**NAGT Year-End Report**

**Fall 2020**

**Mike Phillips**

**Secretary/Treasurer (2020-2021)**

**Report prepared October 8, 2020**

**Goals from last Report:**

**N**o prior report

**NAGT Executive Committee work:**

In late March of 2020, I was contacted by NAGT President Karen Viskupic and NAGT Executive Director Anne Egger and asked to assume the unexpired term of the current NAGT Secretary/Treasurer Frank Hladky. I began service in April and attended Executive Committee meetings in April, May, June, July, and September.

As Secretary, I kept minutes at all meetings and shared the drafts within the week following the meeting. I worked with NAGT financial and Administrative Director Amy Collette to ensure that the structure and format of the minutes were appropriate to the needs of the organization and compliant with common standards for similar organizations. At Amy’s suggestion, I began keeping a record of electronic votes taken on issues that arise between meetings; those votes are then posted as part of the next scheduled meeting and incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

As Treasurer, I have reviewed and provided feedback on quarterly and annual financial reports and the FY21 budget provided by Amy Collette.

NAGT’s fiscal outlook is good. The reports prepared and presented by Amy Collette are clear and include information from prior years, highlight areas where the current budget is or may not be in alignment with the approved budget with a discussion of causes for the variation, and likely and potential changes that could impact future budgets. I have no concerns with the budget and reporting processes.

Of primary concern to NAGT’s future budgets are the uncertainties presented by COVID 19; the virus has changed how NAGT presents workshops and the Earth Educator’s Rendezvous (EER) which, in turn, effects the recruitment of new members. In 2020, the impacts were neutral; the primary negative impact was due to moving the EER on-line after planning for a face-to-face conference. The 2021 EER will be on-line which will eliminate costs associated with changing the delivery mode. Based on the success of the on-line 2020 EER, the 2021 conference is expected to be well-attended, but there remains considerable uncertainty. The economic downturn associated with COVID also has the potential to negatively impact NAGT’s investment portfolio; while this has not yet occurred, it is a possibility for the next year and beyond.

Additional budget uncertainty is associated with NAGT publications. FY20 revenue from lab manual and JGE royalties was well above projections; the lab manual is in a new edition and JGE has a new publisher, so there is not much history from which we may determine if the current good performance is likely to continue in future years.

**NAGT Council work:**

Since assuming the position of Secretary/Treasurer in April, I attended the Council meeting in May 2020 and kept and shared the minutes.

**NAGT Committee work:**

I currently serve as a member of the NAGT Advocacy Committee. I attended meetings in October 2019 and January, March, May, July, and September 2020. I helped develop procedures for committee activities, including the development and review of position statements. I have helped develop and provided feedback on draft position statements and responses to advocacy requests.

As Treasurer, I serve on the NAGT Investment Committee as an ex officio member. I attended the August 2020 meeting.

**Liaison activity:**

I do not serve as liaison to any section or division or outside group.

**Conference/meeting participation:**

I attended the October 2019 Earth Education for Sustainable Societies Workshop at Carleton College where we discussed future needs in Earth education and developed plans for moving forward with new projects.

I attended the July 2020 Earth Educators Rendezvous where I participated in several workshops and presented a poster on a proposal to develop workshops for place-based educators.

I am currently attending a series of webinars, America’s Geoheritage Workshop II:  Identifying, Developing, and Preserving America’s Natural Legacy, with the intent of participating in the culminating January workshop where I hope to work on developing a plan to create a fossil park in northern Illinois.

**Other activities relevant to NAGT:**

As an outcome of the Earth Education for Sustainable Societies Workshop, I am working with former NAGT Executive Director Cathy Manduca and several others to develop a series of workshops for place-based educators.

**Upcoming Activities**

I plan to attend the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Geologic Society of America in October 2020, the remaining webinars and culminating workshop of the America’s Geoheritage Workshop II program, and the 2021 Earth Educator’s Rendezvous.

**Goals for next reporting period:**

I will continue to develop my understanding of the NAGT budget and budgeting process. I plan to take an active role in NAGT’s strategic planning process. As a member of the Advocacy Committee, I will help identify potential topics for position papers and work to develop them. I will continue to work on the proposal for place-based educator workshops; ideally, we will create and submit a grant proposal that includes a role for NAGT. I will continue to work on the proposal to create a fossil park in northern Illinois that will be accessible to formal and informal educators.