



## **President's message: Looking for a reason to be a member of AEG? What are the benefits of being a member?**



### **By Gary Luce**

As AEG president, probably the single most enjoyable duty is to visit the Sections. In January, I had the privilege to visit the Texas, Southeast and Carolinas sections. At the Texas meeting in Houston I participated in an ethics panel which was a good reminder of our duties to the public, the organization and to our fellow practitioners. The meeting was well attended and combined with a talk on the practice of engineering geology it was a great chance to see one of our most active sections in action. The Texas Section holds four meetings a year and has a social icebreaker dinner the night before an all day meeting or field trip. They do things "big " in Texas and I came away with a new appreciation for the different ways sections work and with a much deeper appreciation for the diversity of our Sections ways-and-means to success. Be sure to look in the NEWS for the homefront report on the meeting for details.

From Houston I traveled to Atlanta where I visited with students at University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and Western Georgia. I presented two talks on careers in the geosciences and one talk on Tailings Dams fundamentals of design. I really enjoyed the time with the students and

thank Matt Howe for being an excellent host. We are making plans to try to reinvigorate the Section and to start building on the hard work Matt has done to keep the section alive.

From Atlanta I traveled to Charlotte, NC where I gave my Tailings talk to the Carolinas Section and marveled at the amount of enthusiasm the members and equally the supporting vendors have for the section. This is another one of our sections that members travel long distances on a regular basis to attend meetings.

From Charlotte I was off to Raleigh for the Carolinas Section sponsored Vapor Intrusion (VI) conference. All I can say is WOW. The conference was co-sponsored by the Department of North Carolina Environmental ... and talks on the VI were given to the approximately 230 attendees by invited speakers representing regulators, consultants, and environmental lawyers. Throughout the two-day conference I overheard person after person praising AEG for holding the conference and had a number of people express their interest in joining AEG! The conference was so successful we are talking about holding another follow up conference possibly in the Atlanta area to spread the work and possibly jump start the Southeast Section in the process. Beyond that we even are thinking about a possible west coast follow up sometime next year. Again look to the NEWS for more details on the conference. A quick thanks to all of the Carolinas Section members who planned the conference and took care of my transportation from Charlotte.

So “Why” join AEG? What are the benefits? Let me think-

In one week I saw eager young geologists hungry for career information, continuing education on technical topics being provided at a fraction of what many larger professional organizations charge, professional ethics training, networking, a topical transfer conference on environmental geologic practice that is all about protecting the public and promotion of our profession. On top of all that, there was a big dose of fun thrown in just meeting with and talking about all the things that our members do and how it is different in the different regions of the nation. It really is “happening” at the local level and I couldn’t be prouder and more humbled to be the President of AEG. Come join us in taking Environmental and Engineering Geology to the forefront of geoprofessional practice!