

Annual Report of the Eastern Section for 2025

Submitted by Stephen R. Lindberg, President

Section leaders: All two year terms 2025-2027

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Executive summary

The eastern section continues to remain active and engaged in activities which include the annual spring conference/meeting that is held at a different location each year within the section. Our annual meeting has an average attendance of 40 members that come together for a three-day intensive schedule that includes, but is not limited to presentations, poster sessions, discussion sessions, numerous field trips that include both geological field stops and areas of historical and natural interest. The annual meeting also includes the long tradition of the eastern section "geo-auction" as well as the Saturday evening awards and recognition dinner. OEST winners are recognized along with our own section award winners which includes Distinguished Service, Moss (college level teaching), and the James O'Connor Field Camp Scholarship for students. Guest speakers are always part of the three day meeting. The average cost for attending the section meeting is \$130; which covers all meeting activities except housing. Section leaders maintain constant contact with each throughout the year with in-person visits, zoom sessions, and chat sessions. Our newsletter "The Bulletin" is published four times a year and sent by email to every active member. Contributions from members are invited and encouraged and add to the process of engaging members in the activities of the section. Section meetings are now tentatively scheduled for 2026 in Charlottesville, Virginia; and 2027 in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

Detailed report

Section membership

The eastern section currently consists of 228 members that include geoscience instructors from all public and private school levels through college. Efforts to increase active membership have been made through personal contact, referrals, the section newsletter "The Bulletin", and a recent email that was sent to every active and lapsed

membership person in the section. The two emails are copied below. This continues to be a topic of discussion at every section business meeting during our yearly conference. We have a dedicated core group of members that attend every yearly meeting and often bring along an additional person or two with the goal of having them become active members of the section. This has also resulted in limited success.

Greetings from the Eastern Section of NAGT,

I hope this email finds you and your family well in the new year 2025!

The National Association of Geoscience Teachers is going to do some great things in 2025, and we hope you will be part of them. From professional development and in-person meetings to newsletters, "In The Trenches", fireside chats, grants, recognition of Outstanding Earth Science Teachers (OEST) along with other national and section awards in the geosciences; there's never been a better time to be an NAGT member.

Our eastern section meeting to be held in Erie, Pennsylvania on the weekend of May 1,2,3, 2025 looks to be an exciting, geoscience-filled gathering of section members. It includes presentations, field trips (including a fossil collecting trip to the well-known Penn Dixie quarry in New York), guest speakers, the "famous" eastern section geo-auction, and Saturday evening dinner with eastern section awards. Registration information will soon be available on our eastern section webpage which I have listed below.

The National NAGT web site can be found here:

<https://nagt.org/index.html>

The Eastern Section page with contact information with uploaded past and current section newsletters can be found here:

<https://nagt.org/nagt/sections/eastern/index.html>

The Eastern Section Facebook page can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1727394404251855>

Thanks! I hope to see you at our eastern section meetings.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Steve Lindberg
slindber@pitt.edu
minerlight@atlanticbb.net
Eastern Section President
Dept. of Geosciences and the Environment
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Pa.

Greetings from the Eastern Section of NAGT,

I hope this email finds you and family well in the new year 2025!

The National Association of Geoscience Teachers is going to do some great things in 2025, and we hope you will be part of them. I see that your membership has lapsed, and I encourage you to consider “re-upping” at <https://nagt.org/index.html>

From professional development and in-person meetings to newsletters, “In The Trenches”, fireside chats, grants, recognition of outstanding Earth Science educators (OEST) along with other national and section awards in the geosciences; there’s never been a better time to be an NAGT member.

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Thanks! I hope to see you back as an active member – and also see you at our eastern section meetings. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Steve Lindberg
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Eastern Section President
Dept. of Geosciences and the Environment
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Pa.

Progress towards goals

The eastern section continues to explore additional methods to increase participation in annual meetings and events. This has proven to be quite difficult and is a reflection of the problems faced by many other organizations. We continue to offer a free annual meeting to all section OEST awardees; and even this has resulted in little success.

Other Section activities

The eastern section is in the process of updating and streamlining our bylaws to reflect the current state of the section; including new voting procedures now in place as well as eliminating unnecessary language that are out of date or have never been adhered to. We have recently approved two year terms for all section officers. Our Bulletin newsletter continues to be published four times a year and is uploaded to our section page on the NAGT website. The sections also maintains a page on Facebook, which is kept current and is open for all section members to post and contribute.

Goals for future Section work

Continue to update by-laws

Explore additional options to increase attendance at yearly conference

Keep membership engaged with *The Bulletin* news letter.

Continue to schedule a yearly conference with activities that will attract member interest.

Discussion at the spring 2025 meeting held in Erie, Pennsylvania suggested offering free meetings each year to a limited number of higher education students.

Continue to maintain the financial stability of our eastern section.