

## AAG COMMITTEES AND CHARGES

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*AAG Committees shall coordinate with the Executive Director or a designee at least once per year to establish current priorities for the Committee and to coordinate committee activities with ongoing AAG activities and programs.*

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### **Elected Committees**

**Committee for Annual Honors of the AAG.** The Honors Committee shall submit to the Council nominations for awards at least two weeks before the council's Fall meeting, accompanied by a statement indicating the contribution which forms the basis of the proposed award.

**Nominating Committee for the AAG Election.** The nominating committee shall make two or more nominations for Vice President, at least one nomination for President, and at least two nominations for each National Councillor vacancy. The nominating committee shall submit its slate of candidates to the AAG office in accordance with the timetable designated by Council.

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### **Standing Committees**

**Archives and Association History Committee.** The committee develops and supervises the Association's archives; encourages each AAG Division to retain its own archive or to transmit its materials to the AAG archive; advises and assists the *Geographers on Film* series; and schedules at least one session devoted to the history of geography at each annual meeting.

**Committee on College Geography and Careers.** In collaboration with the Association's Educational Affairs Director, the Committee on College Geography and Careers supports the AAG, its Staff, and Council in fostering the development of programs and resources supporting and enhancing undergraduate education, graduate education, and academic career planning in geography in all types of academic institutions by promoting and initiating projects that address human resources and/or the development and dissemination of educational materials; co-sponsoring educational and careers activities at regional and national meetings and/or at-specialized workshops; and providing additional services, feedback, and/or taking specific actions as may be requested by AAG Council and/or the AAG Executive Director related to such themes as geographic educational standards, national funding levels for geography education, geography advanced placement examinations, academic assessment, and promotion of academic geography career prospects.

**Committee on Committees.** The committee prepares slates of nominees for the honors committee and for the nominating committee from which the AAG Council selects those who stand for election by the membership; nominates candidates to fill vacancies on the Association's committees, and as delegates to other organizations; prepares a pool of names from which the Executive Director selects the Nystrom Award Competition committee; and provides short biographies or rationales for nominees for committee vacancies filled by Council via mail ballot.

**Committee on the Status of Women in Geography.** The committee monitors and promotes enhanced status for women in the profession.

**Constitution and Bylaws Committee.** The committee assesses the bylaws of each affinity group, regional division, and specialty group to determine their compatibility with the Association's constitution and bylaws; responds to Council requests to review proposed changes to the AAG constitution and bylaws and to interpret the Association's governance documents; and advises the Council on fulfilling the spirit of the Association's constitution and bylaws.

**Enhancing Diversity Committee.** The committee takes actions to facilitate ongoing AAG initiatives to enhance diversity in the discipline. Diversity in this sense is envisioned in its broadest demographic definition, indicating, ethnic, gender, disabilities, and other underrepresented groups. This includes monitoring and promoting enhanced status for women and minorities in the profession and serving as a commission of record for any grievances by members with respect to discrimination and graduate admission, hiring, employment, and career development, or other related issues. The committee also considers nominations and selects awardees of the Glenda Laws Award to recognize outstanding scholarly contributions to geographic research on social issues and provides nominations to the AAG Council for the AAG Enhancing Diversity Award to honor those who have pioneered efforts toward or actively participated in efforts toward encouraging a more diverse discipline.

**Finance Committee.** The committee has overall responsibility for the Association's investment portfolio; reviews and recommends the budget presented to the Council by the AAG Treasurer; advises the Council on the Association's financial policies; and responds to Council queries regarding financial matters as requested.

**Governmental Data and Employment Committee.** This committee advises and supports the AAG regarding issues that relate to geography in the federal government in particular and geography in the public sector more broadly. In collaboration with the AAG Executive Director, the committee will aid the AAG Council and AAG Staff in responding to issues and opportunities, such as definition of geographers in federal employment, the formulation and review of standards for geographically referenced data, advocating for appropriate funding levels for geography-related activities and programs within government agencies, and careers and employment in the public sector.

**Healthy Departments Committee.** The Healthy Departments committee provides guidance and action to enhance the health and excellence of academic geography departments and responds to requests from departments for assistance.

**International Research and Scholarly Exchange Committee.** The committee encourages participation of geographers in interdisciplinary conferences and in meetings dealing with international issues; works with AAG Staff and others to encourage international membership in the AAG; informs the AAG Council on opportunities related to international outreach and scholarly exchange, highlighting major events, activities, and trends; provides assistance with respect to the AAG International Reception at the Annual Meeting; and provides additional services, generates feedback, and/or takes specific actions as may be requested by AAG Council and/or the AAG Executive Director.

**Membership Committee.** The committee advises the AAG Council on membership development, monitors trends in membership in the AAG and other academic associations, helps implement short and long term strategies to maintain and increase AAG membership, and coordinates its activities with the ongoing membership operations of the AAG.

**Publications Committee.** The committee advises the AAG council on policies regarding all official publications of AAG; provides support for these official publications by raising issues ranging from publication style and content to the various sources and levels of financial support; clarifies the purposes of the AAG publications for the membership; serves as a constructive critic for publication editors; serves as a research body for the editors and the Council on matters related to Association publications; and reviews the operation of AAG office publications annually.

**Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Committee.** The committee collects, documents, and analyzes information about geographic scholars who have been restricted in the pursuit of their work or have been prevented from communicating or interacting with colleagues; assists and facilitates, through appropriate actions, the free development of scientific inquiries and exchanges whenever and wherever such developments have been restricted; assists and advises the AAG Council on general ethical issues facing the discipline; and cooperates and coordinates its activities with other scientific bodies.

**AAG Awards Committee.** The committee considers nominations and selects the recipients of selected AAG Awards. These include the Meredith F. Burrill Award established to recognize talented individuals and groups that have demonstrated excellence in advancing the creation of fundamental geographical concepts and in furthering their practical applications, especially in local, national, and international policy arenas; and the Ruby S. Miller Award established to recognize members of the Association who have made truly outstanding contributions to the geographic field due to their special competence in teaching or research.

**William Garrison Award Committee.** The committee selects recipient(s) of the William Garrison Award for Best Dissertation in Computational Geography. The committee reviews initial submissions and selects finalists for full packages, from which they select an awardee that will present at the AAG Annual Meeting.

**AAG Globe Book Award Committee.** The committee awards the annual prize for a book that conveys most powerfully the nature and importance of geography to the non-academic world.

**AAG Jackson Prize Committee.** The committee awards the annual prize for a serious but popular book about the human geography of the contemporary United States written by a geographer.

**AAG Meridian Book Award Committee.** The committee awards the annual prize for a book that makes an unusually important contribution to advancing the science and art of geography.

**Marcus Fund for Physical Geography Award Committee.** The committee reviews submissions and selects recipient(s) of the Marcus Fund for Physical Geography Award.

**J. Warren Nystrom Award Committee.** The committee selects the winner of the annual J. Warren Nystrom Award established by former AAG Executive Director J. Warren Nystrom to recognize an outstanding paper based upon a recent dissertation in geography.

**AAG Research Grants Committee.** The committee considers applications and awards appropriate grants, depending upon the funds available, for General Research Grants, Ph.D. Dissertation Research Grants (the Robert D. Hodgson Memorial Fund, the Paul P. Vouras Fund, and the Otis Paul Starkey Fund), and the Anne U. White Fund.

**AAG Student Awards and Scholarships Committee.** The committee considers applications from and awards appropriate grants for college, undergraduate and graduate students, depending upon the funds available in AAG student awards and scholarships programs. These, include the Hoffman Award, the IGIF Grants, the AAG Hess Community College Scholarship, and other awards, scholarships, or travel grants as they may be available.

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## ***Ad Hoc Committees***

**Advancing Geography Fund Committee.** The committee is charged to develop a large-scale, long-term fundraising campaign, to formulate and implement the plan for such a campaign, to clearly communicate to AAG members the goals of fundraising efforts, and to develop a realistic timetable for achieving these objectives.

**Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee.** The Committee assists the AAG office in planning field trips, workshops, and other local events at the annual meeting, the preparation of written and website materials about the meeting, and organizing the program for the annual meeting by forming sessions of individually-submitted papers.

**World Geography Bowl Committee.** The committee develops questions for the annual World Geography Bowl.

*For current information on committee chairs and membership, please contact Dr. Patricia Solís at [psolis@aag.org](mailto:psolis@aag.org).*