

**NAGT Mid-Year Report
Spring 2021
Mike Phillips
Secretary/Treasurer (2020-2021)
Report prepared September 23, 2021**

Goals from last Report:

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.

NAGT Executive Committee work:

As Secretary, I kept minutes at all meetings and shared the drafts within the week following the meeting.

As Treasurer, I have reviewed and provided feedback on quarterly and annual financial reports and the FY21 and FY 22 budgets provided by Amy Collette. The reports prepared and presented by Amy Collette continue to be clear and include information from prior years. With Amy's assistance, I present the budget overview at Exec Comm meetings.

NAGT's fiscal outlook continues to be good. EER 2021 was well-attended, membership was expected to grow slightly but was down 5% in July, and revenues from JGE have been steady. The investment portfolio continues to perform well and per the direction of the investment committee is now split between two providers in order to diversify our portfolio and reduce management expenses.

Of continuing concern to NAGT's fiscal outlook are the uncertainties presented by COVID 19 (which effects the recruitment of new members and registration for programs) and royalties from the lab manual. 2021 EER was well-attended and did not seem to be impacted by Zoom-fatigue.

The strategic planning process led by Executive Director Anne Egger has identified future opportunities as well as weaknesses and potential threats. This process has helped ensure NAGT is on a path supported by the membership and its future needs which will, in turn, help to establish a sound financial footing.

NAGT Council work:

I have attended the Council meetings and kept and shared the minutes.

NAGT Committee work:

I currently serve as a member of the NAGT Advocacy Committee and have been asked to transition into the position of chair (the current chair is leaving the NAGT Exec Comm). I attended meetings in September and December 2020 and January, March, May, July, and September 2021. I developed a procedure for the signing on to position statements of other organizations which is slated for approval later this year. I have helped develop updates to position statements on teaching climate change and dual credit. With committee Chair Catherine Riihimaki, I co-authored two articles on advocacy which were published in ITT.

As Treasurer, I serve on the NAGT Investment and Donor Development Committees as an ex officio member. I attended meetings and discussed investment strategies and plans to increase donations.

Liaison activity:

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

Conference/meeting participation:

I attended the Fall 2020 GSA Annual Meeting and the Summer 2021 Earth Educators Rendezvous.

I attended a series of webinars and the concluding workshop, America's Geoheritage Workshop II: Identifying, Developing, and Preserving America's Natural Legacy. I worked with a group to develop best practices in identifying and developing local geoheritage sites.

Other activities relevant to NAGT:

As an outcome of the 2019 Earth Education for Sustainable Societies Workshop, I am continuing to work with former NAGT Executive Director Cathy Manduca and several others to develop a series of workshops for place-based educators. We have developed a project overview and have been sharing it with possible grant providers.

A quarry near my college was acquired by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources. I am continuing to pursue a project to designate a portion of that quarry as a fossil park open to educators for field trips.

Upcoming Activities

I plan to attend the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Geologic Society of America in October 2021. For the Fall GSA meeting, I am the co-leader of a topical session, "Best Practices in Place-Based Education," with two other NAGT members and NAGT and the GSA Education Section as a session endorser; the session has 24 abstracts accepted and will include both oral and poster presentations. I will also help set up and coordinate activities at the NAGT booth in the exhibition hall.

My college has asked me to teach an in-house faculty development course on using classroom assessment techniques during the Spring 2022 semester. I helped introduce this course at IVCC and am looking forward to revising and teaching it again. It may be something NAGT could offer to our members at some point in the future using distance learning technology.

Goals for next reporting period:

I hope to be elected this fall to serve a full term as NAGT Secretary-Treasurer, and I will continue to develop my understanding of the NAGT budget and budgeting process.

As chair 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.