Summary, the State of the Section:

Membership in the North-Central Section stood at 3,320 voting members of the Section as of December 2018. The Section is the fourth largest of the six GSA Sections.

2019-2020 Management Board:
Amy Myrbo, Chair, LacCore, CSDCO; University of Minnesota
Harry M. Jol, Vice-Chair, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
Karen B. Gran, Vice-Chair, University of Minnesota Duluth
Tina M. Niemi, Past Chair, University of Missouri – Kansas City
Jejung Lee, Past Vice-Chair, University of Missouri – Kansas City
Karen Gran, Outgoing Member at Large, 2018-2019, University of Minnesota Duluth
B. Brandon Curry, Member at Large 2017-2020, Illinois State Geological Survey
Lucas K. Zoet, Member at Large 2018-2021, University of Wisconsin – Madison
Michael B. Wolf, Member at Large 2019-2022, Augustana College
Melinda C. Higley, Outgoing Student Representative, 2017-2019, University of Illinois
Collin Roland, Incoming Student Representative, 2019-2021 University of Wisconsin - Madison
Robert T. Goldman, Representative to GPPC, 2019-2020, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Financial Summary

Section Operating Account

The financial security of the Section remains strong due to the fiscal prudence of the local committees planning the meetings (see table in Scientific Meetings Program section below for detail on net income returned to the Section).

The operating account balance at the beginning of FY2019 was $100,830. Total section revenue was $49,508 (including section dues, meeting revenue, investment/dividend income, and transfers from GSAF/GSA) and expenses were $68,104 (including meeting expenses, grants and awards, travel, and transfers to the Section endowment held by the GSA Foundation). At the end of FY2019 the operating account balance was $82,233 - close to the Management Board’s target of having assets to cover the cost of one typical-sized Section 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 $14,600 for FY2020 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 $1,500, and
• Support for a student to attend Geosciences Congressional Visits Day, up to $1,000.
The dues income for the Section ($3,417 in FY2019) 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. That has been challenging recently with the 2018 meeting in Ames, Iowa affected by a late winter storm, and the three-way split of revenue and expenses with the 2019 Manhattan, Kansas first-ever triple joint meeting.

**Section Endowment**

The Section has 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, plus the $5,000 GSAF match.

The fund continued to grow but was affected by the downturn in the stock market in early 2009 and by subsequent market fluctuations. At the end of FY2009 the endowment was at $63,997. At the end of FY2010, with a contribution of $20,000, and $5,000 match from the Foundation, the North-Central Endowment was $98,292. With further contributions, the ending balance of the North-Central Endowment as of the end of FY2011, 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 FY2012 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 FY2012 totaled $154,603.

Every year since, a maximum contribution of $20,000 has been approved for each fiscal year. The growth of the endowment can be seen below. In FY2018, $10,000 was transferred into the endowment, and the funds had grown to $376,802 by end of fiscal year.

In FY2019, $20,000 was transferred into the endowment, and the funds had grown to $417,649 by end of fiscal year:

![North-Central Section Operating & Endowment Accounts](image-url)
Scientific Meetings Program:

**2019: The 52nd Annual Meeting** was held Monday through Wednesday March 25-27 at the Manhattan Conference Center and Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Kansas (see also reports from South-Central and Rocky Mountain sections). This was the first ever joint meeting with three sections. There were 642 registrants of which 263 (41%) were from North-Central, 244 (38%) were from South-Central, and 135 (21%) were from Rocky Mountain. Of the 642 total registered attendees, 179 were professionals, 41 were early career professionals, 338 were students and the remaining attendees included student assistants, exhibitors, staff, teachers, and spouses. Net revenue was $17,933 and was shared according to the percentage of professional attendees from each section. Exhibits and sponsorships generated $11,343. There were five field trips with 91 participants. A total of 358 papers and posters were accepted and presented in 43 sessions (24 oral and 19 poster).

The 2019 joint meeting was a success by any definition; Matthew Kirk and his team are responsible for the huge undertaking. Tina Niemi (North-Central organizing Chair, University of Missouri-KC) was unable to attend the meeting due to family matters, and the Section appreciates and recognizes Alison Graettinger (Technical Program co-chair, University of Missouri-KC), who stepped up before the meeting to do double duty.

**2018: The 52nd Annual Meeting** was held Monday and Tuesday, April 16-17, at the Scheman Building in the Iowa State University (ISU) Conference Center, located on the campus of Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa. Total registration was 592, which generated $94,171 in total revenue. A total of 393 papers and posters were presented in 44 sessions (24 oral and 20 poster sessions). A major snow and ice storm (Winter Storm Xanto) in the upper Midwest on Sunday, April 15\(^{th}\) prevented many participants from coming to the conference and presenting talks. The Welcoming Reception on Sunday evening allowed attendees to network through the exhibits and sample Deposition-ale, a special meeting brew from the local Alluvial Brewery. Concurrent with the receptions, an informal Lightning Talk session was sponsored in which six graduate students presented talks of three minutes or less for an enthusiastic audience of about 60 participants. The Monday evening reception was preceded by a research presentation in the Benton Auditorium by the Keynote Speaker, GSA President Dr. Isabel Montanez, entitled: “Deep-Time Insight into Earth’s Future.” The Keynote Reception with hot food and desserts followed immediately afterward in the poster area. The ISU Bookstore also sponsored a book signing by Dr. William Alley of the National Groundwater Association during the reception. Three Geoscience Career Workshops for students were well attended and the Roy J. Shlemon and John Mann mentor lunches were filled to capacity and had to turn students away. Due to low field trip registrations and inclement weather (snow and ice, specifically), only one of the seven field trips planned actually ran, producing $840 in revenue. Three short courses were presented and produced revenue of $510. Exhibits and sponsorships generated $11,511. Net revenue for the meeting was $11,518.19.

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

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location and dates</strong></td>
<td>2–3 May, Kalamazoo</td>
<td>24–25 April, Lincoln</td>
<td>19–20 May, Madison</td>
<td>18–19 April, Champaign</td>
<td>19–21 March, Pittsburgh, joint w/NE</td>
<td>6–17 April, Ames</td>
<td>25-27 March, Manhattan, joint w/SC &amp; RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendance</strong></td>
<td>476</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>1345</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>$31,137</td>
<td>$15,885</td>
<td>$27,278</td>
<td>$21,072</td>
<td>$19,031</td>
<td>$11,518</td>
<td>$7,052</td>
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</table>
**Future Meetings:** A 2020 meeting in Duluth, Minnesota and a 2021 meeting in Springfield, Missouri joint with South-Central are confirmed, venues contracted, and local committees formed or forming; and a 2022 meeting in (or near) Cincinnati joint with Southeastern is organizing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Local Chair(s)</th>
<th>Joint with</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-19 May 2020</td>
<td>Duluth, MN</td>
<td>Amy Myrbo</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-20 April 2021</td>
<td>Springfield, MO</td>
<td>Doug Gouzie</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>Lewis Owen</td>
<td>SE</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**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). Students composed about 53% of the attendees in Manhattan 2019.

**Travel Grants Program:**
The Section’s travel grants support student attendance with the help of a $4,500 match 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. From 2014 through FY2017, the North-Central Section also supported the *On the Future* program through the GSA Foundation with $1,000 annually. The amount was increased to $1,500 starting for FY2018.

During FY2019, $13,850 was available for travel grants for the Annual and Section meeting.
- For the 2018 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, 124 grants were awarded and 14 were denied (almost $58,000 had been requested). There were 12 grants for $50 and 112 for $75, for a total awarded of $9,000. $8,050 was actually distributed after the meeting.
- For the 2019 Manhattan Section meeting, 29 grants were awarded (and two were denied). The grants ranged from $75 to $300, for a total of $5,990 awarded - but less was distributed.

**Student Paper/Poster Awards:** The Section has increased maximum Student Oral Presentation/Poster Awards from $400 in 1990 to $2,000 at present. Sixteen students were awarded a total of $2,000 for poster and oral presentations at the 2019 Manhattan meeting – one first place ($200) and three honorable mentions ($100 each) in each category for undergraduates and graduates.

**Geoscience Congressional Visits Day:** In 2015, the Section first approved covering some costs, up to $1,000, for a student to travel to Congressional Visits Day in September. This funding was continued for GEO-CVD 2019 for our fifth student to participate.

**Mentor Programs and Career Planning:** 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 2019 three Career workshops were held onsite in Manhattan.

**Communications with Geoscience Departments:** 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 was limited to $300. Eleven grants were awarded in FY2011 for a total of $2,100. In FY2012, four grants were awarded for a total of $1,150; in FY2013, three grants were awarded totaling $900. In FY2014,
four grants were awarded totaling $940. Though marketing was increased to build awareness of the grants, in FY2015 four grants totaling $980 were awarded. At the 2015 Section meeting, the Management Board approved increasing the maximum for each award from $300 to $500, while keeping the total available for grants at $2100. In 2016 three students were awarded a total of $1,080. 2017 saw $2,000 awarded to six students. Last year $2,100 was awarded to five students in varying amounts from $100 to $500

In spring of 2019, there were ten applications (!!!), but one declined due to other funding. $2,000 was awarded to nine students in amounts varying from $200 to $350:

Shannon Brink University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh
Stephanie Connell University of Winnipeg
Kaela Gollob Iowa State University
Mary Humphreys Missouri State University
Alexis Parkinson University of Winnipeg
Catherine Seguin University of Michigan
Nathalie Turenne University of Winnipeg
Hannah Veldhuizen Indiana State University
Joshua Weimer University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh

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