

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION BYLAWS

Established by Council on December 28, 1947*

ARTICLE I

Name and Organization

1. This section of The Geological Society of America, Inc., is organized in accordance with Article VIII of the Bylaws of that Society and is governed by the provisions of that article.
2. The name of the section is the Southeastern Section of The Geological Society of America, Inc.

ARTICLE II

Membership

1. Members, Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Affiliates of the Geological Society of America residing within the geographical limits of the section shall normally be members of the section and shall have all rights and privileges pertaining thereto including the rights to vote and to hold office.
2. Members, Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Affiliates of the Society who reside outside the geographical limits of the section may become members of the section, with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto, upon written or electronic notification of intent to the Society; those who reside within the geographical limits of the Southeastern Section but who wish to be voting members of another section may likewise do so and will thereby relinquish their rights and privileges as members in the Southeastern Section, except that by paying additional dues as determined by the Geological Society of America, any member can belong to any additional number of sections, with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

ARTICLE III

Geographical Limitation

1. For purposes of scientific fellowship and discussion, the limits of the section shall correspond with the limits of the Society. Meetings shall be open to all Members, Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Affiliates of the Society and their guests for attendance and participation, the presentation of papers, and the participation in field conferences.
2. For the purpose of administration, the geographical extent of the section shall include: in the United States, the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and in Mexico, the states of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán.

ARTICLE IV ***Officers and Management Board***

1. *Officers.* The officers of the section shall be a chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary-treasurer. Their terms of office shall be for one year and shall end at the close of the section annual meeting. Only the secretary-treasurer shall be eligible for re-election.
2. *Responsibility to the Council of the Society.* In accordance with Article VIII, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the Society, the duly elected officers of the Southeastern Section shall be responsible to the Council of the Society for the conduct of the affairs of the section. Each year not later than February 15, the secretary-treasurer shall render to the Council an annual report outlining the activities of the section during the preceding calendar year and scheduled activities in the future.

Immediately after each section annual meeting, the secretary-treasurer shall submit to the executive director of the Society a report of the proceedings of the meeting.

3. *Management Board.* The management board shall be composed of the officers, the officers-elect, and the past officers of the section. Council members(s) residing within the section boundaries shall be *ex officio* members. The chairs of the section committees (currently education, geology and public policy, liaison, and student support) shall be voting *ex officio* members. The vice-chair and secretary-treasurer-elect shall become members of the management board one week prior to the section annual meeting start date. The chair-elect shall become a voting member of the management board one year prior to taking the office of chair, and the retiring officers shall continue as members of the management board until one week after the beginning of the next year's section annual meeting.
4. *Election of Officers.* The nominating committee of the section shall submit to the chair-elect, before the last day of the section annual meeting, the names of candidates for chair, vice-chair, and secretary-treasurer with their written or electronic acceptance of the nomination. These nominations shall be announced at the section annual meeting and shall constitute the regular ticket, to be submitted by the chair of the section to the executive director of the Society for distribution in a ballot to the voting members of the section in the fifth or sixth month after the section annual meeting. Nominees for the vice-chair and secretary-treasurer will be for the year beginning with the close of the next section annual meeting. The chair will be nominated for the year beginning with the close of the second section annual meeting after the nomination.

Additional nominations may be made within 120 days after the close of the section annual meeting if accompanied by a petition carrying the names of at least fifteen voting members of the section and a statement of willingness to serve, signed by each nominee.

Such nominations will appear on the ballot. Provision for write-in nominations on the ballot shall also be made.

Ballots shall be returned by the voting members to the chair, who will count them. Election shall be by a simple majority of those voting for each office. Within five days after counting the ballots, the chair shall notify the candidates as to the results of the election.

ARTICLE V *Committees*

1. *Program Committee.* The vice-chair shall be chair of the program committee and shall appoint such other members as he deems necessary.
2. *Nominating Committee.* The immediate past chair shall be chair of the nominating committee. The current chair shall appoint two additional voting members of the section. This committee shall nominate one candidate for the office of chair, vice-chair, and secretary-treasurer and shall obtain statements of willingness to serve from each candidate. These nominations shall be reported to the management board at its section annual meeting.
3. *Auditing Committee.* An auditing committee consisting of three voting members shall be appointed by the chair. This committee shall review all fiscal reports and report to the management board at its section annual meeting.
4. *Student Support Committee.* A student support committee shall consist of four appointed voting members serving staggered two-year terms, and a voting chair who shall serve a one-year term. Each year the outgoing section chair, with the approval of the management board at the annual section meeting, shall appoint the members. The committee chair shall be elected by the committee members from among those who have served previously on the student support committee.
5. *Education Committee.* An education committee shall consist of a voting member from each state within the section. Each year the outgoing section chair, with the approval of the management board, shall appoint these members and shall also appoint a chair from among the committee members. The president of the southeastern section of the National Association of Geology Teachers (NAGT) shall be an *ex officio* member of this committee.
6. *Geology and Public Policy Committee.* The Committee on Geology and Public Policy is charged with developing and disseminating information from the geological sciences to promote the use of such information in the formulation, discussion, and decision regarding public policies. The committee's educational informational activities should be directed toward both the membership at large of the GSA and toward the general public. These efforts are expected to include a symposium or public information session given at the Southeastern Section's annual meeting. All activities of the section committee must follow the guidelines as set forth for the GSA Committee on Geology

and Public Policy. In particular, any advocacy statements must first be referred to the President of the Society; then be reviewed by the GSA Committee on Geology and Public Policy; and finally be supported by a majority of Council.

Membership:

- a. There shall be fourteen (14) members, one representing each state or commonwealth in the Southeastern Section's geographic area.
 - b. The membership should include an appropriate working balance among individuals employed by academic institutions, government agencies, and industrial organizations.
 - c. The membership should include individuals with an appropriate knowledge of and professional competence in the fields of engineering geology, hydrogeology, mineral resources, fuels resources, quaternary geology, geochemistry, and geophysics.
 - d. Members serve for three years, each term beginning on the first day of the Southeastern Section's annual meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the member representing the state in which the Southeastern Section's meeting is held to organize a symposium or a public information session at that meeting.
 - e. Members shall be appointed by the chair of the Southeastern Section. Normally three or four members shall be appointed each year, although the initial appointment shall consist of all fourteen members, with five to serve one year, five to serve two years, and four to serve three years. Members are eligible for reappointment.
 - f. A chair of the committee shall be elected by the members of the section Geology and Public Policy Committee and serve for a period of three years. The chair need not be one of the fourteen members of the committee. The chair shall also serve as the section representative on the national GSA Committee on Geology and Public Policy.
7. *Liaison Committee.* The Liaison Committee is charged with distributing information about GSA and recruiting new members. The committee members shall consist of GSA members in academic institutions, government agencies, and private corporations. The members of this committee will serve indefinite terms at the pleasure of the board. The chair of this committee will be appointed by the section chair and will serve a three-year term.
8. *Ad Hoc Committees.* The chair, with the approval of the management board, may appoint special committees when they are needed.

ARTICLE VI
Meetings

1. *Annual Meeting.* The place and time of the section annual meeting, and such special meetings as desired, shall be determined by the management board of the section and shall be reported to the executive director of the Society. Insofar as possible, the meeting shall be held in the spring.
2. *Management Board Meeting.* The management board meeting shall normally be held at the time of the section annual meeting. Special meetings of the management board may be called at any time by the chair. Business may also be conducted by mail.

ARTICLE VII
Finances

1. Following a review by the auditing committee, the secretary-treasurer shall submit an account of all funds for the calendar year to the Council of the Society not later than February 15. The fiscal year begins July 1.

ARTICLE VIII
Rules and Amendment of the Bylaws

1. *Rules.* Rules supplementing the bylaws may be adopted, amended, or rescinded by a majority vote of the management board of the section.
2. *Amendment of Bylaws.* Proposed amendments to the bylaws may be initiated by the management board or by written petition to the management board signed by at least twenty-five members eligible to vote in the section. After approval by the management board, the proposed changes shall be submitted to the voting membership by mail ballot or at an annual meeting of the section, and shall be accepted by a simple majority vote. The accepted changes shall be submitted to the Council of the Society for ratification, and thereby adoption by the section.

All section bylaws must be consistent with the Certificate of Incorporation, the Constitution, and the Bylaws of the Society.

Bylaws amended on May 7, 1973; May 9, 1978; May 28, 1982; May 13, 1988; May 6, 1989; April 18, 1994; May 5, 1995; May 11, 1996; May 10, 1997; October 18, 1997; April 24, 2004 (addition of Puerto Rico to Southeastern Section); October 4, 2008 (bring member categories and fiscal year into conformance with Society's; add option for electronic communications; add states of Mexico to Section and revise committee membership accordingly).

* GSA Council Minutes, Volume December 1946-December 1947, page 222.