Candidates for the 2023 Executive Board

Voting is from September 15 through October 1.

Look for an email to vote on September 15.

Candidate for Vice President-President Elect

Travis Pitcher
Professional Experience
  Impact Exploration & Production (2018-Present)
  Noble Energy (2015-2018)
  UNAVCO (2012-2013)
  USGS (2009-2012)
Education
  MSc Geophysics (2015), Colorado School of Mines
  BSc Geophysical Engineering (2012), Colorado School of Mines
Professional Affiliations
  SEG, AAPG, DGS, RMAG

As candidate for Vice President-President Elect, I look forward to supporting DGS and bringing strong technical content to the monthly luncheons. I have been a member of DGS for 8 years and have presented at both luncheons and the 3DSS. DGS is such a valuable resource to the geophysical community in Denver, from students to seasoned geoscientists, and I hope to keep the membership base active and engaged in everything it has to offer. There are exciting advancements happening through geophysics in all industries — I think we have a bright future as geoscientists. Thank you for your consideration.

Candidate for Treasurer

Jess Vahling
Professional Experience:
  Occidental Petroleum (2019-present)
  Hess Corporation (2009-2014)
Education:
  BS Geology, Kansas State University, 2006
  MS Geology, Wichita State University, 2009
  Professional MS Program Geophysics, University of Houston, 2011
Professional Affiliations:
  DGS, SEG, APPG, RMAG

Since I moved to Denver 7 years ago, the DGS has provided me many opportunities for learning and networking. I am very much looking forward to giving back to this valuable community through a position as Treasurer on the executive committee. I hope to be able to help continue to build a strong and successful society.
Candidates for Secretary

1—Andrew Keene

Professional Experience:
- Geophysicist, SM Energy Company (2019-)

Education:
- Master of Science, University of Montana (2017-2019)
- Bachelor of Arts, Carleton College (2013-2017)

Professional Affiliations:

I strive to be more involved within the geophysical community of Denver and would like to help bring more folks together across experience levels. I love attending DGS luncheons and meeting other members of the society and want to encourage more folks to join for professional and personal growth.

2—Xan Davidson

Professional Experience:
- Telemark Energy Services (2020-current)
- WesternGeco (2001-2009)
- Geco-Prakla (2000-2001)

Education:
- GIS Certification, University of Colorado, Denver (2022)
- M.S. Geophysics, Purdue University (2000)
- B.S. Solid Earth Sciences, Purdue University (1996)

Professional Affiliations:
- DGS

I stepped away from the professional environment to focus on raising my two children. During that time, I volunteered heavily in the schools and served on several PTA boards as fundraising chair, school supply chair, newsletter editor and most recently, treasurer. Now that my children are older, I’m looking to return to work, and I am currently pursuing a GIS certificate.

Candidate for Editor

Melinda Gale

Professional Experience
- Colorado School of Mines, Program Manager, Reservoir Characterization Project (2021-Present)
- ARCO/ Vastar Resources (1988-1996)

Education
- BS Geophysical Engineering (1988), Colorado School of Mines

Professional Affiliations
- SEG, AAPG, DGS

As candidate for Editor, I hope to continue building a strong communications platform for the DGS community. I would like to be more actively involved in the geophysical community in the Denver area, and this position would allow me valuable opportunities to contribute consistently to DGS’ programs. Additionally, my position within the Department of Geophysics at Colorado School of Mines provides a unique opportunity to encourage more active engagement from student organizations and young professionals in DGS programs and activities. Thank you for your consideration.