DIALOGUE

Vote in GSA's upcoming council election—we need to hear from you!

Rob Van der Voo, GSA President

Once again election time is upon us. We have a fine field of candidates for GSA Council positions, and I encourage you all to participate in this critically important process. GSA has made good progress as a Society over the past several years, thanks to a dedicated group of visionary, hardworking volunteers. We continue to need good leadership as we consider the many opportunities and challenges on the horizon. Following are some frequently asked questions about GSA's elections process. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and for casting your ballot!

Q. Who can vote in GSA elections?

A. All professional, teacher, and student members of GSA are eligible. Only student associates (undergraduates) and affiliates do not vote.

Q. Why should I vote?

A. As a member of GSA, your opinion counts! This is never truer than in these times of change within the geosciences. Your elected representatives determine the Society's response as our science evolves and changes take place in our profession. Elected representatives help shape our collective future. That's why it's so important that you read the information on each candidate posted on GSA's Web site (www.geosociety.org) and carefully consider what kind of direction and leadership he or she is likely to bring to GSA. It's your Society, after all.

Q. How are candidates for Council selected?

A. GSA has a standing Committee on Nominations consisting of seven members plus Executive Director Jack Hess (ex officio). All members serve three-year terms. The committee meets each year to consider candidates for open positions on Council. Throughout the year, possible candidates are nominated by their colleagues within GSA

or people step forward and submit their own names. The committee reviews this list and all supporting documentation submitted, including each person's record of service at GSA, before making its recommendation to Council. Once Council approves the list of candidates chosen, the balloting process is organized in preparation for annual elections.

Q. Why do Council officers run unopposed?

A. Officers have already been elected to Council in a contested popular vote by the time they are considered for a position on the Executive Committee. Our organization and others have had the unfortunate experience of losing vital, well-qualified people at this level because they did not win in an Executive Committee election. We want to maintain everyone's participation and enjoy the continuity of experience that this process affords us.

Q. If I want to be considered for a position on Council, what should I do?

A. Get involved in the life of the Society. Volunteering to serve on a committee is a great place to begin. Committee service allows you to bring your knowledge, expertise, and passion to bear on one of the many exciting challenges we face as geoscientists. GSA has 23 standing committees to choose from, and all that is required is that you inform the Nominations Committee of your interest in serving. As mentioned previously, committee service is considered when selecting individuals to run for open Council positions. Visit www.geosociety.org/aboutus/commtees/ or contact Ruth Harrison, (303) 357-1000, ext. 0, rharrison@geosociety.org, for a list of committees, their functions, and contact information. Participation on GSA Section and Division management boards is also considered; relevant information can be accessed via www.geosociety.org/sectdiv.

GSA 2004–2005 Council Election Timetable

- ▶ Postcard notifications with instructions for voting mailed in early August.
- ▶ Online voting August 11–September 10 at **www.geosociety.org/ballot.asp**.
- ▶ Paper ballots available now for members unable to vote online. Contact GSA Sales and Service at 1-888-443-4472 or gsaservice@geosociety.org.
- ▶ Completed paper ballots must be postmarked no later than **September 10**.