



## Annual Report

2022

*Mike Phillips*

*Secretary/Treasurer*

### Goals for NAGT work over the past year

I planned to help develop a “simple” one-page explanation of how accrual accounting works and how to read the NAGT budget and quarterly reports and to either get Oakmark to move away from some of its more Byzantine requirements or move our investments to another provider. I planned to work with the Advocacy Committee to redevelop its website to be more up-to-date and user friendly. I planned to help develop a member recruitment and retention program. I planned to help develop an annual fund-raising program for NAGT. Looking farther out, I hoped to look at the possibility of NAGT sponsoring/developing a field trip at GSA’s annual meeting each year (and possibly at GSA section meetings).

### Progress towards goals: Participation and achievements as an officer of NAGT

**Secretary/Treasurer:** At the recommendation of the **Investment Committee**, NAGT will be moving the remainder of our investments out of OakMark and into funds at another brokerage firm over the next year. I did not do anything with respect to the one pager on accrual accounting; however, I met with our auditors in late August and invited them to October Executive Committee meeting to discuss the audit findings which will allow the members to develop a better understanding of the organization’s finances. To improve NAGT’s long term financial prospects, the **Development and Membership Committees** have been rejuvenated and begun meeting; the Development Committee is working on a long-term fundraising plan which will include outreach to people and organizations outside our membership that have similar goals. As **Secretary**, I was able to share draft minutes of the Exec Comm and Council meetings within less than a week (typically with a few days); this is important because it allows those present to review them and provide feedback while their memories of the meeting are fresh and provides those who missed the meeting with a timely summary.

**Advocacy:** Catherine Riihimaki led the development of a new Advocacy page on the NAGT web site; that new page is now live. The Advocacy Committee has been reviewing and developing updates to the NAGT’s Position Statements. Revisions of two of the statements (K-12 Education and Dual Credit) have been completed, and we are beginning the process of evaluating the statement on Evolution. (Revision of the Climate Change statement was completed in 2021.) A proposal to develop a statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was approved by the Exec Comm at the September 2022 meeting. In July, the American Geophysical Union (AGU) announced a return to in-person Congressional Visit Days (CVD); three members of the Advocacy Committee were accepted of which two (Cory Forbes and I) were able to participate. I was partnered with a soil science professor/President of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) from Indiana and the SSSA Government Relations Manager who acted as our facilitator; we met with staff from the offices of the Senators from Illinois and Indiana with whom we discussed the importance of Federal funding for research and to support educators. The Advocacy Committee added two new members (Cory Forbes and Brendan Anderson) to replace members rotating off (Catherine Riihimaki and Frank Granshaw).



**Geo2YC Division Liaison:** I attended meetings of the Geo2YC Executive Committee and shared updates on NAGT Exec Comm activities.

### **Progress towards goals: Other achievements and work relevant to NAGT**

I continue to serve on the Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education where I advocate for both science and 2YC issues. In the past year, we discussed issues including the cost of textbooks, the increasing role of dual credit courses, and the college readiness of our student population. I have continued to work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and a local legislator on the development of a fossil park near my college; I was able to bring NAGT member and Mississippi State University Geology Professor Renee Clary to the site to meet with the park superintendent and discuss her work and research on fossil parks around the U.S. Dr. Clary offered to help us as we move forward with plans for the site. In June, I attended a workshop hosted by the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS); we were introduced to the data produced by BIOS and began developing ways to incorporate that data into the classroom. I encouraged workshop participants to share classroom modules they develop via NAGT's Teach The Earth platform.

### **Goals for NAGT work in the next year**

**Financial:** I would still like to work with Amy to develop a "simple" one-page explanation of how accrual accounting works and how to read the NAGT budget and quarterly reports. I think this would be helpful to current and future members of the Exec Comm when looking at our budget and budget reports. I would like to either get Oakmark to move away from some of its more Byzantine requirements or move our investments to another provider.

I would like the **Advocacy** Committee to develop a new leave behind sheet for inclusion on our web site; members will be able to print and share it when they engage in advocacy. We will continue to work on statement revisions; all four existing statements should be up-to-date and the new statement on DEI should all be complete by the Fall of 2023. When the revisions are complete, the committee should develop a list of topics on which to develop new statements or endorse the statements of partner organizations. I would also like NAGT to explore becoming a partner with AGU on their CVDs; the September 2022 CVD included the Geological Society of America, the American Meteorological Society, and the Soil Science Society of America as partners. I think participation would benefit NAGT members through the training and experience and the AGU by partnering educators with researchers when discussing the benefits of Federal programs that support both.

The **Membership** Committee is just beginning to meet; I anticipate that the committee will develop an understanding of underserved populations and then work on plans to reach those potential members. Personally, I would like to help develop better outreach to faculty at 2YCs.

I would like to help develop an annual fund-raising program for NAGT, which includes a format for letters to potential donors and "events" that can be passed along from leader to leader and adjusted based on successes and challenges.