



HGS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 10th, 2025, Meeting held via Zoom

Quorum confirmed, meeting called to order by Patricia Walker (HGS President)

Time: 6:18 pm

2025-2026 Board Members

Patty Walker (P)

Bryan Guzman (PE)

Caroline Wachtman (VP)

Catherine Strong (D2)

Bryan Bottoms (S)

Angela Hammond (T)

Andrea Reynolds (TE)

Lauren Robinson (D3)

Lucia Torrado (E)

Sharma Dronmaraju (EE)

Bill DeMIs (D1)

Amanda Johnston (D4)

Board Present – Red were absent Green Were Present

Patty Walker (P)

Bryan Guzman (PE)

Caroline Wachtman (VP)

Bryan Bottoms (S)

Angela Hammond (T)

Andrea Reynolds (TE)

Lucia Torrado (E)

Sharma Dronmaraju (EE)

Bill DeMIs (D1)

Catherine Strong (D2)

Lauren Robinson (D3)

Amanda Johnston (D4)

Patty Walker – Meeting started at 6:20 pm with Quorum of 8 Board Members present.

First Order of Business Discussion & Approval of the Minutes: There were no edits received. No other board members had any proposed changes.

Motion:

Motion to approve the September 2025 Minutes. Bryan so Moved and Catherine seconded the Motion. There was no other discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

The Final Minutes for September can be found in the HGS Dropbox under: Dropbox\HGS Committee Report & Board Minutes\Monthly Meeting Minutes Reports\2025-2026 Board Minutes\2025-09\Final

Motion:

Motion to Approve Agenda. Bill so moved and Angela seconded. The Vote passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Angela Hammond

Expenses higher than revenue this month, but likely lag/etc. causing this.

HGS Treasurer's Report September 2025

This report provides an overview of the financial status of the Houston Geological Society (HGS) as of the end of September 2025. Note that the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget is yet to be finalized, therefore no graphs are included in the September Report.

Executive Summary:

- HGS Total Equity increased \$21,279 from August 2025 due to an increase in registrations and sponsor income.
- Budget – We are at about 2.1 years of reserves. The average spend per month was revised upwards to \$40,000 from the ~\$30,000 we had been spending after reviewing how much expenditure over the past fiscal year and into the first three months of this fiscal year.
- September 2025 Summary: The Investment portfolio continued to steadily increase from August 2025 to September 2025 by ~\$9,628. Revenue increased by \$11,651 from August 2025 to September 2025 due mainly to an increase in registrations and sponsor income and healthy donation income. Expenses from August 2025 to September 2025 increased by ~\$25,444, due in large part to conference expenses and website maintenance. Overall, Net Revenue for September 2025 is in the red at **(\$22,901)**.
- This month the conference expenses and website maintenance expenses was the largest hit to our net revenue, but on the positive registrations more than doubled from August and donation and sponsors income continue to help bolster revenue.
- NOTE: The August statement attached in the September monthly treasurer report does not match what was in the August monthly treasurer report due to an incorrectly coded deposit. There is no net change to the P&L.

Equity:

Total Equity in HGS portfolio (from Quickbooks):

| | August 2025 | September 2025 | Net Change (\$) |
|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Chase Checking | \$74,419 | \$86,070 | \$11,651 |
| Chase Savings | \$345 | \$345 | - |
| Schwab One | \$924,884 (\$96,110- <u>cash;\$828,774-</u> investments) | \$934,512 (\$97,901- <u>cash;\$836,611-</u> investments) | \$9,628 |
| Total Bank Accounts (Checking, Savings, Money Market, investments) | \$999,648 | \$1,020,927 | \$21,279 |

Assuming an operating cost of \$40,000/month (approx. average spending per month to date during the last fiscal year + the first three months of this fiscal year) reserves in the HGS liquid non-investment bank accounts (Chase checking+savings) are slightly more than 2 years (~2.1 years). Expenditure is on average higher than in the past due in large part to the website upgrade.

Motion: Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bryan moved and Andrea second the Motion. There was no discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

Secretary Report – Presented by Bryan Bottoms

New Membership Applications Report: No new members. Third month in a row that this was case – need to dive in further as to why that is. Other members expressed that other links on website are breaking/broken as well.

Only one new Emeritus Status update this month, and was approved.

Motion: Motion to approve the one Emeritus Membership Status. Bill moved and all seconded the Motion. There was no discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.

President Agenda

Major items for Discussion

1) Status update of Website rebuild –

- i) Work progressing but behind originally discussed schedule. As development continues and material is being ported over to the new site, still finding redundant and out of date content that is being resolved in real time. Likely looking at another 2-3 weeks before testing and deployment. Many positive changes and the additional time is justified to have a better product at deployment.
- ii) Will be adding descriptions of the purpose of each of the HGS Committees. Will use existing material on the HGS website. These will need review by the committee chairs to ensure they are accurate.
- iii) Still on Budget for what was initially agreed to.

2) Budget and new business

- i) Budget proposed is going to be in the red

3) Sage Partnership –

- i) Held follow up discussion with Alex Martinez on collaboration between SAGE and HGS per last board meeting. We have an agreed cross promotional partnership. Board approves. Catherine motioned to approve, and we all seconded

HGS SAGE Partnership Agreement

SAGE has invited HGS to join as a supporting professional society in promoting Summer of Applied Geophysical Experience (SAGE). This is an award-winning summer geophysics education and research program for undergraduate students, graduate students and working professionals. Based in Northern New Mexico, USA, participants meet and work with industry professionals, academics, and government research scientists while using modern geophysical methods to solve complex geologic problems. SAGE participants acquire, process, and interpret geophysical data at different scales using a variety of geophysical methods. SAGE is a non-profit that has close ties to the oil and gas industry through their support of the SAGE program.

HGS's role as a supporting organization would be to help connect talent with opportunity. There is no cost in becoming a supporting organization. SAGE's only request is that HGS amplify the event by sharing news and application windows across media platforms, to inform members and their affiliated employers. HGS agrees to:

- Post the flyer for applications and a link to the SAGE website on the HGS website in December 2025, January 2026 and February 2026.
- Post the application and link on the HGS Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn social media platforms in the same months as the website.
- Have SAGE promotional material at HGS events in December 2025 and January 2026.

In return, SAGE will assist HGS by promoting HGS to SAGE applicants and student and encourage them to join and participate in the society's events. SAGE agrees to:

- List HGS as a SAGE supporting organization on the SAGE website
- Post HGS-provided promotional material on HGS Memberships, Student Scholarships and Key events on the SAGE website in December 2025, January 2026 and February 2026.

Bryan Guzman – President Elect

Africa Conference

Putting together a large team of volunteers to tackle the 2026 conference in Houston. Have +9 people currently

Calvert Scholarship

- i) Reviewing if we can open sponsorship applications sooner than we had previously to make decisions around awards and for students to plan their finances much sooner than old submission dates

Communications Committee – nothing new

Foundation Scholarship Fund – update within treasurer’s report

Action Items –

- i) Coordinate with Lauren Robinson for promoting Calvert Memorial Scholarship Fund awards
- ii) Meet with Africa Conference team this Friday, grow volunteers, begin soliciting sponsorships
- iii) Discuss Collaboration with YMCA Camp Cullen

Editor – Lucia Torrado

Bulletin

- i) Going well, getting some articles from OU professor. Thanks to Bill for submitting an article.
- ii) Lucia will be out of town late November so trying to have as much as possible squared away for December issue.
- iii) Anything to send, please send to editor email.

Vice Presidents Report – Caroline Wachtman

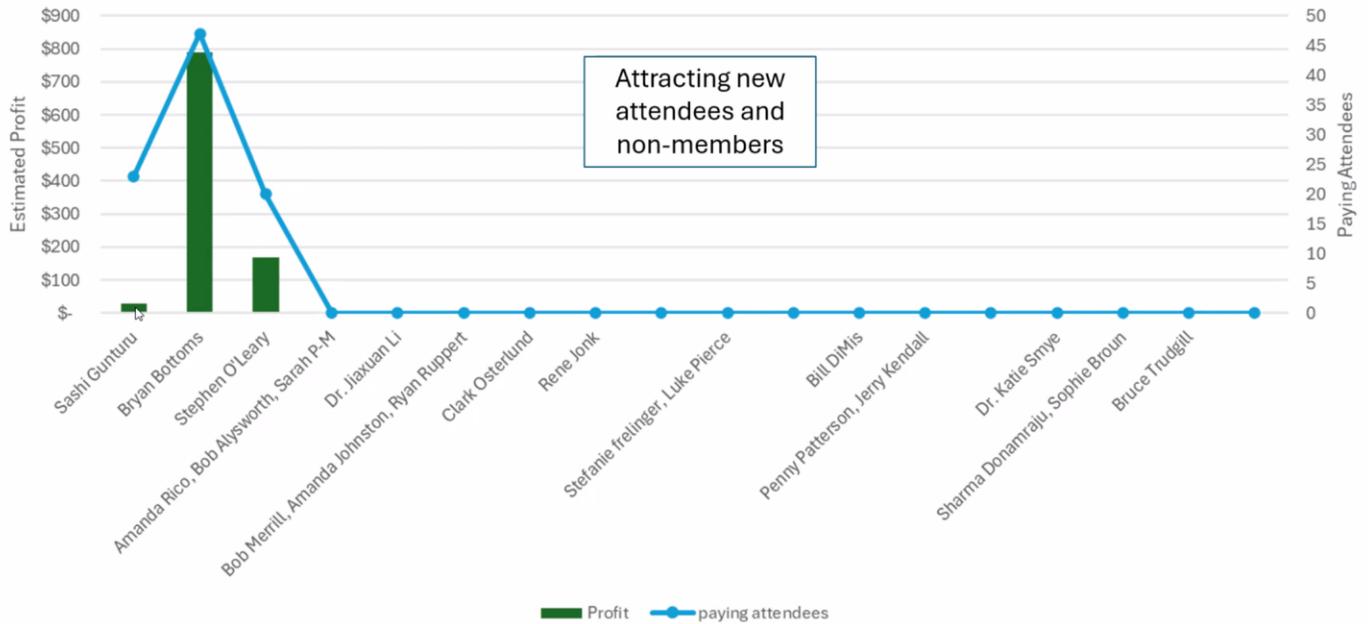
- i) Calendar looking good, filled out. People want the in person meetings. Broke even on dinners this month, lunch was profitable (\$800)
- ii) Website issues are turning people away.
- iii) Sheiff Lecture – upcoming next month – encourage board and others to reach out to network to get judges
- iv) New folks are coming to the dinners. Many people saying this is the first dinner they’ve been to.

General Dinner / Lunch 2025-26, Oct update

- **Highlights**
 - 15 sponsorship requests sent, 6 conversations initiated (Fugro, Luminae, Columbine, Diversified, Gverse, Stratum)
 - Met goal for Sept dinner: break even
 - Exceeded goal for Sept lunch: ~\$800 profit
 - Website issues are turning some away-- people unable to register online or by phone
- **General meeting look ahead:**
 - Share Sheriff Lecture with your networks
 - Identify Legends speaker; ideas welcome
 - Send out targeted emails to members advertising September lunch and dinner
- **E&E:**
 - First E&E dinner on the calendar for Oct 15

| Type | Date | Location | Speaker | Price (M/NM/S) |
|------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Dinner | 9/29/2025 | Spaghetti Western | Sashi Gunturu; AI for Geos | \$45/50/\$45 |
| Lunch | 9/24/2025 | Oxy, C106 | Bryan Bottoms; Lower 48 | \$30/\$35/\$25 |
| Happy Hour | 10/13/2025 | Federal Grill, Shepherd | Equinor, Smackover Lithium | \$45/50/\$45 |
| Lunch | 10/22/2025 | Murphy | Panel: Pivoting your career | \$30/\$35/\$25 |
| Dinner | 11/10/2025 | Norris, Magnolia | UH, Dr. Jiaxuan Li, seismology | \$65/\$75/\$40 |
| Lunch | 11/19/2025 | Oxy, P118 | Panel: IBA, EVOLVE, GWOB | \$30/\$35/\$25 |
| Happy Hour | 12/8/2025 | Federal Grill, Shepherd | ExxonMobil, Energy Outlook | \$45/50/\$45 |
| Lunch | 12/17/2025 | Virtual (or Apache) | Rene Jonk | \$15/\$20/\$10 |
| Dinner | 1/12/2026 | Perry's at Memorial | Dick Stoneburner | \$65/\$75/\$40 |
| Lunch | 1/21/2026 | Murphy | Cantium, Main Pass 313 | \$30/\$35/\$25 |
| Dinner | 2/9/2026 | Norris, Magnolia | Scholarship Night | \$65/\$75/\$40 |
| Lunch | 2/18/2026 | Total | Bill DeMis—Monetary policy | |
| Dinner | 3/2/2026 | Spaghetti Western | Penny and Jerry, Buffalo Bayou | |
| Lunch | 3/18/2026 | Apache | Mark Hamzat or Jon Rotzien | |
| Dinner | 4/13/2026 | Perrys at Memorial | UT, Katie Smye | \$65/\$75/\$40 |
| Lunch | 4/22/2026 | Woodside | Sharma, Sophie, Natural H2 | |
| Dinner | 5/4/2026 | Spaghetti Western | Oxy, Bruce Trudgill | |
| Lunch | 5/20/2026 | Woodside | Jon Rotzien | |

Lunch and Dinner Stewardship



Directors Reports:

Bill Demis

Field Trips – reciprocal pricing with RMAG – spoke to Robert, will follow up with RMAG, but if we fill their schedule up with HGS members can we get money too? Good point of discussion to follow up on.

New Event – Mercury Chamber Orchestra and HGS – New event for HGS members – discounted group pricing and free green room access. At Wortham Center. Could be a new event to just highlight. Simply a social outing. Good as long as it doesn't lose money. Target November 8th performance. Bill to get the wheels in motion. All motioned to approve.

Golf Tourney – sold out. Doing great. Next year will have bigger venue. Lesson learned is to start fund drive earlier. Targeting \$50K in sponsorship, next year \$75K. Andi has the numbers

Skeet Shoot – all good. 19 teams signed up. \$6700 in sponsorship

Pickleball – waiting on a call back. Didn't put in budget request so would need to submit a supplemental budget request.

Membership Drive – Board approved going forward with the membership drive and not waiting for the webpage to be update.

Catherine Strong

Case Studies – Speaker schedule filled out. Abstracts submitted. Going well

SEF – not a lot going on . Event is in February.

Houston Musuem of Natural Science - busy recent months with lots of school groups coming in. Janet reports. Will find out if HGS gets any publicity from people volunteering.

Lauren Robinson

NeoGeos – Pickleball tourney this Thursday. Have two sponsors. Free event!

Student Expo – Don't have update on it yet. Asking for photos, news, etc.

Social Media – followers etc. staying same or increasing. In talks with AAPG about potential sponsorships on our new website.

Amanda Johnston

Educational outreach posters are updated. We plan to send these to the social media team to share with our community

Earth Science Week - Rock samples were given at the museum and teachers were very happy with new materials for their classrooms

AGI is delivering educational videos this week. A new one launches everyday at noon through Thursday. We've prepped a flyer for LinkedIn/social media to be shared

CEC is prepping for the November short course. Registration is limited. We've prepped another flyer for our social media with reduced information.

Presidents Report:

Office Report – nothing new

Old Business – nothing new

New Business – Budget for 2025-2026 – Budget shortfall of \$47k.

Main Drivers for shortfall –

- Africa conference in UK provides no income to HGS.
- HGS bulletin expense is 20k, but advertising revenue only 4k
- Continuing education profit projected to be 1/3 of previous fiscal year.
- Several committees have no income to offset expenses. Add up to 14.5k
- Increase in general dinner costs, projected to lose 5k
- Membership dues declining.

Reviewed budget and discussed some of the key items causing shortfall. Discussed how we can save money. Ideas being cutting back things like Presidents night & Chair Fest. Up Membership costs to \$50 or more – would require an amendment because can only up membership costs 20% every 2 years.

Discussion around if we should consider a totally virtual office? Do other societies do this?

Budget approved. Catherine motioned to approve and seconded.

Next Meeting Date – To be scheduled by the new incoming President Patty Walker. Tentatively Tuesday November 11th 2025 @ 6:15pm.

Placeholder will be sent from Andi to all board members for meetings on second Tuesday of the month.

Motion:

Motion to adjourn the meeting Caroline and seconded by Bryan.

All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.