

# History of the Colorado Section of AIPG

By

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AIPG's Colorado Section has been prominent throughout AIPG's history beginning with the Founding Convention in at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden in November 1963. The Colorado Section was the second section formed in 1964. Of the 743 Charter Members of AIPG, 120 listed Colorado as their address. Interestingly, several Charter Members who were active and generally recognized as being from Colorado were not living in Colorado at the time they became CPGs including John Rold, Fred Kady, and Ben Parker, Jr. Colorado has been the home of the AIPG National office since Ben Parker Sr. convinced Art Brunton to become AIPG's first paid Executive Director in 1964. Bill Knight, an Oklahoman, lived in Colorado during his service as AIPG's Executive Director, as has our current Executive Director, Bill Siok, who recently received the Colorado Section's first award of Honorary Membership. The Colorado Section has hosted 11 AIPG annual meetings, including the first four (1963 through 1966), and will be hosting its 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in October 2013. Many members of the Colorado Section have served on the National Executive Committee in various positions including several Presidents (Ben H. Parker, Sr., John Haun, John Rold, Susan Landon, , Thomas Fails, and Larry Cerrillo). Robert Merrill, was an active member of the Colorado Section prior to his move to Texas, where he lived when he was AIPG President.

The Colorado Section has always been an active AIPG Section because the majority of the membership has been and is located in the Denver metropolitan area. The Section has always held monthly meetings between September and May. For many years, these meetings were held at the Denver Press Club, but they moved to the University Club, then the Petroleum Club, then the Wynkoop Brewery, and most recently to a Golden Corral restaurant. In addition, for many years, a summer potluck picnic has been held at the home of one or another member, usually in the Denver area. The section has also held an annual field trip somewhere in the state, often going over to the Western Slope so that members in that area could participate. For many years, in connection with the National Executive Committee's summer meeting in the Denver area, a picnic for the ExCom and Section members has provided some social time for the ExCom. For several years, the Section has also arranged for a field trip in connection with the ExCom meeting as well.

The Colorado Section has had a monthly or quarterly newsletter for many years. From 1975 through 1983, Ed Warren was the editor and put out a more lively publication than AIPG's national newsletter at the time. Warren would publish papers when he could get one along with pictures of Section events and of national meetings, which Warren regularly attended and recommended others to do as well.

Part of a Section's responsibilities is watching the state legislature to see whether any laws or regulations affecting the practice of geology would crop up. For many years Ray Robeck served as a volunteer lobbyist for the Section. Eventually, the Section retained the part-time services of a professional lobbyist (Betsy Murray) for this purpose. The Section continues to be very active in legislative affairs and in tracking and support of the Colorado Geological Survey and other relevant state agencies. The Section has an award, called the Geologic Heritage Award, which is reserved for government officials who have been instrumental in any year in support of geologically important legislation or policy issues.