



NYSCPG Newsletter

2019 Edition

Volume 2

<https://nyscpq.wildapricot.org>

President's Message

Wow, Spring has Sprung, and this year is flying by! You may have noticed a short hiatus in newsletters, but the NYSCPG (Council) has been hard at work for you, the public, and the profession. I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to our Officers, Directors, and actively engaged members who have contributed much of their time to this effort over the past few months. We have been quite busy!

As of April 26, 2019, there are 464 NYSCPG members, and 1,214 geology licenses in NYS, an increase of 48 members (which is excellent), and 13 new licenses since February 1. The breakdown of these licenses both in and out of state is provided by our Secretary Mark Williams in this newsletter.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have an ambitious list of goals/initiatives for 2019. So far, we are making excellent progress:

- **Update NYSCPG's factsheet and FAQs:** Done! (see <https://nyscpq.wildapricot.org/>)
- **Revise/update NYSCPG's by-laws:** planned for spring/summer 2019
- **Prepare regulatory requirements for Continuing Education / cross communicate with PE's/PLS'/SED:** in progress (see Legislative Committee Chair's update in this newsletter issue). The council's lobbyist has drafted proposed CE legislation that is comparable to our sister professions to ensure equality amongst the professions. However, SED would like to modify the program before entertaining any proposed legislation by the Council. We expect this process to continue for another 1 to 3 years.
- **Select Lobbyist for 2020 Legislative Session:** Peter O'Connell (our current lobbyist) is thinking about staying on one more year. If so, that will significantly reduce our operating costs for 2020 as Peter has been operating at a significant discount over the past few years. Once we select/hire a new lobbyist, the more realistic cost will be at least 3x as much as we are paying now!
- **Set-up social media accounts (Gmail, LinkedIn, Twitter):** Done; our LinkedIn account generated 743 connections, up 83 since February 1.
- **Solicit more committee members from our membership:** in progress (anyone want to volunteer?)
- **Continue to monitor proposed legislation that may impact the profession:** ongoing; this effort is headed by John Nadeau and our lobbyist Peter O'Connell. Since the last newsletter, NYSCPG reviewed the following:
 - A greenhouse gas emissions proposal, the Council as well as our sister professions decided to remain neutral on this proposal; and
 - Proposed language by our sister profession's lobby to correct an unintended consequence of the initial law to establish the profession of geology. The law has prevented grandparent engineering firms from obtaining a Certificate of Authorization to offer geologic services. Please see the Legislative Update for more details.
- **Create and fund a paid Executive Director position:** in progress (a committee, led by Mark Williams, is being formed to identify the best candidate)
- **Offer continuing education courses:** tabled for now as State Education Department (SED) is still in the process of revamping CE requirements/approvals with our sister professions.
- **Solicit a Webmaster:** Done. Much thanks and credit to NYSCPG Directors Greg Wyka and Scott Yanuck for taking on this effort. Our website and LinkedIn page have engaged our membership base and attracted new individuals to the Council.

- **Reach out to College students (via webinars and/or in-person meetings) to educate students on the importance of licensure:**
 - A webinar entitled “The Current State of the Profession” was held on March 27th. It was presented by our Legislative Chairman John Nadeau, and hosted by Alpha Analytical: 306 registered and a record-breaking 218 attended. A special thanks to Catherine Weber and our friends at Alpha Analytical for managing the webinar and supporting the Council. Committed sustaining sponsors such as Alpha Analytical make our efforts fully functional and allow us the opportunity to achieve our mission. Again, a heartfelt thanks for their support. We are currently in the process of addressing almost 80 questions (keep an eye on the website). Another webinar is being planned for Fall 2019.
 - SUNY Binghamton Presentation: April 29: 21 students and 5 faculty (see the Outreach Committee summary in this newsletter).
- **Host/participate in more professional seminars:**
 - **NYSCPG is co-hosting NYSGA with Hobart and William Smith Colleges** on October 4, 5, and 6 in Geneva, NY. The Council is responsible for setting up and possibly running field trips. Five field trips are needed on both Oct 5 and 6, thus, we are looking for volunteers to lead/guide trips in the Central and Western NY area. Please contact the Immediate Past President Cheryl Neary at cheryl@islandpumpandtank.com if you have any questions/suggestions or want to volunteer (also see the article on this event in this newsletter)
- **Establish/maintain a database of New York Licensed Geologists:** ongoing. This is allowing the Council to get a better understanding on the demographics of the licensed geologists and serves as a recruitment database for those who are not already members of the Council.

Another major accomplishment that will be further summarized in this newsletter is the outcome of our first biannual meeting held on April 29 at SUNY Binghamton (aka Binghamton University). The meeting was a huge success, and was attended by Council Officers and Directors, several NYSCPG members as well as several special guests from the BOD of all four Regional Organizations (BAPG, CNYAPG, HMPGA, and LIAPG). The main purpose of this meeting was to roll out an Alliance Plan (a sharing of resources of the Regional Organizations and the Council). A summary of the plan and reactions to the proposed plan are presented in this newsletter, so keep on reading! The other main purpose of the meeting was to engage the faculty and students and foster a relationship between them and the Council. Thus, following the BOD meeting, we met with Geology Department faculty and students and discussed accreditation of SUNY Binghamton’s Geology programs and requirements of licensure for the upcoming graduates (including what is needed to sit for the Fundamentals of Geology [FG] portion of the National Association of State Boards of Geology [ASBOG] exam). The Department is strongly committed to become accredited and appreciated the Council’s outreach to them. The students, as many other students in other Colleges/Universities visited by the Council, were unaware of the Council’s existence and thus its mission, as well as the requirements for the ASBOG exam and licensure. By reaching out to these students, the Council has ensured they have the knowledge and resources necessary to ensure they take the necessary classes to qualify for licensure!

Lastly, also in this issue, is a flash from the past! At the April semi-annual meeting, Gerry Gould (a former Council Director) handed me a box of Council files from the 90’s. At first I was thinking...just what I need, more paper files to store, but I graciously accepted them because you “never know” what you will find! Well, after about a week and a half of me tripping over the box in my office, I decided to look inside (while I was on a 6-hr conference call). The first items I picked up were some vintage HMPGA and NYSCPG newsletters, followed by a dozen or so Polaroid pictures (only the old-timers will know what they are). As a result, “An Important Update from the NYSCPG” dated November 1995 has been reprinted in this issue, so please take a look!

As always, if you have any questions or ideas that benefit/strengthen the Council (both positive and negative) please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the Directors. Our contact information is located on the NYSCPG website (<https://nyscp.org/>) or email us at nyscouncilpg@gmail.com.

Gene Florentino, PG, PMP

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Legislative Update

The NYSCPG (Council) Legislative Committee is reminding all companies in New York that, as of March 1st of this year, you must be properly registered with both the State Education Department (SED) Office and the Department of State (DOS) to legally offer geologic services. This means that your company is now required to hold a valid Certificate of Authorization (C of A) to advertise and conduct geologic services. Engineering firms that perform similar services can still continue to offer these services if they are advertised and conducted as engineering. If you have submitted your documentation to SED and have questions, please contact the Professional Corporations Unit at 518-474-3817, Extension 400.

Remember that after obtaining your individual license, your company may still need to be authorized by the state to practice geology by obtaining a C of A from SED and the DOS. Sole proprietors may not need to apply for this, but this depends on your current structure. We strongly encourage all licensees to review the acceptable corporate structures for practicing professional services in New York State. There are multiple options for your company to choose from, and each structure has specific requirements. The Council highly recommends that you consult legal and/or tax professionals for specific advice to evaluate your individual practice or your company's options. Information regarding the different corporate structures can be found at <http://www.op.nysed.gov/corp/>. If you have not submitted your initial information for your C of A, you can find some tips to avoid delays at <http://www.op.nysed.gov/corp/pcorptips.html>.

The role of the Legislative Committee continues to evolve from actively producing bills regarding the establishment of the profession of geology to reviewing and commenting on pending legislation and regulations. This will include educating the public, regulatory agencies and municipalities on the establishment of the profession of geology and how that impacts current laws and regulations. Unfortunately, this is not an overnight process and will require continuous effort.

The Legislative Committee and our lobbyist continue to participate in dialog with our sister professions and SED to draft continuing education (CE) legislation. The topic was covered in depth during the last Engineering, Land Surveying & Geology Board meeting. The anticipated plan is to craft legislation to establish a CE program for geologists and update the current programs for engineers and land surveyors concurrently. The legislative year has been active for our sister professions and their focus has been on their current bills this session. The goal of the Council is to have a draft bill written during the 2019 calendar year to introduce for the 2020 legislative session.

The group also has been working with our sister profession of engineering to solve an unintended consequence of the original law. The SED interpreted the law to establish the profession in a way that does not allow grandparented engineering firms to obtain a C of A in geology in their current form. This interpretation does not mean that these corporations are not qualified to practice, but do not have the proper corporate structure to offer the services. The Council continues to work with the lobbying groups of our sister professions to correct this oversight in a way that best serves the public and both professions.

Thank you for your continued support of the Council. If you have questions or do not understand a provision you can contact me at jnadeau@alphageoscience.com. As always, you can contact SED directly at geology@nysed.gov with any questions or concerns.



John M. Nadeau, PG, CPG
2018-2019
Legislative/Transition Chairman
NYSCPG Past President



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Save the Dates!

Friday, October 4, 2019 – Sunday, October 6, 2019

**91st Annual Meeting of the New York State Geological Association
(NYSGA)**

**Hosted by NYSCPG & Hobart and William Smith Colleges,
Geneva, NY**

Please plan on joining your organization as we co-host this year's 91st Annual New York State Geological Association Meeting in the Finger Lake Region of Geneva.

If you have never attended the annual meeting, you should make it a MUST!

The conference is open to anyone interested in earth, environmental or energy sciences; whether undergraduates or graduate students, university faculty, K-12 teachers, industry and government scientists and engineers, or anyone with an interest in the geology of the area of the Finger Lakes and nearby terranes. Spread the word!

The event begins on Friday evening with a meet and greet. Saturday and Sunday will be a choice of field trips for you to choose from on the registration form which will be published in early September and found on-line. Saturday night is the banquet, with a guest speaker.

Members of the Outreach Committee have been busy the last few weeks to find the exciting field trips for the event.

History of Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Hobart and William Smith (HWS) Colleges are two private liberal arts colleges that were established in 1822 and 1908, respectively. Geneva College, an all-male facility was founded by John Henry Hobart, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Later it would become known as Hobart College. In 1847, the Medical Institution of Geneva College accepted an application from Elizabeth Blackwell. She had applied and been rejected by seventeen medical schools before the medical faculty, who were largely opposed to her admission, decided to have the students vote to admit her. History was made, and after only two years of instruction, Elizabeth graduated at the head of her class, the first woman doctor in the hemisphere.

Elizabeth Blackwell founded the New York Infirmary for Women & Children before returning to her native England, where she founded the National Health Society, and taught at England's first college of medicine for women.

In 1906, William Smith signed a deed of gift that established William Smith College – a "Coordinate School for Women" which opened in 1908. William Smith was a philanthropist and nurseryman who had befriended a number of suffragettes and activists who had made an impression on him. His college would be a nondenominational, liberal arts institution dedicated to educating women broadly, not just vocationally. This college was founded adjacent to Hobart College and remained separate, although sharing some facilities and teachers. In 1922, the first joint commencement was held; however it was not until 1942 that baccalaureate services were joined.

In 2002, the Finger Lakes Institute (FLI), was established at HWS. It is an organization dedicated to the promotion of environmental research and education about the Finger Lakes Region. In 2007, the colleges became a charter member of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, helping to reduce emissions of gases responsible for global climatic change.

FLI research projects are primarily interdisciplinary and focus on issues relevant to the Finger Lakes Region, such as, Watershed, Limnology, Hydro-Geochemistry and the Ecology; Energy generation, utilization and environmental impact; Meteorological influence on Finger- and Great-Lakes system; Hydrology and water resource issues and human interactions and their effects on water quality.

Regional Geology

The enchanted area of Geneva has a story to tell, as recorded in the rocks. During the Paleozoic Era, the area was part of the inland sea, later to be heaved upward several times, and then eroded and the cycle to continue, causing the area to become a steep north facing slope. As climates grew colder, roughly two million years ago, glaciers covered the area, with a history of advances and retreats as the climate changed. Advancing glaciers were met with the steep north facing slope, causing the river valleys to be gouged into deep u-shaped troughs. Approximately 10,000 years ago, retreating glacier's melt waters became trapped in the deepened valleys between the glacial debris at the north and south ends. The Valley Heads moraine, across central NY, resulted in the change of southerly flow of water to a northern direction for most of the other area rivers, except for the Genesee River.

Geneva is located on the northern shore of Seneca Lake, the largest and deepest of the glacial Finger Lakes. Seneca Lake is also noted for its vast number of wineries, and Watkins Glen at the southern end of the lake.

NYSGA Potential Field Trips

The Council and HWS have been actively seeking field trips for the annual meeting.

To date, we have the following trips in the works and you will be able to find out more about each of the trips and the logistics involved in the following weeks by checking the New York State Geological Association website: <https://www.nysga-online.net> Once on the website, select the tab for Annual Meeting.

1. Paleocology and Taphonomy of Some Eurypterid-Bearing Horizons in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State; Stephen M. Mayer
2. Penn Dixie Fossil Park & Nature Reserve (approximately 2 hours away)

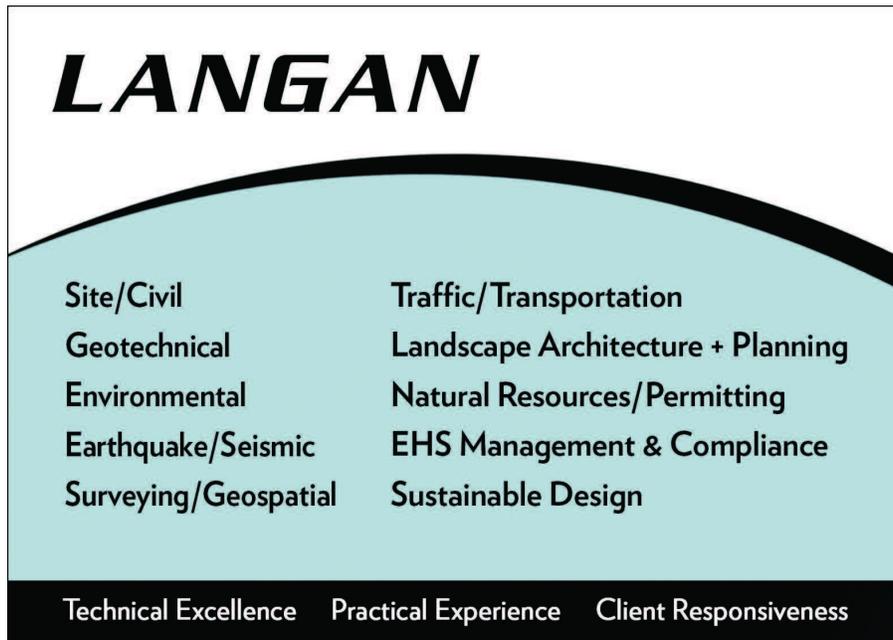
3. Ithaca – Revised Deglaciation History of the Area; Dan Karig, Professor Emeritus (Cornell)
4. Wine & Terroir; Dr. Laura Falk, Certified Sommelier / WSET level 3; Experience! The Finger Lakes
5. HWS Research Vessel

More to come as they are being verified!

Interested so far? Plan on attending the exciting weekend!

The host hotel for this event is Microtel Suites in Geneva. There are limited rooms available. The room rate is \$115.00 per night. Rooms have been reserved for both Friday and Saturday night.

Submitted by Cheryl Neary, P.G.
NYSCPG Immediate Past President



Outreach Committee

The New York State Council of Professional Geologist's (Council's) Outreach Committee began this year by updating its listing of New York State's public and private college degree programs for geology, and related sciences. The Council is focusing on those school programs which provide the curricula for satisfying the educational requirements for the ASBOG exams, and the regulatory requirements for licensing as a Professional Geologist. The Outreach Committee volunteers will visit as many schools as possible over the course of the year to present to students and faculty members the Council's summary of the ASBOG Exam and licensing requirements; benefits for obtaining professional licensing; career opportunities for professional geologists; and the Council's mission as the advocate for the professional practice of Geology in New York State. The Council will also encourage the faculty to work towards an accredited geology program.

The Outreach Committee also began its program for 2019 by appointing Council Member Brian Duggan, P.G., as incoming Committee Chairperson, who will be transitioning into this position with the assistance of outgoing Committee Chairperson Cheryl Neary, P.G., over the next several months. Thank you, Cheryl, for all of your devotion, hard work and successes as the Outreach

Committee's Chairperson over the years. We look forward to your continued support and welcomed advice to the Committee and the NYSCPG, as one of its most dedicated members.

The Committee held its first meeting of 2019 on April 25, 2019. The meeting addressed the Committee's plans for co-sponsoring the New York State Geological Association (NYSGA) Annual Meeting in Geneva, NY with Hobart and William Smith Colleges. The meeting is scheduled for October 4th through the 6th, 2019. Please note we are seeking volunteers for leading field trips, as well as suggestions for field trips, to be held over two days of the conference. Please contact me or any other Committee member or NYSCPG Director to volunteer or suggest locations for field trips. We will distribute further details over the next several months.

During the Committee's meeting it, was reported that several of NYSCPG's Committee members had already made presentations to colleges this year, including visits by: NYSCPG President, Gene Florentino and Treasurer Rick Watt to SUNY Cortland's Department of Geology; NYSCPG Vice President Michael D. Burke to the Rutgers University AEG Student Chapter, and City College of NY Department of Geological Sciences; and Committee member Chris Wenczel, to SUNY Oneonta's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Additionally, after the Council's annual Board of Directors Meeting at SUNY Binghamton's Department of Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies, the Council and Committee members met with Department faculty and students, and provided them with our presentation. As reported by Council members presenting earlier to other schools, the presentation was well attended, and well received. It was also noted by Council member presenters that both faculty and students were as yet not fully informed about the requirements, purposes and applications for the recently created NYS PG license. Much more work is needed to spread the word. We urge all members to volunteer and support our efforts; and welcome any comments or suggestions which would help toward the success of this important outreach initiative.

Brian Duggan, PG
Outreach Committee Chairman

NYSCPG Membership Licensure Update

NYSCPG MEMBERSHIP

- **As of April 26, 2019, there are 464 NYSCPG members and 1,214 NYS-licensed Professional Geologists.** The breakdown is as follows:
- **Total NYS-Based NYS Professional Geologists: 690 (56.8%)**
- **Total NYS-Licensed Professional Geologists from Bordering States (CT, NJ, MA, PA, and VT): 336 (27.7%)**
- **There are NYS-Licensed Professional Geologists from 38 States and 3 foreign countries (CN, UK, and the North Marianas Islands)**
- NYSCPG has **743** connections on 

NYSCPG MEMBERSHIP

| County | Number | County | Number | County | Number |
|-------------|--------|------------|--------|------------------|---------------|
| Albany | 36 | Jefferson | 1 | Saratoga | 67 |
| Allegany | 1 | Kings | 12 | Schenectady | 21 |
| Bronx | 0 | Lewis | 0 | Schoharie | 6 |
| Broome | 2 | Livingston | 0 | Schuyler | 1 |
| Cattaraugus | 1 | Madison | 12 | Seneca | 0 |
| Cayuga | 2 | Monroe | 22 | Steuben | 0 |
| Chautauqua | 2 | Montgomery | 1 | St. Lawrence | 4 |
| Chemung | 0 | Nassau | 42 | Suffolk | 136 |
| Chenango | 0 | New York | 14 | Sullivan | 0 |
| Clinton | 7 | Niagara | 10 | Tioga | 0 |
| Columbia | 3 | Oneida | 5 | Tompkins | 4 |
| Cortland | 6 | Onondaga | 48 | Ulster | 12 |
| Delaware | 0 | Ontario | 3 | Warren | 3 |
| Dutchess | 15 | Orange | 21 | Washington | 4 |
| Erie | 78 | Orleans | 0 | Wayne | 3 |
| Essex | 0 | Oswego | 1 | Westchester | 16 |
| Franklin | 2 | Otsego | 3 | Wyoming | 0 |
| Fulton | 1 | Putnam | 4 | Yates | 2 |
| Genesee | 4 | Queens | 17 | NYS TOTAL | 690 |
| Greene | 3 | Rensselaer | 21 | OTHER US | 517 |
| Hamilton | 0 | Richmond | 0 | NON-US | 7 |
| Herkimer | 1 | Rockland | 9 | TOTAL | 1, 214 |

NYSCPG Mission

The New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG) is the principal organization of professional geologists responsible for the advancement of the competent and ethical practice of geology in New York State. NYSCPG's primary missions, on behalf of its members, are to strengthen and advance the application of geological sciences as a profession by providing leadership, advocacy, and education to promote the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and the balanced protection of the environment.

Fundraising Committee

NYSCPG would like to thank all the corporate sponsors and members that have renewed in 2019. The majority of last year's sponsors have continued their support this year as well as several new corporate sponsors. The committee will continue to reach out to new corporate entities to increase the overall sponsorship. I also encourage you to check within your own companies to see if there is interest in becoming a corporate sponsor. Corporate sponsorship information can be found on NYSCPG's website at <https://nyscp.org/join-us>.

The organization hopes to bring on a full-time executive director to coordinate many of the tasks currently conducted by the volunteer board of professionals including maintaining the organization's website, monitoring funds, conducting outreach and fundraising activities and increasing overall membership. Additionally, NYSCPG will be looking to bring in a new lobbyist by 2021 to continue to provide legislative updates and maintain our "seat at the table" to provide input to legislation that impacts the profession of geology. However, a new lobbyist will require additional funding. The current NYSCPG lobbyist has been providing services at an under-market value for many years. To accomplish these goals and provide continued support to professional geologists in New York, we need your financial support.

NYSCPG always welcomes assistance with fundraising activities and encourages geologists from around the state to participate. Working with NYSCPG provides a networking opportunity for geologists to work with others from across the state. If you're interested, please feel free to contact me glukert@ene.com. Again, thanks to all our sponsors and members for your continued support.

Sincerely,

George M. Lukert, P.G.
 New York State Council of Professional Geologists
 Fundraising Committee Chair

Spring Meeting Summary

The New York State Council of Professional Geologists (Council) first biannual Spring Meeting was attended by approximately 30 geologists. Although the conference call in line was problematic, the discussion was lively and very productive. The Council would like to thank key representatives from each of the Regional Organizations (BAPG, CNYPG, HMPGA, and LIAPG) and our members for attending this important issues conference.

The Council appreciates the Regional Organization input RE: the What, the Why, the How, the How Much, and the When of Council's 2019 Plan to provide value to its members and advocate for and protect the profession, monitor/review/issue public opinion to protect our professional interests, and promote professional development/training and outreach. In turn, now that geology is a licensed profession, NYSCPG must be stewards of our profession to address the public need, provide public protection, and ensure our accountability to the public. The Council must ramp up the lobbying and continue to monitor/issue opinions on proposed legislation and regulations, and to educate (the public, our membership, regulators, etc.) to protect our professional standing - our seat at the table. **It has to be done.** To this end, retainage of an Executive Director and Lobbyist will be required going forward.

The Council acknowledged the following Action Items from the Spring Meeting.

1. Post Licensure Qualified (LQ) Geology Programs on NYSCPG website.

[Currently, SUC Cortland, SUNY Buffalo, SUC Fredonia, SUC Oneonta, SUC Plattsburgh, SUC Brockport, and SUC New Paltz are LQ Geology Programs with other Geology Programs close to be being officially approved. The hyperlink is as follows: <http://www.nysed.gov/heds/irpsl1.html>];

2. Survey members for a) PG registrations in other states; and, b) college/university attended for undergraduate degree or post graduate program *[in progress]*;

3. The Council to provide speakers to discuss the alliance at upcoming regional meetings in May *[in progress]*; and,

4. The Council to draft an Alliance Plan to be distributed to all of the Regional Organizations before each of their upcoming meetings. The NYSCPG BOD received excellent feedback from each of the Regional Organizations and will provide a written plan at the request of the Regions. The intent of the Alliance Plan is to address plans to ensure public protection and the sustainability of the Profession. NYSCPG regrets that this plan was not introduced earlier this year and apologizes for the abrupt outlining of this plan so close to the Regional Organization summer recesses. *[The tentative Alliance Plan was emailed to the Officers and BOD of each Regional Organization on May 6, 2019. A NYSCPG representative will attend the upcoming BOD meeting at Regional Organization's meeting to outline the plan and answer questions.]*

Again, thanks for your participation. If you have any questions, please let me or one of the BOD know.

Thanks,

Mark A. Williams, P.G.
NYSCPG Secretary

From the Archives...



NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS (NYSCPG)

P.O. Box 225
Dewitt, New York
13214

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE NYS COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS:

by Robert Mahoney

Approximately 75 geologists met in Syracuse on September 28, 1995 for a symposium on licensing of professional geologists in New York State. CNYAPG and the newly formed New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG) co-hosted the event, which was funded in part by eight New York consulting firms. The symposium featured talks by the following speakers:

Robert R. Jordan, P.G.
Delaware State Geologist.

Ronald A. Baugh, P.G.
President of the Association of State Boards of Geologists (ASBOG).

Richard W. Wright, P.C.
Co-founder of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists.

Karen Moran, P.E.
President of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE).

David Scott, C.P.G.
President of the Northeast Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG).

Tarky Lombardi, Jr., Esq.
Former New York State Senator and current partner with Devoretz, Stinziano, Gilberti, Heinz & Smith.

Jordan, Baugh, and Wright gave very enlightening talks regarding the efforts required to enact licensing legislation in each of their states. Pennsylvania had the hardest time, with eight bill attempts over a 23-year period. Delaware and Wyoming were able to pass their bills on the first attempt. Wyoming completed the process in only one year. Each of these speakers stressed the importance of establishing unity and grassroots support among geologists statewide.

Initiating meaningful dialog with the engineering community was also cited as a priority. The professional engineering community in Pennsylvania provided

significant resistance to the early attempts at legislation. However, the good working relationship eventually established between the engineers and geologists benefited both professions, and the geologists licensing in Pennsylvania is now combined with that of engineers and surveyors. The geologists in Delaware adopted a memorandum of understanding with the professional engineering community that served as a basis for the licensing bill.

These speakers also stressed that the basis for establishing a licensing program has to be for the protection of the public health and safety, much the same as the programs established for professional engineers. Since public funds would be involved in adopting a law, the need for such a program must be well established. The actual implementation of a licensing program would most likely have to be self-funded, with essentially all costs accounted for by the licensing fees.

This has been accomplished in many other states, including Delaware, Wyoming, and Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania geologist licensing program actually contributed over \$1 million to the state general fund. The estimates for the potential number of licenses in New York range from 5,000 to 10,000, including out-of-state applicants.

Ms. Moran provided a summary of the professional engineer (PE) perspective; there are approximately 20,000 PEs in New York. Although the NYSSPE is not opposed to the licensing concept, members have concerns relating to potential overlap with the practice of engineering. She indicated that the scope of geologic practice should be clearly defined, and cited the licensing of surveyors and architects as examples where potential overlap of qualifications with engineers needed to be worked out during the drafting of legislation. Ms. Moran also addressed the protection of public health and safety, indicating this protection can only be accomplished through professional licensing and not through liability insurance.

Mr. Scott indicated the Northeast Section of AIPG fully supports the idea of professional licensing. The AIPG newsletter will serve as a valuable tool for disseminating information to geologists both in and out of New York State during the process.

Mr. Lombardi provided valuable insights into the legislative process involving professional licensing, citing his experience with bills for licensing of midwives and other groups. He indicated geologists will need to establish strong statewide unity and consensus on the content of the bill before introducing it to a potential sponsor. The purposes and impacts of such licensing will need to be clearly specified. Candidates for sponsorship might be the Chairman of the Education Committee or even the Governor. Getting the bill through the legislature will require a significant effort by a lobbyist, which can cost up to \$2,500 per month.

Based on what we learned at this valuable symposium, there is clearly a great deal of work to make licensing of geologists a reality. Critical tasks include:

- Establishing a broad membership, both individual and corporate in NYSCPG. We can do nothing without support and money.
- Initiating dialog with the engineering community and developing a sound understanding between the two professions.
- Establishing committees within NYSCPG focused on specific tasks such as research on legislation and political action committees (PACs).
- Developing an initial draft bill for licensing.

None of these can be accomplished without a great deal of support and help from geologists from all parts of the state. The first step for those interested is to join the New York State Council of Professional Geologists, which was formed to provide a mechanism to accomplish the goal of licensing. Contact NYSCPG at P.O. Box 225, Dewitt, New York 13214, or any CNYAPG officer for more information on how you can join and help. We need volunteers to coordinate the efforts of others in areas of the state where formal organizations might not exist. If you know someone in your area or elsewhere who would be willing to contribute time and energy to this cause, please contact them. We are also looking to expand our statewide mailing list, which currently contains approximately 1,100 names. Both NYSCPG and CNYAPG will continue to provide updates through mailings.

The Historic Debate over "Ground Water" versus "Groundwater"

by Rob Alvey, retired geologist - EPA

The geology profession has many specialties. My personal educational background and the bulk of my experience has concentrated primarily on hydrogeology and water, including a brief stint as a hydrogeologist with the Nassau County Department of Public Works in NY. Most of my career was as a geologist with the USEPA, where I was a specialist in the Technical Support Section for over twenty years, and worked on a large number of National Priorities List Superfund sites. Most of these sites included significant environmental contamination of groundwater. Goals of site investigations included characterizing the full pathways and extent of the contamination, and design of systems to remove or monitor contaminants.

Public information was also a goal, and EPA developed a 'stylebook' for writing so that communications would be consistent. This stylebook was made available to all employees, including staff in the Public Affairs Division responsible for writing summaries of Superfund activities for the general public. The guide also referenced the latest edition of the Associated Press Stylebook for further guidance. An unforeseen problem was that a number of the Public Affairs employees were communications or English majors without a science background. Also, as a government agency it is sometimes slow to adapt to changes. The issue of "groundwater" versus "ground water" is a case in point.

This has been a matter of considerable contention for decades. Depending on what college you went to or which textbook you used, geologists and engineers grew up consistently using either the one or the two word version. One popular textbook by Freeze and Cherry is *Groundwater*. (one word), while the popular technical magazine, *Ground Water*, published by National Ground Water Association, contained the two word format. In 1974, the chief of the USGS Ground Water Branch, Gerald Meyer, issued a Technical Memorandum stipulating that the two word version would be the standard format for the term in all USGS writing. This memorandum was issued in response to uncertainty after the 1967 Webster International Dictionary was published using the one word version.

While at EPA I was a member of the EPA's Ground Water Forum (two words), and in 2008 was elected co-chair. One of the things I accomplished during my tenure was to update the GWF logo and print T-shirts and baseball style caps for each member. Not soon after I had distributed all of the caps and shirts, William L Alley, Chief USGS Office of Groundwater, issued an updated memorandum on March 26, 2009 superseding the 1974 memo and stipulating that all publications use the one word version. I asked the EPA Ground Water Forum to also update their official name....and was voted down. The members liked the original two word version and didn't see a need to update. They also pointed out the NGWA as an example. I was not deterred but decided further investigation was necessary.

I contacted the NGWA and discovered they were transitioning to the one word format, but could not simply change their logo from "NGWA" to "NGA" as "NGA" was already copyrighted by another organization. They include "The Groundwater Association" written immediately under the logo as a clarification. Contacts with EPA attorneys lead to a different uncertainty. Some were reluctant to institute a formal change to "groundwater" in fear it would compromise enforcement. They had been having a similar issue with which version was correct- "storm water" or "stormwater" and invariably got into arguments about freshwater and saltwater.

Meanwhile, the EPA writing style guide continued to include a specific line item specifying the two word version...while also deferring to the latest Merriam Webster Dictionary and Associated Press Stylebook. I checked the dictionary and it confirmed the one word version. I then contacted the Associated Press and they also confirmed the one word version. EPA's Public Affairs Division continued to insist on the two word version. I finally contacted EPA Headquarters. One reply I got back was that they wanted to continue the two word version because the Office of Surface Water and Ground Water did not want to have to order new business cards and continually have to explain to everyone why the spellings were different.

That didn't seem to be a very professional reason not to change the spelling. I contacted USGS's Bill Alley as he was the author of the latest USGS Technical Memorandum. He was happy to talk, and said it had been a long festering controversy within the USGS, and he felt it important to write a formal decision, which he did, and then retired.

By 2013, it was still not fully resolved. I then decided to go to the "top" and wrote EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson asking for her help to clarify the issue. The reply I received from the Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat was enlightening. "The Administrator asked me to respond to your memo to her about the use of groundwater. My office produces the agency's correspondence manual, which prescribes specific standards and formats for the preparation of EPA correspondence. You can find the manual at <http://workplace.epa.gov/manual/>.

The manual notes that the "Associated Press Stylebook is the overall style guide for EPA products, including correspondence. Occasional deviations from AP practice are contained in the Correspondence Manual, but the vast majority of this guidance is derived from and follows the AP Stylebook."

Since the correspondence manual does not address ground water vs. groundwater, the next source is the stylebook. I do not have a copy of the 2012 stylebook — my 2010 copy doesn't address this —but I see in your memo that you cite groundwater in the 2012 edition. If this is indeed the case, then, yes, all correspondence, including letters, memo and external emails should use groundwater.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. Thank you.
Eric E. Wachter
Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat"

By 2016, EPA formally began using "groundwater" consistently in new writing. I guess by then, most of the employees had the 2012 stylebook accessible.

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