President’s Column

Housecleaning: Yea or Nay?

Over the past few months, the CGS board and I have been busy cleaning our collective, proverbial house. While things now look in order from our perspective, we need your input to be sure. In this issue of the Bulletin you will find the text of three important documents which have recently undergone revision because: 1) they no longer accurately reflect the way we do business (refer to the Constitution and Bylaws) or 2) we are required to make changes to achieve State of CA tax-exempt status (refer to the amended Articles of Incorporation). All of these revisions must be approved by a vote of the membership.

(Continued on page 2)

In Memoriam: Joan Clemons

On Sunday, November 28, 2004, Geography lost a great friend and leader with the passing of Joan Clemons. She had recently returned from Australia after spreading the last of her husband Tom McKnight’s ashes in one or their favorite locations.

Joan’s passion for geographic education was contagious, and her advocacy for the discipline reached far and wide. She fought for K-12 teacher empowerment, for women in geography, and for community college instructors across the state. Indeed, her writing and research regularly focused on these areas.

Joan was instrumental in the founding of the California Geography Alliance, and served as its coordinator during its formative years. She also helped design the state-wide geography standards for K-12 and served on the California Geographical Society’s Board of Directors for many years.

Joan was the first community college faculty member to be elected president of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, and worked tirelessly for recognition of the contributions that community college faculty make to our discipline. She was also a strong student advocate, establishing scholarship funds for student members of both the California Geographical Society and the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers.

Joan’s life and career touched many of us, and her advocacy will live on for many years to come. The geographic community will deeply miss her.

Jenny Zorn, CGS Past President
Students: Come One, Come All!

This year’s annual conference will undoubtedly prove to be a great one, as it is taking place within one of California’s most spectacular natural venues, Yosemite National Park. Yosemite will provide the ideal setting for our intimate geographical symposium. Unlike many of the large national conferences, the CGS conference is friendly and affordable and never overwhelming in terms of crowds. It provides the perfect opportunity for students to present research (in the form of a paper, poster, or map) for the first time. Newcomers need not be hesitant; the friendly executive board (which includes us as student board representatives) wholeheartedly welcomes you!

There are many student-focused activities at our annual conference. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in one, or more, of the field trips on Friday and Sunday (see www.calgeog.org for more info). CGS field trips are not only educational but a lot of fun as well! Humboldt State students and faculty will host the Friday night outdoor BBQ, where there will be a “Student Welcome” table set up so that students can congregate, eat and chat amongst one another. After the keynote presentation that night, we’ll lead a special moonlight hike for students. And, on Sat. afternoon, we’ll host a student meeting where you can share your ideas and concerns. We look forward to seeing all of you, both new and returning students, at the 2005 conference in Yosemite!

Virginia Humphreys, North/Central California Student Board Member
v_humphreys2003@yahoo.com

Julienne Gard, Southern California Student Board Member
jgard@csulb.edu

(President’s Column continued from page 1)

So, after reading each document, please cast your vote using the enclosed ballot.

It’s also time to elect a new President, Vice-President and four board members. You’ll find biographical information for each of the candidates running for office or a board position on the enclosed ballot. Please take time to thoughtfully reflect on the leadership promise of each of these candidates and cast your vote online (or mail it postmarked) by April 11th.

Yosemite Update: The Feb. 1st snow survey lists the Merced River basin at 180% of average for this time of year. Spring runoff should create especially spectacular waterfalls for our April conference. Registrations have been rolling in since mid-December. There is still some space on the field trips but a few are already more than half full. So, if you haven’t already sent in your registration yet, please do so soon – remember that the late registration deadline (March 15) is earlier this year.

See you in Yosemite!

Debra Sharkey
President
California Geographical Society

CONSTITUTION (proposed)

(as revised 1996 2005)

Article I Name and Objectives

This organization shall be known as the California Geographical Society (CGS). The purpose of the Organization shall be to foster and promote geographic knowledge among the general public of California.

Article II Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be open to any person or group supporting the objectives of the Organization.

Section 2 All members in good standing shall have the right to vote and hold office serve on the Board.

Article III Organizational Practices (the info below was formerly listed under Art. II)

Section 1 No substantial part of the activities of this organization shall consist of promoting exclusive personal objectives of its members. The organization shall not carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation, nor participate or intervene in any political election campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 2 This organization is organized pursuant to the General Nonprofit Corporation Law of the State of California. This corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof, and it is organized for nonprofit purposes. This organization shall be in total compliance with the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law of the State of California and shall not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit.

Section 3 The property of this organization is irrevocably dedicated to geographic educational and informational purposes, and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private individual. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the Organization, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this organization, shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for geographic educational purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If this organization holds any assets in trust, or a corporation is formed for charitable purposes, such assets shall be disposed of in such a manner as may be directed by decree of the Superior Court of the county in which the corporation has its principal office, upon petition therefore by the Attorney General or by a person concerned in the liquidation, in a proceeding to which the Attorney General is party.

Article IV Officers (formerly Article III)

Section 1 The officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers shall comprise an Executive Committee, which is empowered to take interim action and make interim decisions. These decisions shall not, in any way, contradict the Constitution and Bylaws, including, but not limited to, the purpose of the Organization, and shall not contradict matters voted on and approved by the Members.
Section 2  The Executive Board shall consist of the officers, the immediate past president, the editors of the California Geographer and the C.G.S. Bulletin, and, as a matter of policy, enough members at large to represent the K-12, community college, and university level geographic communities within the state. Should the office of the President be vacated between elections, the Vice President shall automatically succeed to that office. Other offices vacated between elections shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee.

Article V  Amendments to the Constitution  (formerly Article IV)

Section 1  An amendment to the Constitution shall be initiated by a petition to the Executive Committee and signed by at least 20 members in good standing.

Section 2  An amendment to the Constitution shall be presented in writing by the Executive Committee to the membership at least 30 days before a vote of the membership.

Section 3  A majority vote by those voting by main ballot shall be required to effect changes in the Constitution.

Ragged Peak above lower Young Lake, North Yosemite Wilderness
California Geographical Society

BYLAWS (proposed)
(as revised 1996 2005)

Proposed changes appear in blue
Proposed deletions appear as strike through text
Explanatory notes appear in red

Article I. Fiscal Year and Dues

Section 1. The CGS shall adopt a fiscal year extending from June 1 to May 31. All members shall pay annual dues approved by the membership for the fiscal year in conjunction with the spring conference and their membership shall be valid for one year extending April 16th to April 15th.

Section 2. Regular members shall pay annual dues of $25.00. Membership dues of the Organization shall be established by the Board for the following levels of membership: Life, Regular, Retired, and Student.

Section 3. Student members shall pay annual dues of $10.00. Recipients of Life Membership Awards shall be exempt from dues.

Section 4. Contributing members shall be those who pay the dues of the regular membership plus contributing towards a special organizational fund.

Section 5. Retired members shall pay annual dues of $20.00

Section 6. Recipients of the Life Membership Awards shall be exempt from dues.

Article II. Terms of Office and Committees

Section 1. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall hold office for two years. The President and Vice-President may not hold office for multiple terms. Upon completion of his/her term, the outgoing President shall serve a two-year term as Past-President and continue to have voting rights. The Secretary and Treasurer may hold office for multiple terms, if re-elected by the membership. The Executive Board members shall hold office for three years; one-third of the Board shall be elected each year. All new officers shall be installed at the conclusion of the annual meeting conference.

Section 2. Board members shall serve a three-year term and at its conclusion, they may run for re-election by the membership. Two student board members, representing N/Central and S. CA, shall be appointed by a vote of the Board. Student board members shall serve the shorter of either a three-year term or until their student status expires, unless reappointed by a vote of the Board.

Section 3. Finance Committee – At the beginning of the fiscal year, a Finance Committee consisting of the Vice-President (Chairperson of the Committee), Secretary and Treasurer and three members appointed by the President from the Executive Board shall be formed. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to prepare the organization’s budget for the following organizational fiscal year, which shall extend from one annual meeting to another.

Section 4. The President may appoint additional committees and/or assign duties at his or her discretion.
Article III. Elections

Section 1. Any Non-student members in good standing shall be eligible for election to office. Student members in good standing are eligible to serve on the Board, if appointed by the Board.

Section 2. An Elections Committee of three, selected and appointed by the Executive Committee, shall prepare a slate of candidates for the positions to be filled by the general election, i.e., President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board members. The chairperson of the committee shall prepare and forward to the Editor of the CGS Bulletin a ballot with the slate of candidates proposed and space for write-in candidates for each office. A brief statement of identification shall be included for each candidate. The ballot shall be published in the CGS Bulletin or otherwise distributed at least 30 days before the annual meeting conference, and shall be returned to the Chairman chairperson of the Elections Committee not later than one week before the annual meeting conference. Election shall be by a simple majority of the members voting, or a plurality in the case of three or more candidates.

Article IV. Meetings

Section 1. There shall be three two annual meetings of the Executive CGS Board. These meetings shall normally be held no later than the fifteenth of November, the last Saturday in January, and on the Friday preceding the opening of the annual meeting, the first Saturday in October and in conjunction with the annual conference in the Spring. All CGS boardmembers are expected to attend these two meetings. Absence from two consecutive board meetings shall be grounds for removal from the Board.

Section 2. The annual meeting conference shall normally be held during a period which includes the first Saturday in May at a location determined by the Board upon invitation of the host institutions, the selection of the host institutions being made at least two years in advance of the meeting. The host institutions shall take the initiative in making the arrangements pertinent to the meetings between April 15 and May 10 at a location determined by the Board. The selection of the conference location will be made at least one year in advance. A conference planner will be designated at the time the location is approved and it will be that individual’s responsibility to make the necessary arrangements for the conference in consultation with the President, Vice-President, and Past President. The conference planner will ensure that conference registration information is mailed to the membership with a postmark no later than March 1st.

Article V. Publications

Section 1. Official publications of the CGS shall be the California Geographer, the CGS Bulletin, and such others as the Executive Board may authorize as authorized by the CGS board. The editors of all publications shall be appointed by the Executive Board Committee. Expenditures necessary for all publications shall be incorporated into the annual budget.

Article VI. Amendments

Section 1. Provisions for amending the Bylaws shall be the same as those for amending the Constitution.

Article VII. Organization and Operation

Section 1. The California Geographical Society is organized and at all times will be operated at all times in an educational manner within the contemplation of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; and within the scope it is empowered to foster scholarly, professional, and popular activities among geographers primarily in the State of California. Our The Organization's official address shall be designated by the President.

Section 2. Decisions regarding the normal transaction of CGS business shall be made by a simple majority vote of board members, officers, and the Past President. Participation by at least two thirds of those eligible to vote shall be necessary to validate decisions made by vote.
CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT OF
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The undersigned certify that:

1. They are the president and secretary of THE CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, a California corporation.

2. Articles II, IV, and V of the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation are amended to read as follows:

   II

   A. This corporation is a nonprofit PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for:

      ( ) public purposes.
      or ( ) charitable purposes.
      or ( X ) public and charitable purposes.

   B. The specific purpose of this corporation is to foster and promote geographic knowledge among the general public of California.

   IV

   A. This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

   B. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

   V

   The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

3. The foregoing amendment of Articles of Incorporation has been duly approved by the board of directors.

4. The foregoing amendment of Articles of Incorporation has been duly approved by the required vote of the members.

We further declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the matters set forth in this certificate are true and correct of our own knowledge.

DATE: ____________________

Debra Sharkey, President

__________________________________
Robin Lyons, Secretary
Call for Nominations for Annual Outstanding Educator Award

The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Annual Outstanding Educator Award. The award is open to any geography educator in California. Each year the Awards Committee reviews the nominations and selects California’s top Outstanding Educator. The Awards Committee is composed of the President, Debra Sharkey; Vice President, John Aubert; and Immediate Past President, Jenny Zorn.

To nominate a worthy recipient, before March 15, 2005, send a letter of nomination and the names and phone numbers of two additional references to: Jenny Zorn Geography Department, CSU San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407. Tel: 909-880-7500; E-mail: jzorn@csusb.edu

California Geographical Society’s 59th Annual Conference, April 22-24, 2005

For more information, visit the CGS website: http://www.calgeog.org

or contact

2005 Conference Organizer, Debra Sharkey, at: sharked@crc.losrios.edu
Phone: 916-691-7210

Friday Night BBQ Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Bob O’Brien, Professor of Geography, Emeritus, San Diego State University

What will Yosemite Valley look like 50 years from now? Will Yosemite Valley continue as one of the most beautiful valleys in the world, or will our present enjoyment of the valley, without restraint, lead us in a downward spiral? Dr. O’Brien, professor emeritus of San Diego State University, author of Our National Parks and the Search for Sustainability, and Yosemite visitor for almost 60 years, will present a slide show to illustrate these questions. The answers are still undecided but the prognosis is positive. People have loved and fought for Yosemite for over a hundred years, and the current situation is no exception. Not only does Yosemite Valley stand a good chance of success in a planning effort started 30 years ago, but the idea of restoring its twin, Hetch Hetchy, is alive again. As befits a presentation on an area as magnificent as Yosemite, the images shown will highlight the outstanding geography and fascinating history of the entire park.

Important Note: Due to logistics in Yosemite National Park, the regular registration deadline is two weeks earlier than normal. Please postmark your registration materials by March 15 to avoid late fees and ensure adequate space for this year’s conference.

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Visit the CGS website at WWW.CALGEOG.ORG