

Message from the President

Greetings! My term as President is now more than half over. It has been a busy and engaging period. The Association has accomplished a lot and much of this work is undertaken by volunteers. Over the past eight months we have been dealing with:

- **Regulation Changes** - the Regulations associated with the *Professional Geoscientists Act*, 2000 required some tweaking to allow for better running of the Association. This required engagement of APGO staff, volunteers, lawyers and MNDM staff to implement. The process has been slow, however a diligent team headed by Ian McDonald, P.Geol. and Andrea Waldie, P.Geol. has been working steadily on this for several years. We anticipate that these regulations will be posted for final comment this spring.
- **Pain in the Exploration and Mining Fields** – the Association acknowledges the challenges on the exploration industry and the many P.Geol.’s employed in this field. Weak commodity prices and the lack of investment in the mining sector is hurting a large number of our members, especially in northern Ontario. The APGO has offered dues relief to those requesting it. It is forefront in our Council meetings and members are actively trying to stimulate this sector.
- **Regional Gatherings** – I recently came back from the regional gathering in Peterborough that was attended by over 60 people. The talk was engaging and discussions continued well into the evening. I was pleased to note that students, GITs, full P.Geol.’s and others were in attendance. Many thanks to Zen Keizars, P.Geol. Southwest regional events also took place in the fall in London and Waterloo, both hosted by Doug Cater, P.Geol. and in the Northeast hosted by Ben Berger, P.Geol. Members who attended these events were not only provided with networking opportunities but also professional development opportunities as Councillors brought in speakers who are experts in their respective fields. I have noted that networking really happens at these events. This is crucial in these hard times for some of our members.
- **Mentoring** – The pilot mentoring program was recently completed. About a dozen pairs of mentees/mentors worked through the program. Both mentors and mentees acknowledged benefits of this program. Marilen Miguel coordinated this program and is looking forward to expanding it. She is now looking for additional mentors and mentees.
- **Council Openings** – At this time of year, we are looking toward election/appointment of new council members in advance of the AGM in June. I strongly encourage anyone who is looking for volunteer opportunities in their profession to consider running for Council. There will be both elected and appointed positions this year. As in past years, we are looking for diversity on Council to better reflect our membership. This includes female P.Geol.’s stepping up for election or appointment. More information on nominations is forthcoming.
- **Geoscientists Canada** - On the national front, I am now the APGO’s representative on the Board of Geoscientists Canada (GC). Through GC, we are addressing issues that face all of our members. These range from mobility to trademarking of the title “Professional Geoscientists”.

- **Advances in Earth Science Research Conference (AESRC)** - APGO is again supporting the upcoming Advances in Earth Science Research Conference (AESRC) 2016 via sponsorship. This event is hosted by Carleton University's Department of Earth Science. AESRC is a student-run conference hosted by a rotating roster of Ontario Universities and has grown to involve more than 100 student delegates. The aim of this conference is to promote Geoscience research conducted by students from all across Ontario through technical and poster presentations.
- **Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association (PPDA)** - APGO supported the PPDA's sold-out event focusing on Structural Geology that was held in October 2015, via sponsorship.
- **Outreach to Universities** – Last fall, several Councillors and other volunteers were involved in outreach to universities – Doug Cater and Ian Macdonald (SW), Peter Diorio (Central), Zen Keizars and Christine Vaillancourt (SE), Dave Hunt (NW), and Ben Berger (NE). APGO Registrar, Aftab Khan, P.Geol. and Renée Coulcher, Deputy Registrar also took part in the outreach.
- **Timmins Outreach** - Ben Berger also hosted an outreach event in Timmins in June 2015 in response to members' request in the region to have their own networking event. It was well attended.
- **PDAC (March 6-9, 2016)** - APGO will be at the PDAC Convention – come by and visit the APGO Booth (#0851)

A few other items to keep in mind:

- The results of our full 2015 Compensation and Benefits survey are now out. To request a copy, please send an email to Marilen Miguel at mmiguel@apgo.net.
- APGO has sent out the call for nominations for our new "Award of Merit". Please consider nominating one of your peers who has contributed to our profession in a significant way.
- Professional Development - we're keeping members apprised of different professional development opportunities via Field Notes on a weekly basis - be it our own or hosted by other organizations.

As always, the Association's work is ably run by our staff in Toronto. Many thanks to CEO, Gord White and his team.

Sincerely



Mark Priddle, P.Geol.

President