



# NYSCPG Newsletter

2017 Edition  
Volume 1

January/February 2017  
[www.nyscp.org](http://www.nyscp.org)

## Presidents Message

I am writing the first draft of this message as I prepare to drive to Harrisburg to give a presentation about licensure in NYS at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists. In addition to updating them on what is happening in NYS, I plan to meet with their officers to talk about best practices that we can use as our mission evolves and we focus more on building stronger statewide ties among the geoscience community, communicate concerns and comments to NYSED and other government agencies, monitor new legislation that impacts our profession, and develop preparatory courses for the ASBOG exam and continuing education courses across NYS. As described in the Legislative/Transition report, this broader restructuring of NYSCPG will benefit the membership and profession in the long term.

I would like to thank our 2016 sponsors, advertisers, and members for their support. I hope that you will continue to support us in 2017. It is essential that you renew soon because we are approaching the threshold of what our website and online database can handle at our current membership level. Although growing membership is the kind of problem that we want to have, before we upgrade we will move everyone who has not renewed to inactive status so that they are not counted against our quota. We anticipate making these changes by the end of March and if you don't update before that time this will likely be the last newsletter that you get from the Council. Please consider renewing so that you can stay up-to-date on developments in our profession.

Although we live in an increasingly digital world, I have been trying to personally thank every sponsor. I am doing this both as a show of gratitude and because I want our sponsors to know that they can reach out to me if they have any questions or concerns. In particular, I want to be sure that sponsors are signing up their employees as members and that the list of employees under their bundle is current. If you need anything at all, do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Best Wishes,

Mike Rygel  
2016/2017 NYSCPG President  
[michael.rygel@gmail.com](mailto:michael.rygel@gmail.com)

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## **January—February 2017 Newsletter**

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# Legislative Update

As we begin 2017, there is plenty of work ahead of NYSCPG and the Legislative and Transition Committees. The Legislative Committee is reviewing Bills being introduced in the NYS Legislature for the 2017 session that may affect the geologic profession. As part of the continuing transition of NYSCPG, the committee will take more of an active role in offering opinions on legislation that may affect the profession or the public involving geologic processes. These bills and any opinions that NYSCPG takes on them, will begin to be shared with the membership through the newsletter and our website.

New York State is in negotiations with the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) for facilitating the licensing exam for geologists in NY. Once a contract is finalized, NY will become a Member State of ASBOG and offer the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and the Practice of Geology (PG) exams in locations to be determined across the state. The exams are offered twice a year in the months of March and October. NYSCPG is in the initial stage of looking at ways to establish review courses for the ASBOG to assist our membership in preparing for the exams. Further details will be shared as we develop this program.

Questions continue to arise regarding the amendment conversion of corporations offering geological service. The amendment, listed in Chapter 260 of the New York State Laws of 2016, will allow a New York State established general business corporation to transition to a professional corporation (PC or DPC), or alternatively, for a NYS limited liability company (LLC) to become a professional limited liability company (“PLLC”). The amendment establishes an enforcement date of March 1, 2018, for persons and companies desiring to provide professional geological services in New York to have completed their licenses and articles of incorporation. After that date, no one can legally offer geologic services in NYS without the proper credentials.

Members of the Legislative Committee and NYSCPG as a whole continue to present educational talks at meetings across the state. The latest presentation offers insights into the licensing application process and guidance for business owners of the pathways for converting their companies to continue to offer geologic services. If your organization is interested in sponsoring a talk for your group, please contact a NYSCPG Board Member.

I will continue to share this important reminder. People need to be cognizant when licensed in other states and referring to themselves as a Professional Geologist in NY until they obtain their NYS license. Now that licensing law is effective in NY, to call oneself a PG in this state without the proper credentials is illegal and should be avoided. If your business card lists you as a PG, you need to make sure that you are licensed in the jurisdiction of the address of your business. If you currently are licensed in another state, you can refer to yourself as a PG only if you display the qualifying state (e.g. PG (any state)).

Thank you for your continued support. As always, you are welcome to contact me at [jnadeau@alphageoscience.com](mailto:jnadeau@alphageoscience.com) with any questions regarding the process of the Law’s establishment and implementation.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John M. Nadeau'.

John M. Nadeau, CPG  
2016-2017  
Legislative/Transition Chairman  
NYSCPG Past President

# Membership Committee Report

The 2017 membership window is open and many of you have taken advantage of renewing your membership for the 2017 fiscal year, thank you! As an active member we invite you to login to the website (<https://nyscpge.wildapricot.org/>) and ensure that your profile is up to date. Your annual membership provides you with up to date information for Professional Geologists in New York State, the NYSCPG newsletter and updates regarding the transition of the profession.

If you have multiple geologists in your company perhaps consider a corporate sponsorship which allows for multiple individual memberships (Bronze (3 members), Silver (10 members), Gold (15 members), Platinum (25 members), and Diamond (30 members) and advertising opportunities in the NYSCPG's bimonthly newsletter. Universities can take advantage of a Bronze membership of \$300 which will allow for membership for all of the Department's faculty and students! Active member renewal or new membership is now even easier to complete by using the NYSCPG's website at <https://nyscpge.wildapricot.org/>. Like any professional organization our strength is directly related to the number of our members, so please extend an invite to other geologic professionals to join the NYSCPG.

If you are interested in becoming a more active member with the NYSCPG, please consider volunteering your time to assist with the Membership Committee or one of our other committees, it is a rewarding experience! Please contact Marc Flanagan ([MEFlanagan@trcsolutions.com](mailto:MEFlanagan@trcsolutions.com)) for more details.



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# Outreach Committee Report

The Outreach Committee has had several meetings since the last newsletter was published.

The purpose of our committee is to advocate on behalf of the Council with other professional and regulatory organizations within the State of New York. So, what does that mean to you?

It means that while the Council is promoting and protecting our professional license and advising State Education Department (SED) on pertinent matters, the Outreach Committee is responsible for educating our peers and colleagues in other professional organizations and regulatory agencies, about our profession - geology.

What is on the horizon? What are the advantages of licensure for our colleagues and for ourselves?

There are many reasons for obtaining a license. One professional reason is that it will allow you to prepare, sign and seal certain reports and documents. Within the year, we will know more about what exactly this encompasses. By stamping and sealing documents, you will be acknowledging to the public that you have met the criteria and a higher level of competence, as set forth by SED.

Our challenge now is to assure the public that the professional stamp is dedicated to protecting the public and our environment.

To date, there have been several utility companies that have acknowledged the importance of either a Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist license. They require the license for whomever is responsible and in charge of work.

Another important reason for obtaining a license and for being a member of the Council is that it will help in your career development. As with our professional engineers, a license demonstrates leadership, competence, dedication and a commitment to the profession. Obtaining a license is an asset to your firm.

The Outreach Committee is always inquiring about venues to share our enthusiasm about the Profession of Geology. We are interested in meeting with future geologists on college campuses throughout the State. We will be sending out invitations to the various schools within the next few weeks. We offer to speak to any organization that is interested in what we are doing to protect the public and the environment.

As with all my other articles- please consider joining our committee. The committee has been set-up to simulate the NYSDEC as far as regions of the state are involved. For each DEC region, we have a "lead" person. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact the lead in your region.

We meet in-person and through a conference call the third Wednesday of each month. Please contact Cheryl Neary ([cheryl@islandpumpandtank.com](mailto:cheryl@islandpumpandtank.com)) or one of the regional contacts listed below for more details

Region I	Cheryl Neary	<a href="mailto:cheryl@islandpumpandtank.com">cheryl@islandpumpandtank.com</a>
Region II	Nick Recchia Scott Yanuck	<a href="mailto:nrecchia@geiconsultants.com">nrecchia@geiconsultants.com</a> <a href="mailto:syanuck@laurelenv.com">syanuck@laurelenv.com</a>
Region III	Patrick Diggins David Hannam	<a href="mailto:geodiggins@gmail.com">geodiggins@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:dhannam@langan.com">dhannam@langan.com</a>
Region IV & V	Marcia Wolosz	<a href="mailto:darcyslaw@gmail.com">darcyslaw@gmail.com</a>
Region VI	Scott McDonald	<a href="mailto:SMcDonald@gesonline.com">SMcDonald@gesonline.com</a>
Region VII	Marty Meriwether	<a href="mailto:martinm@pwgrosser.com">martinm@pwgrosser.com</a>
Region VIII & IX	Gene Florentino	<a href="mailto:GFlorentino@ene.com">GFlorentino@ene.com</a>

# Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions were posed or derived from questions at recent talks by NYSCPG members. The answers provided below are based on the experiences and understanding of NYSCPG Officers and Directors and do not represent an official response by NYSED.

Please also know that NYSED is continually updating their webpage with information that applicants might find helpful. In particular we recommend the *License Requirements* (<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/geo/geolic.htm#state>) and *Frequently Asked Questions* pages (<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/geo/geofaq.htm>)

**Q: If you check off the box on Form 4 saying that you have more than 12 years of experience, do you still have to submit your transcripts?**

A: If you fill out the previous forms stating educational experience, you should request the transcripts. Completing the 12 year path on Form 4 will bypass the education review, if they have your transcripts in the file. This will speed up the overall process, but the process cannot begin until all the components of the application are there.

**Q: What happens if you meet the requirements, but there is a significant hiatus in your experience? Is this is issue?**

A: Something like this would be determined on a case by case basis, but it could potentially be an issue depending on the reasons, duration, or timing of the hiatus. The best thing to do would be to put something in the Form 4a explaining why there is a gap in practice.

(Continued on page 7)



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# Frequently Asked Questions

(Continued from page 6)

**Q: What if you did not have to take all of the required coursework for your degree and don't have the 12 years of practice?**

A: The education requirements (<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/geo/geolic.htm#educ>) were developed to try and reflect the kinds of coursework that most schools would offer in association with a geology degree. If you don't have the required coursework and don't have the 12 years of experience, you might need to take some additional coursework to fill the gaps in your coursework. Please also keep in mind that you do not have to complete coursework in all eight content areas, but must complete "at least one course from four of eight different areas".

**Q: Is the fee refundable if not approved?**

A: The official response by NYSED is posted at <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/geo/geolic.htm#partial>. They state that:

*"Individuals who withdraw their licensure application may be entitled to a partial refund.*

*For the procedure to withdraw your application, contact the Professional Geology Unit at [opunit1@nysed.gov](mailto:opunit1@nysed.gov) or by calling 518-474-3817 ext. 250 or by fax at 518-402-5354.*

*The State Education Department is not responsible for any fees paid to an outside testing or credentials verification agency.*

*If you withdraw your application, obtain a refund, and then decide to seek New York State licensure at a later date, you will be considered a new applicant, and you will be required to pay the licensure and registration fees and meet the licensure requirements in place at the time you reapply."*

This leaves a bit of ambiguity about how much of a refund and the difference between the application fee and the triennial fee. The Council will ask for clarification from NYSED.

**Q: Has NY has officially adopted the ASBOG? When will the first test be offered?**

A: The ASBOG exam will be adopted by NYS, but the contract negotiations are still underway with ASBOG. It is unclear if the first offering of the exam will be in October 2017 or March 2018, but if the details are not finalized soon, the October date will not be possible. The Council is eager to have closure on this because we want to offer review courses for the exam, but the contract negotiations are not something that have any input on.

## Statement of Purpose

The NYSCPG strives to strengthen and advance the geologic sciences as a profession, promote the protection of public health and welfare and the environment through the professional practice of geologic sciences, and create high standards of ethical conduct among its members and within the profession of geology, as well as the legal standing of geologists and their ability to practice geology in New York State by promoting the licensing of geologists in New York State through statutory regulation.

## Upcoming Events by Allied Organizations

**AEG NY-P Third Annual Student Night.**  
March 30, 2017 starting at 6:00 PM  
Clarion Hotel, 60 Cottontail Lane,  
Somerset, NJ. Students FREE with RSVP!  
The New York – Philadelphia chapter of  
the AEG invites

all students to participate in our Third  
Annual Student Night. This competitive  
conference will include oral presentations  
and a poster session. Prizes will be  
awarded! Email [aeg.nyp@gmail.com](mailto:aeg.nyp@gmail.com) to  
register.

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# Fundraising Committee

NYSCPG would like to thank the 2016 sponsors and advertisers for their continued support. Your contributions assist us with operating costs, such as retaining of our lobbyist and management of the website. NYSCPG would like to ask you to consider renewing your corporate sponsorship for 2017. The fundraising committee is looking to add more value to the corporate sponsors and advertisers, and plans to work with other NYSCPG committees to make this happen.

NYSCPG consists of a volunteer board of professionals from across New York, who have worked hard over the years to get the licensure bill passed. NYSCPG is looking to be the organization that represents the different professional geologists working in New York. For NYSCPG to continue to operate and achieve this goal, we need your assistance in financial support.

NYSCPG Fundraising Committee has set the following goals for 2017:

- Create new and strengthen existing coalitions with national geologic organizations for support and outreach.
- Continue to receive fundraising support from current sponsors and advertisers.
- Improve the value of being a NYSCPG sponsor and advertiser.
  - Website improvements.
    - Allow corporate sponsors and advertisers to post employment positions to reach the membership.
    - Increase links to geoscience news/articles.
  - Platform for sponsors/advertisers to upload logos/marketing material directly to the website database for website advertising and the newsletter.
  - Identification of national organizations meetings of interest for members, sponsors, and advertisers.
  - Improve the quality of the membership database.
  - Newsletter Deliverables.
  - Increase Emails/RSS feeds.

NYSCPG is looking for assistance with fundraising and is asking for some geologists in our regional sister organizations to help. If you think you might be interested, please contact [todd.bown@gza.com](mailto:todd.bown@gza.com). This is a great opportunity to work with fellow geologists across the state and network to build NYSCPG support with sponsors and advertisers. Since NYSCPG is a volunteer organization, we would only expect a few hours a month from any interested individuals to help us achieve our goals.

Regards,  
Todd G. Bown  
Fundraising Committee Chair

**Please renew your Membership, Sponsorship, Advertisement**

**Today**

**See forms at the end of this publication.**

***Thank you for your support!!***

**WANTED**

***Newsletter Contributions,  
Ideas and Suggestions***

***Please contact Mike Rygel,  
current NYSCPG President  
[michael.rygel@gmail.com](mailto:michael.rygel@gmail.com)***

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2017

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS
Membership Application and Renewal Form

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New Renewal

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. (please check one)

Name:

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Membership Class (Annual Contribution)

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Individual \$40\*\*
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Additional Donation \$

Total Amount Enclosed \$

Total Amount Paid via PayPal \$

\* Prospector Members receive special recognition in the NYSCPG newsletter and website

\*\*All Individual Membership applications and renewals that are part of a Corporate Sponsorship must be submitted with the Corporate Sponsorship form in order to receive newsletters and other mailings. For information on Corporate Sponsorship please contact Todd Bown at todd.bown@GZA.com

Please mail your application and payment to:

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NYSCPG newsletters and membership is now primarily managed online. Please consider applying for/renewing your membership online at https://www.nyscp.org.

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NYSCPG may publish a Membership Directory for 2017. Please indicate your preference for inclusion in the directory:

- Yes, include my contact information in the Directory
No, omit my contact information from the Directory (name only will be included)

Other Memberships:

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AIH GSA SEPM
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I am licensed, registered, or certified in the following states or organizations:

NYSCPG encourages you to take an active role in its activities. Serving on one of the standing committees is an excellent way to stay involved. Would you be interested in serving on any of the following committees?

- Communications (Newsletter/Website) Fundraising Legislative Membership Outreach

Additional Information (Please complete this section, even if you have previously been a member)

Professional Background (please check one): Geologist Other

Table with columns: Education, Year, College / University. Rows include BS/BA, MS/MA, PhD, Other.

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# New York State Council of Professional Geologists

## NYSCPG CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP – 2017

Your sponsorship will support NYSCPG, a state-wide organization with a mission to protect the professionalism, degree of competency, and economic viability of geologists practicing in New York. Corporate Sponsorship (Corporations, Universities, Associations, etc.) also provides your company with advertising opportunities in the NYSCPG newsletter, website and/or membership directory as described for each category. Additional advertising opportunities are described on the NYSCPG website ([www.nyscp.org](http://www.nyscp.org)).

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Platinum corporate members receive a year of half page sized ad in the newsletter and membership directory, a free web ad, and a link to their web site from the NYSCPG website.

#### **Gold Sponsor** (15 members), \$1,000

Gold Corporate members receive a year of half page sized ad in the newsletter and membership directory, a free web ad, and a link to their web site from the NYSCPG website.

#### **Silver Sponsor** (10 members), \$500

Silver Corporate members receive a link to their web site from the NYSCPG website for the year.

#### **Bronze Sponsor** (3 members), \$300

Bronze Corporate members receive a link to their web site from the NYSCPG website for the year.

### **Primary Sponsor Contact**

Contact Name _____	Email _____
Company Name _____	Phone _____
Address _____	Sponsorship Level _____
_____	Amount Enclosed _____

Please use the second page of this document to list the names and email addresses of all members to be included under the corporate sponsorship.

Please send this form, payment, and electronic ad file (.jpg, .tif or .pdf) to Todd Bown at [Todd.Bown@gza.com](mailto:Todd.Bown@gza.com) (NYSCPG - PO Box 208, Clarence Center, NY 14032-0208). Checks can be made payable to NYSCPG.





## New York State Council of Professional Geologists

### ADVERTISING

NYSCPG provides several advertising opportunities to promote your business or group in the following outlets:

- NYSCPG Newsletter: six newsletters are planned for 2017
- NYSCPG Website

### RATES

NYSCPG advertising rates include advertisements in the 2017 newsletters. For Full and Half Page advertisers, an additional web ad (link) that connects to your company's website is also available. This link is in the form of a scrolling banner ad, examples of which can be seen on the NYSCPG website ([www.nyscp.org](http://www.nyscp.org)). Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on NYSCPG advertising are attached.

Full Page	\$200.00	_____
Additional Web Ad	\$ 50.00	_____
Half Page	\$150.00	_____
Additional Web Ad	\$50.00	_____
Quarter Page	\$100.00	_____
Business Card	\$ 50.00	_____

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information      Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed form and payment to:** Gene Florentino, NYSCPG Treasurer, PO Box 208, Clarence Center, NY 14032-0208. Make checks payable to NYSCPG. Please send your electronic ad file (.jpg, .tif or .pdf) to Todd Bown at [Todd.Bown@gza.com](mailto:Todd.Bown@gza.com). Interested in NYSCPG Corporate Sponsorship? Please go to the home page of our website [www.nyscp.org](http://www.nyscp.org).

Thank you for supporting NYSCPG !!

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