

Geological Society of Kentucky

Adopted December 18, 2015

Constitution and Bylaws

Constitution

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Geological Society of Kentucky.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this Society is to advance the profession, practice, and interest in the science of geology in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Article III: Objectives

1. To enhance professional and scientific interactions among all geologists and persons interested in geology in Kentucky.
2. To disseminate information, provide a forum, and offer educational opportunities to the geological community as well as the public at large.
3. To provide, when requested, credible scientific data on geologic concepts, results, and principles as they relate to the practice of geology in Kentucky.
4. To foster interest, education, and scientific research in geology.
5. To inspire in its members the highest ethical standards.
6. To organize and facilitate an annual geologic field trip and optional one-day geologic excursions.
7. To establish distinguished geologic sites in Kentucky.
8. To host American Association of Petroleum Geologists distinguished lectures and regional meetings.

Article IV: Membership

1. Membership of the Society shall comprise those persons interested in the promotion of the Society's objectives.
2. Membership classifications, qualifications, duties, and privileges shall be as established in the bylaws of the Society.

Article V: Government

1. The government of the Society shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the president, president-elect, secretary/treasurer, editor, two councilors, and the immediate past president.
2. Officers of this Society shall be active members in good standing.
3. The election process, terms of office, and duties of Executive Committee members, as well as other matters relevant to the Executive Committee, shall be as provided in the bylaws of this Society.
4. The constitution and bylaws of the Society will be binding upon the Executive Committee. Any responsibility and authority of this Society not otherwise specified in these governing documents shall be reserved to the Executive Committee. Procedural questions not specifically addressed in these governing documents shall be resolved by the current edition of “Robert's Rules of Order,” as revised.
5. Decisions and actions of the Executive Committee may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the full membership in good standing of the Society.

Article VI: Meetings

1. The Society shall hold a minimum of one meeting per year for the presentation of scientific papers, field conferences, discussion of geological issues, and/or Society business. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee at any time. Items of business for information, recommendation, discussion, or vote may be presented to the membership by the Executive Committee at any meeting or by any other means deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.
2. Arrangements for all meetings shall be made by the Executive Committee or its designees.
3. A petition signed by two-thirds of the active members of the Society who are in good standing shall require the Executive Committee to call a special executive or membership meeting for the purposes stated in the petition.

Article VII: Bylaws

The bylaws as appended hereto are hereby adopted and may be amended, enlarged, or reduced as provided in these bylaws.

Article VIII: Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a resolution of the Executive Committee, by a special committee appointed by the president, or by written petition signed by 10 percent of the active members of the Society. Proposed amendments must be ratified by the Executive Committee before being submitted to a vote by the membership. A two-thirds majority vote of respondents by ballot shall be sufficient to amend the constitution.

Article IX: Affiliation

1. The Geological Society of Kentucky has been affiliated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists since 1962. The Society participates in the affairs of AAPG by electing representatives to three-year terms in AAPG's House of Delegates, and is entitled to one delegate per 70 active AAPG members. A qualified delegate must be a full voting member in good standing of AAPG, as defined by AAPG's constitution and bylaws at the time of designation and during tenure in the House of Delegates. Qualified Society delegates shall be active members in good standing of the Society.
2. The Society is a member of the Eastern Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. It was one of the founding societies that established the Eastern Section in 1969 and was formally admitted when the Eastern Section was approved at the national AAPG meeting in 1970. The Society's delegate to the AAPG House of Delegates is also the representative to the Eastern Section. The Geological Society of Kentucky acts as the host society for the Eastern Section annual meeting and exhibition when selected by Eastern Section delegates.

Article X: Recognition and Awards

The Executive Committee will consider the following awards each year:

- **Recognition of service to the society.** The current President will recognize the previous year Executive Committee Members whose terms have expired with the presentation of a plaque at the Kentucky Geological Survey Annual Meeting.
- **Distinguished Achievement in Geoscience Award.** The Executive Committee will canvas the Membership thru e-mail in early March to submit nominations for consideration along with a letter of justification to be returned by April 15th. The presentation of a plaque will be awarded at the Kentucky Geological Survey Annual Meeting.

Article XI: Annual Reports to the State

To assist the Kentucky Secretary of State in providing accurate information to the public while conducting business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Society is required to file an annual report and pay a filing fee each year. The Society receives a letter from the Office of the Secretary of State in early February. The Annual Report must then be filled out and returned by June 30th.

Bylaws

Article I: Membership Classes and Eligibility

Members shall be classified as follows:

1. **Active**—persons, regardless of residence, who hold a degree in geology or an allied geoscience from an accredited college or university or have a degree in science or engineering from an accredited college or university and have been engaged in the professional study or practice of earth science.
2. **Associate**—persons, regardless of residence, who do not hold a degree in geology but who are desirable as members because of their active interests in geology and in the objectives of the Society.
3. **Student**—persons who do not already hold a degree from an accredited college or university but who are students in geology or an allied geoscience.
4. **Emeritus**—active members in good standing who attain the age of 70 and have dedicated their service to the advancement of geology. Emeritus members shall be designated for life, providing they maintain the proper code of ethics.
5. **Honorary**—active members in good standing who have made outstanding and exemplary contributions to the profession, the science of geology, the advancement of science, or the advancement of the Society. Honorary members shall be designated for life, providing they maintain the proper code of ethics.

Article II: Election to Membership

1. **Active Members**—All persons desiring active membership in the Society shall petition the Executive Committee on an approved application form. Individuals must be sponsored by one active member in good standing (as defined in Article III, number 1). The completed application form shall be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the secretary/treasurer of the Society, who shall present it to the Executive Committee for consideration. Any objections to a membership petition shall be resolved by action of the Executive Committee. The secretary/treasurer shall notify applicants of the Executive Committee's acceptance or rejection as soon as practicable.
2. **Associate and Student Members**—All persons desiring associate or student membership in the Society shall petition the Executive Committee on an approved application form. The completed application form shall be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the secretary/treasurer of the Society, who shall present it to the Executive Committee for consideration. Any objections to a membership petition will be resolved by action of the Executive Committee. The secretary/treasurer shall notify applicants of the Executive Committee's acceptance or rejection as soon as practicable.
3. **Emeritus Members**—The names of all active members in good standing who have attained the age of 70 shall be provided by the secretary/treasurer to the Executive Committee for consideration. These members may then be accepted as emeritus members by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
4. **Honorary Members**—Names of active members in good standing may be submitted by any active member in good standing to the Executive Committee for consideration. Honorary

members shall be elected by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee. Recipients shall be presented with a plaque inscribed with the name of the award, the recipient's name, the date, the Society logo, and the Executive Committee's members' names and signatures.

Article III: Duties and Privileges of Membership

1. Active members who are in good standing (as defined in article IV, section 4), emeritus members, and honorary members shall have the privileges of voting, holding office, serving on committees, and engaging in the business of the Society.
2. Associate and student members shall not vote or hold office, but may serve on committees.
3. All members in good standing shall receive all notices of the Society.

Article IV: Dues

1. Annual dues for all membership classes shall be determined by the Executive Committee and be assessed on a calendar year basis.
2. Annual dues are waived for emeritus and honorary members.
3. Annual dues are payable in advance, on or before January 1. Dues statements shall be e-mailed or mailed to members no later than November 15.
4. Annual dues must be paid in full by March 1 to remain in good standing. Any member not paid in full by March 1 shall be placed on inactive status, and forfeit all rights and privileges of membership. Members may be reinstated upon payment of current dues without making a new application to the Society, provided such reinstatement occurs within one year.
5. Members on inactive status shall remain so until such time as they have paid their dues in full. They shall be removed from the rolls after two years with this status.

Article V: Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall have ultimate control of the government and management of the affairs and funds of the Society. Duties include planning for meetings, elections, annual budget, administering funds on behalf of the Society, membership approval, and any other duties as required to accomplish the objectives of the Society.
2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the annual meeting and at the call of the president. A simple majority of Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum. No proxy votes or alternates are allowed. Committee members may act on Society matters by mail or through telecommunications if needed.

Article VI: Officers

1. The officers of this Society shall comprise the Executive Committee and are as follows: president, president-elect, immediate past president, secretary/treasurer, editor, and two councilors. Terms of office shall begin on January 1 following their election.
 - A. The president shall be the chief executive officer of the Society and will preside over all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee. The president shall serve for one year and remain on the Executive Committee as the immediate past president in the following year.
 - B. The president-elect shall serve for one year and shall assume the office of president in the following year. The president-elect shall perform all duties of the president upon the president's absence or vacancy for any cause.
 - C. The immediate past president shall serve for one year and perform such duties as may be assigned by the president. In the absence of both the president and president-elect, the immediate past president shall perform the duties of presiding officer.
 - D. The secretary/treasurer shall serve for three years and is responsible for recording the actions of the Executive Committee, shall supervise the receipt of all funds and membership applications, send out notification of all upcoming events and notices, and under the direction of the Executive Committee be responsible for all disbursements of Society funds.
 - E. The editor shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall be responsible for editing all Society publications and all information that will be provided to the webmaster for addition to the website and shall serve a term of indefinite length.
 - F. The two councilors shall perform specific duties as directed by the Executive Committee and shall serve a term of two years. One councilor shall be elected each year.
2. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to appoint persons to fill interim vacancies in any elected office except that of president-elect. Should a vacancy occur in the office of president-elect, a replacement shall be elected by e-mail or mail ballot through a special election called by the Executive Committee. The ballot shall contain the names of two active members in good standing nominated by the Executive Committee.
3. Except for the editor, officers may hold the same elected office for no more than two consecutive terms. This ruling shall not apply to persons appointed by the Executive Committee to fill interim vacancies.

Article VII: Election of Officers

1. The officers of the Society with the exception of the editor shall be elected by active members who are in good standing.
2. The president shall appoint a Nominating Committee each year to solicit names from active members in good standing to run for office. This committee shall consist of no less than three members, one of whom shall be

designated as chair, and none of whom shall be members of the Executive Committee. The Nominations Committee shall submit to the secretary/treasurer the name(s) of one or more qualified members for each office to be filled. If someone on the Nominating Committee decides to run for office, he or she must resign from the committee.

3. Competitive elections for each office are strongly encouraged, but not required. Provisions for write-in nominations for each office shall be provided on the ballot.
4. The secretary/treasurer shall prepare a ballot and e-mail or mail it to all active members of the Society in good standing. All ballots must be returned to the secretary/treasurer, who shall turn them over to the Nominating Committee for the final tally. Ballots shall be e- mailed or mailed to all active members in good standing by November 1 of the calendar year. To be counted, ballots must be returned by November 15. In the event the secretary/treasurer seeks a second term, all ballots shall be forwarded directly to the president, who together with other Executive Committee members, shall count the ballots.
5. A plurality of the votes received for any office shall constitute election. In the event of a tie, a vote of the Executive Committee shall prevail.

Article VIII: Business Procedures

1. The Executive Committee shall appoint committees, arrange for Society representation with other groups, organize Society meetings, field trips, short courses, and symposia, authorize publications, and shall have ultimate responsibility and authority in transacting the daily business of the Society.
2. The fiscal year of the Society shall be defined as a calendar year, beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31.
3. The Executive Committee is responsible for the annual budget, which shall correspond to the Society's fiscal year.
4. The Executive Committee shall cause an audit of Society financial records to be performed at the conclusion of the treasurer's term of office and prior to the installation of the newly elected treasurer.

Article IX: Committees and Representatives

1. The Executive Committee is authorized to establish, direct, and dissolve any standing or ad hoc committees of the Society.
2. The Executive Committee shall direct the appointment of committee chairs.
3. Committee chairs shall submit an annual written report of committee activities to the Executive Committee.

Article XI: Procedures for Selecting Recognition Awards

1. Distinguished Achievement in Geoscience Award— Any active member in good standing may nominate another active member in good standing for the Distinguished Achievement in Geoscience Award. All applications for this award shall be submitted by e-mail or mail by November 1 to the secretary/treasurer, who shall verify the nominee’s eligibility. The application shall then be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration and may be approved with a two-thirds majority favorable vote. The award shall be a plaque inscribed with the name of the award, the recipient’s name, the date, the president’s signature, and the Society’s logo. No person serving on the Executive Committee shall be eligible for this award during his or her term of office. This award does not necessarily have to be presented every year.
2. Service Awards—
 - A. Executive Committee: After completing a term of office, the president, secretary/treasurer, and councilors shall be presented with a plaque inscribed with the office held, the recipient’s name, the date, the Society’s logo, the president’s signature, or in the case of the president, the executive committee’s signature.
 - B. Members: Any member in good standing or person who served the Society during the year may receive a certificate of appreciation.

Article XII: Annual Reports to the State

The Society must file updated annual reports listing current Executive Committee members and their addresses, accompanied by a filing fee, with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Secretary of State, between January 1 and June 30 each year.

Article XIII: Publications

The Executive Committee is authorized to provide for publications in keeping with the objectives of the Society.

Article XIV: Professional Ethics

Members of the Society are expected to maintain the highest level of professional ethics. All ethics matters, including removal from the Society, shall be resolved by action of the Executive Committee.

Article XV: Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the Executive Committee shall first discharge all liabilities against

the Society, then dispose of any remaining assets to organizations operating exclusively for charitable, scientific, or educational purposes. Under these circumstances, no member of the Society shall have any right of interest in the assets of the Society.

Article XVI: Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws shall be executed in the same manner as amendments to the constitution.