Alaska Geological Society History


On October 7, 1958, membership dues were approved and Ruth Schmidt was elected the first president. On November 8, 1960, a membership of 39 approved a statement of purpose and by-laws. The group has grown steadily to the present total of 350 members.

Diversity has been a source of strength for the Alaska Geological Society. Geologists from the academic, mining, petroleum, and engineering fields are represented in its membership.

The society grew as geologists found that meetings offered exposure to the many facets of Alaskan geology and the opportunity to meet other Alaskan geologists. The program chairman sometimes was at a loss to think of a subject appealing to all the geologic interests represented but it soon was apparent that a good paper on any branch of geologic investigation captured the attention of the entire group.

The society now meets regularly twice a month except during the summer when special meetings are held at the call of the president.

Much of the work of the society is done by standing committees. Noteworthy contributions have been made by the Stratigraphic and Publications Committees which have prepared and published structure and stratigraphic studies and guidebooks. The Continuing Education Committee has obtained world-renowned speakers and presented outstanding seminars and special programs for the membership.

The society is not interested solely in itself. Last year the Conference Services Committee initiated a volunteer-geologist speaker pool and provided the Anchorage Borough School District with science and geology classes by many lecturers on a variety of subjects.

Some significant milestones of society growth are as follows:

- Initial meeting—Dec. 3, 1957
- First full slate of officers chosen—Oct. 7, 1958
- Bylaws and statement of purpose accepted—Nov. 8, 1960
- Affiliation with AAPG Pacific Section—May 1961
- Guidebook and Road Log from Anchorage to Sutton published—1963
- Guidebook and Road Log from Sutton to Caribou Creek published—1964
- First Distinguished AAPG Lecturer, Robert J. Weimer—Mar. 9, 1964
- First AGI Visiting International Scientist Lecturer, Umberto Colombo—May 22, 1964
- Society Emblem chosen—Oct. 15, 1964
- First Membership Directory published—1965
- Second Membership Directory published—1967
- Central Cook Inlet Basin Structure Section published—1967
- First symposium on Alaska tectonics held—Feb. 1968

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2City Services Company.