Summary, the State of the Section:

Membership in the North-Central Section stood at 3,130 voting members at the end of December, 2016. The Section is the fourth largest of the six GSA Sections.

2017-2018 Management Board:
William W. Simpkins, Chair, Iowa State University
Alan Wanamaker, Vice-Chair, Iowa State University
Timothy G. Fisher, Past Chair, University of Toledo
James A. Harrell, Past Vice-Chair, University of Toledo
C. Renee Sparks, Member at Large 2015-2018, Calvin College
Tina M. Niemi, Member at Large 2016-2019, University of Missouri – Kansas City
B. Brandon Curry, Member at Large 2017-2020, Illinois State Geological Survey
Melinda C. Higley, Student Representative, 2017-2019, University of Illinois
Steven E. Brown, Representative to GPPC, 2017-2020, Illinois State Geological Survey

Financial Summary

The financial security of the Section remains very strong due to the fiscal prudence of the committees running the recent meetings (see Meeting overview for detail on net income returned to the Section). Total section revenue was $87,015 (including section dues, meeting revenue, investment/dividend income, and transfers from GSAF/GSA) and expenses were $92,782 (including meeting expenses, grants and awards, and transfers to the Section endowment held by the GSA Foundation). At the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year the operating account balance was $102,371, well exceeding the Management Board’s target of having assets approximately equal to the cost of one typical-sized annual meeting plus operating costs, and of providing stability and ensuring continuity of Section activities. Support for student programs comprises the vast majority of all expenditures (other than spring meeting costs) of the Section.

The Section has allocated up to $14,100 for 2017-2018 in Section funds to be used for:
- Student travel grants – up to $8,000 (then increased by partial match from GSAF)
- Student paper awards – up to $2,000
- Undergraduate research grants – up to $2,100
- Support for On to the Future, up to $1,000, and
- Support for a student to attend Congressional Visits Day, up to $1,000

The dues income for the Section ($3,498 in 2016-2017) covers the general operating costs of the Section, but is not sufficient to support these programs; each section meeting is budgeted to return a minimum of $14,000 net income to the section to accomplish this support.
Section Endowment

The Section has substantially increased its endowment over the years. The Board made an initial pledge and payment of $2,000 in 1996 to the North-Central Section Endowment Fund of the GSA Foundation (this Fund was referred to as the Second Century Fund in older North-Central reports to Council) with funds taken from the Section treasury (operating funds). The Management Board, at its annual meeting, has continued to approve a maximum continuing annual contribution to the Foundation. The funds from this Section endowment fund have been intended for student support. Because of the need to increase the financial stability of the Section, payments were not made over a number of years, and the amount of funds in the endowment remained very low. However, $2,000 was contributed in September of 2005. Since then, because of the increase in financial stability of the Section following the financial success of recent meetings, annual transfers to the endowment have been $7,000 to $20,000.

The fund continued to grow but was greatly affected by the downturn in the stock market in early 2009 and by subsequent market fluctuations. At the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal years the endowment was at $63,997. At the end of May, 2010, with a fiscal-year contribution of $20,000, plus a $5,000 match from the Foundation, the North-Central Endowment was at $100,536, but at the end of June, 2010 (the end of the 2009-2010 fiscal year), the endowment was down to $98,292. With further contributions, the ending balance of the North-Central Endowment as of the end of June, 2011, was $138,312.

Because of the excellent state of the Section’s finances, in March of 2011 the Management Board approved a contribution of up to $20,000 to the GSA Foundation in fiscal year 2011-2012 and $7,000 was transferred to the endowment in September of 2011. That was matched by $5,000 from the Foundation, and the endowment at the end of fiscal year 2011-2012 totaled $154,603. A maximum contribution of $20,000 for fiscal year 2012-2013 was also approved at the 2012 meeting of the Management Board, and $10,000 was transferred after the Dayton meeting with the accompanying $5000 match. At the end of June 2013, the North-Central Section Endowment stood at $184,688. The Management Board approved a maximum contribution of $20,000 again for fiscal year 2013-2014 pending outcome of the Kalamazoo meeting actuals, and the $20,000 plus the $5000 GSAF match helped raise the endowment to $237,643 by the end of June 2014. By the end of March, 2015 (most recent numbers available), after a transfer of $16,000 and the $5000 match, the balance stood at $265,365. $20,000 was transferred into the endowment in FY 2016, and the balance on June 30, 2016 was $287,466.

In 2016-2017, $20,000 was transferred into the endowment during a robust earning environment, and the funds had grown to $342,422 by end of fiscal year:

![NC Section Operating and Endowment Accounts](image-url)
Scientific Meetings Program:

2017: The 51st Annual Meeting was held Sunday through Tuesday, March 19-21 at Omni William Penn, Pittsburgh, jointly with the Northeastern Section. Total registration was 1345, which generated $194,788 in revenue. 661 papers and posters were presented in 75 sessions (39 oral and 36 poster sessions). The Welcoming Reception on Saturday evening allowed attendees to network through the exhibits, and the Monday evening Banquet showcased Keynote speaker, Michelle Wyman, Executive Director of the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE). Six field trips were planned and ran with 92 attendees. Exhibits and sponsorships brought in $17,325. Net revenue for the meeting was $50,457, of which $19,031 came to the North-Central Section (with 33% of attendees).

2016: The 50th Annual Meeting was held Monday and Tuesday, April 18-19 at I Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of University of Illinois. Total registration was 620, which generated $78,185 in revenue. 385 papers and posters were presented in 39 sessions (23 oral and 16 poster sessions). The Welcoming Reception on Sunday evening allowed attendees to network through the exhibits, and the Monday evening 50th Anniversary Celebration showcased GSA President-Elect Dr. Claudia Mora sharing the reasons she values her GSA membership and reporting on the upcoming transition to Open access. Available at the celebration were special and appropriately named beer from two local breweries, including cans of specially made Glacial Drift amber ale from Triptych Brewing. Nine field trips were planned and five ran with 79 attendees generating gross revenue of $6,025. Exhibits and sponsorships brought in $3,440. Net revenue for the meeting was $21,072.41.

In 1990, the North-Central Section Management Board initiated a long-range planning effort to enhance meeting quality and marketing, which has generally been successful, as in the recent years shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location and dates</td>
<td>23-24 April, Dayton, OH</td>
<td>2-3 May, Kalamazoo, MI</td>
<td>24-25 April, Lincoln, NE</td>
<td>19-20 May, Madison, WI</td>
<td>18-19 April, Champaign, IL</td>
<td>19-21 March, Pittsburgh, PA, joint w/NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>1345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$10,933</td>
<td>$31,137</td>
<td>$15,885</td>
<td>$27,278</td>
<td>$21,072</td>
<td>$19,031</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future Meetings: A meeting in Ames, Iowa in 2018; a ‘triple joint’ meeting with South-Central and Rocky Mountain sections in Manhattan, Kansas in 2019; a 2020 meeting in Duluth, Minnesota; and a 2021 meeting in Springfield, Missouri are confirmed, venues contracted or in the process, and local committees formed or forming.

Professional Development/Awards/Membership and Student Involvement:

The Section's primary Awards and Professional Development Programs are targeted to increase student involvement. Student attendance at Section meetings continues to be substantial, and has increased during the last few years. Student attendance at meetings since 2009 has ranged from 43% (Branson 2010) to 56% (Pittsburgh 2017).
Travel Grants: The Section’s travel grants support student attendance. Up to $6,000 from North-Central Section operating funds were allocated for each of the 2010-2011 through 2014-2015 fiscal years for student travel to the GSA Annual meetings and to the Section meetings. The travel grant funding from the section operating fund is partially matched by the GSA Foundation. The Section voted in 2015 to increase the amount of operating funds to be disbursed for travel grants from $6000 to $8000. The funding also provides partial support to a student to represent the Section on the Student Advisory Council (SAC) and travel to the Annual Meeting. Since 2014, the North-Central Section has also supported the On To the Future program through the GSA Foundation with $1,000 annually.

During 2016-2017, $13,960 was awarded in travel grants, and $13,085 was disbursed. For the 2016 Annual Meeting in Denver, 100 grants were awarded (37 denied), most for $75, with a total of $7,560. $6,685 was actually distributed after the meeting. For the Pittsburgh section meeting, 34 grants were awarded (two denied), from $100 to $200, for a total of $6,400, and that amount was actually distributed.

Student Paper/Poster Awards: The Section has increased maximum Student Paper/Poster Awards from $400 in 1990 to $2,000 at present. Eight awards of $50 or $200 totaling $850 were awarded for posters at the Pittsburgh meeting.

Geoscience Congressional Visits Day: In 2015, the Section approved covering some costs, up to $1,000, for a student to travel to Congressional Visits Day in September. This funding was continued for 2017.

The Roy J. Shlemon Mentor Program in Applied Geoscience and the John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program are provided through GSA headquarters at the section Annual meetings, and in 2017 Career workshops were held onsite.

GSA Campus Representatives from the Section are invited to meet with the Meeting Planning and Technical Program Advisory Board and Local Committees during the section Annual Meetings in order to be recognized for their service, and to provide input into future meeting planning, the technical program, and student involvement.

Research Grants Program:

The Section initiated a competitive Research Grants Program for undergraduate student members in 1993. Grant application forms and procedures were developed and have been refined over time. The maximum amount of an individual grant is limited to $300. Eleven grants were awarded in the 2010-2011 fiscal year, for a total of $2,100. In the 2011-2012 fiscal year, four grants were awarded for a total of $1,150; in 2012-2013, three grants were awarded totaling $900. In 2013-2014, four grants were awarded totaling $940. Though marketing was increased to build awareness of the grants, in 2014-2015 four grants totaling $980 were awarded. At the 2015 Section meeting, the Management Board approved increasing the maximum for each award to $500, while keeping the total available for grants at $2100.

In 2016-2017, $2,000 was awarded in undergraduate research grants of varying amounts from $175 to $490 to six students.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy S. Williams, Executive Secretary, North-Central Section