

AGS Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 17, 2009

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 11:34 am.

Members in attendance include:

In Anchorage:

Pete Barker

Ken Helmold

Rick Levinson

Laura Silliphant

Al Hunter

Art Banet

Tom Morahan

Jana Lage

Sue Karl (late arrival)

In Fairbanks (via phone):

Jim Clough

Bob Gillis

2. **Approve minutes:** There was a short discussion on March's meeting – no changes were necessary. Tom Morahan called for motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Laura Silliphant. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Treasurer's report:** AGS received a couple of large checks for advertisements in the newsletter. A few bills have not yet been received in the mail; the secretary will watch for them in the mail and relay them to the treasurer as soon as possible. In general the society's financial status is fine.

A summary report of AGS finances follows -

Income of \$1,663.11 was deposited in the AGS bank account by Al Hunter.

Expenses as of 04/20/09 total \$8446.90 (\$5000 scholarship is largest single expense)

Net Income as of 04/20/09 total (\$6783.79) - monthly expenses exceeds income

Total balance as of 04/20/09 is \$51,419.56

4. **Luncheons and Conferences:** Trond H. Torsvik will talk Thursday, March 19 on large scale plate tectonics in the Circum Arctic. So far twelve members have signed up for a hot lunch, seven for a box lunch and twelve members will bring their own lunch. Four members have signed up to attend the “GPlates” workshop. Tom Morahan will get snacks for the workshop. Trond H. Torsvik will go to Fairbanks to give an additional talk and GPlates workshop at the Friday afternoon UAF seminar. Next month’s speaker is Steve Jones from BP. He will speak on the development of Liberty Field on the north slope.

The tech conference in Fairbanks will be held in the Reichardt building on the UAF campus. The poster sessions will be held across the street in at the UAF Museum – admission will be free to the full museum. Jim Clough has talked with Pat Druckenmiller about possible additional speakers and poster sessions. They include: Jessica Larson on Alaska volcanoes eruptions, Greg Wilson on north slope exploration, Bob Hunter on gas hydrates, Diane Shellenbaum of carbon dioxide sequestration. Gary Fuis from USGS Menlo Park will be the keynote speaker. The board approved to spend \$260 for Fuis’s transportation at last month’s meeting.

Sixty to seventy people are expected to attend the conference. AGS should be able to cover all expenses with that attendance. Lunch is a sandwich buffet and will cost \$12.50. AGS board approved to spend \$260 for round trip transportation for Fuis. Approximately \$1000 is needed to pre-pay caterer for tech conference. Laura Silliphant called for a motion to spend up to \$1500 for catering expenses, it was seconded by Pete Barker. The motion passed unanimously.

The remaining AGS luncheons include:

Apr. 22 – Steve Jones; Liberty Field development

May 21 – Paul Decker & Rocky Reifentstahl; Geology of Alaska peninsula

5. **Science Fair:** Jana Lage announced that AGS will give out prizes to the winners of science fair scheduled for March 28. The winners and their guest will be invited to the April luncheon to receive their awards. There will be nine awards consisting of a \$25 gift certificate to Borders. Students from K-12th grade come from all over Alaska to compete in the fair. Volunteers are needed to judge the fair from 9 am until 1 pm. The board must approve expenditures for the fair which include \$225 (\$25 x 9 awards) for the prizes and \$324 (\$18 x 18 lunches – 9 winners + 9 guests) for lunches.

Tom Morahan called for a motion to spend up to \$600 for the science fair awards and lunches, it was seconded by Rick Levinson. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Scholarships:** Robert Blodgett has received two applications for the AGS scholarships - one from UAF and one from APU.

7. **Trailside Discovery Camp funding:** There was a discussion on whether AGS should continue to support the Trailside Discovery camp. Historically AGS has contributed \$500-1000 to the camp. Sue Karl mentioned that her kids have attended the camps in the

past and thought it was worthwhile. Art Banet expressed concern over a perceived anti-oil bias of some camp instructors and their unwillingness to listen to the view of others. It was noted that AGS bylaws do not permit it to support any organization with a political affiliation or agenda. Pete Barker suggested that AGS decline to contribute any funds this year. Sue Karl suggested AGS give money specifically ear-marked for the geology camp. It was suggested AGS directly support needy students through a scholarship grant.

Tom Morahan called for a motion to contribute \$600 to the Trailside Discovery camp, it was seconded by Laura Silliphant. The vote was: Yes – 3, No – 4, Abstain – 1. The motion did not pass.

Ken Helmold suggested the board invite representatives from Trailside to attend a future meeting to explain their programs and how contributions are used. Ken will extend the invitation to Trailside.

8. Bylaws committee report: Sue Karl related that the Foraker Group believes the new bylaws are fine, but perhaps a little too detailed. The scholarship section has more details than necessary but are included at the request of the scholarship committee. Terry Horton of the Foraker Group suggested AGS establish a single person as the contact of permanent record. Tom Morahan express the concern that according to the bylaws the society is run by the members while in actuality the board has control over operation of the society. Pete Barker (a current director) does not think the bylaws actually state the way the society is run. Two reasons for the society: 1) ability to talk about rocks and 2) meet new geoscientists are not mentioned in the bylaws. One important function of the society, namely to run field trips, has been precluded by the inability to afford insurance. There was a long discussion on whether AGS is member driven or controlled by the board. The discussion also touched on whether the new bylaws are better than the old ones. The purpose of the three AGS bank/broker accounts (1. operating account, 2. scholarship account, 3. independent Richter scholarship account) were also discussed.

8. AGS legacy material including old AGS Newsletter: Discussion postponed until March meeting.

9. Next Meeting: The next AGS board meeting will be on Tuesday, April, 21.

10. Motion to Adjourn: Art Banet called for motion to adjourn the March meeting. Motion seconded by Laura Silliphant. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm.