of previous volumes. With time, more and more information has been added to the front matter: reports of the presidents of the GCGS and GCS-SBPM, beginning in 1954; report of the editor, from 1955 on; listing of all convention committee chairmen, 1958 (first time since 1951); listing of full convention committees, 1959; first publication of best paper awards, and report of the general chairman, 1962; etc. The preliminaries may now be 40 or more pages—all good and vital information.

Most of the *Transactions* have been dedicated to an individual or a group of people, the first (1955) was to Lloyd William Stephenson. Two editions (1971 and 1983) have been dedicated to Jules Braunstein, the only person to be so honored. The latter was a memorial following his death (in 1983).

The original *Transactions* (volume 1, 1951) contains a total of 280 pages—typed and reproduced by offset printing—consisting of 6 pages of front matter, 238 Arabic numbered text pages of double spaced lines, and 36 pages of an advertising appendix. There are 29 papers represented: 15 complete, 8 by abstract, and 6 by title only. The 1952 version is similar in format, while the 1953 edition is type set with full-page lines. In 1957, the two-column-page format was adopted.

The *Transactions* continued to grow in size until the 1978. That edition was published in two parts of about 350 pages each. Some of the more recent editions have been somewhat smaller; however, the 1990 volume has 945 pages, consisting of 41 pages of preliminaries, 868 pages of text, and 36 pages of advertising appendix. Of the 89 papers, 20 are presented as abstracts. Most of the latter represent the minimum require-

At the 1990 annual meeting of the board of directors, Don R. Boyd recommended the addition of an award for outstanding educator. This award will be first presented at the 1991 annual meeting.

### COMMITTEES

In addition to the early steering committees discussed above, the GCAAGS has had a number of other committees over the years. Several committees have written our constitution and its amendments. In the sixties, there was a special-projects committee, headed by the vice-president of the Association. This committee worked on several projects including GCAAGS publications, a Gulf Coast bibliography, and a tectonic map of the northern Gulf of Mexico. The latter was published in cooperation with the AAPG in 1972. GCAAGS co-chairmen were Harold Hickey and Robert W. Sabate.

Presently five standing committees are functioning: awards and nominations, finance, financial aid to students, long-range planning, and publications. There is also a GCAAGS representative to the AAPG advisory council, and a GCAAGS historian. The seven chairmen meet with the board of directors as advisors, plus performing their assigned duties. The financial and publications committees, and the representative to the AAPG advisory council, are required by the GCAAGS by-laws.

The awards and nominations committee was established October 23, 1981, to select recipients for various GCAAGS awards, and to prepare a slate of candidates for consideration by AAPG as nominees for national office. The chairman is appointed by the president of the Association to serve a three-year term. Committee members are the four latest GCAAGS past presidents. Successive chairmen have been M.O. Turner, Lee H. Meltzer, Scott J. Lysinger, Stewart Chuber, and Gary Lauman at present.

The finance committee was founded on October 28, 1977, to invest and manage funds not related to the annual meeting, keep financial records, and oversee the Association's annual income tax filing. The chairman is appointed by the GCAAGS president for a three-year term. Initially the committee had three members, all from Houston, where by our funds are invested, to serve staggered terms. The committee has had five members since 1988. Chairmen, in order, have been Bill C. Tucker, Clyde E. Harrison, Clifford S. Foss, and Gerald A. Cooley, who is now in his second three-year term. As previously mentioned, the chairman has been a member of the presently constituted executive committee since 1988, and he is also a member of the long-range planning committee.

The financial aid to students committee was established on October 28, 1977, to award grants for research to deserving students in the Gulf Coast area. Until 1981 the chairman of this committee was the president of GCAAGS; Raymond W. Stephens, 1977-1978; Edward C. Roy, Jr., 1978-79; Frank W. Harrison, Jr., 1979-1980, and Paul M. Strunk, 1980-1981.

### CONSTITUTION

The GCAAGS constitution and by-laws of GCAAGS after much revision was adopted on August 23, 1954, and published in the *Transactions* of that year. They were amended in 1955 to: 1) allow any member society to resign from the Association at any time upon written notice, and 2) to allow termination of the Association.

The GCAAGS representative to the AAPG advisory council, an appointive post, was established in 1971. He serves a three-year term, and acts as our liaison with the AAPG executive committee. Those who have served as representatives are, successively, Frank W. Harrison, Jr., Don R. Boyd, Scott J. Lysinger, M. O. Turner, Paul M. Strunk, Robert E. Boyer, and Robert W. Sabate at present.

The handling of early publications was probably done by officers of the Association, although no records of this are known. In 1958, B. W. Brown of Cambe Log Service in Houston agreed to supervise the sale of publications. In 1964, Mrs. Dorothy Harbison, also of Cambe's, continued in this role. In 1966, P. Barkley Souders of Houston was appointed the first GCAAGS chairman to discharge these duties. He was assisted by his employee, John Pate, and by Mrs. Harbison. In 1978, the GCAAGS publications were transferred to the University of Texas at Austin, at which time Robert E. Boyer became chairman of this committee, and was assisted by Mrs. Birdena Schroeder. On June 1, 1980, an agreement was made with Earth Enterprises, Inc. to handle the sales of publications for GCAAGS and many of the member societies. Boyer, president of Earth Enterprises, has been requested to continue as chairman of the publications committee to the present.

The long-range planning committee was formed on October 28, 1977, to make recommendations to the executive committee (now board of directors) for projects and activities which support the objectives of the Association. The chairman is appointed by the GCAAGS president for an indefinite term. Other members are the three latest past presidents and the finance committee chairman. Chairmen have been, in order, E. G. Wemund, Jr., Paul M. Strunk, Edward C. Roy, Jr., and C. Lane Sartor at present.

Committee members were appointed by the president. In 1981, Edward C. Roy, Jr. was appointed to a three-year term as chairman. In 1984, the executive committee approved a three-year rotating staggered membership, so that each member would become chairman his third year on the committee. Chairmen successively since then have been John McCarty, Edward C. Roy, Jr. (temporary), Richard W. Boebel, and Vala Ewing at present.

conditions have been fully met. The Association's success over these past forty years is clearly evident. And despite the ups and downs of the oil industry, upon which we are so dependent, our progress continues to new heights, thanks to our founders and all ensuing leaders and workers. The future is bright!

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer has drawn heavily from the volumes 1-40 of the *G.C.A.G.S. Transactions*, especially from the front matter. Available minutes from the board of directors (formerly the executive committee) have been used. Information from numerous individuals has also been helpful: Phillip R. Allin, Saul Aro-

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## REFERENCES CITED

Bowling, Leslie, 1967. Why or Whither G.C.A.G.S.: Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies *Transactions*, v. 17, p. XVII-XIX. (This paper offers a detailed account of the early interactions between the G.C.A.G.S. and the AAPG, and includes photos of the first steering committee, 1951.)

Dedication, 1980: *G.C.A.G.S. Transactions*, v. 30, p. II-V. (Names "The Seven Founding Fathers of the G.C.A.G.S."; does not include photos; includes a three-page memorandum to Leslie Bowling [acting as chairman] from A. Claudet [acting as secretary], outlining the concept of a regional association of Gulf Coast geological societies, 1950.)

Kirby, M.F., 1960. Report of the President: *G.C.A.G.S. Transactions*, v. 10, p. XIII. (Gives some of the early history of G.C.A.G.S. and the preceding regional meetings, 1946-1949.)

Pope, D.E., 1986. Report of the President: *G.C.A.G.S. Transactions*, v. 36, p. XI-XII. (Gives an abbreviated history of G.C.A.G.S.)

Rockwood, D.N., 1978. A Memorial [to] Leslie Bowling, 1908-1977: *G.C.A.G.S. Transactions*, v. 28, p. II. (Cites Bowling as the person most responsible for the founding and continued success of G.C.A.G.S.)

tion upon a majority vote of member societies. The constitution with these amendments was published in the 1955 and 1956 *Transactions*, but did not appear again until 1972. Since that date it has appeared in all subsequent volumes.

In 1972, the constitution was revised to conform with prevailing practices of the previous ten years. In 1962, the executive committee had voted to require the vice-president, who is the president-elect, to be from the city next to host the annual meeting, and other changes as discussed in the Organization section above.

In 1986, the Association found it necessary to incorporate the articles of incorporation and the resulting required changes in the constitution and by-laws were approved by the executive committee in 1987 and by the member societies in 1988. The articles of incorporation were published in the 1988 *Transactions*, and the by-laws to replace the former constitution and by-laws were published in the 1989 and 1990 volumes.

## FINANCES

The cash reserves of G.C.A.G.S. built slowly at first, but began to accelerate in the mid-seventies. By 1980, there was a balance of \$150,000, and it was approximately \$500,000 by 1986. Today, it is in excess of the latter figure, and we have an inventory of publications with a net worth of roughly \$150,000. Revenue comes from convention surpluses, sale of publications, and interest accrued from deposits.

The interest earned by the cash reserves has been used wisely. In the financial aid to student programs we have increased our grants from \$4500 to six students in 1978 to \$24,816 to 25 students in 1990. A guideline has been set of a maximum of \$30,000 for student aid in 1991, with a limit of \$1500 per individual. We have awarded approximately \$215,000 in student aid since 1978. Other worthy grants since then amount to about \$70,000, for a total of \$285,000. Figures prior to 1978 are not now available.

The board of directors approved an additional aid to scholarships at the 1990 annual meeting. It was agreed that G.C.A.G.S. would match any member society's new scholarship money up to \$10,000. Societies have one year to raise these funds, or two years if they do not have the required foundation in place to receive the donations.

## CONCLUSIONS

The answers to Leslie Bowling's 1967 query "Why or Whither G.C.A.G.S.?" should be amply answered by the foregoing narrative. He concluded that the Association "will continue along its present successful road only, and I repeat only, if it maintains its autonomy, its present non-political democratic and flexible aspects and its present communications." These