

Houston Geological Society

HOUSTON, TEXAS

May 3, 1951



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No. 9

Mr. Leslie Bowling
510 California Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Les:

Our Houston Society has had your New Orleans plan for organizing a Gulf Coast Geological Association under discussion for some time. That the plan has also brought forth considerable discussion elsewhere is evident from comments made at the St. Louis meeting. Members of our business committee have reported that some of these comments were pointed and rather unnecessary. We were sorry to hear this.

As you know from previous correspondence, (1) a letter directed to A. Claudet on February 28, 1951, and (2) a letter to members of the Houston Geological Society, dated April 12, our Houston Society has indicated its approval of the functions you anticipate the proposed union of societies to perform.

Contrary to the critical comments made of your plan in St. Louis, we in Houston feel that you have initiated a proposal in the Gulf Coast which can help the profession generally. We admire your initiative.

However, although we agree with the goals to be achieved, our Houston group cannot agree with you on the type of unit to achieve them. The motion, in regard to the Association, passed by our society at the February 26 meeting read as follows:

"I move that the Houston Geological Society enter into a tentative Association of Gulf Coast Geological Societies, and that the Executive Committee appoint a member to the Steering Committee and that this committeeman be directed to extend his efforts toward the eventual formation of an AAPG Gulf Coast Section."

It would have been impossible at the time to have passed any motion without a clause favoring an AAPG Section in it. Today the feeling in our society is even stronger than before.

Since the St. Louis Meeting, we have held meetings here with both the Houston Geological Society Executive Committee and the Houston AAPG Representatives. The considered opinion (unanimous) of both groups was that any banding together of Gulf Coast Societies, as far as our Houston Society is concerned, must follow the February 26 motion to the letter. It must, therefore, have as a primary purpose the eventual formation of an AAPG Section. This being the case, any temporary organization set up prior to forming the final section will have to conform with the requirements set up for a section, if it is to have the approval of the Houston group.

A review of the minutes of the Steering Committee has brought forth two criticisms from our group:

- 1) It is not indicated in the minutes that one of the aims of the unit is the eventual formation of a section.
- 2) Item 5 of the minutes indicates that the proposed association is to be one of the societies, not individuals. Our group disagrees here and desires that the membership be likened to that necessary for an AAPG Section; that is, a membership of individuals.

We hope you will agree to the suggested changes in the pattern of the tentative associations. We realize that you have in mind the requesting of certain regulatory changes as far as the AAPG is concerned. If we work together, there is little question but what some regulations will be relaxed. As a matter of fact, one of the New Orleans proposals is already practically agreed upon. At the meeting of society presidents in St. Louis, AAPG President-Elect Frank Morgan indicated that preprints of papers would be made available at regional meetings. He also indicated that he favored area representation on the AAPG Executive Committee of a sectional nature. This has been suggested by the Houston group, along with some others.

According to your letter of April 24, you recognize the Houston Society as a member society. We appreciate this, although our commitment must be considered temporary and subject to the changes indicated herein. Actually, final approval by our society for a permanent organization would have to be withheld anyway until a constitution and by-laws could be presented.

Mr. Leslie Bowling

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In any case, regardless of the outcome of the proposed Gulf Coast organization, we want to cooperate with you to the fullest extent toward planning and executing the New Orleans fall meeting. We have informed E. L. Earl of the Steering Committee Meeting called on May 15, 1951. He, barring unexpected complications, will be in attendance. We will also do our best to obtain a close estimate of the number from Houston to be expected at the November meeting.

Sincerely yours,



R. R. Rieke

RRR:sea

cc - A. Claudet
E. L. Earl