



# HGS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** November 11th, 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 6:18 pm with Quorum of 11 Board Members present.

**First Order of Business Discussion & Approval of the Minutes:** Edits received and taken care. No other board members had any proposed changes.

## Motion:

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

The Final Minutes for October can be found in the HGS Dropbox under: Dropbox\HGS Committee Report & Board Minutes\Monthly Meeting Minutes Reports\2025-2026 Board Minutes\2025-10\Final

## Motion:

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

# Treasurer's Report – Angela Hammond

## HGS Treasurer's Report October 2025

This report provides an overview of the financial status of the Houston Geological Society (HGS) as of the end of October 2025.

### Executive Summary:

- HGS Total Equity decreased \$13,426 from September 2025 due to an increase in General Administration expenses along with expenses coming in from the Bulletin, Holiday Party, Shrimp Peel, Student Expo, Website Upgrade with no revenue to offset the expenses.
- Budget – We are at about 1.6 years of reserves, assuming \$40,000/month for expenses.
- October 2025 Summary: The Investment portfolio continued to steadily increase from September 2025 to October 2025 by ~\$9,119. Revenue decreased by \$22,545 from September 2025 to October 2025 due mainly to expenses coming in from the Bulletin, Holiday Party, Shrimp Peel, Student Expo, and Website upgrade with no revenue to offset. Expenses from September 2025 to October 2025 decreased by ~\$7,150, due in large part to increase in registrations, especially for the Clay Shoot and Golf Tournament. Overall, Net Revenue for October 2025 is in the black at \$5,036.
- This month Social Event Expenses, Payroll and Conference expenses were the largest hit to our net revenue, but on the positive registrations more than doubled from September and Royalty and Sponsors income continue to help bolster revenue.

### Revenue and Expenses:

Operating revenues and expenses (see Figure 1) in October 2025 were as follows:

Majority Revenue - \$37,935 from Golf Tournament, \$9,375 from Clay Shoot, and \$5,968 from Royalty Income. Including Investment revenue of \$2,456, **Total Revenue = \$64,569.**

Majority Expenses – Golf Tournament (\$27,939); Payroll (\$6,341); Student Expo (\$5,008). **Total Expenses = (\$57,077).**

**Net Gain = \$5,036**

Figure 2 shows a break-down by Class of revenue vs. expenses to provide a more granular view as to what Events are exceeding expectations or underperforming with respect to revenue coming in and will help the HGS board make decisions on our funding strategy, e.g. what events to continue to fund, either in the short term or for next year, and what to focus on to boost registrations.

Figure 3 shows how each the key Classes are performing on a monthly basis and gives insight into how they are stacking up against each other and shows the impact of key events, such as Scholarship Night, on Sponsors Income and Registrations.

HGS is in the black, our revenue outweighed our expenses by \$5,036. Our expenditure from September to October did decrease by \$7,150 but we still need to continue to look for ways to reduce costs and increase revenue coming in. Table 1 below gives an overview of where the revenue streams have been coming in over the past fiscal year, with Registrations and Sponsor Income leading the way.

Table 1: Percentage of Revenue Streams from July 2024 to October 2025

Revenue Stream	Revenue Total	% of Cum Total
Membership Dues	\$65,817.00	9.7%
Registrations	\$240,468.37	35.5%
Donation Income	\$76,113.88	11.2%
Sponsors Income	\$233,935.00	34.5%
Short Course Income	\$24,478.75	3.6%
Website Advertising Income	\$2,000.00	0.3%
Advertising Income	\$6,875.00	1.0%
Publication Royalties	\$27,426.06	4.0%
Unapplied Cash Payment Revenue	\$1,000.00	0.1%
Conference Profits	-\$134.00	0.0%
<b>CUM TOTAL</b>	<b>\$677,980.06</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

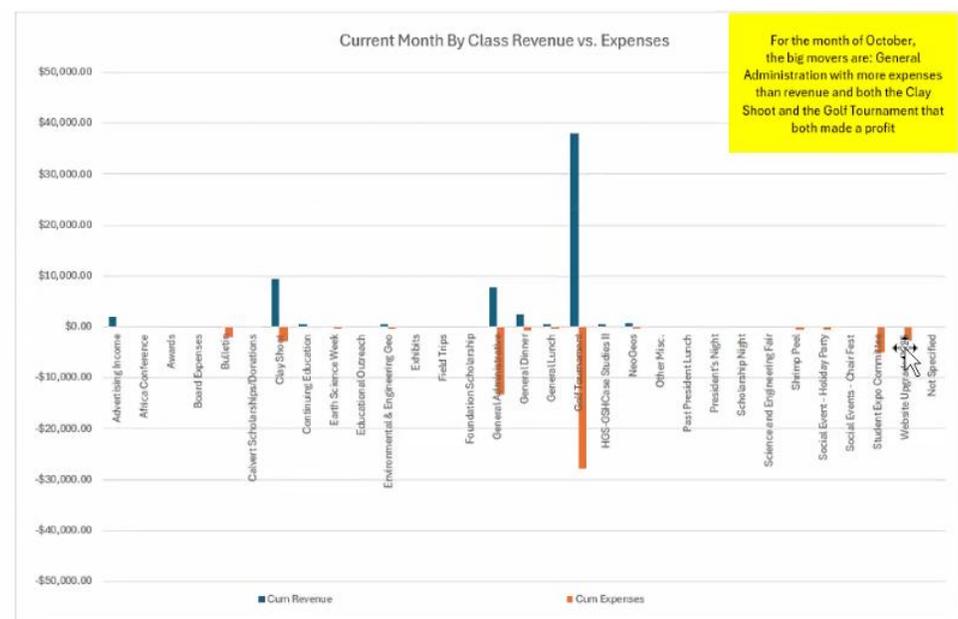
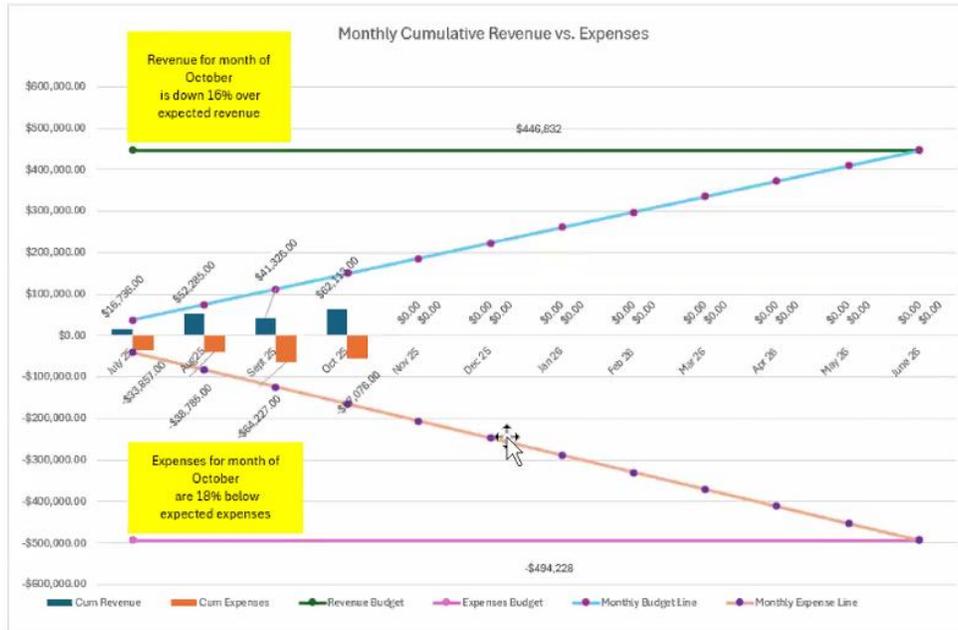


Figure 2: Current Month (October) by Class Revenue vs. Expenses

Golf Tournament was a huge success in building brand and brought in most money ever for that event.

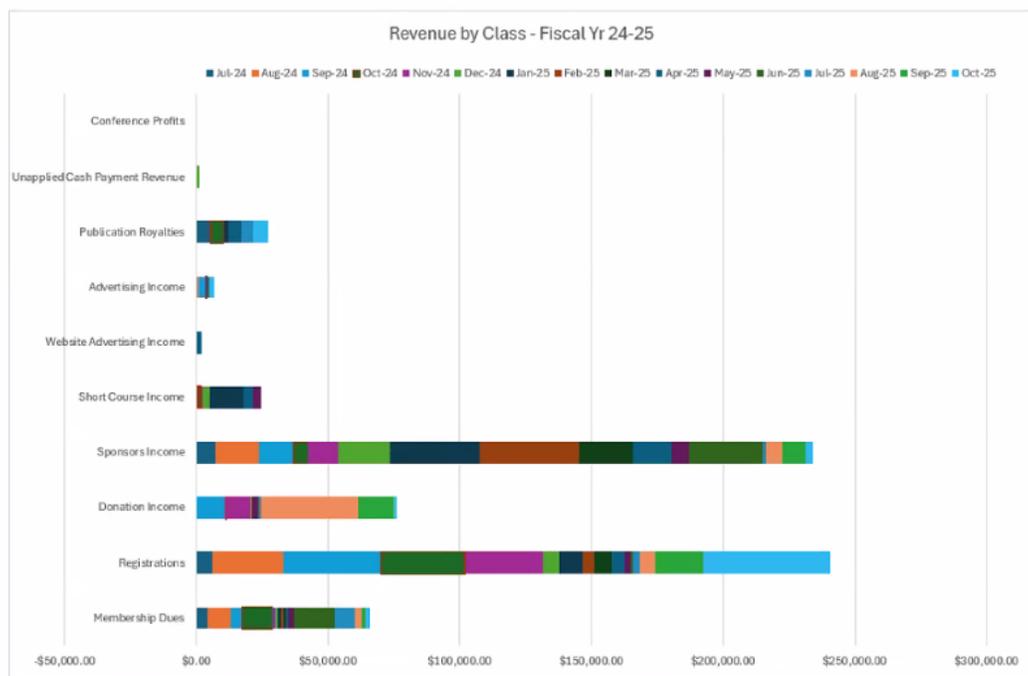


Figure 3: Revenue by Class – Fiscal Yr 24-25

Discussion around monthly expenses: Expenses have been reducing, essentially through G&A via downsizing office, negotiating contracts, etc. Only way to further cut G&A would be to go virtual and not have a brick & mortar location. Mixed support for that.

**Motion: Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Catherine moved and Bill second the Motion. There was no discussion, Vote passed Unanimously.**

### Secretary Report – Presented by Bryan Bottoms

New Membership Applications Report: One new member, 2 students, 2 Emeritus  
All 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. Minutes, phone numbers, and emails all removed from website. This Friday (11/14) is next status update and should get a firm date of when viable

## Bryan Guzman – President Elect

### Africa Conference

Last committee meeting was 11/5. Setting up Google drive for team collaboration. Still expanding volunteers/themes. Next meeting 11/19/2025

### Calvert Scholarship

- i) Ongoing discussion about application timing change. Will finalize in coming weeks

### Communications Committee – nothing new

### Foundation Scholarship Fund –

### Action Items –

- i) Heading to Camp Cullen this Saturday
- ii) Toured SM’s facilities in Energy Corridor and they asked if we were interested in hosting events/training courses. TV’s are small, but they’re interested in setting up short courses – Good idea on for future events.

## Editor – Lucia Torrado

### Bulletin

- i) Working on bulletin
- ii) Future article going to be on Sherriff lecture
- iii) If everything can be sent by this Friday, will help because Lucia will be traveling for next few weeks
- iv) Working on Girl Scout STEM event
- v) Lots of people commenting about Sherriff Lecture not being advertised enough

## Vice Presidents Report – Caroline Wachtman

# General Dinner / Lunch 2025-26, Nov update

### • Highlights / Challenges

- Yet to be successful in securing sponsorships—challenge for one-off requests
- Breakeven on overall program of lunches and dinners
- Lost \$1100 on Sheriff Lecture (\$68/person cost v. \$55/person income)
  - Evaluate options for next year; difficult to attract attendees
  - Registration challenges continue (amplified by office support constraints—Friday/Monday)
- Targeted emails prioritize golf/clays v. dinner/lunches
- Scheduling challenges with other societies result in loss of prospective attendees
- Linked In post sharing challenges

### • General meeting look ahead:

- Thanks to Bill for “Legends” speaker
- First virtual lunch in December

### • E&E:

- Ethics lecture on 12 November

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	

- i) Tough to get sponsorships, especially when they have contributed to other events. Having a coherent strategy around it would be great so not having multiple people approaching the same companies asking for sponsorships.
- ii) Sherriff Lecture was losing money, lots of people comped. People cost \$68, but cost was \$40-\$60. Events are currently about break even given we made some money early on, and lost money on most recent event.
- iii) Still a challenge to get people registered who are not members. Website seems to have issues still so hopefully new website will fix that.
- iv) Time challenges with staff having Friday's off immediately before the Monday meetings. Hard to quantify. Dinners are larger problem for this. Mondays are also tough, maybe reconsider for another day?
- v) Can we get data out of the website on registrations in recent years? Would be good to quantify.
- vi) Norris center is the huge cost. Alternative would be hosting at UH (could be slightly lower cost) or somewhere else. It feels special for these students to go off campus, etc. Perhaps BP or Chevron could host?
- vii) Discussion from Patty about UH alumni helping to support the cost of this. It mostly benefits their students, maybe they can help with the cost if it's something they see as beneficial to the program.
- viii) Maybe having the Lunch and Dinner scheduler being a multi-year role so some momentum can get going and learnings can be applied going forward.
- ix) Lunch meeting next week at same time as AAPG event at same time and their event is free.
- x) Dick Stoneburner at Legends Dinner, Virtual event in December – will see how it goes.



**Directors Reports:**

**Bill Demis**

**Membership** – Total notices sent out 1141 – Renewals = 112 (9.8%) all from 1 email

Average brought down because contacting members who have lapsed from 2023 and beyond

115 renewed members all classes since email sent out

Great data below showing the impact we have and compared to recent AAPG Membership Drive

If we could split this data up especially amongst people we know, companies, age demographics, etc. this could be even more impactful

Question from Amanda – Can we make membership auto renew? Good question for website meeting this week

Members with the most years were the most likely to renew their membership with just one email; even for Members who had lapsed over 2 years ago.

**Total Notices for 2025 expiration date: 553**

Renewals from 2025 expiration date: 77 (13.9%)  
More than one year since "Current Cycle Start": 58 (75%)  
Emertius Members of Total for cohort: 16 (2.9%)

**Total Notices for 2024 expiration date: 449**

Renewals from 2024 expiration date: 29 (6.45%)  
More than one year since "Current Cycle Start": 14 (48%)  
Emertius Members of Total for cohort: 7 (1.56%)

**(Last 2 years: 1002)**

**Total Notices for 2023 and older expiration date: 138**

Renewals from 2023 expiration date: 7 (5.07%)  
More than one year since "Current Cycle Start": 7 (100%)  
Emertius Members of Total for cohort: 1 (14.2%)

**Data from AAPG Membership Drive 2025**

Email only	Email, plus Phone call, plus social media
19%	31%
14%	44%
12.5%	47%
12.5%	37%
15%	42%
17%	35%
11%	54%
16%	49%
14.625	42.375

If anyone wants to join membership effort, send email to Bill, and we can get this going

### Catherine Strong

**Case Studies** – January 15<sup>th</sup>. Dozen speakers, great topics on different fields around the world. Focused on variety of different issues. Lots of editing done on abstracts. Have approval from all speakers

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

**Houston Museum of Natural Science** - Janet had events for GEMS at Museum. Busy and steady stream of people

Need for volunteers at Museum is constant, especially on Fridays

**HGMS** – all last weekend and lots of school field trips/ scouts/ lots of good volunteers and traffic. Lots of rock salt samples & pamphlets distributed.

### Lauren Robinson

**NeoGeos** – Happy Hour on 13<sup>th</sup> of this week. EOY Celebration!

**Student Expo** – Nothing new

**Social Media** – Working on advertising going forward

### Amanda Johnston

November Short Course - Cancelled because there has only been one sign up. Emails tend to get sent to Gmail "promotional or social" and that's commonly regarded as Spam. LinkedIn should be our biggest advertising platform. Might be good to start advertising well in advance because it will show up on their feed many weeks later still on timeline.

Amanda to provide LinkedIn tips for gaming the algorithm to board.

Educational outreach posters are updated and look great.

### Presidents Report:

**Office Report** – nothing new

**Old Business** – nothing new

**New Business** – Website launch and board testing coming soon.

Christmas Party set for Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> at Cadillac Bar – Penny is taking the lead on this.

**Next Meeting Date** – To be scheduled by the new incoming President Patty Walker. Tentatively Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Andrea and seconded by Amanda.**

**All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.**

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