

AAPG / SPE Merger Issues

Leaders from HGS, San Antonio, Corpus and ETGS have been discussing important issues regarding a AAPG and SPE merge. A few of the key issues discussed are as follows:

- The AAPG Executive Committee vote was against the current proposal in a split vote but it is be re worked and there will be a change in AAPG Executive Committee members this summer, so the issue is delayed but not completely dead.
- There was great concern about the roll out process with no vote from the House of Delegates and very little specific information about the new organization prior to a vote. In the future merged organization, there will be no House of Delegates and the Board of Directors will appoint all officers.
- The current proposal is not a merger of equals, as there will be no change in SPE bylaws and the AAPG BOD participation will be 4-8 members on a 24 member BOD. No AAPG recommendations regarding the merger to SPE were accepted by SPE.
- Currently AAPG is some 75% domestic membership and SPE is just the opposite with some 75% being International and the BOD majority are from non-domestic affiliates.
- Although the just published financials for AAPG show an operating deficit of some \$2 M last year during the pandemic, it has assets of some \$20 M and no moves have been made in reducing major operating costs. So many would like to see an alternate plan on what a streamlined AAPG could look like as an alternative to the merger. There is not an imminent financial collapse.
- There is concern regarding the lack of transparency in the process. It has been reported that a large company gave a “confidential grant” to fund a large part of the merger process. HGS and other Societies are requesting clarification on this issue by AAPG.
- If a quorum of 25% of AAPG members vote in favor of the merger, that will be the final vote with no additional recourse, except to the new BOD. So your vote is very important.