

Why GSA Membership Is Important to Me

And to Colleagues in Applied Geoscience Fields



Jonathan G. Price

I have appreciated my membership in GSA primarily because of the science—the peer-reviewed literature in GSA’s journals and special publications, the new work presented at GSA Annual and Section Meetings, and the exchange of information and ideas on field trips and at specialty meetings.

Most of my career has been in areas of applied geoscience (mineral exploration, mining, and state geological survey work related to mineral and energy resources, natural hazards, and environmental issues). I have found GSA field trips to be particularly helpful. For example, associated with the GSA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, Chris Henry, Don Parker, Dan Barker, and I co-led a field trip about the igneous geology of Trans-Pecos Texas. About half of the attendees were individuals whom we invited, specifically because they were experts either on the types of rocks or the geographic area that we visited. We learned a tremendous amount on that trip, because those experts and other geoscientists who attended gave us new perspectives on the rocks that we had been studying for years.

Another example was seeing first-hand the evidence that John Warme showed us about the Alamo Breccia and Devonian impact (pretty much dead-center on Area 51 in Nevada) during a field trip associated with a combined Cordilleran–Rocky Mountain Section Meeting. I expect that most of my colleagues in applied areas of geoscience would agree that they look to GSA primarily for the quality of science. Because of a disciplinary or business focus, they also go to the meetings of many of GSA’s Associated Societies; in my case, these have primarily been the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG); the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, Exploration (SME); the Association of American State Geologists (AASG); the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG); and, occasionally, American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG).

The networking opportunities offered at GSA meetings and on GSA field trips are another major draw for us to be members.

Jonathan G. Price

GSA President, 2015–2016

GSA member since 1974; GSA Fellow since 1989