

The 100-Year History of the Pacific Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists

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Abstract

The idea of the Pacific Section AAPG was born in San Francisco through a conversation between Earl Gaylord and noteworthy geologists Roy Collom, Joseph Alexander Taff, and the Gester brothers. Southern California was the intended location for the start of the new organization and Frank Hudson was recruited to promote the idea among locals and was appointed as temporary chairman at the new organization's Los Angeles meeting in September of 1924. Over the next 100 years, the Pacific Section would pull together at least 14 geological societies, and sanction +5,000 collaborations in the form of annual Section or monthly Society meetings, fieldtrips, seminars, and short courses, in addition to hosting several national AAPG meetings with sister society partnerships. The friendships established, on top of the education and knowledge transfer amongst members, enabled by the Society, certainly aided directly and indirectly in the discovery and development of a significant portion of the oil and gas resource of California. Through a formidable and growing publication collection, an invaluable networking apparatus, and zealous officers and members throughout the decades who volunteered their time and talent, the Pacific Section has proved to be integral to the past and present flourishing of geoscience on the West Coast.