

National Council of The Society of
Sigma Gamma Epsilon



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

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TO: Active Chapters of Sigma Gamma Epsilon
Members of the National Council of SGE

August 26, 2021

Welcome to the start of the 2021-2022 academic year. Some of you will be attending classes in person, others will be taking courses remotely, and still others of you will be doing some sort of combination of studies. Whatever your situation, we wish you the best for a safe and successful school year. This letter provides important information updates and reminders of procedures Chapters should be following.

1. Changes to Membership

At the 45th Biennial Convention last April, delegates voted to change the membership fee and dues. Beginning August 1, 2021, **new members will pay a one-time fee of \$55 to become a LIFETIME MEMBER. Returning members will only need to pay an additional \$15 to become a lifetime member.** For this academic year only, returning members wishing to be active and become lifetime members should submit their name and \$15 fee **with their chapter** on the Returning Member and Initiate Form located under Officer Resources (same as last year). Please do **NOT** submit them individually.

ALL member forms (new and returning) and **Chapter Officer Forms are to be submitted online** and can be accessed on the SGE website on the home page or under the link to Officer Resources <www.sgeearth.org>. At the conclusion of your submission, you will have the option to pay online or to send your payment through the mail with a copy of your completed forms.

If you choose to mail your payment, please send a single check or money order payable to Sigma Gamma Epsilon with a copy of your forms to:

Sigma Gamma Epsilon
P.O. Box 506
Gilbertville, IA 50634

Please DO NOT use the former paper forms. Thank you.

It is important to have your fall initiation as early as practically possible, and submit your membership fees and lists no later than November 1st so that new and returning members can get the full benefit for their membership.

2. IRS tax information requests

All SGE Chapters are considered subordinate organizations under the SGE National Office and they should be covered in a group exemption that we file annually. However, the IRS still requires subordinates to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard. If your Chapter receives such a request, you should file the form so that you do not lose your tax-exempt status. It only takes a few minutes to file Form 990-N. The form asks for your Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN), which will be located in the upper right corner of the letter of request. Please make every effort to comply with IRS requests. The SGE tax year ends on August 31st and Chapters can file the e-Postcard any time after that, but before the absolute deadline of January 15th. This means that for the **2020 tax year the e-Postcard should be filed after Aug. 31, 2021 and before Jan. 15, 2022.**

3. The Compass

Many geoscientists have started their career by publishing their first research in *THE COMPASS, the Earth Science Journal of SGE*. Editor Daniel Curtis (drcurtis@eiu.edu) welcomes manuscripts from SGE members. The COMPASS can be accessed from *The Compass* link on the SGE home page at www.sgeearth.org or directly by going to digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/compass/.

4. Quality Chapter Award

2020-2021 Quality Chapter Award winners are: Gamma Sigma at the Univ. of Northern Iowa, Gamma Chi at Eastern Illinois Univ., and Eta Gamma at Weber State Univ. The Quality Chapter Award is available to all Chapters that achieve the criteria listed on the SGE Website under the link to Awards. They consist of things such as having submitted the Chapter Officers form, Members and Initiates form, and appropriate fees and dues to the National Office by the appropriate deadlines. Recognized Chapters receive a certificate and \$50. All Chapters are encouraged to consider applying for this award.

5. Chapter Service Award

Chapter Service Awards went to two Chapters in 2020-2021: Gamma Sigma at the Univ. of Northern Iowa and Gamma Chi at Eastern Illinois Univ. Members must complete a significant outreach and/or service project or multiple projects during the year. Chapters recognized with this award receive a certificate and \$50. Chapters conducting outreach and/or service projects are asked to submit photos of their activities to be posted on the SGE Website and/or the Facebook page.

6. SGE National Convention

The 46th Biennial Convention of SGE will be hosted by Eta Alpha Chapter at the University of Tennessee, Martin on September 16-18, 2022. It is not too early for chapters to start planning on attending. An official delegate from each chapter and the chapter advisor will receive travel stipends for the Convention. The highlight of the Convention will be the field trip, which will feature the world famous Coon Creek Formation lagerstatte, a ~72 million year old fossil deposit that serves as Tennessee's link to the Age of Dinosaurs. Fossil clams, snails, crabs, lobsters, mosasaurs, turtles, fish, plesiosaurs, and even plant fossils are readily collected by visitors. Details and registration forms will be available Spring 2022.

We are looking forward to a great year for SGE. As always, we will attempt to respond to your requests and inquires as soon as possible. You can contact Paula Even our Associate Director at even@sgeearth.org or call 319-505-3391.

Best wishes,



James C. Walters
SGE National Secretary-Treasurer