



Amendments to the constitution and by-laws of the New Mexico Geological Society

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE NEW MEXICO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

by

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INTRODUCTION

A revised Constitution and By-laws embodying the distilled wisdom of Messrs. L. L. Werts, J. W. Shomaker, and F. D. Trauger, the drafters, was approved by the membership on November 17, 1967 (New Mexico Geological Society, Inc., 1968, p. 202-205; Northrop, 1969, p. 15). The policies and operations of the Geological Society have been shaped and guided by the Constitution and By-laws through both the "normal" vicissitudes of the business cycle in the mineral and petroleum industries, and a period in which the populace has been fractionated and polarized by various environmental and energy crises. Through the difficult 7 years succeeding adoption of the revised Constitution and By-laws, only 2 separate but related amendments have been considered and adopted. The two instruments have served a diverse membership composed of representatives from all disciplines of the earth sciences exceptionally well.

AMENDMENTS

Amendment to the Constitution

The following amendment to the Constitution was proposed to the membership and approved at the Annual Meeting held on May 19, 1972. This amendment removed a conflict with the amendment to the By-laws that had been adopted on April 17, 1970.

ARTICLE III, Section 5, amended to read, "Should an officer-elect become either ineligible or unable to serve prior to assuming office, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Committee by appointment from a list of names submitted by the Nominating Committee. The list shall include, but shall not be restricted to, the remaining officers-elect. In the event the office vacated is that of the President-elect, consideration should be given by the Executive Committee to the elevation of the Vice-President-elect to the vacated office and the subsequent selection of another Vice President-elect."

Amendment to the By-Laws

Members of the Executive Committee and other persons confronted with the task of locating members who would be willing to serve as officers reasoned that it was becoming difficult to find two well-qualified candidates for each office to

stand for election. Furthermore, it was apparent that once defeated, a candidate seldom was willing to run for office again. Thus, the already small pool of potential officers was further reduced by the election processes. Therefore, they proposed the amendment to change the election procedures by providing for a single slate of candidates selected by a Nominating Committee composed of members ineligible for office. In the same amendment, the Nominating Committee was expanded to five members from three specified in the 1967 revision of the By-laws to insure better representation of the membership.

Accordingly, the following amendment to the By-laws was proposed and approved at the Annual Meeting held on April 17, 1970.

ARTICLE VIII, Section 1, amended to read, "The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee, consisting of five (5) members, each year to select one or more candidates each for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not be eligible for election to any office of the Society."

SUMMARY

The amendments to the Constitution and By-laws reproduced above make upward mobility of the officers from the office of Treasurer to President a more likely possibility, thereby virtually assuring management of the affairs of the Geological Society by experienced, well-qualified persons (Hiss and Woodward, 1974).

REFERENCES

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- New Mexico Geological Society, Inc., 1968, Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and By-laws of the New Mexico Geological Society, Inc., in Shomaker, J. W., ed., San Juan-San Miguel-La Plata Region (New Mexico and Colorado): New Mexico Geol. Soc. 19th Field Conf. Guidebook, p. 202-205.
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