



Annual Report for FY25

Submitted by Mike Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer

Executive summary

I continue to work to improve NAGT's fiscal health and management through member recruitment and retention, donor development, and advocating for government support of geoscience education. In the coming year, we should complete the separation of the positions of Secretary and Treasurer and develop a "simple" one-page explanation of how accrual accounting works and how to read the NAGT budget and quarterly reports and create a finance committee.

Detailed report

Goals for NAGT work over the past year

- Continue to take minutes that accurately reflect the discussions and actions of the Executive Committee and Council and to share the minutes in a timely fashion.
- Continue to provide guidance and transparency with respect to NAGT's finances.
- See the roles of Secretary and Treasurer split. This will require amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Create a new Finance Committee and develop sustainable practices for budgeting.
- Develop a "simple" one-page explanation of how accrual accounting works and how to read the NAGT budget and quarterly reports.
- As a member of the Membership Committee, help develop better outreach to current and potential member groups.
- As a member of the Donor Development Committee, help develop an annual fund-raising program for NAGT, including the development of a format for letters to potential donors and a series of "events" that can be passed along from leader to leader and adjusted based on successes and challenges.
- As chair of the Advocacy Committee, complete the revision of the leave-behind "one pager," complete the revisions of existing position statements, and complete development and approval of new statements on JEDI, the Responsibility to Teach Earth Sciences, and the Value of Undergraduate Geoscience Courses and Programs

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

- I have continued to perform the primary duties of the Secretary/Treasurer in an accurate, timely, and transparent manner.
- The process to separate the positions of Secretary and Treasurer is proceeding with the assistance of the Executive Director, staff, and Executive Committee
- The **Finance Committee** was created, developed an annual schedule of meetings, and developed the FY 26 budget for presentation to the Executive Committee.



- While we did not do anything with respect to the one pager on accrual accounting, it remains on my list of things to do.
- The **Donor Development Committee** was reactivated. While it still needs a chair, it has been moving forward under the guidance of the Executive Director. The committee has been developing an annual fund-raising program and exploring options for training, consultants, state-by-state recognition, and software for tracking donors.
- The **Membership Committee** continues to explore ways to engage current members and attract new members and is also beginning to work with divisions to work on those areas as well.
- The **Advocacy Committee** had two new statements (Value of Undergraduate Geoscience and Responsibility to Teach Earth Sciences) approved by the membership. The revisions to the statement on Teaching Evolution are substantially complete, and the new statement on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is almost complete. Several members of the committee participated in AGU's Congressional Visit Days in Washington, DC. I continue to serve on a regional advisory council to our local Congresswoman, Lauren Underwood, and have provided information on several NAGT concerns to the Congresswoman as well as several other members of the Illinois Congressional delegation and members of their staffs. (Additional details may be found in the Advocacy Committee report.)
- Information from NAGT's Executive Director regarding the USGS-NAGT Summer Field Internships was included in Congressman Bill Foster's remarks to the U.S. House of Representatives and is now part of the Congressional Record. (<https://youtu.be/WLd5Gda1ZIU?si=e3MnVITz1zwdbakq>)
- As **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.
- I have applied for the faculty seat on the Illinois Community College Board.
- 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 continue to serve as an AGU Local Science Partner and interacted with several members of Congress (House and Senate) and their staffs; the interactions included highlighting the impacts of the Federal hiring freeze and NSF Grant recissions on NAGT-sponsored programs including the USGS-NAGT Summer Field Internships and the NAGT Early Career Workshop.

Goals for NAGT work in the next year

- I would like to see the roles of Secretary and Treasurer split. This will require amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- As chair of the Finance Committee, I would like to continue to develop sustainable practices for budgeting.



- As a member of the Membership Committee, I would like to help develop better outreach to potential member groups.
- As a member of the Donor Development Committee, I would like to help develop an annual fund-raising program for NAGT.
- As chair of the Advocacy Committee, I would like to move the Evolution and JEDI statements through the approval process.
- At the 2026 Rendezvous, I will assist with a mini workshop on NAGT leadership and am proposing to co-lead a workshop on advocacy.