NAGT Executive Office 2026 Annual Report

Submitted by Mitchell Bender-Awalt, SERC Project Coordinator

Executive Office Staffing

The Executive Office supports the work of the Executive Director, the management of the organization, and implementation of the NAGT programming and activities. The Executive Office staff has been consistent for much of the year. Mitchell Bender-Awalt, Rebeccah Bradley, Monica Bruckner, Amy Collette, and Brianna Douglas continued in their roles at SERC and in support of the work of the Executive Office. Mitchell Bender-Awalt took an extended parental leave in the spring. Ash Carlson supported the NAGT webinar committee. John McDaris assisted with the virtual workshop series. The Executive Office staff meet approximately every two weeks with the Executive Director, Anne Egger, to provide updates and coordinate our work.

Cheryl Manning continued in her role as NAGT's Media Editor the NAGT News email newsletter.

NAGT Administration and Executive Committee Support

Our ongoing efforts for NAGT included support for the Executive Committee, Council, Committees, Divisions, and Sections in their work. We worked to support organization leadership through workspace management, communications, virtual meetings, and for the Executive Committee's annual mid-year meeting which was held online. We also supported committees in their volunteer work for the organization, particularly the ongoing efforts of the Membership, Advocacy, and Professional Development committees. We successfully executed the 2026 elections, including changes to the NAGT constitution and bylaws as well as elections for the Sections and Divisions.

We worked with NAGT leadership on executing the Earth Educators' Rendezvous (EER). This year's conference was held in Columbia, SC and featured a new 4-day format that included 2 Monday-Thursday morning workshops, 5 Monday-Tuesday morning workshops, 5 Wednesday-Thursday morning workshops, 13 afternoon mini-workshops, a series of informal 'Special Interest Group' meetups, 21 oral presentations, 67 poster presentations, and 15 share-a-thon presentations. This year's EER featured 2 field trips, and exhibitor showcase, and several optional lunchtime tour opportunities. The EER was attended by 210 participants.

The workshop for the Early Career Geoscience Faculty: Teaching, Research, and Managing Your Career was offered again this year and included 45 participants from 42 different institutions and 11 leaders. We also supported 5 traveling workshops, a virtual workshop on course design, 1 webinar, ongoing peer review of teaching activities, and the Heads & Chairs workshop at AGU.

Membership and Donations

The Executive Office supports the management of membership in coordination with the Membership Committee and NAGT's Media Editor Cheryl Manning. We saw a decrease in membership from 1250 in 2025 to 1201 in 2026. This is the sixth straight year of decreased membership, from a high of 1711 in 2020. In support of Sections and Divisions, we provide regular updates on their active and lapsed members. The Executive Office works closely with the Membership Committee and the Media Editor to coordinate messaging with members and non-members across our website, social media platforms, and email communications. For more detail, see the 2026 Membership Report.

This year, the Executive Office also completed a major transition of our donation and membership systems. Beginning in the spring, we worked to move our donation and donor development capabilities to DonorPerfect and Givecloud. This transition involved updates to the NAGT website, membership back-end, internal documentation, and information for donors and members. The main components of that transition are now complete, and we are finalizing internal documentation and processes using these new platforms. We now have a unified database of donor and member records hosted by DonorPerfect. With Givecloud, we have a modern and highly capable platform to take in contributions.

Finances

The Executive Office continued to manage the finances of the organization. We worked with the Executive Director, Treasurer, and Finance Committee to budget and present the FY26 financials to the Executive Committee. In addition, we continued to support Division and Section treasurers in their roles, providing financial information when requested. Additionally, we managed the 2025 tax return, including preparation of supporting documents, reports for the Executive Director, Executive Committee, and Finance Committee, and filing with governmental agencies. We renewed the general liability insurance and directors and officers insurance for the organization and processed 1099s.

Publications

The Executive Office worked in coordination with the publishers and editors for the Journal of Geoscience Education (JGE) and In the Trenches (ITT). In support of JGE, we ensured that the publisher received up to date information for members subscribed to receive print copies of the journal. Over the course of the past year, we have processed 35 JGE publication charge invoices, receiving payment on 57% of those billed. The Executive Office worked with the ITT Editor to review and publish 5 new articles online. The Executive Office produced an annual report for 2025 that was distributed to all members.

Marketing, Advertising, and Communications

The Executive Office represented NAGT at the Geological Society of America (GSA) Fall Meeting in San Antonio, TX through activities including exhibit booth planning and staffing, volunteer management, and promotions for membership and sponsored projects.

Each month, Executive Office staff worked with the NAGT Media Editor to prepare and distribute the NAGT News newsletter via email. With the transition to DonorPerfect, we are now sending NAGTNews isues via Contant Contact. We also developed new advertising materials and signage, including a new Teach the Earth bookmark and new NAGT stickers.

This was the third year of operation for the online NAGT merchandise store. In the past year there have been 15 orders of NAGT products. Executive Office staff continue to monitor and manage the NAGT store.

Awards, Grants, and Scholarships

The Executive Office continues to support the administration of NAGT awards, grants, and scholarships. In February, 102 Field Camp scholarship applications were processed, and we awarded 18. We also awarded 20 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher winners (8 Section, 12 state), notifying partner professional societies of the awardees, and preparing for the announcements through our website. 19 Outstanding Teaching Assistant awards were given. Plaques or certificates were ordered and citations were solicited for Miner, Shea, JEDI, Stout, OEST, OTA, and JGE award winners.

The Gary Fuis and Stacey Andrews NAGT/USGS Cooperative Summer Fellowship scholarships were not awarded this year because the USGS did not have fellowship positions due to the Federal government hiring freeze.

Computer Services

The Executive Office continued to support the organization's web presence through the NAGT website, hosted by Serckit. We leveraged Serckit to enable internal and external communications using email lists and workspaces. Office staff engaged in day-to-day maintenance to the website, including fixing broken links, updating leader information, and minor content updates.

See the 2026 Website Analytics Report for details.