**NAGT Advocacy Committee Annual Report**

**September 2019**

**Don Haas**

**Report prepared: September, 2019**

Don Haas reassumed chair from Mike Phillips, effective at GSA 2018. As he leaves the Executive Committee at GSA 2019, the chair will pass to Catherine Riihimaki and both (Past Chair) Mike and Don will support the transition.

The committee has had an active year, but the world seems to face an ever-increasing need for advocacy around geoscience education, so we wish for ever-greater bandwidth to engage with these important issues. For a more detailed overview, see the meeting minutes posted in the [Advocacy Committee Workspace](https://nagt.org/nagt/about/workspaces/advocacy/index.html), but some highlights follow.

It was a comparatively quiet year in terms of state-level legislative activities threatening geoscience education. Don was in regular contact with NCSE who monitors these issues closely. While there were some threatening proposed bills, none of these made it out of committee.

Don Haas and Eric Pyle authored a chapter, “Working the Professional Organizations” for the forthcoming book *Teaching Climate Change in the United States.* The book is edited by Joseph Henderson and Andrea Drewes. It is to be published in the next few months by Routledge. Haas and Pyle’s chapter discusses how professional organizations, with a focus on NAGT and NSTA, support climate change education.

We are currently reviewing older position statements and procedures for updating them. Both the position statement on evolution and climate change predate the release of the NGSS, and while much of their content is timeless, these statements are due for revision.

At our August meeting, the forthcoming House Resolution sponsored by California Representative Barbara Lee was discussed, and Don drew from this discussion to provide feedback on the resolution. It is now being circulated amongst members of the House seeking co-sponsors. I corresponded with Lee’s staffer, Victor Yang, noting that I would follow up with him about an NAGT endorsement. Before I secured that endorsement, the resolution was circulated with NAGT’s stated endorsement. While I regret that this didn’t play out quite according to my expectations, I think our endorsement is appropriate and hope other do as well! A press release from Lee’s office is [here](https://lee.house.gov/news/press-releases/congresswoman-barbara-lee-stands-with-students-to-support-teaching-climate-change-in-schools).

The October meeting will focus on developing a response to the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis’s Request for Information. That request is posted in the agenda for the meeting.

**Committee membership changes:**

Note that Advocacy Committee Member, Sherry Oaks, passed away in 2018.

Wendy Van Orden’s term expires and Euan Mitchell is returning to the UK and is resigning from the Advocacy Committee. We are seeking new members.

**Future meetings are scheduled** for Friday, October 25, Friday, January 24; at 1:30 Eastern/12:30 Central/11:30 Mountain/10:30 Pacific

**2018-2019 Meetings:**

* July 17 (F2F @ EER)
* February 8, 2019 (virtual)
* April (virtual)
* June 28 (virtual)
* August 23 (virtual)