

GULF COAST SECTION

Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists

CLAUDE M. QUIGLEY, JR., President
Standard Oil Company of Texas
Houston, Texas

DAVID E. POPE, Past President
Union Producing Company
Kenner, Louisiana

HAROLD V. ANDERSEN, Vice President
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

E. ANN BUTLER, Secretary
Louisiana Geological Survey
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

EDWARD MARK S., Treasurer
Union Oil Company of California
Houston, Texas

SYBIL LIGHTFOOT, Editor
Saint Mary's University
San Antonio, Texas

Box 278
Kenner, La.
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Messrs: Charles C. Albers
Jules Braunstein
H. A. Chun
Lloyd M. Pyeatt

Gentlemen:

In considering possible changes in the constitution of the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM, here are some suggestions:

Article III. Membership

Par. 5. "Each candidate for membership shall submit to the secretary an application on a form authorized by the Council for this purpose," add, "and endorsed by two members in good standing." This is suggested since we are now receiving applications from many people not known to the Council.

Par. 6. Some of our members have suggested deleting the provision of this paragraph. Any member or associate has to meet the residence requirement at the time of joining, and his move from the Gulf Coast may be temporary. Even if the move is permanent, he may retain his interest in the area. Many individuals belong to a local society other than the one in their area of residence.

Article IV. Officers

Par. 2. It has been suggested that the editor be elected rather than appointed. This would relieve the president of some responsibility; however, it is best to have the editor in the city in which the convention is held. This might be more easily accomplished by appointment than by election. If the provision for election is adopted, then the phrase, "appointed by the president," will have to be deleted from Article III of the By-laws.

Par. 3. Instead of, "He shall also be chairman of the Committee responsible for arranging the program of the annual meeting," substitute the provision that he shall actively solicit papers for the annual meeting, and insure that the program for the annual meeting is arranged in a suitable manner.

Membership Chairman

This is suggested since it is more practical to have the program chairman in the city that the convention is held. The business representative of that city could also serve in this capacity. The vice-president could still be responsible to see that the program arrangement is suitable. The provision that he shall actively solicit papers is suggested since his duties are very limited as specified by the present constitution.

Par. 6. Some members have suggested that all of the Council not be required to pass on candidates for membership if Article III, par. 5 is changed as cited above. This suggestion is probably due to the heavy load of work required last year by the large influx of new members. This would eliminate the "round-robin" routing of applications; however, the Council may never again in one year be burdened to the extent witnessed in 1960.

\$ 2500 limit? (funds)

Par. 8. Should the word "first" be changed to "immediate," or "most recently retired"?

Article V. Meetings

Par. 2. It has been suggested that the program chairman be appointed in the city in which the convention is to be held and that he act under the supervision of the vice-president or with his concurrence. Also, some members feel that the provision for including papers by our members in the main program should be changed, since the Section may gain more publicity and prestige by having a separate session.

By-laws

Article I. Dues

Par. 2. It has been suggested that dues be raised to \$2.00 per year so that we can have more operating capital; but, there are objections to raising dues. Capital can probably be raised by selling publications and sponsoring independent field trips.

Par. 4. The last clause "provided settlement is made of any outstanding indebtedness," should probably be deleted since we have no regular publication. If a delinquent member pays for the year(s) in which delinquent, he receives nothing for his money. Other organizations such as SEPM or AAPG would supply bulletins for the year(s) paid up; but, we have no provision for this.

Article II. Elections

Par. 2. The provisions of the second sentence of this paragraph are thought to be unnecessary. Associate members can now vote; so, if the secretary will make sure that ballots are mailed only to members and associates in good standing, there is no likelihood of a fraudulent vote. A post card bearing the ballot should be sufficient.

Article IV. Business Representatives

Par. 1. Change, "each local geological society affiliated with the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies," to read, "each area needed in the Gulf Coast." The old wording could preclude several large cities and universities in the area.

Article V. Amendments

Par. 2. Add, "or proposed amendment may be initiated by the Council," for clarity.

Article VI. Audit

Par. 1. All accounts may not be closed at the time of the annual report; so, perhaps a provision should be added to insure a final audit after the annual meeting, if necessary.

Please give me your comments and suggestions on the above ideas and any others that you wish to list. After I have heard from each of you, I will compile all possible changes and submit them to the Council for vote since a majority of the Council must approve any changes submitted to our members for vote. After the Council has voted on the proposed revisions, the specific wording of the approved changes will be worked out, and the final draft submitted to the Council for approval.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Pope

cc:Mr. C. M. Quigley

DEP:jlh