Report from Stewart Chuber, Gulf Coast Councilor

The most significant event for the Gulf Coast Section is its mid year meeting to be held in Austin Oct. 21-24. A number of DPA events are being sponsored and will probably be discussed by others at this DPA midyear meeting.

There are two other DPA problem/opportunity situations I would like to discuss:

First, I think the DPA Councilors may have too low a profile in the various geological societies which they represent. For instance, there is no mention of the DPA in the mast head of the STGS Bulletin nor the member who represents the Society and its members, i.e., Stewart Chuber. Other Officers and Committees are shown, including the AAPG Delegates. The Councilors should make sure that the DPA Councilors from the Societies which they represent are made known to its members. This would allow other DPA members to communicate their thoughts or opinions to DPA through the Councilor. I intend to have a masthead addition made for the STGS Bulletin.

Second, I propose that DPA consider promoting the GeoFORCE outreach program initiated by the Jackson School of Geosciences at UT, Austin. Quoting from and abstract submitted by Dr. Eleanor Snow who delievered the first STGS meeting in September, "Now in its 9th year, GeoFORCE recruits students from the 8th grade who are interested in science and takes them every summer on spectacular field trips throughout the United States. The goal is to help the students work hard in high school and go on to college particularly in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields. GeoFORCE operates in challenged schools in rural SW Texas and inner city Houston. GeoFORCE students are over 80% minority and they come from communities in which high school graduation rates are as low as 55%, and where fewer than 20% of the adults have college degrees. To date, 100% of GeoFORCE students have graduated from high school and 96% of them are in college. A full two thirds are studying STEM fields in college, which is nearly double the national rate. Our first college graduates will be entering the workforce in 2013."

This is a worthwhile program. To promote it, we might encourage our local societies to have Dr. Snow come and make her presentation. In addition, we might offer a $10,000 scholarship each year (or whenever we have the money) to pay for a single student, four year participation (8th throught 12th) in GeoFORCE. We might also encourage individual DPA members to make a similar, or smaller, gift to the AAPG Foundation directed to the GeoFORCE program. Although not all GeoFORCE recruits go into the geological sciences, all appear to be headed into the engineering workforce.

Dr. Snow will present a poster session "How to Make a Geology Major: A Recipe for Success from GeoFORCE Texas," on Sunday evening from 6 until 8 p.m., and Monday morning from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. She also chairs an oral session on Tuesday morning entitled "Bringing Up the Next Generation of Geoscientists".

Submitted by Stewart Chuber, CPG #1466
The Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists is as yet not filled. As of late August the Governor still needed to approve three more candidates for confirmation by the legislature. Consequently the Board has not met and has not begun the processes of drafting an application form, setting the license fee, or approving the testing procedure.

As reported earlier, the 2012 Legislature did amend the original licensing legislation to clarify certain provisions and to extend the deadline for application under the “grandfather” clause to January 1, 2014.

Because of constitutional restrictions the 2012 Legislature was not able to provide any startup funding. Any such discussion will fall to the 2013 Legislature.

Bill Meaney
DPA Councilor Report – Gregory Hebertson (Gulf Coast Section)
DPA Mid-Year Meeting
November 2-3, 2012 – Houston, Texas

Key Take-Aways from April Meeting:

- DPA Membership/Growth is critically low
- Future Revenues/Budget being impacted by decreasing membership
- Aggressive recruitment vital for future of DPA

Actions:

- Brainstorm ideas for increasing membership within DPA
- Brainstorm ideas for increasing influence of DPA within APPG
- Engage with other Councilors from Gulf coast and other sections of DPA
- Engage with current DPA members for ideas on how to increase membership
- Return to Mid-Year Meeting (November) with suggestions for increasing membership and influence of DPA.

Results and Suggestions for Discussion:

- Initiate major recruitment campaign targeting mid-career AAPG professionals – DPA “5 in 5 Campaign” with a goal of 5,000 active DPA members by 2017.
- Prepare a presentation highlighting the benefits of DPA membership
- Beginning in 2013, advertise membership campaign at all section and local society meetings that are affiliated with AAPG.
- Engage with companies about internal “lunch & learns” to promote AAPG & DPA membership. Invite active DPA members with specific companies to serve as hosts.
- Host dinner at next AAPG Annual Convention honoring significant contributions of current DPA members. Serves as a fundraiser for DPA as well as a recruitment tool.
- Publish a memoir featuring stories of distinguished DPA members.
- Target AAPG membership currently working for NOC’s – especially those with a presence in Houston.
- Coordinate with HGS Neo-Geos (other young professional societies) on meetings and events.
- Use social media (i.e. Facebook/Linked-in) to reach and invite AAPG members to join DPA.
- Organize networking socials, technical meetings, and awards sessions specifically designed for current DPA members.
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate