

Seismological Society of America  
 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors  
 May 14-17, 2018  
 Miami, Florida  
 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM

1. Call to Order, Roll Call of the 2017-18 Board of Directors

Sergio Barrientos	Doug Dreger	Christine Goulet
Susan Hough	Andy Michael+	Meghan Miller
Jim Mori+	Jessica Murray	Kate Scharer
Peter Shearer+	John Townend	Bill Walter

+Officers: Andy Michael, *President*; Jim Mori, *Past-President*, Peter Shearer, *President-Elect*; Peggy Hellweg, *Secretary*; Mitch Withers, *Treasurer*

2. President's welcome and review of agenda (Andy Michael)

3. Approval of Minutes Page 4

- 3.1 April 18, 2017 Board Meeting
- 3.2 May 24, 2017 teleconference call
- 3.3 October 3, 2017 teleconference call 3.4
- October 19, 2017 teleconference call 3.5
- November 30, 2017 teleconference call 3.6
- January 9, 2018 teleconference call 3.7
- February 15, 2018 teleconference call

4. Reports by Officers

- 4.1. President (Andy Michael)
- 4.2. Secretary\* (Peggy Hellweg) Page 25
- 4.3. Treasurer\* (Mitch Withers) Page 29

5. Report by Executive Director\* (Nan Broadbent) Page 33

6. Reports by Standing Committees\*

- 6.1. Executive Committee (included in Secretary's report)
- 6.2. Management Committee (included in Secretary's report)
- 6.3. Audit Committee\*(James J. Mori) Page 39
  - 6.3.1. Auditor's report Page 41
- 6.4. Investment Committee\* (James J. Mori) Separate Cover
- 6.5. Government Relations Committee\* (written) Page 58
- 6.6. Publications Committee (written, Doug Dreger)
  - 6.6.1. Report on Publications Committee\* Page 61
  - 6.6.2. BSSA Editorial Report\* Page 67
  - 6.6.3. SRL Editorial Report\* Page 73
- 6.7. Meetings Committee\* (Andy Michael) Page 75

6.8. Communications Committee\* (Susan Hough) Page 76

7. Report from Task Committee

7.1. Kanamori Fund\* (James J. Mori) Separate Cover

7.2. Joyner Fund\* (written, by Tom Hanks) Page 77

**9:30 AM: 15-minute break**

8. Report on Sections and Affiliated Organizations

8.1. Eastern Section-SSA (Christine Goulet)

8.2. 2018 IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecture Series\* Page 78

9. Government Relations Chair, Lisa Grant Ludwig **(10 AM)**

10. Report on new travel grant program – written report, and vote on continuation of program\* Page 79

11. Resolution expressing appreciation to the Program Committee for the 2018 Annual Meeting\*

12. Program Co-Chairs: Carol Prentice, Elizabeth Vanacore **(11:00 AM)**

13. Thanks to Retiring Directors

14. Approval of Consent Agenda: \* actions included in the consent agenda may be enacted with one vote Page 81

15. Adjournment of the 2017-18 Board

16. Call to Order, 2018-19 Board of Directors

17. Roll Call

Sergio Barrientos	Margaret Boettcher	Xyoli Perez-Campos
Doug Dreger	Christine Goulet	Susan Hough
Andy Michael+	Meghan S. Miller	James J. Mori
Kate Scharer	Peter Shearer+	John Townend
Bill Walter		

+Officers: Peter Shearer, *President*; Andy Michael, *Past-President*

18. Election of Officers (vote)

18.1. Nominating Committee Report (under separate cover) (Doug Dreger)

19. Thanks to Retiring President

**12 NOON – 1 PM, Lunch**

## 20. Appointments to Committees

- 20.1. Review of Current Committee Roster

## 21. New Business

- 21.1. Approval of annual budget for FY19 (Vote) (M. Withers) Page 82
- 21.2. Dues Increase (N. Broadbent) Page 91
- 21.3. Privacy Policy (N. Broadbent) Page 92
- 21.4. Code of Ethics (P. Shearer) Page 101
- 21.5. New Ventures (A. Michael) Page 103

**2:50 PM – 10-minute break**22. Executive Session **(3:00 PM)**

- 22.1. Honors (Bill Walter) (sent under separate cover)
  - 22.1.1. Reid Medal
  - 22.1.2. Press Public Service Award
  - 22.1.3. Richter Award
  - 22.1.4. Distinguished Service Award
- 22.2. Proposal to amend Board Policy Manual
  - 22.2.1 Make SANE official committee
  - 22.2.2 Amend language in Appendix regarding Honors Page 112

23. Adjourn **(3:45 PM)**

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors Seismological Society of America

April 17, 2017  
Sheraton Downtown Denver Hotel

### 2016-2017 BOARD MEETING (retiring Board)

The 2016-2017 Board of Directors of the Seismological Society of America met in Denver on April 17, 2017. President Jim Mori called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM (local time). Present at roll call: Directors Laurie Baise, Eric Calais, Doug Dreger, Christine Goulet, Ruth Harris, Susan Hough, Andy Michael, Jessica Murray, Peter Shearer, John Townend and Bill Walter. Meghan Miller was not able to attend.

Also present were Secretary Peggy Hellweg, Treasurer Mitch Withers, Executive Director Nan Broadbent, *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America* Editor Thomas Pratt, *Seismological Research Letters* Editor Zhigang Peng, Kate Scharer and Sergio Barrientos. Staff and consultants present during all or parts of the meeting included BSSA Manuscripts Coordinator Betty Schiefelbein, SRL Managing Editor Mary George, Government Affairs Liaison Elizabeth Duffy and publishing consultant Kathleen Gaffney.

Jim Mori welcomed all and reviewed the agenda.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the April 2016 in-person meeting and three conference calls on October 14, 2016; November 30, 2016; and February 8, 2017. No one suggested any changes.

### Reports of Officers

President Jim Mori reported that the Society is in good financial health and is undertaking new activities, including the joint meeting with the Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) and a more robust government relations effort.

Secretary Peggy Hellweg reported on the activities of the Executive Committee, including a public letter by Jim Mori on the travel ban.

Treasurer Mitch Withers reported that the Society had a strong financial year; its fiscal year ended January 31, 2017. There was a slight decrease in assets, and Withers reminded the Board of the FY2017 planned deficit budget due to special plans to invest in the Society's technological infrastructure. Due to new accounting rules, the Society deferred \$332,768 in revenue to FY2018. If it had not deferred revenue, the Society would have ended the year \$150,000 in the black, despite the deficit budget.

### Staff Report

Executive Director Nan Broadbent described a productive 12 months, including completion of the first year of a two-year technology project. As the organization reorganizes and upgrades its infrastructure, it does so to support two main goals – to diversify revenue and to improve the relevance of the Society to its members and the broader community. Broadbent

discussed the employees and contractors who undertake the work of the Society; new efforts to highlight the Society; and ongoing projects: review of the publishing business, the second phase of the technology upgrades, the communications program and a new effort to expand membership.

### Reports of Standing Committees and Editors

The Executive Committee report is contained within the Secretary's report, including reference to a successful student travel grant program that resulted in the awarding of 18 travel grants. Jim Mori issued a letter opposing the White House travel ban, and SSA signed onto a multi-society letter on the same topic.

Peggy Hellweg also reported that the Management Committee, which is responsible for oversight of the Executive Director, did its job this year.

The Audit Committee, chaired by Eric Calais, met with the Auditor. Calais reported that the organization's finances are in good order and received a clean audit. There was a small issue with the billing of publications fees (less than \$5000 discrepancy) throughout the year. Steps are currently being taken to tighten up the billing process.

The Investment Committee, chaired by Jim Mori, met each quarter with our primary contact at Modera Wealth Management. Mori said the SSA had a good year, with the main portfolio up 11.7 percent, net of fees.

Elizabeth Duffy, SSA's government relations liaison in Washington, DC, gave the report on behalf of Government Relations Committee (GRC) Chair Lisa Grant Ludwig. She noted many meetings with Members of Congress throughout the year, representing the interest of SSA members on Capitol Hill and to agencies.

Doug Dreger, chair of the Publications Committee, briefed the Board on the status of the journals program, including efforts led by consultant Kathleen Gaffney to introduce efficiencies in the manuscript tracking and production processes. The audit of the publishing business is ongoing, and GeoScienceWorld's decision to change the online platform from Highwire to Silverchair will provide better search capabilities and other benefits for our readers. Broadbent hired a consultant to undertake a bibliometrics survey of both journals, and that report is currently being reviewed. The new page charge policy was implemented without incident.

Thomas Pratt reported that BSSA received 395 submissions in 2016, up from the prior year. Several special issues are planned for 2018. Zhigang Peng reported that the number of papers published in SRL dropped in 2016, likely due to a larger than usual number of papers in 2015 from five special focus issues that year. New special focus issues are under development for 2017 and 2018.

Laurie Baise, chair of the Membership Committee, said the committee was very active this year; its membership was expanded to have broader representation of the community.

Working with SSA staff, the committee is reviewing analyses of membership and providing feedback on areas of potential growth.

The Meetings Committee, chaired by Andy Michael, is focused on stimulating more sessions to increase the breadth of content, as is reflected in the 2017 Annual Meeting program.

The Communications Committee, chaired by Christine Goulet, has 12 members, including the journal editors as *ex officio* members. She reported the development of a prototype column for *SRL* that focuses on communicating with non-seismologists.

### Reports of Task Committees

The Kanamori Fund, said Jim Mori, supported three workshops at the 2017 Annual Meeting: publishing, PSHA training and a work-life balance panel, which was organized by IRIS. Funds were also used to support three student travel grant recipients and the ESC-SSA Travel Grant recipient. The Fund grew by only one percent last year, largely because of the outlay of funds to support some of the society's programmatic activities.

Thomas Hanks provided a written report on the Joyner Fund, which supports travel for the Joyner lecturer and, in the past year, also provided student travel grants to attend the Annual Meeting. Christine Goulet will replace Laurie Baise, who is rotating off of the Board, as the Board liaison to that committee. The Board reviewed the process of selecting recipients and the financial health of the Fund.

### Reports of Sections and Affiliated Organizations

Christine Goulet reported on Eastern Section-SSA, which held an excellent meeting in Virginia. More than 80 people attended. Christine Powell was awarded the Jesuit Seismological Society Award. The next meeting will be held in Oklahoma City on October 8-9, 2017.

The IRIS-SSA Distinguished Lecture Series has selected two new lecturers, as described in a written report by John Louie. They are Katie Keranen and Frederik Simons.

The Board reviewed a written report by Charles Langston, SSA's representative to ANSS Steering Committee. SSA will need to appoint someone new to the committee, and this will be done subsequent to this meeting.

Bill Walter briefed the Board on revisions to the joint SSA-AGU statement on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. This statement is reviewed every five years, and a joint committee led by Walter has developed a revised statement that is now under consideration by both organizations. Ruth Harris moved to approve the revised statement submitted by Bill Walter, and Doug Dreger and Peter Shearer jointly seconded the motion. The statement was unanimously approved.

### Old Business

Treasurer Mitch Withers led a discussion on the proposed reserves policy, which was first discussed during the February 2017 phone call by the Board. Andy Michael moved to accept the new reserves policy. Sue Hough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Closing Motions, Retiring Board

The 2017 Annual Meeting Co-Chairs Richard Briggs and Gavin Hayes met with the Board, which thanked them for outstanding work. Briggs and Hayes reported that the process of developing the meeting program went smoothly, and they were looking forward to a robust meeting: seven concurrent sessions, Ignite Talks, a Town Hall meeting on induced seismicity, a presentation by Governor Hickenlooper and more.

The Board expressed its appreciation directly to Briggs and Hayes, as well as through a resolution honoring the two co-chairs and the full program committee, which included Rick Aster of Colorado State, Shideh Dashti of Colorado University, Whitney Trainor-Guitton of Colorado School of Mines, Christine Puskas of UNAVCO and Mark Zellman of Fugro Consultants.

The Board also thanked the retiring directors: Laurie Baise, Eric Calais and Ruth Harris. The Board passed (under the consent agenda) a resolution expressing its support and appreciation of their service to the Society.

The Board approved by unanimous vote the Consent agenda:

- Approved minutes of previous meetings.
- Accepted written report from Secretary for publication in *SRL*.
- Accepted the written report from the Treasurer for publication in *SRL*.
- Accepted Executive Director's report.
- Accepted Auditor's report.
- Accepted the written and oral reports by Standing Committees and Editors.
- Accepted the written reports by Task Committees.
- Accepted the Eastern Section report
- Approved proposed IRS/SSA lecturers for the coming year.
- Accepted the report from the ANSS Steering Committee.
- Approved a resolution that expresses appreciation to the 2017 Annual Meeting Program Committee
- Approved a resolution that expresses appreciation to retiring Directors Laurie Baise, Eric Calais and Ruth Harris.

### 2017-2018 BOARD MEETING (continuing and new Board)

The 2017-2018 Board of Directors of the Seismological Society of America met in Denver on April 17, 2017. President Andy Michael called the meeting to order. Present at roll call: Directors Sergio Barrientos, Doug Dreger, Christine Goulet, Susan Hough, Jessica Murray, Kate Scharer Peter Shearer, John Townsend and Bill Walter. Meghan Miller was not able to attend.

Also present were Secretary Peggy Hellweg, Treasurer Mitch Withers, Executive Director Nan Broadbent and Laurie Baise.

## Officer election

This year's Nominating Committee for Officers included Bill Walter (chair), Ruth Harris and John Townend, which held a series of meetings by phone. The committee's recommendation included Peggy Hellweg as Secretary, Mitch Withers and Treasurer and Peter Shearer as President-elect.

Peter Shearer, Peggy Hellweg and Mitch Withers left the room. Christine Goulet moved to accept the slate; Doug Dreger and Jim Mori seconded the motion. The Board Members present voted unanimously to accept the slate.

President Andy Michael thanked Jim Mori for his excellent, thoughtful and dedicated service to the Board and the Society. Jim will continue to focus on the joint meeting with LACSC. John Townend made a motion to pass a resolution thanking Jim Mori. Bill Walter seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of 10 in favor and one abstention (Jim Mori).

## Board Vacancy

Andy Michael announced prior to the Board meeting that he would not accept his elected position to the Board of Directors. Michael will continue to serve in his unelected position as president, which is a voting position on the Board.

Prior to the Board meeting, SSA consulted a lawyer, Sarah Mooney of Webster, Chamberlain & Bean, LLP, in Washington, DC, on the question of options for filling the vacancy. She advised that there were three options for the 2017-18 Board of Directors: do not fill the position, appoint someone to serve, and allow the membership to choose a new board member through an election.

The Board debated the merits of each option and decided to allow the membership to select a replacement. Jim Mori made a motion to elect five members in the next election, scheduled for January 2018, and one person of those elected will be allowed to volunteer to serve the time remaining on the open position. If no one volunteers, then the Secretary and Executive Director will randomly select someone. The motion asked that this plan be run by a lawyer to confirm that "this [*sic* plan] is on solid ground." Sergio Barrientos and Peter Shearer seconded the motion. The vote was 10 for and one abstention.

## Committee Assignments

Andy Michael led a discussion on committee assignments, stating he had confirmed many of the new appointments in advance of the meeting.

The chairs of the committees: Andy Michael, Annual Meeting; Jim Mori, Audit; Sue Hough, Communications; Lisa Grant Ludwig, Government Relations; Bill Walter, Honors; Jim Mori, Investment; Jessica Murray, Membership; Doug Dreger, Publications; and John Townend, Nominating (Board).

The appointment of Board Members to committees:

- Audit: Jim Mori, Kate Scharer, Sergio Barrientos and Mitch Withers (*ex officio*)
- Communications: Sue Hough, Christine Goulet, Peggy Hellweg, Doug Dreger

- Government Relations: Bill Walter, Peter Shearer (*ex officio*), Jim Mori, and Andy Michael (*ex officio*)
- Honors: Sue Hough, Bill Walter
- Joyner Lecturer: Christine Goulet
- Investment: Bill Walter, Doug Dreger, Mitch Withers, Jim Mori
- Membership: Jessica Murray, Andy Michael, Sergio Barrientos, John Townend
- Publications: Sue Hough, Jessica Murray, Peter Shearer, John Townend, Andy Michael, Doug Dreger
- Annual Meeting: Andy Michael, Kate Sharer

## New Business

Nan Broadbent presented a proposal to revise the fee for the option to join as a Life Member of SSA. Currently **the Life Membership** category is offered as a convenience for members who would prefer not to renew their membership each year.

After some discussion, Bill Walter suggested a formula that calculates the exact cost of membership, assuming regular membership status until age 65, and then emeritus status until age 75. There was some question about how to account for the age at which the life membership starts. Kate Scharer made a motion instructing the executive committee to come up with a pay structure for life members, as described by Bill Walter. Christine Goulet seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Lisa Grant Ludwig, chair of the Government Relations Committee, spoke with the Board, requesting their guidance on prioritizing goals for the following year.

The Board generally supported the priorities as outlined in Grant Ludwig's letter to the Board, but added that they would like to have concrete actions proposed. They also noted that the membership is not aware of the policy work of the committee and encouraged staff to be proactive in communicating it to the membership.

The Board agreed with Chuck Langston's suggestion to have the ANSS representative join the GRC. The Board noted that the SSA policy statements are all out of date or no longer relevant and asked the GRC to review, revise and submit statements to the Board for approval.

Mitch Withers and Nan Broadbent presented the proposed budget for FY18, which is a deficit budget in order to accomplish some large projects:

- Continue with year two of a two-year technology plan to improve and modernize the infrastructure that supports the programming and operation of the Society and to overhaul the website,
- Migrate BSSA online and SRL online from Highwire to Silverchair, as decided by GeoScienceWorld, and
- Continue to review and improve the publishing business.

Withers and Broadbent also presented a plan to populate the reserves.

Sue Hough moved to accept the budget and reserves, as proposed. John Townend and Doug Dreger seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Minutes  
SSA Board of Directors Phone Meeting  
May 24, 2017

Participants:

Board of Directors: Andy Michael, Bill Walter, Sue Hough, Doug Dreger, Peter Shearer, Christine Goulet, Jim Mori. Others: Sarah Mooney, Nan Broadbent, Peggy Hellweg.

Board Members not in attendance: Meghan Miller, John Townend, Sergio Barrientos, Kate Scharer and Jessica Murray.

The meeting was called to order at 9 AM.

SSA President Andy Michael asked for a roll call and announced that a majority of the Board was present, and therefore a quorum was present.

Michael introduced Sarah Mooney, who serves as legal counsel to SSA. She is a partner with the DC firm Webster, Chamberlain & Bean, LLP.

Andy Michael explained the purpose of the call, to discuss a way to resolve the vacancy on the Board, which happened when Andy Michael resigned his elected position as board member. He outlined three possible ways forward:

- (1) Refine the policy for electing Board Members.
- (2) Appoint a replacement.
- (3) Elect a member to fill the vacancy.

Andy Michael suggested that the Board first discuss possibility (1), and if all were to agree to it, then there would be no need to discuss the other two possible solutions.

The Board discussed the first option: A retiring board member who would be assuming an officer position -- president-elect, president, or past president – could only stand for reelection to a term that begins after the completion of her or his duties as past president.

The discussion produced general agreement that the policy provided a simple solution that would require no further action by the Board or membership.

Sarah Mooney suggested a modification to the By-laws would produce the most clarity, and that the Board can take this action. Andy Michael suggested that the formal language be adopted when more Members of the Board were present.

Sue made a motion to accept the policy in principle: If a board member were to be president-elect, president, or past president when beginning a board term then he or she would not stand for election at that time. If the member wished, he or she could stand for election for a term to begin after completing duties as past president.

Jim Mori seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Sarah Mooney, Andy Michael and Nan Broadbent will develop exact language for the By-laws for review by the full board.

Andy Michael adjourned the meeting at 9:35 AM Pacific.



The Board of Directors met by phone on Oct. 3, 2017 at 11 AM Pacific.

In attendance:

Peggy Hellweg  
Sue Hough  
Jim Mori  
Andy Michael  
Mitch Withers  
Peter Shearer  
John Townend  
Bill Walter  
Kate Scharer  
Doug Dreger  
Sergio Barrientos  
Christine Goulet

Staff: Nan Broadbent

Not in Attendance: Meaghan Miller, Jessica Murray

The Agenda:

1. Changes to the Board Policy Manual

a. Election of Board Members

Andy explained the proposal, with the wording that is essentially the outcome of the proposal from the last board meeting. There is no big difference between this and what we agreed on.

Proposed additions or changes to the Board Policy Manual:

Election of Board Members

Section 3.7:

The president-elect, president or past president may not stand for election or re-election for a member-elected Board position that overlaps their officer terms. He or she may stand for election or re-election for a member-elected Board position to

begin after he or she completes the term as past president. The term served as an officer will not be considered as elected by the membership and will not be in conflict with the rule stating that no Director may be elected by the members to more than two consecutive terms.

John Townend moved to accept the text, Jim Mori and Christine Goulet seconded. The motion passed unanimously (no abstentions).

## 2. Sponsoring events

SSA has recently funded some external activities which may have been inconsistent with language in the Board Policy Manual. The suggestion to the Board is to amend the Board Policy Manual to clarify SSA's ability (and intent) to engage in the broader community through funding partnerships, sponsorships and other similar arrangements.

The Board reviewed proposed amendments to the current board policy text and was favorable to clarifying the language so that SSA could engage with the community by providing support.

Current language:

1.8 Co-sponsored Events: From time to time SSA receives invitations to cosponsor conferences, workshops or other events. When the Executive Committee deems an event appropriate for SSA to cosponsor, our policy is to partner on events by lending our name in co-sponsorship but without any financial contributions. We do take an active part in publicizing co-sponsored events to our members.

Consideration of external funding requests for an event should be limited to activities with direct involvement by SSA as an organization. For example, an event might qualify if it were to be held in conjunction with an SSA meeting.

Proposed language:

1.8 SSA seeks active engagement in the community and on occasion receives requests to co-sponsor conferences, workshops or other events. As appropriate, SSA's contribution may include lending its name, providing financial support and publicizing the event to its members. Activities with direct involvement by SSA as an organization will have priority when considering external funding requests. The Executive Director will consult the Executive Committee on requests for sponsorship.

The Board decided to proceed in two steps – first, review the proposed language and second, refine the language and process of implementing this new approach.

John Townend moved to accept the language as written. Sue Hough seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. No one abstained.

### 3. Update on Annual Meeting 2018

Nan Broadbent provided an update on the status of holding the joint SSA-LACSC conference in Puerto Rico. She and consultant Barbara Ozaeta are exploring back-up plans for holding the meeting in another city. LACSC would prefer to meeting in Miami if it is held on the US mainland.

The Board discussed a range of issues, including holding the meeting in Puerto Rico in 2018 or a later year, moving the meeting to other locations in and outside the US and the financial and moving it various sites.

Board members expressed a desire to support the Puerto Rican scientific community and economy, balanced against protecting the financial interests of SSA and the safety of all who attend the conference.

SSA staff and contractors are continuing to collect information on the status of San Juan venues and the feasibility of holding a successful meeting in PR with LACSC. The decision needs to be made by the end of October in order to be in compliance with the contracts now in place with the Convention Center and Sheraton.

Broadbent will continue to investigate and report back to the Board with a refined assessment of options.

### 4. Discussion on new directions

Andy Michael proposed a discussion of new directions for SSA. He will ask for email comments from the board, and we can discuss these on the next call in December. The goal is to develop ideas that can be voted upon at the in-person meeting in 2018.

### 5. New business/open comment period

Doug Dreger proposed possibly sponsoring a workshop/conference on planetary sciences. After some discussion, Dreger agreed to learn more and report back to the Executive Committee and the Board.

Meeting adjourned.

SSA Board Meeting (by phone)  
Minutes  
October 19, 2017

Participants: Doug Dreger, Peter Shearer, Bill Walter, Peggy Hellweg, Andy Michael (President), Mitch Withers, Jim Mori, Meghan Miller, John Townend, Susan Hough, Kate Scharer, Jessica Murray, Sergio Barrientos and Nan Broadbent (ED).

Andy Michael called the meeting to order at 2 PM Pacific. The purpose of the call is to discuss whether to hold the Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico or move the meeting to Miami.

Michael mentioned the information distributed in advance of the call, including the membership survey on where to hold the annual meeting, the letter from the co-chairs and LACSC president and a summary of conversations and research regarding the feasibility of holding the meeting in PR and two possible options in Miami.

Broadbent reported that she and consultant Barbara Ozaeta identified two options in Miami that could work – the Doubletree in April and the Hyatt Regency in May – and recommended the Hyatt Regency in May. The Board the discussed the impact of holding the meeting in May versus April and the two very different locations within Miami.

The Board agreed to hold the meeting in May at the Hyatt should we secure the space.

Andy asked for additional comments on any of the topics. There were none. He says, he will keep everyone informed as we move forward. Asks for a motion to close the meeting. Meghan seconded.

Meeting closed at 2:38 Pacific.

SSA Board Meeting via phone call  
Minutes  
November 30, 2017

Participants:

Board Members and Officers: Andy Michael (president), Peter Shearer, Peggy Hellweg, Doug Dreger, Jim Mori, Mitch Withers, Bill Walter, Christine Goulet, John Townend, Jessica Murray, Meghan Miller and Kate Scharer.

Other: Nan Broadbent, Bob Nigbor, Lisa Grant Ludwig and Elizabeth Duffy.

Not present: Sue Hough, Sergio Barrientos. Note: Jim Mori left the call at 16:08.

SSA President Andy Michael called the meeting to order at 3 PM Pacific.

### **1. Bolt Medal discussion and vote (Robert Nigbor)**

Bob Nigbor led a discussion on the Bolt Medal which is jointly awarded by COSMOS, EERI and SSA. He discussed the history of the award, and described the selection process that includes a nomination panel with six members. Woody Savage chairs the committee, which met in October. The committee is recommending Jonathan Stewart who is a geotechnical engineer.

Andy asked for a vote to approve the candidate, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the recommendation. There were no abstentions.

### **2. Procedure for considering funding of external events, opportunities**

Andy Michael reminded the Board that during the last Board call it had approved a change in the Board Policy Manual to allow the Board to sponsor or provide external funding to community efforts. The Board considered an implementation policy and agreed to the following language as a guide to handle future requests.

Kate Scharer moved that we adopt these operation procedures, striking the last bullet in the submitted language. Jim Mori and Meghan Miller seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously without any abstentions.

Approved guidelines:

On October 3, 2017, the Board of Directors approved amending the Board Policy Manual to reflect the Board's ability to engage the broader community by funding external proposals or providing sponsorships. Suggested internal process:

- As part of the budget process, a recommendation is made to the Board for that year's maximum pool of funds if paid for through the operating budget.

- Executive Committee, Treasurer and ED will review any requests as they arise for Executive Committee decision on behalf of the Board, as opportunities arise. Should a request exceed \$20K, a request for input will be sent to the full Board.
- Opportunities will be judged against the mission and business strategic priorities of SSA, including:
  - Support of student and early career member development;
  - Expansion of the influence of SRL and BSSA in the geoscience publishing space; and
  - Engagement of potential members.
- If the reserves are required to fund an opportunity, then the full Board is queried in order to arrive at a decision.

### **3. Update on proposal to fund planetary seismology workshop (Doug Dreger)**

Doug Dreger briefed the Board on the request for SSA to support a workshop on planetary seismology that will be partially supported by NASA. An upcoming call with conference organizers and potential funders is scheduled, and Dreger will report back to the Board.

### **4. Student Travel Grants ("Our Future Fund")**

Nan Broadbent presented the process for implementing a pilot program that offers student travel grants to student members. The 2018 experiment would offer two application periods (February, July) when eligible student members can apply for a travel grant to attend scientific conferences directly relevant to their study and help them in their career. For 2018, the proposed total amount would be \$15,000 and would be supported by either general operating funds or the interest on the Life Membership Fund – to be decided as part of the budget process for FY2019.

The Board discussed the implementation of the program and amended the proposed process to include:

- Grants will support travel to small US conferences or workshops, and any non-US scientific conference.
- Students must have been a member in good standing for at least one year.
- Provide support for the February application period only with review at the Board meeting in May, when it will be decided whether to continue with the July application period.
- For 2018 and the first application period in 2019, should the program continue, the review committee will consist of current president (Andy Michael), current president-elect (Peter Shearer), Secretary (Peggy), chair of Membership Committee (Jessica Murray), and two others.

Andy Michael made the motion to support the student travel grant program as described for February and review the program at the May Board meeting. John Townsend seconded the motion, which passed unanimously without abstentions.

## **5. Joyner Fund and support for Richter Award, Joyner Lecturer fees**

The Board considered a proposal by Tom Hanks, chair of the Joyner Committee, to increase the support by the Joyner Fund for selected activities. Namely:

- Increase support of the Richter Award to \$1,500.
- Support the LACSC-SSA reception at \$6,000. This year it would not carry the Joyner name (i.e., Joyner Reception) due to the unique joint nature of this year's conference.
- Increase the funds available to the Joyner recipient to \$6,000.

The Board decided to discuss the Joyner Fund further, and specifically how to handle the reception, at the May meeting.

Andy Michael made a motion to agree to the proposal as outlined. The Board agreed unanimously without abstentions.

## **6. Eastern Section Agreement – approval**

Nan Broadbent explained that every two years the Eastern Section and SSA reaffirm their affiliation agreement. This year the Eastern agreed to two changes: Eastern Section will pay for its own insurance coverage (item #9), and SSA will not be responsible in perpetuity for ES-SSA's insurance coverage (item #17).

Andy Michael made the motion to reaffirm the agreement with the two changes. Motion carried unanimously without abstentions.

## **7. Discussion about proposed policy statements**

Government Relations Committee (GRC) Chair Lisa Grant Ludwig and Government Relations Consultant Elizabeth Duffy joined the call at 4:10 PM.

Grant Ludwig led a discussion of three draft policy statements circulated to the Board in advance of the call.

1. Jessica moved to accept the statement on Earthquake and Tsunami Monitoring as modified during the discussion. Kate Scharer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without abstentions.
2. The Board discussed the Statement on Federal Investment in Earthquake Science and suggested it needed refinement and inclusion of additional programs, as well as the addition of some formatting that would aid the reader. The Board sent it back to the GRC for amendment.
3. The Board discussed the Statement on Education and Workforce Development and requested refinement of the language regarding reference to the anticipated future shortage of geoscientists.

The Board would like to review revised versions at a later phone call in January or February.



## **8. New Business, questions**

Andy Michael asked about fundraising for LACSC and PR travel funds. Broadbent reported that donations are coming in very slowly and only from individual members.

Andy Michael moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Christine Goulet.

Adjourned at 4:50 PM Pacific.

SSA Board of Directors  
Phone meeting, January 9, 2018

Officers and board members participating: Andy Michael (president), Peter Shearer, Peggy Hellweg, Mitch Withers, Jim Mori, Doug Dreger, Meghan Miller, Bill Walter, John Townend, Jessica Murray, Kate Scharer and Sergio Barrientos.

Also participating: Nan Broadbent

Not in attendance: Christine Goulet, Susan Hough

Andy Michael called the meeting to order at 1 PM Pacific. The purpose of the call was to discuss how to expand the role of SSA in the seismological and earthquake science community, as outlined in a memo that he circulated previously. Michael started the meeting by suggesting the ongoing need to make the Society relevant to its members and potential new members.

He suggested a few possible areas to explore, including meetings, travel grants, professional development and community building (attracting members who are not scientists).

Doug Dreger updated the Board on an opportunity that was discussed at the last Board meeting – a NASA supported planetary workshop. Dreger and Nan Broadbent met with a representative from AGU which also has interest in supporting the workshop. Discussions with the conveners are still ongoing, and the situation remains a bit confusing.

Michael suggested that one lesson might be for SSA to serve as the primary funder and organizer as a way to control the Society's involvement and possible related publishing outcomes.

Michael mentioned the student-run workshop by Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory students who received SSA funding. He suggested that SSA could foster a similar meeting on the West coast or Central US.

Kate Scharer mentioned that when she was student, she thought the SSA meeting was large, like AGU, only to be surprised by its small and intimate nature. The nature of our meeting is a benefit that should be better communicated.

Jim Mori commented that while all activities listed are good, SSA should play to its strengths. He likes the idea of small meetings and add-ons to annual

meeting. SSA is a small organization and he suggested more options for meetings that allow more interactions.

Andy Michael mentioned the size of annual meeting has grown and wondered whether we are we still maintaining the opportunity of time for attendees to meet and talk.

Nan Broadbent agreed with Mori to focus on the strength of SSA – publishing and convening power (meetings), and perhaps tie the two together as way of generating revenue: do good and do well. The board has invested money in restructuring organization, including the incorporation of new technology that will allow the Society to do more without a corresponding increase in staff.

Andy Michael suggested that publishing is important for "topical" meetings but not student-focused ones. There was discussion about a range of approaches to meeting, including a "Chapman Conference" style approach.

A second SSA meeting could be modeled on the Annual Meeting which provides heavily discounted student registration rates.

The Board agreed to discuss at the Annual Meeting in-person board meeting various approaches to a possible second meeting (i.e., topical, for students only, etc.).

The discussion turned to professional education. SSA has hosted successful, well attended workshops at the Annual Meeting. It hosted one webinar with modest success and has not received much enthusiasm from the community for moving its PSHA workshop online in a webinar format. Some members questioned whether SSA has the resources to run an effective series.

Michael discussed CORSSA and its value to the community, but that it has been hard to maintain since it is not housed in any one organization. Is it something that could be expanded to more of earthquake seismology and sciences under the auspices of SSA? The Board discussed possible applications, such as machine learning, where there is no standard textbook. Materials like CORSSA, she said, might be of interest to seismologists, particularly articles on how to use it in our field rather than general articles on machine learning. Doug Dreger said that Zhigang Peng is exploring a special focus section on the topic. And SRL is looking at special review articles, which could include such topics, and a collection of these papers could be packaged for broader distribution. Michael suggested that this idea might be better to publish in SRL than by starting a new venture.

Doug Dreger supports the idea of a Chapman-like meeting, tied to a meeting proceedings or peer-reviewed papers from the conference. Kate Scharer suggested that this approach is more cohesive, under the umbrella of existing structure.

Michael said that it is easier to have things evolve than start something new, suggesting publishing CORSSA papers in SRL.

New topic: At last year's annual meeting, it was suggested by an attendee that SSA could foster connections between researchers and tech companies that could fund research. The Board discussed what this might look like and various ways to explore this idea. It was agreed to look at how to use the Seattle meeting location and its proximity to tech companies as a starting point. Michael summed up the stated options: foster internships, reach out to tech exhibitors, invite representatives to present (panel at lunch) and consider someone from the tech world for the policy speaker at the Seattle meeting.

Michael reported that at the Annual Meeting, there will be a Women in Seismology reception, which was an idea suggested previously by Peggy Hellweg.

The Board discussed how to provide early career members with opportunities to serve the Society: service on board committees and the board, as AEs and on annual meeting committees.

Michael turned the discussion to the idea of expanding the membership beyond scientists, perhaps offering an affiliate membership akin to GSA's program. Specifically, Michael is suggesting a broad-based effort that earns less money from many people than a development effort that targets larger amounts from relatively fewer people. Sergio Barrientos asked about a third option by means of publication, "a newsletter" that would be akin to "seismology for citizens." Michael suggested that this could be a benefit for people who affiliate with SSA.

Dreger added that it would need to be a newsletter that engages, educates in various aspects, state of science, etc., in order to have repeat customers.

Michael asked Broadbent about the effort to connect with community colleges with SRL. She said that the first attempt was not well done, and the effort needs a second attempt to judge.

Broadbent will develop business plans and work with the Executive Committee in order to bring back one to three ideas for further discussion and action at the May meeting.

Andy Michael adjourned the meeting at 2:25 PM Pacific.

## SSA Board of Directors Meeting

By phone, February 15, 2018

Officers and Members of the Board participating: Andy Michael, Peter Shearer, Peggy Hellweg, Mitch Withers, Jim Mori, Doug Dreger, Bill Walter, Christine Goulet, Susan Hough, John Townend, Jessica Murray, Kate Scharer.

Also participating: Nan Broadbent, Lisa Grant Ludwig, Elizabeth Duffy and Sherry Marts.

Not in attendance: Sergio Barrientos, Meghan Miller

Andy Michael called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm Pacific.

### 1. Policy Statements, with Lisa Grant Ludwig and Elizabeth Duffy

The Board reviewed two revised policy statements on Federal Investment and on Education and Workforce Development, suggesting additional edits. The Board agreed let the Executive Committee approve the statement on Federal Investment after further polishing as outlined by the Board during the call.

Peter Shearer made the motion to approve the document, pending minor changes and polishing by the Executive Committee.

Second: Sue Hough seconded.

Motion passed unanimously without abstentions.

The Board made slight revision to the opening paragraph on the Statement on Education and Workforce Development.

John moved to accept the statement with revisions. Bill Walter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously without abstentions.

### 2. Meeting code of Conduct, Sherry Marts

Andy Michael is spearheading an effort to develop a code of conduct for the SSA annual meeting. The Board is joined by Sherry Marts, a consultant to many scientific organizations on this topic.

The Board agrees that this is a good idea to pursue.

The Board discussed the draft language at length and questioned the need for the formal, "legalese" language at the end of the statement. Marts described what makes a good policy statement, including the promise of confidentiality that allows people to report with less fear that there will be retribution for reporting. She stated that attendance at meetings is a privilege, and that our annual meeting is a private event. As long as SSA does not discriminate on the basis of a protected category, then we can ask any person to leave the meeting based on their behavior. A policy statement reflects the community's values and culture, and this policy serves to codify SSA's culture.

Andy Michael asked for volunteers to work with the Executive Committee to move the policy statement forward. John Townend, Mitch Withers and Christine Goulet volunteered.

The Board will likely meet briefly to approve the final code of conduct policy and its implementation prior to the Annual Meeting in May.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM Pacific.

Board of Directors meeting  
April 10, 2018

Board members and officers In attendance: Andy Michael, Peggy Hellweg, Peter Shearer, Christine Goulet, Meghan Miller, Bill Walter, Doug Dreger, Sue Hough, Jim Mori and Sergio Barrientos

Not in attendance: Jessica Murray, Kate Scharer, Mitch Withers, John Townend

Also in attendance: Sherry Marts, Nan Broadbent

Andy Michael called the meeting to order at 3 PM.

The sole agenda item was the draft Code of Conduct. Andy Michael said that there had been good input from the Board and the subcommittee and some changes were made to the last draft.

The code is written so that it can be adapted to reflect the local emergency telephone information.

Meghan Miller moved to adopt the code of conduct and implementation policy. Bill Walter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, without abstentions.

Sue Hough asked about next steps. Michael explained that the code of conduct would be inserted into the annual meeting program, displayed on signs at the meeting and mentioned in addresses to attendees. Members would be initially notified through a 3-Minute.

Meeting adjourned 3:15 (Pacific).



Secretary's Report to the Board of Directors  
 Period: May 2017 – April 2018

The Society completed a very successful FY17 (February 1, 2017 – January 31, 2018), delivering quality services on behalf of its members and the broader community.

The Society and its volunteer leadership are fortunate to have a professional staff with considerable expertise and experience. This group is led by Executive Director Nan Broadbent and includes Rikki Anderson, program coordinator; Sydni Schieber, membership officer; Jan Woo, financial manager; and Connor Russell, a part-time administration assistant. The Society employs a cadre of consultants who contribute to its success: Miranda Beasley (Grant and Smith – accounting services), Kevin Cristiano (Tadpole – technology consultant), Elizabeth Duffy (Federal Affairs Office, Washington, DC, representation), Adrienne Ford (editor and creative director), Kathleen Gaffney (KG Publishing Solutions – publishing director), Mary George (SRL managing editor), Becky Ham (science writer), Joyce Martinez (Choyce Events, on-site meeting coordination), Bo Orloff (IT support), Barbara Ozaeta (MVP Meetings – meeting site selection and contracts), Ron Riba and Dave Laatz (ISCG – technology consultants), Betty Schiefelbein (BSSA manuscript coordinator), Sarah Tyler (BSSA production coordinator) and Erin Vito (designer).

Each August SSA takes a tally of its membership to allow for a year-to-year comparison. As of August 2017, SSA's membership numbered 2825, as compared to 2511 in August 2016. SSA implemented several new outreach programs in 2017 to help grow membership. These efforts included:

- An introductory offer in January-February that brought in 197 new free student members/
- Exhibition at scientific meetings such as AAPG, SEG and AGU that promoted the society and also brought in 157 new free students.
- A special 18-month membership was offered to lapsed members and non-member authors of our publications, resulting in 41 new members.

During the fiscal year ending January 31, 2018, the Seismological Society of America (SSA) published six issues of volume 107 of the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America (BSSA), totaling 3055 pages. The Society also published volume 88, numbers through 2 through 6, and volume 89, number 1 of Seismological Research Letters (SRL), totaling 1908 pages. SRL published one focus section, volume 88-4 (September/October), on the 2016 Pawnee, Oklahoma, Earthquake. SRL launched Communicating Science, a peer-reviewed column that provides a forum on a broad range of issues relating to the communicating of earthquake science.

The 2017 Annual Meeting was held in Denver, Colorado from April 18-20. Richard Briggs and Gavin Hayes of the U.S. Geological Survey co-chaired the meeting, and the program committee included: Rick Aster, Colorado State University; Shideh Dashti, Colorado University; Whitney Trainor-Guitton, Colorado School of Mines; Christine Puskas, UNAVCO; and Mark Zellman, Fugro Consultants.

The formal program included 803 scheduled presentations: 440 oral presentations and 363 poster presentations distributed among 53 sessions. Slide casts of many of the presentations have been posted online at the SSA website and are accessible to members. SSA offered three workshops:

- Probabilistic Seismic Hazards Assessment: From Basics to Induced Seismicity
- Be a Better Reviewer, Advance Your Career,
- That Poster Is Just Fine and So Are You: Maintaining Self-Confidence and Balance in the Uncertain World of Early-Career Science

The inaugural Career Mentoring Breakfast was held in Denver, matching student and early career attendees with more experienced SSA members who offered their experience and advice. It was a popular event that will be repeated in 2018.

SSA had planned to prepare for the 2018 Annual Meeting, to be held jointly with the Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Due to the devastating impact of two hurricanes in late 2017, SSA, working in concert with the leadership of LACSC, decided to move the 2018 meeting to Miami. Abstracts for the Annual Meeting in Miami in May 2018 appeared on the SSA website and in SRL volume 89, number 2B. The Annual Meeting co-chairs are Carol Prentice of U.S. Geological Survey and Elizabeth Vanacore of the Puerto Rico Seismic Network.

An SRL special focus section, volume 89 2A, features articles on Latin American networks. Complimentary copies of this issue will be available to attendees at the joint meeting.

The Executive Committee consists of President Andy Michael, President-Elect Peter Shearer and Secretary Peggy Hellweg. The Executive Committee's role is to act on behalf of the Board of Directors and make those decisions requiring action between meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee consults with Mitch Withers, the Treasurer, on many matters. This year the Executive Committee took the following actions:

- Approved organizational goals for the year, based on actions taken at the April board meeting and discussions with the Management Committee and the Executive Director.
- Agreed to financially support a student-run workshop at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (\$11,000).
- Worked with Executive Director to move the annual meeting from Puerto Rico to Florida.
- Reviewed and selected 20 annual meeting travel grant recipients:
  - ESC/SSA Travel Grant: **Rodrigo Contreras Arratia**, Institute of Geophysics and Tectonics, University of Leeds, Leeds, England
  - International Travel Grant: **Albert Aguilar**, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia; **Marcella Cilia**, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, England; **Garmalia Mentor William**, GeoHazards International, Haiti; **Maria Mesimeri**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece; **Rebecca Salvage**, Observatorio Vulcanológico y Sismológico de Costa Rica, Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica; **Hema Sharma**, Western University, London, Ontario, Canada; **Hubert Zal**, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand

- Student Travel Grant: **Claudia Aristizábal**, ISTERre - Universite Grenoble Alpes, Grenoble, France; **Lirca Feliciano-Centeno**, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico; **Laney Hart**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA; **Jacob Kukovica**, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada; **Pamela Moyer**, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, USA; **Jessica Schobelock**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA; **Vianca Severino Rivas**, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico; **Kahoko Takahashi**, Yokohama City University, Yokohama, Japan; **Sin-Mei Wu**, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA; **Shuo Yang**, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA; **Jefferson Yarce**, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, USA; **Lizhong Zhang**, University of Bristol, Bristol, England
- Along with Past President Jim Mori, Board Member Meghan Miller and Membership Committee Chair Jessica Murray, selected four students to receive grants under a new program established in January 2018. The recipients are **Rachel Hatch** of University of Reno, Nevada; **Meredith Kraner** of University of Reno, Nevada; **Heather McFarlin** of University of South Florida; and **Nadine Reitman** of University of Colorado, Boulder.
- Selected Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the site for the 2020 Annual Meeting.
- Developed a Code of Conduct policy for the Annual Meeting for consideration by the full Board of Directors.

Several Society members served as members of the Nominating Committee for candidates for the 2019 Board of Directors. Thanks are due to these committee members: John Townend (chair), Ruth Harris, Satoshi Ide, Martin Mai, Kristine Pankow and Mark Stirling.

For 2017-18, the commitment to a consistent presence on Capitol Hill continued. Meetings with targeted members of Congress and Congressional staff contributed to the introduction of a Bill, sponsored by Senators Feinstein and Murkowski, to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). The Bill was favorably passed by the Senate Commerce Committee and is awaiting action by the full Senate. Efforts to introduce a House companion Bill are well underway. Additional meetings were conducted with staff at the Department of Interior, Department of Commerce, White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy and federal science agencies to promote and advocate for SSA issues and concerns. Elizabeth Duffy, of the Federal Affairs Office, represented SSA at numerous coalition, alliance and caucus meetings, as well as attended relevant Congressional hearings on the budget, hazards legislation and confirmation hearings for presidentially nominated agency positions.

Executive Director Nan Broadbent and the Government Relations Committee were kept abreast of developments in Washington through monthly calls and periodic updates, and SSA members were updated through 3-Minute update emails as needed. SSA once again had a leadership role in the annual Geosciences Congressional Visits Day (GEOCVD), and with the support of member contributions, sent two students to participate in the event last September. The Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the Board, updated SSA position statements:

- Statement on Federal Investment in Earthquake Science
- Statement on Education and Workforce Development

- Statement on Earthquake and Tsunami Monitoring
- SSA-AGU Reaffirm Position on Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty
- Statement on Reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP)

In March 2018, SSA sponsored an informational briefing on the role of seismology in nuclear test monitoring at the Capitol Visitors Center. The briefing featured Board Member Bill Walter and Thorne Lay. They highlighted the science behind the monitoring and the need for robust global monitoring.



## Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year End 1/31/2018 (Mitch Withers)

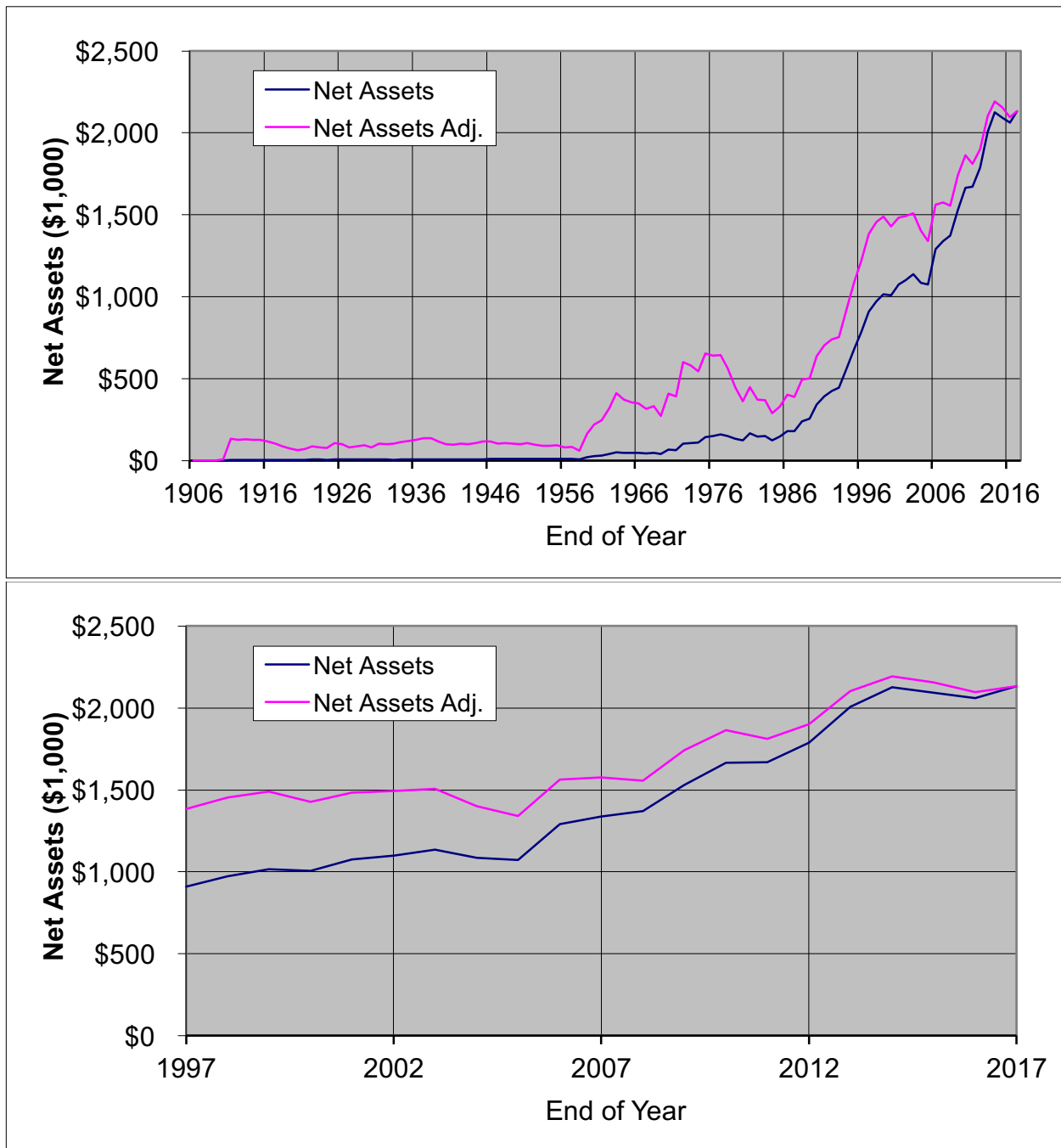
The Society again had a good financial year. As of the Fiscal Year End on January 31, 2018 (FYE 2018), our net assets stood at \$2,132,783—a 3.5% increase over the previous fiscal year end. Net assets are total assets minus any liabilities; liabilities were \$545,769 at the end of the fiscal year. The history of the Society's net assets is shown in Figure 1. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the Commerce Department of the federal government was used to correct the raw dollar amounts to an inflation-adjusted series in this figure, with the average CPI for 2017 as the normalization value. The line labeled “net assets adj.” is then the more comparative picture of the society's assets. Liabilities for the FYE 2018 are large due to \$447,585 in deferred revenue, which is partially due to changes that shift member dues from the year they're paid to the year which the service is provided (other deferred revenue include collections for the annual meeting and subscriptions and print purchases).

The Society had \$1,397,478 in its investment account as of FYE 2018, a 12% increase over the \$1,249,991 balance as of FYE 2017. (There was also a 12% increase the previous fiscal year.) Equities again did very well in 2017. The Kanamori Fund contained \$79,513 and the Joyner fund had \$342,812 as of FYE 2018 (and after deposit of all 2017 donations).

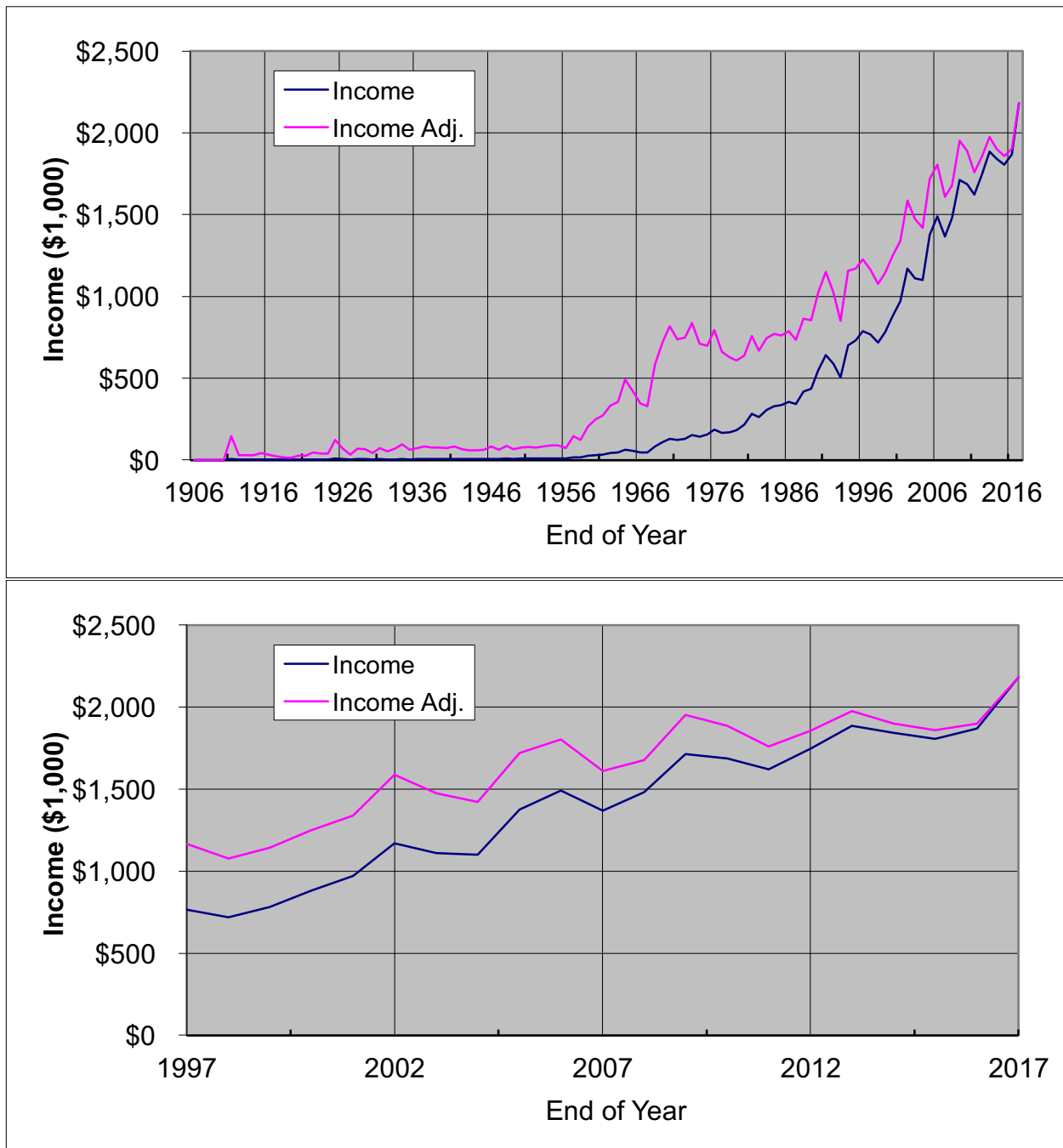
A common measure of the fiscal health of a non-profit is the ratio of current assets to current liabilities. The SSA asset/liability ratio is 4.9; greater than 1.0 is generally considered healthy (i.e. assets are on hand to cover liabilities). Additionally, the Society had about \$1.6M in unrestricted net assets as of FYE 2018, which provides a healthy nine to ten months operating reserve. A measure of a non-profit efficiency is the expenses used toward programs (e.g. journals, meetings, and other activities that advance the SSA mission) versus expenses used primarily for management and fundraising. While classification of these expenses, particularly staff salaries, is imprecise, from February 2017 through January 2018 (FY 2018) generally about 82% of SSA expenses were for programs and about 18% were used for general management and fundraising. While the expense ratio is not directly applicable to SSA, the Charities Review Council recommends that this number be higher than 70%.

Figures 2 and 3 show the history of the income and expenses of the society--again with adjustments for the CPI. Income and expenses for FY 2018 were \$2,180,636 and \$2,109,451 respectively. This represents an increase in income of \$311,943 (16.7% of FY 2017 Income) and an expense increase of \$209,628 (11% of FY 2017 expenses). The reported income includes \$197,499 in unrealized gains on investments.

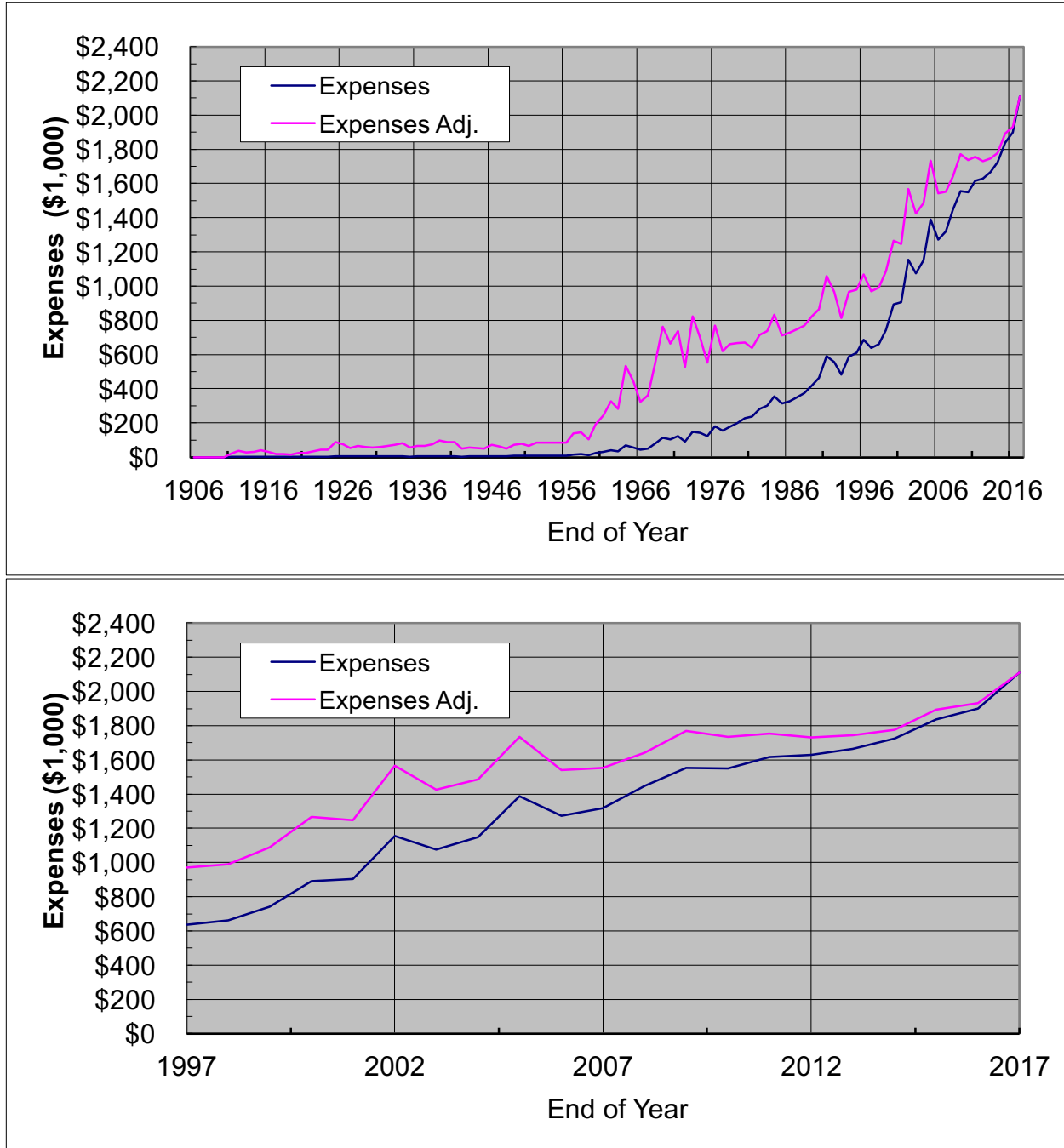
We were again able to finalize the audit report prior to the Board meeting, and the Audit Committee approved it during a conference call on April 16, 2018. The report again concludes that the financial statements provided by the SSA “present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Seismological Society of America ... in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”



**Figure 1.** History of the net assets of the Seismological Society of America through the end of FYE 1/31/2018. The “adj” curve takes into account inflation using the consumer price index from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/data>) normalized to 2017. The upper plot shows the entire history of the society and the lower plot shows the previous two decades.



**Figure 2.** History of the income of the Seismological Society of America through the end of FYE 1/31/2018. The “adj” curve takes into account inflation as in Figure 1. The upper plot shows the entire history of the society and the lower plot shows the previous two decades.



**Figure 3.** History of the expenditures of the Seismological Society of America through the end of FYE 1/31/2018. The “adj” curve takes into account inflation as in Figure 1. The upper plot shows the entire history of the society and the lower plot shows the previous two decades.



Staff Report by Nan Broadbent  
Summary Overview of May 2017 – April 2018

SSA had an excellent FY18, ending the year well ahead of budget while also accomplishing its ambitious goals for the period between annual meetings. At the April 2017 meeting, the Board approved a deficit budget, choosing to invest in completing the second year of the technology plan developed in early 2016.

Change characterized this 12-month period:

- Moved *SRL* and *BSSA* from the Highwire platform to Silverchair (SIS), which now hosts all of the GeoScienceWorld (GSW) journals, including our Society's journals, and created single sign-on capability (SSO) for SSA members.
- Changed the production process for *BSSA*, hiring J&J so that we can accommodate a greater flow of papers while reducing the time from acceptance to publication.
- Redesigned website:
  - Rebuilt code, de-linking SSA from old servers and programs.
  - Added monthly column, At Work, that highlights members – who we are and what we do – written by Becky Ham.
  - Built SSO to connect the website to SIS, allowing easier member access to the journals, either from our website or from anywhere on the web.
  - Created new design with improved navigation functionality, allowing us to showcase stories and news about SSA.
- Documented the business need and process for collecting and managing the submission of annual meeting abstracts. We contracted with OpenWater for the 2018 Annual Meeting, and that process did not go as well as desired or required. We are now working with the runner-up from last summer's RFP process to build the online tool that will also process student travel grant applications.
- Moved the 2018 Annual Meeting from Puerto Rico to Miami, avoiding all penalties by negotiating two entirely new contracts with Puerto Rican properties for 2022 dates.
- Signed a new lease for headquarters and updated our look – threw out the clutter, painted the walls, restructured the main walk-in closet and bought some new furniture. And thanks to a breakdown in summer, we now have a new air conditioner. As part of the makeover, we found a more cost-effective off-site storage solution.

Along with these changes, we conducted outreach campaigns to attract new members and bring back lapsed ones. In January Sydni Schieber called lapsed members in the US and Canada, asking them to rejoin or keep their memberships active as a proactive step to retain members. We also flew the SSA flag at some conferences in addition to AGU, namely SEG, AAPG and the Charleston Conference. Produced with help from the Executive Committee, a new poster will help market SSA to potential members and authors, as well as help reinforce the idea of community.

Edited by Adrienne Ford, a new bi-monthly newsletter, *Seismo-gram*, provides advice and information for student and early-career members. We are engaging our student and early-career members as much as possible, which was the impetus for the mentoring breakfast at the 2017 Annual Meeting. We also conducted successful travel grant programs – annual meeting, Geo-CVD and the new global grant for students.

A main focus is on the publishing business, much of which is captured in a summary document (attached) by Kathleen Gaffney. We seek continued refinement in our operations so that we can improve the end-user experience – publishing quality papers quickly. We have tightened expenses, improved operations and are focused on increasing our capacity to handle a greater flow of papers and thus increase our revenue and profit.

Proactive outreach to subscribers helped maintain a high rate of renewals at 90%, in addition we had seven lapsed subscribers renew as well as gained eight new subscribers. We currently have a total of 287 subscribers, with 280 subscriptions to *BSSA* and 121 subscriptions to *SRL*.

Through our participation in GSW, we can publish our journals online as well as receive a cut of the GSW library sales each year. Our cash payout is determined by a number of factors, and the two within our influence are usage (the number of visits to our online journal pages) and the number of research articles we publish. The better we do on these two factors relative to all of the journals participating in GSW, the greater the cash payout. Therefore, publishing special focus sections and special issues is likely to have a positive impact on our compensation. The same is true for increasing the visibility of the research that we publish, which Becky Ham handles through pitching stories to reporters and writing stories about research in *SRL* and *BSSA* that are featured on the SSA website and highlighted on Facebook and Twitter.

We were active in government relations this year (see report by Elizabeth Duffy), adding a new program of briefings. Featured speakers Thorne Lay and Bill Walter conducted a briefing in March on how seismologists monitor nuclear tests. We plan to hold these briefings twice each year, explaining seismology and reinforcing the importance of SSA as an independent and useful resource.

SSA would not have been successful this past year without the excellent work by its team of staff and contractors. They include:

Rikki Anderson, program coordinator  
Dan Ringer-Barwick, Small Hill Partners (CFO)  
Miranda Beasley, Grant and Smith accounting  
Conner Russell, office assistant  
Sydni Schieber, membership officer  
Jan Woo, finance manager

**Annual Meeting**

Joyce Novicky-Martinez, meeting planner

Barbara Ozaeta, meeting site selection and contract negotiation

**Communications/marketing**

Adrienne Ford, editor

Becky Ham, science writer

Erin Vito, designer

**Government relations**

Elizabeth Duffy, Federal Affairs office

**Publishing**

Kathleen Gaffney, publishing director

Mary George, managing editor for *SRL*

Betty Schiefelbein, manuscripts coordinator for *BSSA*

Sarah Tyler, production coordinator for *BSSA*

**Technology:**

Kevin Cristiano, TadPole

Dave Laatz, ISCGI

Ron Riba, ISCGI

**TO: Nan Broadbent**  
**FROM: Kathleen Gaffney**  
**DATE: April 2, 2018**  
**RE: Journal Publishing Update**

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## EDITORIAL

- Aries Systems conducted audit of SRL and BSSA's implementation of Editorial Manager to ensure efficiencies. The following changes were implemented as result of the audit:
  - use of automated reminders to AE's, reviewers, and authors (for revisions)
  - integrated copyright transfer form into the submission process
  - require all authors to transfer copyright through EM
  - tracking of page, color charges, and waiver requests within system
- SRL is publishing 5 focus sections in 2018 (28 articles plus preface published in Latin America Focus Section; subsequent Focus Sections expected to be 8-10 articles each); One Focus Section identified for 2019
- BSSA is publishing 2 special issues in 2018 (approx. 20 articles each); No Special Issues identified for 2019
- Introducing new system for author submission and reviewing large eSupp files (via FTP site)

## PRODUCTION

- Agreement with Lumina (copyediting/composition) took effect June 1, 2017. Remains in effect until either party provides 6-months written notice. Agreement specifies turn-around times and maintained the existing price schedule
- With exception of SRL Focus Sections and BSSA Special Issues, introduced article-based, continuous production rather than issue based. Issue lineups are determined approximately 2 weeks prior to issue publication
- Continue to monitor time from submission to publication; Introduced monthly time to publication (T2P) report to monitor performance and production times. specific effort initiated to reduce time from acceptance to publication. Goal for both publication is 30-35 days. See table below for 2017 and YTD 2018 performance:

<i>Average time (calendar days)</i>	<b>BSSA 2017</b>	<b>BSSA YTD Feb 2018**</b>	<b>SRL 2017</b>	<b>SRL YTD Feb 2018***</b>
Submission to Online Pub	260	264	137	147
Accept to Online Pub	50*	53	35	41

*\*Articles not published from mid-July through late Sept as result of Highwire shut-off of BSSA website excluded*

*\*\*Due to high volume of SRL manuscripts for Latin America Focus Section, some BSSA papers were delayed in production*

*\*\*\* SRL Latin America Focus Section articles were released in batches for publicity purposes; some papers were "held" from online publication to release with batch*

- Modified timing of page and color charge invoicing to issue at revised proof stage to reduce need to revise/re-issue invoices based on formatting and/or author corrections during production process

- Effective April 2018, eliminated first proof review stage for SRL and BSSA which is expected to save up to 3 days in schedule
- Conducted RFP for BSSA production functions. Received three proposals and selected J&J Editorial. Agreement with J&J Editorial is effective 4/02/18. J&J is providing production services for BSSA and available as back up for SRL production as well as BSSA and SRL peer review administration if needed
  - Transitioned BSSA production from Sarah Tyler to J&J Editorial (Lauren Bragg) effective 4/02/18.
  - J&J will audit Lumina's copyediting and commits to proof turnaround of 3 business days (2017 average = 9 days)
  - J&J has done initial assessment of SSA style guide; later in year will work with J&J to simplify style guide while maintaining all seismology specific styles
- Transitioned to industry standard JATS DTD and introduced MathML to preserve integrity of equations throughout the production process

### **JOURNAL WEBSITES / GEOSCIENCEWORLD**

- Journal websites migrated from Highwire to Silverchair Information Systems in late September 2017
  - GSW institutional customers continued to access via GSW on Highwire through November 2017
  - SSA Member single-sign on access implemented for significantly improved member experience
- Improved functionality and search capabilities on new platform but not without some ongoing issues including:
  - Slow site performance (loading pages and during search)
  - Search by article type (may require XML change and content redeliveries)
  - Poor display (resolution and large size) of equations in some archival HTML content
  - Ongoing assessment of eSupps now hosted on platform alongside articles (archival eSupps still reside on SSA website)
  - Slow turnaround time on requests to GSW and Silverchair
- All BSSA and SRL content is behind the paywall with platform transition
- GSW unable to distribute weekly publish ahead of print email alerts and issue eTOCs as expected; new design and process for eAlerts implemented and distribution is handled at SSA office
- New article usage reports available

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- Direct Institutional Subscriptions
  - Site license model introduced
  - As of Feb 2018, 411 institutions with access to BSSA and/or SRL
  - 94% retention rate of direct institutional subscriptions from 2017 to YTD 2018 (24 non-renewals)
  - 14 new subscriptions YTD 2018
- GeoScienceWorld Subscriptions
  - 1226 institutions worldwide have access to BSSA and SRL; 1096 of which are active

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- Provided guidance to EiCs on plagiarism, dual publication, retractions, and other publications ethics issues using Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) as resource
- SSA joined STM Association and Council of Science Editors
  - Through STM, SSA is now participating in reciprocal permissions arrangement with other publishers (through Copyright Clearance Center)

- SSA attended and exhibited at Charleston Library Conference in November 2017; this is the largest gathering of academic librarians; met with potential vendors and subscription agents and learned about institutional purchasing
- Ongoing evaluation of preprint servers policies and activity
  - AGU's "Earth and Space Science Open Archive" beta launched on 2/08/18 ([www.essoar.org](http://www.essoar.org)); as of 4/02/18 there are four preprints and 94 posters available on the server

#### **2018 PLANS**

- Review of archival content to determine if redeliveries are necessary for articles with diminished quality in transition from HW to Silverchair
- SRL redesign and BSSA cover/frontmatter redesign
- eSupp policy update (revision of content requirements, acceptable formats, review process)
- Evaluate recommendations from CrossRef for greater discoverability of content; work with GSW to implement changes.

From Jim Mori, chair of the SSA Audit Committee

April 19, 2018

SSA Audit Committee conference call at 3:00 pm (PDT) on April 17, 2018.  
Present on the call: Jim Mori (chair), Kate Scharer, Sergio Barrientos (audit committee members), Mitch Withers (SSA Treasurer, audit committee member ex officio), Nan Broadbent (SSA Executive director), Iryna Oreshkova (Auditor, Iryna Accountancy Corporation).

The purpose of the meeting was to review two draft documents prepared by Iryna Oreshkova, which had been emailed to the Committee previous to the conference call. 1) Draft Audit report of March 27, 2108 on the financial statements, 2) Required Communications letter from the auditor to SSA.

The audit company was new this year, so this was the first time they carried out the audit. The results of this audit had been previously discussed in detail between Iryna, Nan, Mitch and Peggy Hellweg. That discussion included a letter from the auditor to SSA with some minor recommendations for improving the SSA system.

Iryna summarized the financial report making these points.

- SSA provided all the needed information and was very cooperative during the audit.
- SSA is in a healthy state. There is a good balance between the assets and expenditures.
- Net revenue was up in the past year but this is partly due to the good performance of the stock market for the investment funds
- Functional Expenses for an organization should usually not be more than 25% of operational costs. SSA is spending about 18%.
- Cash flow balance is divided into 3 parts (Operating activities, Investment, Fund raising). Operating activities were slightly negative, but overall there is a positive balance.

Iryna mentioned that the scheduling for the audit was rather tight. There were no problems this time, but if there were some complications, the audit company may not be able to complete a comprehensive report by the deadline.

Iryna mentioned that the audit checks the financial statements but does not specifically look for any signs of fraud in the system. (There was no reason to suspect any fraud in the current audit).

Iryna recommended that the SSA Board should oversee the financial statements on a monthly basis. Jim and Mitch responded that the Board does not see monthly financial statements, but the Management committee does.

From last year, the recommendation about splitting the bank account to ensure that the total amounts were below the federal insurance limits and another minor procedural issue about accounting, were both taken care of.

Nan left the conference call near the end so that any issues regarding the SSA management could be privately discussed.

The audit committee extends its appreciation to the SSA Executive Director Nan Broadbent for the very successful audit. We congratulate Nan for her conscientious work with regard to the financial accounting.

The Audit Committee unanimously voted to approve the draft Audit statements and forward them to the Board for final acceptance.

The call adjourned at about 15:45 PM.



**SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**WITH**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2018**

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1000 Broadway 200-G, Oakland, CA 94607 | (510) 467-9506 | io@irynacpa.com | ww.irynacpa.com

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors  
SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Seismological Society of America (a California nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of January 31, 2018, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Seismological Society of America as of January 31, 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. [unclear]", is written over a horizontal line.

Oakland, California  
March 19, 2018

## SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AT JANUARY 31, 2018

ASSETS	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Cash	\$ 454,623	\$ -	\$ 454,623
Accounts receivable	125,343	-	125,343
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>579,966</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>579,966</b>
Prepaid expenses and deposits	74,299	-	74,299
Investments	1,484,651	460,249	1,944,900
Property and equipment	108,166	-	108,166
Accumulated amortization and depreciation	(28,779)	-	(28,779)
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>1,638,337</b>	<b>460,249</b>	<b>2,098,586</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,218,303</b>	<b>\$ 460,249</b>	<b>\$ 2,678,552</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 85,987	\$ -	\$ 85,987
Deferred revenue	447,585	-	447,585
Accrued compensation	12,197	-	12,197
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>545,769</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>545,769</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted	1,559,552	-	1,559,552
Board designated, life membership	112,982	-	112,982
Temporarily restricted	-	460,249	460,249
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,672,534</b>	<b>460,249</b>	<b>2,132,783</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,218,303</b>	<b>\$ 460,249</b>	<b>\$ 2,678,552</b>

See Independent Auditor' Report and Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

## SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2018

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Support			
Contributions and donations	\$ 5,825	\$ 38,856	\$ 44,681
Membership dues	54,335	-	54,335
Revenue			
Annual meeting	488,856	12,950	501,806
Investment income (loss)	160,318	37,181	197,499
Publication charges	1,031,540	-	1,031,540
Royalties	331,773	-	331,773
Other income	19,002	-	19,002
Net assets released from restrictions	46,870	(46,870)	-
Total support and revenue	<u>2,138,519</u>	<u>42,117</u>	<u>2,180,636</u>
EXPENSES			
Program services			
Seismology advancement	1,725,391	-	1,725,391
Supporting services			
Management and general	337,143	-	337,143
Fundraising	46,917	-	46,917
Total expenses	<u>2,109,451</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,109,451</u>
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	29,068	42,117	71,185
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,643,467</u>	<u>418,132</u>	<u>2,061,598</u>
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,672,534</u>	<u>\$ 460,249</u>	<u>\$ 2,132,783</u>

See Independent Auditor' Report and Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

## SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2018

	Seismology Advancement	Management General	Fundraising	Total
Salaries	\$ 220,294	\$ 123,431	\$ 15,512	\$ 359,237
Payroll taxes	17,185	9,629	1,210	28,023
Fringe benefits	23,305	13,058	1,641	38,003
Total compensation	260,783	146,117	18,363	425,263
Awards	32,769	-	-	32,769
Bad debts expense	8,584	-	-	8,584
Conferences and meetings	427,087	724	622	428,433
Dues, fees and other charges	21,008	54,346	119	75,475
Equipment lease and purchase	260	145	18	423
Government relations	35,000	-	-	35,000
Insurance	1,288	3,629	91	5,007
Outside services	155,344	10,266	1,867	167,477
Postage	5,891	3,301	519	9,711
Printing	3,192	1,789	225	5,206
Professional services	11,880	86,258	447	98,584
Public relations	49,670	-	18,712	68,382
Publication cost	635,363	-	-	635,363
Rent	29,480	16,517	2,076	48,073
Supplies	5,013	2,809	353	8,175
Telephone and internet	8,936	5,007	629	14,572
Travel	25,046	1,306	2,257	28,609
Subtotal before:	1,716,594	332,214	46,298	2,095,106
Amortization and depreciation expense	8,797	4,929	619	14,345
TOTAL	\$ 1,725,391	\$ 337,143	\$ 46,917	\$ 2,109,451

See Independent Auditor' Report and Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2018**

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 71,185
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash used by operating activities:	
Amortization and depreciation expense	14,345
Net realized and unrealized changes in investment values	(197,172)
(Increase) decrease in operating assets	
Accounts receivable	(6,990)
Other receivable	17,656
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(43,556)
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities	
Accounts payable	(6,861)
Deferred revenue	114,817
Accrued compensation	(9,851)
	<hr/>
NET CASH PROVIDED / (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(46,427)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Payments for property and equipment	(76,775)
Investment (purchases), net of redemptions	(8,698)
	<hr/>
NET CASH PROVIDED / (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(85,473)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(131,900)
BEGINNING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	586,521
	<hr/>
ENDING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 454,623
	<hr/> <hr/>

See Independent Auditor' Report and Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

## SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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#### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Seismological Society of America, (the Organization) is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation formed in 1906. Seismological Society of America is an international scientific society devoted to the advancement of seismology and the understanding of earthquakes for the benefit of society.

#### NOTE 2 – PROGRAM SERVICES

Seismological Society of America, a scientific society, has worldwide membership and represents a variety of technical interests. In addition to seismologists, members include geophysicists, geologists, engineers, insurers, and policy makers actively working in government, academic and private sectors to promote earthquake public safety. It is the primary forum for the assembly, exchange and dissemination of scientific research essential for earthquake awareness. Seismological Society of America publishes two bi-monthly scientific journals: an advanced research journal, the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America (BSSA) and a journal of shorter, general science papers featuring articles, the Seismological Research Letters (SRL). Seismological Society of America coordinates and hosts an annual conference, held in April, in which researchers share the results of their work. In addition, Seismological Society of America advocates for improvements in earthquake science, engineering and preparedness through coalitions with related science and engineering societies.

#### NOTE 3– SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### *Basis of Accounting*

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which involves the application of accrual accounting; consequently, revenues and gains are recognized when earned, and expenses and losses are recognized when incurred.

##### *Financial Statement Presentation*

The Organization prepares its financial statements in accordance with Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit Organizations. The Organization reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. In addition, the Organization is required to present a statement of cash flows.

Unrestricted net assets include those assets over which the Board of Directors has discretionary control in carrying out the operations of the Organization. Temporary restricted net assets include those assets, which are subject to donor restriction and for which the applicable restriction was not met at the end of the current reporting period. Permanently restricted net assets include those assets, subject to non-expiring donor restrictions, such as endowments. The Organization currently has no permanently restricted net assets.



**NOTE 3– SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)***Income Taxes*

The Organization is not classified as a private foundation and is exempt from federal and state income taxes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701(d) of the California Code. The Organization is considered a publicly supported organization. The Financial Accounting Standards Board prescribes a recognition threshold and a measurement attribute for financial statement recognition of tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a tax return. Management has evaluated its uncertain tax positions and related income tax contingencies and does not believe any material uncertain tax positions exist.

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and disclosures at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Cash and Cash Equivalents*

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Organization considers all cash accounts, with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

*Investments*

The Organization carries investments in cash, money funds, fixed income and mutual funds with readily determinable fair values in the statement of financial position. Unrealized gains and losses, interest and dividends, realized changes and related fees are included in the change in net assets in the statement of activities.

*Contributions In-kind*

Donated services are recognized as contributions if the services (a) create or enhance nonfinancial assets or (b) require specialized skills, are performed by people with those skills, and would otherwise be purchased by the Organization.

During the year ended January 31, 2018 the Organization received services from unpaid volunteers that do not satisfy the criteria for recognition under *FASB ASC 958-605-25-16*.

The management estimated that the Organization received approximately 2,088 volunteer hours for help in program and administrative activities provided by 224 volunteers for the year ended January 31, 2018.

**NOTE 3– SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)***Contributions*

The Organization accounts for contributions as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. Restricted contributions are reported as an increase in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets and reclassified from restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets when donor requirements are met.

*Property, Equipment and Depreciation*

Property and equipment is recorded at cost when purchased or at estimated fair market value if donated. It is the Organization's policy to capitalize items that have a life greater than two years and a cost of at least \$1,000. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the asset's estimated useful life, which ranges from three to five years. Depreciation is charged to the activity benefiting from the use of the facilities or equipment.

*Revenue Recognition*

The Organization recognizes revenue on the accrual basis of accounting. Meeting registrations, publication charges, membership dues and royalties are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related services are provided and revenue is earned. Contributions and donations are recognized as revenue in the period when they are unconditionally promised. The Organization's primary revenue sources are publication charges and membership dues.

*Accounts Receivable*

Accounts receivable represent amounts due primarily for publication charges, all are current. The amount receivable at January 31, 2018 is \$149,176, which is reported net of \$23,833 allowance for doubtful accounts at \$125,343.

*Allowance for Doubtful Accounts*

The Organization maintains an allowance for doubtful accounts based on historical collection trends which approximates 15% of the total receivables. Balances still outstanding after management has used reasonable collection efforts are written off against the allowance account.

*Statement of Functional Expenses*

The costs of providing program and other activities are summarized on a functional basis in the statement of functional expenses. Expenses that can be identified with a specific program or support service are charged directly to that program or support service. Costs common to multiple functions have been allocated among the various functions benefited. General and administrative expenses include those costs that are not directly identifiable with the program, but which provide for the overall support and direction of the Organization.

**NOTE 3– SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)***Deferred Revenue*

Deferred revenue represents page charges, abstract fees, meeting registrations and subscriptions fees received prior to when the related service is provided.

*Fair Value Measurements*

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In determining fair value, the Organization uses a fair value hierarchy which is categorized into three levels as follows:

Level 1 – Valuations are based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Organization has the ability to access. Since valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market, valuation of these balances does not entail a significant degree of judgment.

Level 2 – Valuations are based on quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets from those willing to trade that are not active or for which other inputs can be corroborated by market data.

Level 3 – Valuations are based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement and represent the Organization’s best estimate of what hypothetical market participants would use to determine a transaction price for the asset or liability at the reporting date.

The Organization’s assets measured at fair value at January 31, 2018 are as follows:

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Level 1</u>
Cash and money funds	\$ 43,476	\$ 43,476
Fixed income and mutual funds	<u>1,901,524</u>	<u>1,901,524</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,944,900</u>	<u>\$ 1,944,900</u>

**NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS**

Investment income for the year ending January 31, 2018 is as follows:

Interest and dividends	\$ 67,822
Realized and unrealized changes	140,487
Investment advisory fees	<u>(11,137)</u>
Sub-total	197,172
Interest on savings accounts	<u>327</u>
Total investment income	<u>\$ 197,499</u>

**NOTE 5 – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

Property, equipment and related accumulated depreciation is as follows:

Equipment & furniture	\$	108,166
Accumulated depreciation		<u>(28,779)</u>
Net book value	\$	<u>79,387</u>

Depreciation expense for the year ending January 31, 2018 is \$14,345.

**NOTE 6 - RETIREMENT PLAN**

The Organization has a defined retirement contribution plan that qualifies under IRS Code 403(b). The plan covers all employees who have completed one year of employment. Contributions are equal to nine percent of each employee's salary, which totaled \$19,387.

**NOTE 7 – TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS**

During the year ended January 31, 2018 the Organization's temporary restricted net assets activity is as follows:

<u>Donor Restriction</u>	<u>01/31/17</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Earnings</u>	<u>Releases</u>	<u>01/31/18</u>
Joyner fund	\$ 317,096	\$ 2,400	\$ 33,745	\$ (10,429)	\$ 342,812
Kanamori fund	70,142	5,940	3,431	-	79,513
Student travel fund	25,894	17,105	5	(17,430)	25,574
Student travel, GeoCVD	-	6,570	-	(2,061)	4,509
Annual meeting	5,000	12,950	-	(16,950)	1,000
Other	-	6,841	-	-	6,841
Total	<u>\$ 418,132</u>	<u>\$ 51,806</u>	<u>\$ 37,181</u>	<u>\$ (46,870)</u>	<u>\$ 460,249</u>

**NOTE 8 – COMMITMENTS**

The Organization leases office space in Albany, California under a non-cancelable operating lease expiring in June 2020. Future minimum lease payments under this agreement are as follows:

For the year ending January 31,

2019	\$	47,950
2020		49,387
2021		<u>20,830</u>
Total	\$	<u>118,167</u>

Rent expense for the year ending January 31, 2018 is \$48,073.

**NOTE 9 – BOARD DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The Board has designated life memberships to be held in an investment account and the earnings to be expended at the Board's discretion. At January 31, 2018 the total fund \$112,982 consists of core life memberships, \$82,681 and accumulated earnings, \$30,301.

**NOTE 10 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Organization to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of temporary cash investments. The Organization maintains a majority of their cash in bank deposit accounts that, at times, may exceed federally insured limits of \$250,000. The organization has not experienced any losses in such accounts. At January 31, 2018 the Organization's uninsured cash balance is \$66,963. The Organization maintains a majority of their investments with Charles Schwab, which carries SIPC insurance up to \$500,000. At January 31, 2018 the amount exceeding SIPC limits is \$971,071. Management believes the organization is not exposed to any significant credit risk related to its cash or investments.

**NOTE 11 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management of the Organization has reviewed the results of operations for the period of time from its year end, January 31, 2018, through March 19, 2018, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, and have determined that no adjustments are necessary to the amounts reported in the accompanying financial statements nor have any subsequent events occurred, the nature of which would require disclosure.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION LETTER**  
**Year Ended January 31, 2018**

*March 19, 2018*

To the **Board of Director's**  
*Seismological Society of America*  
 Albany, CA

During our audit, certain matters in accounting system that came to our attention. The following comments and recommendations on those matters are offered as constructive suggestions for the consideration of management as part of ongoing process of modifying and improving accounting control and other financial and administrative practices and procedures.

*Seismological Society of America's* (the Organization) written response to the comments and recommendation identified in our audit has not been subjected to the audit procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This letter does not affect our report *March 19, 2018* on the financial statements of *Seismological Society of America*.

❖ **COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1) **Investment statements**

During our audit, we noticed that the Organization did not obtain investment statement for Dodge & Cox Funds, Joyner Fund for the period ended January 31, 2018.

**Recommendation:** We recommend that the Organization obtain all investment statements for all bank and investment accounts for the year end period.

**Management's response**

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This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the board of directors, and others within the Organization, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We have already discussed many of these comments and suggestions with various Organization personnel, and we will be pleased to discuss these comments in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations.

We would like to thank *Nan Broadbent, Dan Ringer-Barwick* for their support and assistance during our audit.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Iryna Accountancy Corporation".

Iryna Accountancy Corporation  
Oakland, California  
*March 19, 2018*

**Communication with Those Charged with Governance  
at the Conclusion of the Audit**

*March 19, 2018*

To the **Board of Directors**

**of *Seismological Society of America***  
*400 Evelyn Ave Suite 201,*  
*Albany CA 94706*

We have audited the financial statements of ***Seismological Society of America*** for the year ended *January 31, 2018* and have issued our report thereon dated *March 19, 2018*. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated *March 19, 2018*. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

*Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by ***Seismological Society of America*** are described in *Note 3* to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during ended *January 31, 2018*. We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the financial statements was:

- The allocation of expenses based on management determinations.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

*Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

*Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.



*Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

*Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated *March 19, 2018*.

*Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Organization's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

The result of this discussion was not a condition to our retention.

This information is intended solely for the use of Board of Directors and management of ***Seismological Society of America*** and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,



Iryna Oreshkova, CPA  
Iryna Accountancy Corporation  
Oakland, CA

**Report of the Committee on Government Relations  
to the Seismological Society of America Board of Directors**

**May 14, 2018**

**SUMMARY:**

In 2017, SSA maintained a committed presence on Capitol Hill to promote issues relevant to SSA's mission and objectives. SSA's government relations representative, Elizabeth Duffy, participated in numerous meetings with House and Senate staff, administration officials, and agency personnel to address pending legislation, push for appropriations of earthquake programs within federal agencies during the continuing resolution and omnibus process and budget preparations for FY2019 budget, work with other geoscience groups and government relations professionals to seek inclusion of additional funding for earthquake early warning on the West Coast, and develop and maintain relationships with key staff in Congressional Committee and Member offices.

SSA representation at all relevant coalitions, alliances and caucuses remained high with attendance at monthly meetings, and SSA, through Elizabeth's presence, remained an active co-chair on the USGS Coalition, in addition to ongoing co-chair of the Hazards Caucus Alliance.

The past year was challenging, as the need to educate and inform new Members of Congress and incoming Administration personnel was great. Many positions in the Department of Interior and Department of Commerce were left unfilled for months after the start of the Trump Administration, and efforts to work with transition and interim staff was difficult. Work continued with professional staff in the House, Senate and various committees. The ability to work on FY2018 budget continuing resolution and subsequent omnibus was eased by the assurance that Congress understood that the need to fund science organizations was important to the Nation. However, again this Congress there were few opportunities to advance earthquake, hazards and earth science legislation, due to procedural and partisan roadblocks.

The impending midterm elections this November could see the House majority changing hands from Republican to Democrat, while the Senate will, with a high probability, remain a Republican majority. The split in leadership could force even longer delays on non-critical issues. It is expected that the FY2019 budget, for which the process has just begun, will result in a Continuing Resolution in September 2018 past the November elections into the lame duck.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-2018 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ACTIVITIES:

### **SSA Position Statements:**

At last year's Annual Meeting it was agreed that the various position statements be reviewed and updated. The Government Relations Committee (GRC) updated 4 statements: [Federal Investment in Earthquake Science, Education and Workforce Development](#), [Earthquake and Tsunami Monitoring](#), [Reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program \(NEHRP\)](#). In addition, SSA worked with AGU to reaffirm the [SSA-AGU Position on Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty](#). A 6<sup>th</sup> statement, a joint SSA/EERI statement issued in conjunction with the commemorative anniversary of the 1906 Great San Francisco Earthquake entitled **Actions for Mitigating Risk** was archived.

### **NEHRP Reauthorization:**

In September 2017, Senators Feinstein and Murkowski introduced S.1768 - National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2017. The Bill was co-sponsored by Senators Gardner (R-CO), Murray (D-WA), Wyden (D-OR), Harris (D-CA), Merkley (D-OR), Cantwell (D-WA), Sullivan (R-AK), and Heinrich (R-NM). SSA worked closely with staff in Senator Feinstein's and Senator Murkowski's offices to draft language for the Bill, and also coordinated with Senate Commerce Majority and Minority staff to ensure the Bill's passage through the Commerce Committee. The Bill passed the full Commerce Committee in December 2017. We are awaiting the Committee Report, which will then allow the Bill to be considered by the full Senate for passage. The Bill was well received by Members of the Senate and has strong stakeholder community support.

Work is underway to introduce a House companion bill for NEHRP Reauthorization. Two California Republicans are interested in authoring the Bill, Congressman Rohrabacher and Congressman Knight, with Democrats Congressman Takano from California and Congresswoman Bonamici from Oregon as the bipartisan co-sponsors. Congressman Rohrabacher is planning a field hearing on NEHRP Reauthorization on May 31, 2018 in Huntington Beach California. It is hoped that a Bill can be introduced before the August recess and moved through the process before the end of this Congress, December 2018.

### **Breakfast Briefing Series:**

This year SSA and the GRC have held an inaugural Breakfast Briefing for Congressional staff and interested participants. The first briefing took place on March 21, 2018 and featured Bill Walter and Thorne Lay. The briefing, entitled "Earthquake or Explosion?: Seismology's Key Role in Nuclear Test Monitoring" addressed how seismologists analyze data collected from seismic networks around the globe to determine yield, location and other details concerning nuclear explosions, and how seismology contributes to the US national interest in nuclear monitoring. Although the briefing was hampered by severe weather, a dedicated group came to hear the presentations, including several Congressional staff members, a representative from the Department of Defense, and staff from the USGS. SSA and the GRC are interested in holding a second briefing this summer.

### **Appropriations Efforts:**

The FY2018 budget request released by the Administration included significant cuts to science

programs across multiple agencies. Almost immediately, work between SSA representative Elizabeth Duffy and other geoscience organizations began. Numerous meetings were held with House and Senate Interior Appropriations Committee staff, as well as meetings with members of Congress who sit on the Appropriations Committee, to convey the need to restore funding to key agencies and programs. SSA supported or signed onto letters from the USGS Coalition and The Coalition for National Science Funding highlighting the detrimental impact the extreme budget cuts would have on science and the nation. Additional meetings were held with staff from USGS, NSF, and FEMA to clarify budget impacts. The finalized omnibus legislation is considered a win for science, with the restoration of proposed cuts as well as additional funds to earthquake programs and earth science.

However, there is now talk of rescission, or holding back by the government, these additional funds. Work continues to hold onto these gains and by meeting with members of the Administration, including Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Interior, to advocate for the budget as passed by Congress and signed into Law.

For FY2019, the budget released from the Administration is even more dire than FY2018. While the Appropriations process has just begun, already we are led to understand that there will be a Continuing Resolution prior to September 30, 2018, most likely extending past the November elections.

**Geoscience Congressional Visits Day:**

SSA was a sponsoring organization in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual GEO-CVD in Washington, DC September 12-13, 2017. Two SSA student representatives – Fransiska Dannemann and, Nate Lindsey – attended the two-day event.

**Membership and Participation in Geosciences Coalitions and Professional Organizations ~**

Continued participation in the USGS Coalition, the NEHRP Coalition, the Coalition for National Science Funding, and the Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance.

Continued participation in the Geo-Policy Working Group, working with other geosciences members of the Hazards Caucus Alliance to coordinate government relations efforts on the Hill.

**Government Relations Committee ~**

Lisa Grant Ludwig remained the Chair of the Government Relations Committee this year. Committee members are: John Anderson, Rick Aster, Keith Knudsen, Stu Nishenko, Linda Rowan, Woody Savage, Christ von Hildebrandt-Andrade, Bill Walter, Mike West, Deborah Weiser, Ray Willeman, Andy Michael – President, ex officio.

**Federal Affairs Office ~**

Continuing to engage the services of the Federal Affairs Office:  
Elizabeth Duffy - Government Affairs Director.

## 2017 Publication Committee Report to the SSA Board of Directors

*Douglas Dreger, Publications Committee Chair  
April 2018*

***The Publications Committee*** consists of Douglas Dreger (Chair), Martin Chapman, Susan Hough, Jessica Murray, Peter Shearer, John Townend, and Diane Doser, Andrew Michael, Jim Mori, Thomas Pratt, Zhigang Peng and Kim Olsen serving as ex officio members. These notes are based on the committee meeting, the Board Meeting, and the Board's calls during 2017.

### ***BSSA Report***

The copyright transfer and the waiver request process placing limits on how often authors can request page charge waivers, and the numbers of pages that qualify for waivers were integrated into the online submission system last year. Since this time, we have had fewer waiver requests. The percentage of waived pages is approximately 10%.

The new page charge structure has been accepted without significant opposition by authors, and BSSA continues to enjoy a healthy rate of submission, which has grown slightly in the past year.

There are two special issues this year in BSSA "New Zealand's Kaikoura Earthquake and Tsunami of November 14, 2016" (guest editors Kelvin Berryman (GNS Science), Anna Kaiser (GNS Science), Ian Hamling (GNS Science) and Tim Stahl (Univ. of Michigan)), and "Fifty Years after the 1967 Koyna Earthquake: Progress in our understanding of Reservoir Triggered Seismicity (RTS)" (Purnachandra Rao, Kusumita Arora, Alexander Ponomarev, and Aderson Frias do Nascimento are serving as Guest Editors). Progress is being made in reducing the time of publication. The average days from submission to first decision has fallen to 56 from the previous 5-year average of 69 days. Work is continuing to further streamline production as outlined in Kathleen Gaffney's report.

### ***SRL Report***

The new page charge structure has been accepted without significant opposition by authors, and SRL continues to enjoy a healthy rate of submission, which has grown appreciably (30%) in the past year due to the special sections. The number of published articles remains stable. Page charge waivers total less than 4%.

There are two Special Sections already published this year on Geophysical Networks and Related Developments in Latin America (Guest Editors: Sergio Barrientos and Xyoli Pérez-Campos), and Non-Explosive Source Monitoring and Imaging (Guest Editors: Fenglin Niu and Koshun Yamaoka). There will be a total of 5 focus sections in SRL in Volume 89.

A new Review Article has been suggested for SRL. The idea is to have the Editor invite papers from specific individuals to provide a review of the state of a particular field, methods, and interdisciplinary approaches applied to seismology. An example could be developments in data science and machine learning and connections to seismological inquiry. Another could be something like a review of ambient noise methods and observations. There will be a discussion of this proposal at the publication committee meeting.

We are also in the process of adding up to two Deputy Editors to the SRL editorial staff. These positions would lie between the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors. It is thought that an additional Deputy Editor to manage special focus sections and review process of those papers will help with efficiency and the workload demands on the Editor-in-Chief. Zhigang is considering an appointment to that position. A second Deputy Editor could be added to help with a new review article initiative if that gets started. The Deputy Editors would report to the Editor-in-Chief who retains authority over all editorial decisions, however they would be free to solicit and help develop contributions, and once special sections have been defined oversee the review process of those papers.

### ***SRL Editor-in-Chief Search***

Last year Zhigang Peng indicated that he was considering stepping down as Editor-in-Chief the Fall of 2019. He is thankfully giving us ample time to search for and select the next editor. That process has been initiated by drafting and posting the job description, and an advertisement for the search for a new SRL editor. A search committee consisting of Dreger (Chair), Hough, Michael, Shearer and Peng has been formed. At the time of writing this report one application has been received by me. The committee plans to be available to discuss the position with potential applicants at the Annual Meeting. Applications will be reviewed and interviews scheduled at the end of 2018 with a goal of making a selection by the Annual Meeting in 2019.

### ***Plagiarism Policy***

The committee discussed the issue of how to handle plagiarism during the Fall 2017 conference call. SSA employs the iThenticate software to check submitted papers for plagiarism before they are sent out for review, and in some cases both self-plagiarism (author's own web postings of preliminary work, reports to funding agencies, dissertations, text recycling, etc.), and true-plagiarism that involves the uncited and/or unquoted work from someone other than the authors of the paper are sometimes detected. The consensus on the call was that for clear cases of true-plagiarism the submission should be rejected without the possibility of resubmission. Self-plagiarism would be considered on a case by case basis and depending on the severity the manuscript would either be returned for correction or rejected. It was thought that a clear online statement informing authors that their manuscripts would be checked for plagiarism and the possible ramifications could help to reduce plagiarism in the submissions that we receive. The online guideline was updated and currently reads as follows.

*When submitting an article to BSSA, the author(s) warrant that the material is original and is not currently under consideration by another journal. All manuscripts received by BSSA will be screened for plagiarism using CrossCheck's iThenticate software. The US Office of Integrity Research defines plagiarism as "theft or misappropriation of intellectual property and the substantial unattributed textual copying of another's work." If plagiarism of any kind (including self-plagiarism/duplicate publication/text recycling) is detected by BSSA, it will be assessed by the Editors and the paper may be rejected without peer review. Additionally, the Editors will alert co-authors about the plagiarism in the submitted manuscripts, and in extreme cases may opt to alert your institution. Use of content published online, for example in a thesis, copyrighted to the author, is not considered a violation.*

Work "published"/posted on pre-print servers presents a potential problem in evaluating plagiarism.

### ***Electronic Supplement (ESUPP) Guidelines***

During the Fall conference call the committee discussed guidelines for electronic supplements (ESUPP). The consensus of the meeting was that a detailed set of guidelines was not needed at this time, but it was important to state that the ESUPP is meant to be supplemental and not required for understanding of the paper, and that additional discussion is needed formulate internal guidelines for review. Aside from technical formatting guidelines the following is the online statement regarding supplemental nature of the material.

*Please note that the material must be supplemental; that is, papers published in BSSA or in SRL must be complete without the electronic supplement.*

The intent of this statement is that the paper must be understood without the supplement in that we cannot promise that ESUPPS can be archived to perpetuity (digital format changes, software changes, etc). This intent has ramifications on how ESUPP material should be cited and discussed in the main manuscript.

Continuing discussion will consider 1) direct citation and extended discussion of figures contained in an electronic supplement, 2) assurances that the ESUPP material is reviewed to the same standard as the manuscript, 3) limits (file size) in ESUPP contributions, and 4) should we typeset and style ESUPPS (other journals don't do this).

### ***SRL Column Articles***

Georef is used by GSW to independently assign whether a given article has scientific content. If it does then it is tagged and incurs a steep upfront fee (\$500), and an annual \$25 maintenance fee for hosting the article in front of the subscriber wall. The journal

articles are obviously tagged as such and are located behind the subscriber wall. However, since many of our columns and opinion pieces are deemed by georef to have scientific content they also get tagged and then incur these fees to perpetuity as long as they are in front of the sign in wall. It is possible to contest this tagging but it is an arduous task, which would be frequent and require staff time that is really not available. Therefore it has been decided that the columns and opinion pieces in SRL will be placed behind the wall. Despite this unfortunate situation it is important to emphasize that all such articles are available to all employees at more than 1000 subscribing institutions, as well as our membership and therefore there is only negligible impact on the actual readership.

### ***Open-Access Requests***

Green open-access requests asking for permission to post final author manuscripts prior to the 12-month embargo continues to remain small, with approximately 2-3 per year. Thus there is no need for changes to our open-access policy.

### ***ArXiv – Pre-Print Servers***

Pre-print servers have been embraced in Physics and are growing in acceptance in the Biologic science community and they have recently been introduced in the Earth Sciences. It seems the main attraction is the immediate sharing of work with a broad audience, the direct citation of the non-peer-reviewed work, the placing of a time stamp on work establishing ownership, and the zero-cost to authors. We are currently monitoring developments to stay informed should there be some future action for SSA to consider.

EarthArXiv (<https://eartharxiv.org/>) is a relatively new preprint server for the Earth Sciences. I attended a webinar at the Berkeley Earth Science Library by EarthArXiv, which was very interesting and gave an idea on how this new platform is being developed, how it will likely evolve and its acceptance by the scientific community. EarthArXiv is funded by donation through the Center for Open Science. They apparently have money sufficient for necessary storage and maintenance, for anticipated growth, for the next ~20 years. EarthArXiv issues a DOI (digital object identifier) to uploaded papers enabling a specific citable reference. The DOI is not tied to a particular version of a manuscript and authors are free to update them (an archive of previous versions is maintained). When papers are published they add a link to the published version, which in our case directs to GSW. I have found that authors do update their “pre-print” papers to the final accepted manuscript version. This might be done prior to the one-year embargo as stipulated in our open-access policy. EarthArXiv has plans to also archive computer code, other research products, and data on their server. They currently don’t have any limits on what or how much data could be archived.

AGU has started its own pre-print server, Earth and Space Science Open Archive (ESSOAr, <https://www.essoar.org/browse-by-subject>). Nan, Kathleen and I met with Brooks Hansen of AGU to discuss their plans for the preprint server at the New Orleans



AGU meeting. They will assign a DOI, as well as list where papers are submitted for peer-reviewed publication. When papers are published they will have links to the appropriate online access point. They are also planning to archive over 50,000 poster presentations from their various meetings each year assigning DOI making the presented work directly citable.

Current SSA policy is that papers uploaded to such servers are considered already published and therefore not suitable for consideration. Geology recently reversed a similar policy, and all of the AGU journals and more broadly Wiley now allow for the submission of work that has been posted on pre-print servers. Nature and Science also consider submissions that have been posted to preprint servers, though they do retain their policies regarding contacting and talking to the media prior to publication. SEG does not permit posting to a preprint server, though they do allow posting to the authors own website. GJI doesn't have a clear policy posted.

Aside from policy regarding suitability for publication is the question of the how preprint-server-published work should be cited in peer-reviewed journals. Papers posted on preprint servers are issued a DOI, however the papers can be updated. Thus it is possible that a formally cited preprint could have changes in content possibly negating the reason for citation, or rendering them inaccurate (changes to data, results, method, etc.). Although preprint servers are archiving the revisions, this fact clouds the citation of the work, and such work cited in SSA journals should therefore be identified with text that the work is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed. I don't know of any cases where such citations have been made in SSA journals, and in the Earth Sciences the numbers of papers being posted to the servers remains very small, though they are likely to grow.

Currently we are in a waiting and learning mode to see how the various pre-print servers evolve, and to gauge their acceptance by the research community in order to formulate how SSA should respond if necessary.

### ***Production Report***

Kathleen Gaffney has prepared a detailed report of her activities with respect to the evaluation and oversight of the publication production workflow, advice to Editors-in-Chief on a variety of issues and policies.

### ***Outstanding Reviewer of the Year Award***

This year a new award recognizing the significant service provided by the external reviewers for both BSSA and SRL has been started. The award acknowledges individuals for their dedication, attention to detail, care and timeliness in providing exceptional high-quality reviews of manuscripts sent to them. The following is the excerpt from the Annual Luncheon Program about the award.

*Anyone who has served in such a high-level editorial role and authors alike know the value of an excellent reviewer. At SSA we are fortunate to have quite a few rock star reviewers among our ranks. They are the best of the best, and their insights help ensure that we communicate only the highest quality science. With that in mind, the Society would like to acknowledge two of these stars this year with a new Outstanding Reviewer award, chosen by the Editors of SRL and BSSA with the help of their respective editorial boards.*

*Klaus Hinzen of Cologne University has been named the Outstanding Reviewer for SRL. Klaus has distinguished himself as a go-to reviewer for SRL for many years, in particular for the SRL submissions that touch on historical and/or archeo-seismology. His editor has praised his reviews, both for their thoughtfulness and the speed of their delivery.*

*David Rhoades of GNS Science in New Zealand has been named the Outstanding Reviewer for BSSA. One of the journal's most prolific reviewers, David has delivered extremely thorough, high-quality reviews, on time year after year.*

#### ***Associate Editor Appreciation Dinner at AGU***

We hosted an Editorial Staff appreciation dinner on Tuesday 12, 2017 at the AGU continuing what we would like to become an annual event. Attendance by AE was light due to the alternative location of the meeting this year. We are hopeful that more AE will be able to attend in the future.

***Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America***  
**2017 Annual Report**

by

Thomas Pratt, Editor-in-Chief  
Betty Schiefelbein, Manuscript Coordinator

**2017 Rate of Submission and Pages Published**

In 2017, BSSA received 403 submissions, 8 more papers than submitted in 2016. Of the 403 submissions in 2017, 335 were Articles, and 36 were Short Notes. In 2017, 204 papers were published for a total of 3055 pages, compared to 233 papers in 2016 for a total of 2948 pages, and 240 papers in 2015 for a total of 3208 pages. In 2017, a final decision was made on 388 papers, with 228 papers accepted, 11 transferred to SRL, and 149 rejected, for a rejection rate of 38.4%. This compares to a rejection rate of 34.9% in 2016, and 39.6% in 2015.

Thank you to our dedicated reviewers who returned 924 reviews in 2017. The average time to return a review in 2017 was 24.1 days, compared to 26.9 days in 2016, and 27.5 days in 2015. A special thank you to our Associate Editors, who reduced the time to first decision by 7.4 days in 2017. The average time to first decision was 56.7 days in 2017, compared to 64.1 days in 2016, 64.4 days in 2015, and 74.8 days in 2014.

We have just implemented a shorter author revision time, which should help to shorten the time from submission to acceptance. We also started sending bi-weekly reminders to Associate Editors summarizing their editorial tasks which has helped alert editors of editorial assignments in their boxes.

In November, an electronic copyright transfer agreement was implemented within Editorial Manager. Authors no longer need to download, fill out, scan, and then upload the copyright agreement into the system. We also now require that all authors confirm their contribution as an author, and fill out the copyright agreement.

The new waiver policy that was implemented in September 2016 has helped reduce the total number of pages waived. Authors can only request one waiver every two years, and the maximum number of pages BSSA will waive is 12, which has helped reduce the percentage of waived pages to under 10%. We've had to ask authors to reduce the number of pages, remove the esupp, and have had to tell some authors that they are not eligible at this time to request a waiver. Most authors have come up with the funding, rather than be subjected to the limitation or finding another journal.

### **Special Issue on the Kaikoura Earthquake**

Kelvin Berryman (GNS Science), Anna Kaiser (GNS Science), Ian Hamling (GNS Science) and Tim Stahl (Univ. of Michigan) are serving as Guest Editors for a Special Issue on New Zealand's Kaikoura Earthquake and Tsunami of November 14, 2016. There are 26 submissions, and we will publish at least 20 of these papers in the June 2018 issue (Volume 108, Issue 3B).

### **Special Issue on Koyna Earthquake**

Purnachandra Rao, Kusumita Arora, Alexander Ponomarev, and Aderson Frias do Nascimento are serving as Guest Editors for the "Fifty Years after the 1967 Koyna Earthquake: Progress in our understanding of Reservoir Triggered Seismicity (RTS)" Special Issue. Twenty-three papers have been submitted, and most likely 18-20 papers will be accepted and published in the October 2018 Issue (Volume 108, Issue 5B).

### **EDITORIAL BOARD:**

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of having a group of dedicated Associate Editors who stay on top of their work. They largely determine the quality of BSSA and the speed with which papers pass through the review process. We sincerely thank all Associate Editors – past, upcoming, and those who are continuing to serve as Associate Editors -- the journal would not be possible without them!

We currently have 26 Associate Editors. In 2017, we welcomed Fabian Bonilla and Adrien Oth as new Associate Editors replacing Raul Castro and Peter Stafford who stepped down in 2017. More recently, we are in the process of replacing Diego Melgar and Michel Bouchon, both of whom have requested to step down in the past couple of weeks.

#### **Current Associate Editors:**

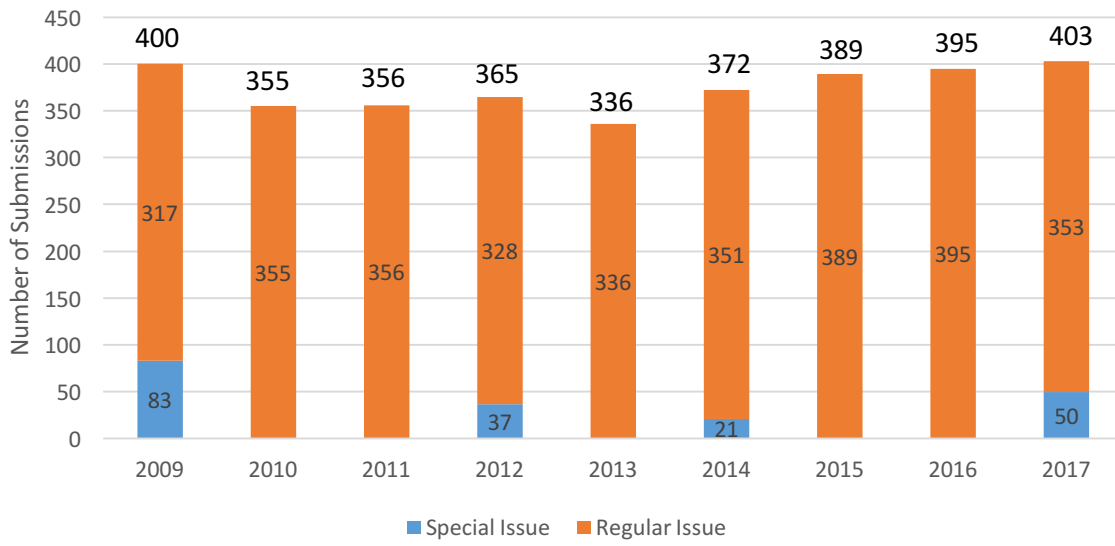
Allison Bent	<i>Geological Survey of Canada, Ontario, Canada</i>
Fabian Bonilla	<i>Universite Paris Est, France</i>
Michel Bouchon	<i>Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, France</i>
Richard Briggs	<i>U.S. Geological Survey, Golden, Colorado</i>
Thomas Brocher	<i>USGS Earthquake Science Center, Menlo Park, California</i>
Eric Chael	<i>Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico</i>
Martin Chapman	<i>Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia</i>
Fabrice Cotton	<i>Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences and Potsdam University, Potsdam, Germany</i>
Luis Angel Dalguer	<i>Swissnuclear, Olten, Switzerland</i>

John Douglas	<i>University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK</i>
Matt Gerstenberger	<i>GNS Science, New Zealand</i>
Hiroshi Kawase	<i>DPRI Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan</i>
Yann Klinger	<i>Institut de Physique du Globe - CNRS, Paris, France</i>
Nicola Litchfield	<i>GNS Science, New Zealand</i>
Diego Melgar	<i>Seismological Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, California</i>
Kim Olsen	<b>(ESUPP Editor)</b> , <i>San Diego State University, San Diego, CA</i>
Adrien Oth	<i>European Center for Geodynamics and Seismology, Luxembourg</i>
Stefano Parolai	<i>Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Potsdam, Germany</i>
Arben Pitarka	<i>Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California</i>
Adrian Rodriguez-Marek	<i>Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia</i>
Danijel Schorlemmer	<i>Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Potsdam, Germany</i>
Mark Stirling	<i>University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand</i>
Cezar Trifu	<i>Queen's University, Ontario, Canada</i>
Nicholas van der Elst	<i>USGS Earthquake Science Center, Pasadena, California</i>
Ivan Wong	<i>Lettis Consultants International, Inc., Walnut Creek, California</i>
Cleat Zeiler	<i>Air Force Technical Application Center, Patrick AFB, Florida</i>

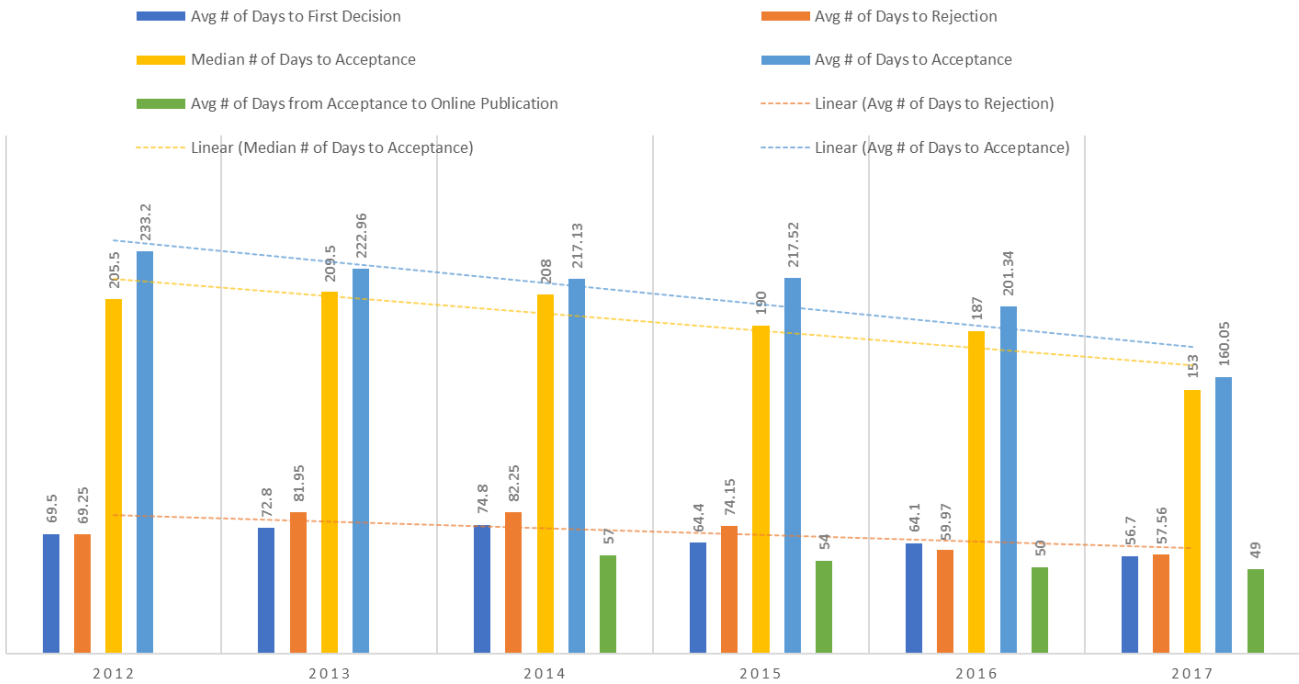
**Editor and Reviewer Performance Statistics:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Avg # Days from Submission to Editor</b>	<b>Avg # Days from Submission to Reviewer Invitation</b>	<b>Avg # Days from Submission to First Decision</b>	<b>Avg # Days to Complete Review</b>	<b>Avg # of days to receive 1<sup>st</sup> revision from author</b>
2017	1.3	13.2	56.7	24.1	55.8
2016	1.6	13.4	64.1	26.9	50.6
2015	1.7	16	64.4	27.5	56.9
2014	1.2	13	74.8	32.6	59.2
2013	1.1	12.3	72.8	33.7	66.5
2012	1.8	13.8	69.5	33.1	63.5

### BSSA Submissions by Year



### BSSA - 2012-2017 STATS



**Volume 107 (2017) Statistics:**

Issue	Articles	Short Notes	Review Papers	Comments / Replies	Errata	TOTAL	Number of Journal Pages	Time to Online Publication
1 (February)	34	5			1	40	503	55
2 (April)	34	6				40	544	50
3 (June)	35			1	1	37	521	44
4 (August)	28	1		1/1	1	32	416	49
5 (October)	39	3			2	44	558	50
6 (December)	34	2				36	513	47
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>3055</b>	<b>49 (avg)</b>

**Volume 106 (2016) Statistics:**

Issue	Articles	Short Notes	Review Papers	Comments / Replies	Errata	TOTAL	Number of Journal Pages	Time to Online Publication
1 (February)	22	3				25	318	55
2 (April)	34	2			4	40	500	45
3 (June)	39	2				41	552	59
4 (August)	39	2				41	544	51
5 (October)	37	3		1/1	2	44	504	40
6 (December)	38	2		1/1		42	530	48
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>50 (avg)</b>

**Volume 105 (2015) Statistics:**

Issue	Articles	Short Notes	Review Papers	Comments / Replies	Errata	TOTAL	Number of Journal Pages	Time to Online Publication
1 (February)	30	5		1/1	1	38	495	47
2a (April)	36	2	1			39	557	48
2b (May)*	19	1				20	248	63
3 (June)	33	6			1	40	524	69
4 (August)	33	2				35	500	55
5 (October)	35	2				37	510	46
6 (December)	28	3				31	374	53
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>3208</b>	<b>54 (avg)</b>

\* 2012 Haida Gwaii and 2013 Craig Earthquakes Special Issue



**REPORT: SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH LETTERS VOL. 88 (2017)****HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ SRL experienced a 30-percent increase in the number of manuscripts submitted during 2017 over 2016.
- ❖ After regular articles, Electronic Seismologist and the Eastern Section continue to be the SRL sections with the most submissions/published articles.

**SRL EDITORIAL STAFF (3/31/18)**

Zhigang Peng (Editor in Chief)  
 Martin Chapman (Eastern Section Editor)  
 Brendan Crowell (AE)  
 Erol Kalkan (AE)  
 Susan Hough (AE)  
 Eric Thompson (AE)  
 John Ebel (Historical Seismologist)  
 Alan Kafka (EduQuakes)  
 Taka'aki Taira (Data Mine)  
 Huajian Yao (Electronic Seismologist)  
 Maurice Lamontagne (Communicating Science)  
 Kim Olsen (Electronic Supplements)  
 Mary George (Managing Editor)

**SRL's editorial staff was stable** in 2017; the only change was the addition of AE Brendan Crowell.

**PROCESS**

- Time for a review remained at 21 days through 2017.
- AE's are encouraged to get two reviews per submission but allowed the flexibility to make a decision with just one review in the interest of timeliness.
- The average time from submission to reviewer invitation dropped from 11 to 7 days in 2017.
- But, the average time from submission to first decision increased in 2017 by about 6 days. This is likely attributed to delays of finding reviewers in the LAGN special section.
- In 2017, BSSA transferred 11 submissions to SRL; SRL transferred 19 submissions to BSSA.

<b>SRL Process Statistics</b>	<b>SRL 2016</b>
Peer-Review Mss Received - total	251
# peer-review focus-section mss received	69
# of days from Submission to 1st Decision	36.3
# of days from Submission to Reviewer Invite	7.0
# Mss Accepted	140
Acceptance Rate	65%
% Desk Rejected	23.7%
SRL Column Articles submitted*	33
Articles Published	112
Pages Published	1601

\*\* Electronic Seismologist, Historical Seismologist, EduQuakes, Data Mine

**SRL V. 88 CONTENT**

- Submissions were up (due to volume 89 focus sections).
- Number of peer-reviewed articles published remained stable (112 in v. 88 compared with 114 in vol. 87)

- Number of pages published increased (from 1487 to 1601; 74 of those pages are an increase in the size of the annual meeting program published in issue 2B).
- Volume 88 included one focus section, the Focus Section on the 3 September 2016 Pawnee, Oklahoma, Earthquake, which had 10 articles (not including the preface) and accounted for 100 pages.

**SRL 88 published, reviewed articles:\***

	#1	#2A	#3	#4	#5	#6	Totals
Regular Section	12	9	12	7	8	11	52
Eastern Section	2	2		1	4	2	11
Electronic Seismologist	1	4	2	3	1	2	13
Historical Seismologist	3		1		3	1	4
EduQuakes	1	2			1		4
Data Mine			3	1	2	1	7
Focus section				10			10
Totals	19	17	18	25	17	16	112

\*Opinions, In Memoria, and Comments/Replies not included.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- Volume 89 (2018) will contain 5 focus sections, one each in issues 2 through 6; a focus section has also been scheduled for SRL 90-1 (January 2019). The focus section in 89-2 contained 28 articles.
- Xyoli Perez-Campos will join SRL as an AE in mid-2018.
- A new column, “Communicating Science,” initiated with SRL 89-1. Maurice Lamontagne is the column editor.

Submitted by  
Zhigang Peng, SRL Editor in Chief  
Mary George, SRL Managing Editor  
March 31, 2018

Report on the SSA Meetings Committee for April 2018  
Andy Michael

The only action by the meetings committee specifically was to review the list of proposed sessions to help ensure that the full breadth of SSA interests was represented. This was an easy task this year because the program committee had done such an excellent job. The task would have been easier if there was a list of desired topics. Developing such a list will be a task for early in the coming year so that it can be used for the 2019 meeting.

A policy change for the meetings was the development of a Code of Conduct. Due to its importance, this was undertaken by the full board.

## SSA Communications Committee Report

23 April 2018

Susan Hough (Chair)

on behalf of Doug Dreger, Christine Goulet, Peggy Hellweg, Maurice Lamontagne, Julian Lozos, Beatrice Magnani, Dan McNamara\*, Jascha Polet, Meg Segou, and Danielle Sumy\*

Following the meeting of the committee on April 20, 2017, at the annual meeting in Denver, committee activities have focused on the following new initiatives:

- A new "Communicating Science" column debuted in 2017, with an opening article in volume 88:6 by Maurice Lamontagne and Christine Goulet, a second article by Goulet and Lamontagne in volume 89:2A, and the most recent article by Sara McBride. SSA members who are interested in contributing a future column are encouraged to contact Christine Goulet and Maurice Lamontagne.
- Thanks to the continuing great work by the SSA staff, the official SSA Twitter feed continues apace, with nearly 2500 followers, while the SSA Facebook page has over 7300 followers. Nan Broadbent and Becky Ham have created a new SSA Twitter account, separate from the official @SeismoSocietyAm. As an initial trial run, a small group of trusted SSA members will manage the new Twitter feed, @SeismoSocVoices, with a goal of showcasing SSA science and meetings.
- Live-tweeting at the 2018 annual meeting will be encouraged.
- There will be a social media workshop at the upcoming meeting in Miami, from 730p-9pm on Monday night, led by Susan Hough, Emily Wolin, and Julian Lozos. Because an army moves on its stomach, SSA will provide flatbread pizzas for the event. The workshop will discuss several widely used social media platforms and their potential use for science communication. As Sara McBride put it, social media allows scientists to "be where the people are" ...potentially with tremendous bang for the outreach buck. As of April 11, 97 people had signed up for the workshop.
- Due to the tight schedule of the 2018 annual meeting, and the fact that the committee Chair can't stay the full week due to a prior commitment, the Communications Committee will not have an in-person meeting in Miami.
- The committee expresses its deep appreciation to Dan McNamara and Danielle Sumy, who will be rotating off of the committee. Because the committee is still quite big, new members are not proposed at this time, although we continue to welcome expressions of interest from individuals who would like to be involved.

Joyner Fund Report to the Board of Directors  
Thomas Hanks, chair of the Joyner Fund Committee

The Joyner Fund performed well in calendar year 2017, increasing from \$317,096 to \$342,812, inclusive of this activity:

1. Increased by \$2,400 due to donations from members.
2. Increased by \$33,745 due to interest and unrealized gains.
3. Decreased by \$10,429 due to expenses: Richter Award honorarium (\$1,200), Lecture fees (\$4,229) and sponsorship of Annual Meeting reception (\$5,000).

The Joyner Committee selected Ellen M. Rathje as the 2018 Joyner Lecturer.

The Joyner Committee suggested these changes, which were approved by the SSA Board:

1. Increase honorarium for the Richter Award to \$1,500.
2. Increase sponsorship of reception at Annual Meeting to \$6,000.
3. Increase Joyner Lecturer's travel funds to NTE \$6000
4. Restrict coverage of expenses associated with Joyner Lecturer travel to the year that the award is given.

**To: SSA and IRIS Boards of Directors**  
**From: John Louie, Chair, IRIS EPO Standing Committee**  
**Re: Proposed 2019 IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecturers**  
**Date: April 20, 2017**

The IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecturer Nomination/Selection Subcommittee has selected **Dr. Susan Hough**, Geophysicist, Earthquake Science Center, US Geological Survey, and **Dr. Arthur Rodgers**, Seismologist, Atmospheric, Earth and Energy Division, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, as the speakers for the 2019 IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lectureship series, pending approval by the IRIS and SSA Boards of Directors.

The Call for Nominations was advertised via the IRIS Message Center and IRIS web site, and by SSA. The Nomination/Selection Subcommittee considered six topics from five researchers, including one self-nomination from the seismology community and two individuals (three topics) who were IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecturers more than 10 years ago.

**Dr. Susan Hough** is Scientist-in-Charge of the USGS Pasadena Office and is an experienced science communicator. Her main areas of scientific interest include earthquake ground motions, triggered earthquakes, historical earthquakes, and intraplate seismic hazard and seismogenesis. She also has a strong interest in building technical capacity in developing countries including Haiti and Myanmar. Dr. Hough has written numerous articles for mainstream publications and has published over 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals. She was an IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecturer in 2005 and presented her talk, "*The Very Long Reach of Very Large Earthquakes*," in six venues. The tentative title for her 2019 presentation is "*Humans Cause Earthquakes: Fake News or Old News?*" and will focus on evidence for induced earthquakes in the 20th century prior to the increase in induced earthquakes from recent water injection practices.

At Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, **Dr. Arthur Rodgers** specializes in wave propagation in the earth due to earthquakes or man-made explosions. His major interests are computational seismology, earthquake and explosion ground motion simulation, seismoacoustics, and explosion yield estimation. He began working on HPC simulations in 2004 and has worked on the 1906 earthquake centennial and the Haywood Fault simulations. Dr. Rodgers was a major contributor to the California Academy of Sciences planetarium show "*Earthquake: Evidence of a Restless Planet*" and has participated in LLNL's outreach program, presenting lectures for high school science teachers and student interns. The proposed title of his presentation is "*Modeling Earthquake Shaking with Supercomputers*" and will feature visualizations and animations of ground motions from HPC simulations and building response.

#### **Nomination/Selection Subcommittee Members**

John Louie, University of Nevada, Reno, Chair  
Rick Aster, Colorado State University, SSA Board liaison  
Zhiqiang Peng, Georgia Tech, IRIS Board liaison  
Debi Kilb, University of California San Diego, EPOSC Member  
John Taber, IRIS  
Perle Dorr, IRIS

## **Results of Global Travel Grant Program 22 March 2018**

The Board approved the first of a proposed two-part pilot program to provide travel grants to non-SSA meetings. The total pool of funds is \$15,000.

The Board is requested to approve continuing the pilot program, scheduled for July 2018. A summary of the first grant period follows.

The reviewing committee met on 22 March 2018 to select which applicant would receive a travel grant and the total amount of each award for the February grant period. The reviewing committee included Andy Michael, Peter Shearer, Jessica Murray, Meghan Miller and Jim Mori. (Meghan Miller did not participate on the call.)

SSA received eleven applications for a Global Travel Grant. Five applicants met the eligibility requirements for the Global Travel Grant Program (two were rejected for not being a member, four were rejected for applying to travel to the SSA Annual Meeting).

The committee selected four applicants to receive funding:

Rachel Hatch, from the University of Nevada, Reno, will attend the Banff 2018 International Induced Seismicity Workshop in Alberta, Canada. She hopes to use the workshop to draw upon the parallels between induced seismology and her current research on the Walker Lake tectonic region. Amount: \$1,000.

Fellow University of Nevada, Reno student Meredith Kraner will use her grant to attend the 2018 Southern California Earthquake Center Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, California. Kraner aims to discover new tools and approaches that she can apply to her own research, as well as interact and build relationships with leading researchers. Amount: \$ 600.

University of South Florida student Heather McFarlin will travel to Naples, Italy for the Cities on Volcanoes 10 meeting, which brings together the volcanology community, emergency officials and civic leaders. She hopes to learn more about the crisis and risk assessment procedures associated with volcanic crises and to share seismic data about an understudied volcano in the central Andes. Amount: \$2,000.

Like Kraner, Nadine Reitman – currently a graduate student at the University of Colorado Boulder – will attend the 2018 Southern California Earthquake Center Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, California. Reitman will be sharing her dissertation research on the strike-slip fault systems in Death Valley and the northeastern California Shear Zone with scientists who focus on California tectonics. Amount: \$520

Total Distributed: \$4,120

Total Remaining: \$10,880

Since this is the first application period for this grant program, the committee agreed to distribute fewer funds. If approved by the Board, then the second part of the program, which is scheduled to receive applications in July, may be larger once it becomes better known.

A few clarifying points:

### **SCEC**

Andy Michael raised the question of whether SSA should fund travel to SCEC. There was concern that if SSA did fund trips to SCEC, that SSA would receive too many SCEC applications in the next application period. This started a discussion about the purpose of this travel grant. Generally, the committee agreed that this travel grant is an opportunity for students to attend a smaller meeting, meet colleagues, share research and have access to new research.

It was agreed that SSA would fund two applicants from SCEC this application period, as they had strong applications. In the future, SSA will consider ways of capping the amount of funds to travel to SCEC.

### **Future applications**

Applicants will be required to submit a letter of recommendation from advisors in the future. The advisor should also confirm if the applicant will receive additional funding.

The next application period will cover October 2018 to April 2019.

### **Distribution of funds**

The funds will be distributed to recipients one month before the meeting via check unless the applicant requests their check earlier with the reason for the request.

Each recipient will need to provide proof of journey and use of funds.

### **Recipient Write-Up**

Each grant recipient will provide a brief report on the use of their funds and impact on their work or studies.



## Consent Agenda

Agenda Section	Motion #	Motion
3	001	Approve the minutes of the previous meetings, as follows: Minutes of the 4/18/2017 Board meeting Minutes of the 5/24/2017 teleconference Minutes of the 10/3/2017 teleconference Minutes of the 10/19/2017 teleconference Minutes of the 11/30/2017 teleconference Minutes of the 1/9/2018 teleconference Minutes of the 2/15/2018 teleconference
4.2	002	Accept the written report from Secretary and ordered published in <i>SRL</i>
4.3	003	Accept the Treasurer's Report
5	004	Accept the Executive Director's Report
6.3	005	Accept the Audit Committee Report and approve the Audit
6.4	006	Accept the Investment Committee report
6.5	007	Accept the Government Relations Committee report
6.6	008	Accept the Publications Committee Report, BSSA and SRL reports
6.7	009	Accept the Meetings Committee report
6.8	010	Accept the Communications Committee report
7.1	011	Accept the Kanamori Fund report
7.2	012	Accept the Joyner Fund report
8.2	013	Approve the 2018 IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecture Series recommendation
10	014	Approve continuation of the Global Travel Grants pilot program
11	015	Approve a resolution expressing appreciation for the 2018 Program Committee: Co-Chair Carol Prentice, USGS; Co-Chair Elizabeth Vanacore, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez; Sergio Barrientos, University of Chile; Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Xyoli Pérez Campos, National Autonomous University of Mexico; Mario C. Ruiz, Instituto Geofisico Escuela Politecnica Nacional, Ecuador

To: Board of Directors  
From: Mitch Withers  
Date: May 2, 2018  
Re: Support for Budget proposal for FY 2019

The Budget Committee composed of the Secretary and Treasurer, met with the Executive Director and contract accountant at SSA HQ on April 5, 2018 to review the budgets from the previous fiscal year ending Jan 2018 and the proposed budget for the year ending Jan 2019. I agree that the projected budget shortfall does not represent a structural problem and there's no evidence to suggest it will be repeated in future years barring additional unforeseen financial hardship. As mentioned in the Treasurer's report to the previous Board and echoed in the Audit Report, the Society remains in sound financial health. Prior year investments in infrastructure and automation however, have resulted in significant available capacity. I support the Executive Director's suggestions to improve revenues.

To: Board of Directors  
From: Nan Broadbent  
Date: April 30, 2018  
Re: Budget proposal for FY 2019

For the past two years, the Board of Directors authorized a deficit budget in order to invest in restructuring of the organization, as outlined in a February 2016 technology assessment. In both years, we were able to lower expenses and increase profit in some program areas, allowing SSA to end each year well ahead of budget with a positive balance (excluding deferring of income as directed by the auditor). That technology plan is now nearly fully implemented, though some work remains on developing the tool to process the submission of abstracts for the annual meeting.

This year's budget reflects a deficit due to three factors related to the annual meeting:

- Underwriting the registration fee for every LACSC attendee.
- Supporting the governance structure for two organizations. The annual meeting is a workhorse for SSA. It also pays for the Board meeting and programmatic activities. This year, it will also pay to support LACSC governance activities at the meeting.
- Producing a meeting in a more expensive market than initially planned: Registration fees were set and agreed upon with LACSC in June 2017, anticipating a meeting in Puerto Rico. Due to the hurricanes, we moved to higher-priced Miami without any adjustment to fees.

There is no structural problem with SSA that would generate a similar problem next year. This year's problem is a one-time issue that can be traced to the annual meeting.

If SSA is to continue to fulfill its mission, however, it will need to produce higher levels of revenue and reserves. Our work in FY2019, as represented in the proposed budget, is being guided by that goal, namely:

- Expanding the *SRL* editorial board to include additional associate editors and two deputy editors, enabling us to continue creating multiple special-focus sections and a greater flow of papers.
- Changing how we handle production for *BSSA* to reduce the time from acceptance to publication from an average of 53 to 30 days, while enabling us to handle a greater number/flow of papers.
- Building a new online tool with AAG, a platform to accept and manage abstract submissions for the annual meeting and to manage all submissions for travel grants.

This budget pays for the new student-grant program (\$15,000) through the interest earned on the Life Membership Fund, per discussion by the Board in December. Due to the deficit budget, this budget also taps the interest on the Life Membership Fund to budget \$15,000 for any external sponsorships by the Board (such as last year's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory student-organized workshop). The total interest available in the Life Membership Fund is \$30,301.

This budget also limits the waivers for both *BSSA* and *SRL* to 10 percent, down from the 13% cap imposed in FY2018. I believe, based on past performance and new policy-driven constraints, that *BSSA* will again come in under 10 percent, as will *SRL*.

We have implemented several changes in the past year that constrain the number of papers that can be waived as well as the number of pages. In FY2018, *BSSA* waived 9.1% or \$43,515, and *SRL* waived 5.1% or \$9,230. Among the changes that we have implemented:

1. An author can request a waiver only once every two years.
2. If a paper's page charges are waived, every co-author is assumed to have received the waiver.
3. A waived paper may not be longer than 12 pages.
4. Only page charges can be waived, not color or esupp charges (a long-standing policy).
5. All waivers are now tracked and shared by finance staff and contractors.
6. All authors must provide a written request, explaining the need for the waiver.

The 10% limit for waivers is important to keep the deficit within reasonable limits:

	10%	13%
<i>SRL</i>	\$22,285	\$28,971
<i>BSSA</i>	\$53,000	\$68,900
SSA Budget Deficit	\$158,718	\$181,304

Last year the SSA Board established reserves, both operational and strategic. This left us at the end of FY2018 with \$550,165 in undesignated funds that serves as working capital. The proposal is to pay for the budget deficit with working capital (a reduction of \$158,607), add \$50K to Publications Operating Reserves and \$30K to New Initiatives Strategic Reserves and lower the working-capital reserve (undesignated funds) to \$311,558.

In the past 18 months, we made changes to when and how we collect on accounts receivables—primarily the collection of page charges—so that we have a steady flow of earned revenue on the books and cash in the bank. We expect to operate efficiently and evenly with the lower amount of working capital.

In short, the proposed budget would allow us to weather the additional costs imposed by the hurricanes in Puerto Rico while still building our publications and other services to seismologists and remaining in a solid financial position at the end of the year.

Seismological Society of America  
**Proposed Budget, FY 2018-2019**  
 Summary by Line Item

	<b>Proposed FY19</b>	<b>Actual FY18</b>	<b>Actual FY17</b>	<b>Actual FY16</b>
<b>Revenue (Undesignated)</b>				
Member Dues	207,830	50,335	199,465	230,981
BSSA Revenue	994,592	966,161	850,635	918,840
SRL Revenue	388,109	397,152	254,321	283,792
Meeting & Event Revenue	463,480	501,806	312,242	395,805
Dividends, Interest, Realized Gains	24,000	26,890	22,993	35,458
Donations to General Fund	10,000	5,655	9,661	7,859
Miscellaneous Revenue	450	653	14,136	1,824
<b>Total Revenue (Undesignated)</b>	<b>2,088,461</b>	<b>1,948,652</b>	<b>1,663,453</b>	<b>1,874,560</b>
<b>Operating Expenses (Undesignated)</b>				
BSSA Expense	449,023	423,551	403,212	383,998
SRL Expense	234,363	220,396	196,228	207,095
Annual Meetings & SSA Events	533,609	405,815	268,889	357,346
PR, Communications, & Marketing	61,525	49,670	12,535	6,189
Governmental Affairs	44,400	35,000	28,816	33,129
Affiliated Science Activities	45,700	57,607	41,554	14,447
Eastern Section	4,400	2,062	1,077	1,498
Other Membership Expenses	5,000	23,785	20,555	14,166
Awards	36,500	2,849	1,577	4,360
Travel, Conferences, & Staff Development	16,100	7,443	8,490	4,075
Personnel and Contractors	618,208	649,148	693,222	562,013
Rent, Utilities, & Office	48,830	48,072	51,208	50,882
Shipping, Printing, Phones, & Internet	30,500	29,384	27,411	34,975
Furniture, Equipment, & Supplies	10,450	8,598	14,276	11,531
Depreciation & Amortization	37,203	14,345	5,051	3,768
Tax, Dues, & Subscriptions	3,000	2,014	5,787	960
Legal, Audit, & Insurance	43,087	45,317	20,250	19,666
Bank Charges & Payroll Fees	54,311	53,401	51,550	51,234
Miscellaneous Expense	860	849	8,029	3,473
Support from Designated Funds	(30,000)	-	-	-
<b>Total Expense (Undesignated)</b>	<b>2,247,068</b>	<b>2,079,307</b>	<b>1,859,715</b>	<b>1,764,804</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Undesignated)</b>	<b>(158,607)</b>	<b>(130,655)</b>	<b>(196,262)</b>	<b>109,756</b>
Designated & Restricted Revenue	68,600	94,283	97,314	27,606
Non-Operating Revenue	-	137,699	107,925	(99,234)
Designated Expense	77,735	29,920	40,107	19,994
Non-Operating Expense	-	223	-	49,038
Net for All Funds	(167,742)	71,184	(31,130)	(30,905)
Use or (Replenishment) of Reserves	(80,000)			
Beginning Unrestricted Net Assets	1,672,534			
<b>Ending Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>1,497,927</b>			

## Reserves: Proposed Funding and Use

SSA FY19 Budget

	Board Reserves Policy			Balances and Budget Proposal		
	Target Balance	Funding Timeline	Maximum Annual Funding	Balance at 1/31/2018	Proposed Funding or (Use), FY19	Balance at 1/31/2019
Available unrestricted, undesignated liquid net assets (UULNA, calculated below)				1,480,165		1,321,558
<b>Operating Reserves:</b>						
Publications	600,000	3 years	200,000	350,000	50,000	400,000
Annual Meeting	100,000	5 years	20,000	100,000	-	100,000
Membership	-	n/a	-	-	-	-
General Operating	250,000	5 years	50,000	250,000	-	250,000
<b>Total Operating Reserves</b>	<b>950,000</b>		<b>270,000</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>
<b>Strategic Reserves:</b>						
Publications	200,000	5 years	40,000	100,000	-	100,000
Annual Meeting	50,000	5 years	10,000	50,000	-	50,000
Membership	100,000	5 years	20,000	50,000	-	50,000
New Initiatives	90,000	3 years	30,000	30,000	30,000	60,000
<b>Total Strategic Reserves</b>	<b>440,000</b>		<b>100,000</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>
<b>Replacement Reserves</b>	-	n/a	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Reserve</b>	<b>1,390,000</b>		<b>370,000</b>	<b>930,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>1,010,000</b>
Remaining working capital (Additional, un-earmarked net assets: UULNA less reserves)				550,165		311,558
<b>Calculation of unrestricted, undesignated liquid net assets</b>						
Total net assets				2,132,783		1,965,041
Less board-designated portion				(112,982)		(113,483)
Less restricted portion				(460,249)		(460,000)
Less fixed assets				(79,387)		(70,000)
Unrestricted, undesignated liquid net assets				1,480,165		1,321,558

## Seismological Society of America

**Proposed Budget, FY 2018-2019**

## Summary of Net Income in Key Business Area

*Program expenses do not include staff or infrastructural contractor costs*

	Proposed FY19	Actual FY18	Actual FY17	Actual FY16
<b>Journals</b>				
<b>BSSA</b>				
Revenue	994,592	966,161	850,635	918,840
Expense	449,023	423,551	403,212	383,998
Net Income	545,570	542,610	447,423	534,841
<b>SRL</b>				
Revenue	388,109	397,152	254,321	283,792
Expense	234,363	220,396	196,228	207,095
Net Income	153,747	176,757	58,093	76,698
<b>Annual Meeting &amp; Events*</b>				
Revenue	463,480	501,806	312,242	395,805
Expense	533,609	405,815	268,889	357,346
Net Income	(70,129)	95,990	43,353	38,459

\* The expenses for any one annual meeting may be spread across multiple years. For example, Denver had a \$110K surplus, even though FY18 shows only a \$96K surplus.

**Seismological Society of America**  
**Detail of Publications Budget**  
**Proposed FY19 Budget**

	<u>Proposed FY19</u>	<u>Actual FY18</u>	<u>Actual FY17</u>	<u>Actual FY16</u>
<b>Revenue</b>				
<b>BSSA Revenue</b>				
BSSA Subscriptions	180,000	191,873	44,170	194,465
BSSA Author Charges				
BSSA Page Charges	530,000	480,207	528,978	403,345
BSSA Offprints	2,400	2,320	1,707	3,620
BSSA Special Services (Color)	113,000	98,000	151,575	205,330
BSSA Quote Pmt vs Actual Inv Over/(Short)	-	-	-	(5,535)
ESupp Charges	16,000	13,299	12,923	10,000
BSSA Page Charges Waived [negative]	<u>(53,000)</u>	<u>(43,515)</u>	<u>(60,726)</u>	<u>(63,446)</u>
Total BSSA Author Charges	608,400	550,311	634,457	553,314
BSSA Other Publication Revenue				
Member Print Purchases	11,167	8,667	2,878	-
BSSA Back Issue Sales	-	15	41	730
BSSA Pay Per View	1,600	1,608	1,659	2,136
GSW Royalty for BSSA	192,425	212,633	165,276	166,228
BSSA Royalties	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,054</u>	<u>2,154</u>	<u>1,924</u>
Total BSSA Other Publication Revenue	<u>206,192</u>	<u>223,977</u>	<u>172,008</u>	<u>171,018</u>
<b>Total BSSA Revenue</b>	<b><u>994,592</u></b>	<b><u>966,161</u></b>	<b><u>850,635</u></b>	<b><u>918,797</u></b>
<b>SRL Revenue</b>				
SRL Subscriptions	22,000	19,120	9,591	22,310
SRL Author Charges				
SRL Page Charges	222,850	180,225	61,700	993
SRL Offprints	2,000	2,165	745	2,437
SRL Special Services (Color)	73,500	68,250	93,940	192,015
SRL E supp Charges	9,000	7,920	5,520	7,320
SRL Quote Payment vs Actual Inv. Over & Short	-	-	-	150
SRL Page Charges Waived	<u>(22,285)</u>	<u>(9,230)</u>	<u>(450)</u>	<u>(1,800)</u>
Total SRL Author Charges	285,065	249,330	161,455	201,115
SRL Other Publication Revenue				
SRL Member Print Purchase	7,865	11,939	3,160	-
SRL Back Issue Sales	-	285	213	140
SRL Pay Per View	-	112	274	1,544
GSW Royalty for SRL	73,179	116,281	79,427	58,678
SRL Royalties	-	85	196	-
SRL Back Issue Shipping	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
Total SRL Other Publication Revenue	<u>81,044</u>	<u>128,702</u>	<u>83,275</u>	<u>60,368</u>
<b>Total SRL Revenue</b>	<b><u>388,109</u></b>	<b><u>397,152</u></b>	<b><u>254,321</u></b>	<b><u>283,792</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>BSSA Expenses</b>				
BSSA Publication Cost				
Composition	142,000	141,723	116,652	118,850
Journal Printing	42,000	31,615	53,270	53,588
Shipping & Handling	10,000	8,800	14,193	15,349
Offprint Costs	2,000	1,936	2,675	2,607
BSSA Special Services	22,600	19,810	37,460	40,946
BSSA Storage/Sheridan	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,391</u>	<u>3,934</u>	<u>-</u>
Total BSSA Publication Cost	220,100	205,274	228,185	231,338
BSSA Electronic Pubs				
File Preparation	2,000	4,487	22,723	25,854
File Storage	-	8,629	8	164
Electronic Publishing Fees (GSW)	12,000	23,038	4,863	609



	Proposed FY19	Actual FY18	Actual FY17	Actual FY16
Archiving	1,585	1,026	2,055	2,045
Travel	-	5,134	2,834	379
<b>Total BSSA Electronic Pubs</b>	<b>15,585</b>	<b>42,315</b>	<b>32,484</b>	<b>29,051</b>
<b>BSSA Expenses</b>				
Public Relations - BSSA	13,500	9,000	9,286	10,800
BSSA Editorial Services	139,613	124,999	95,520	80,430
Manuscript Submission	17,000	16,753	22,646	19,111
BSSA Office Expense	-	-	42	78
BSSA Copyright Fees	1,500	1,398	650	-
BSSA Marketing Materials	2,000	6,508	-	-
BSSA Travel & Events	10,050	6,165	-	1,490
<b>Total BSSA Expenses</b>	<b>183,663</b>	<b>164,823</b>	<b>128,143</b>	<b>111,909</b>
<b>BSSA Honoraria</b>				
BSSA Honoraria	16,000	6,400	14,400	11,700
BSSA Honors Events	3,675	-	-	-
<b>Total BSSA Honoraria</b>	<b>19,675</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>11,700</b>
<b>BSSA Income Reduction</b>				
Adjust Allowance for Uncollectible Charges	-	4,664	-	-
Write Off Uncollectible Charges	10,000	75	-	-
<b>Total BSSA Income Reduction</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>4,739</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total BSSA Expenses</b>	<b>449,023</b>	<b>423,551</b>	<b>403,212</b>	<b>383,998</b>
<b>SRL Expenses</b>				
<b>SRL Publication Cost</b>				
Composition	55,000	52,621	49,805	56,711
Journal Printing	30,000	20,194	24,161	39,773
Shipping & Handling	7,000	6,769	8,451	11,378
Offprint Costs	800	824	1,133	2,200
SRL Special Services	14,700	17,413	18,565	31,649
SRL Storage/Sheridan	600	559	323	-
<b>Total SRL Publication Cost</b>	<b>108,100</b>	<b>98,381</b>	<b>102,438</b>	<b>141,711</b>
<b>SRL Electronic Pubs</b>				
File Preparation	-	938	2,166	4,323
File Storage	-	-	-	3
Electronic Publishing Fees (GSW)	12,000	23,242	12,189	1,606
Travel	-	1,918	9	-
<b>Total SRL Electronic Pubs</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>26,097</b>	<b>14,364</b>	<b>5,932</b>
<b>SRL Editorial Cost</b>				
Public Relations - SRL	13,500	6,000	10,595	7,950
SRL Editorial Services	61,838	56,881	47,850	39,600
Manuscript Submission	9,000	8,943	10,181	9,942
SRL Copyright Fees	850	1,473	600	-
SRL Marketing Materials	5,000	4,882	-	-
SRL Travel	3,350	4,794	-	510
<b>Total SRL Editorial Cost</b>	<b>93,537</b>	<b>82,973</b>	<b>69,226</b>	<b>58,002</b>
<b>SRL Honoraria</b>				
SRL Honoraria	16,500	9,100	10,200	1,450
SRL Honors Events	1,225	-	-	-
<b>Total SRL Honoraria</b>	<b>17,725</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>1,450</b>
<b>SRL Income Reduction</b>				
Adjust Allowance for Uncollectible Charges	-	1,555	-	-
Write Off Uncollectible Charges	3,000	2,290	-	-
<b>Total SRL Income Reduction</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,845</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total SRL Expenses</b>	<b>234,363</b>	<b>220,396</b>	<b>196,228</b>	<b>207,095</b>
<b>Summary of Net Income:</b>				
Net BSSA Income	545,570	542,610	447,423	534,799
Net SRL Income	153,747	176,757	58,093	76,698
<b>Net Publications Income</b>	<b>699,316</b>	<b>719,367</b>	<b>505,516</b>	<b>611,496</b>

**Seismological Society of America**  
**Detail of Annual-Meeting Budget**  
**Proposed FY19 Budget**

	Miami*	Denver*	Reno*	Pasadena*
	<b>Proposed FY19</b>	<b>Actual FY18</b>	<b>Actual FY17</b>	<b>Actual FY16</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
SRL Back Issues Annual Meeting	750	1,465	575	640
Registration	343,580	398,231	272,442	305,680
Exhibit Fees	20,710	14,415	10,590	7,950
Abstract Fees	56,120	58,585	820	43,945
Sponsorships	23,000	11,950	19,750	31,945
Field Trips & Events	15,120	8,550	6,350	4,620
Workshop Income	200	3,075	716	25
Annual Meeting Ad	4,000	4,050	1,000	1,000
Guest Luncheon Revenue	-	1,485	-	-
<b>Total Meeting Revenue</b>	<b>463,480</b>	<b>501,806</b>	<b>312,242</b>	<b>395,805</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Hotel Rental	(4,898)	-	-	7,221
Meals & Breaks	244,207	205,413	125,577	214,841
Audio Visual	86,000	53,490	46,791	46,669
Field Trips	19,000	7,659	3,806	3,070
Workshop Expenses	-	-	4,962	-
Phone & Internet	15,000	-	-	943
Exhibits	17,555	5,466	-	8,810
Promotion & Program	51,500	47,871	34,227	25,643
Supplies	6,250	372	-	227
Shipping, Freight & Delivery	4,000	4,507	-	700
Photocopy/Printing	15,700	13,742	5,057	811
Signage	3,000	2,500	3,322	3,000
Meeting Planning	52,023	31,193	34,704	37,344
Special Edition of SRL	-	7,083	1,929	-
Miscellaneous Services	2,000	5,764	2,499	1,024
Travel	36,258	30,583	21,590	7,043
Support of Mtg from Designated Funds	(13,985)	(9,830)	(15,575)	-
<b>Total Meeting Expense</b>	<b>533,609</b>	<b>405,815</b>	<b>268,889</b>	<b>357,346</b>
<b>Net Meeting Income</b>	<b>(70,129)</b>	<b>95,990</b>	<b>43,353</b>	<b>38,459</b>

\* Expenses for meetings are not limited to the fiscal year in which they are held.

To: Board of Directors  
 From: Nan Broadbent  
 Re: Proposed Dues Increase  
 Date: April 30, 2018

This proposal concerns an increase in member dues, effective for CY 2019, and a change in the structure of those dues so that there is an incentive to buy a multi-year package. A multi-year package saves SSA money in terms of personnel costs associated with seeking renewals. There is one new category -- Early-Career Member.

Since the time of last increase in regular-member dues, SSA has added a wide range of benefits to membership, and inflation has reduced the value of dues received. In many cases, the last time dues were raised is between 11 and 15 years ago.

For corporate dues the last increase was in 1995, or 24 years ago. The proposed corporate dues are a sharp increase but remain a very good deal for corporate members, who can purchase print copies of *SRL* and *BSSA* at the member rate and receive online subscriptions as part of the membership. Corporate members also receive discounts related to their participation at the annual meeting.

This proposal, as outlined in the chart below, provides for a modest increase in dues that would take effect this fall when we open renewal season.

<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>	<b>Current Dues</b>	<b>Effective Year of Last Increase</b>	<b>Value, when inflation is considered ***</b>	<b>Proposed New Dues Rate</b>
Regular Member	\$100.00	2004	\$133.17	\$125 per year or \$225 for 2 years
Student Member	\$25.00	2004	\$33.29	\$30 per year
Early-Career Member* (formerly Transitional)	\$45.00	2008	\$52.59	\$55 per year or \$150 for 3 years
Emeritus Member	\$50.00	2004	\$66.58	\$60 per year or \$113 for 2 years
Life Member Dues	See note**	2017	n/a	No change to formula
Developing Country	\$45.00	2008	\$52.59	\$50/year or 2 years for \$90
Corporate Member Dues	\$1,000.00	1995	\$1,648.31	\$2000 per year

\* Early Career Membership is available to members who are within 3 years of earning their final degree. It is open to anyone, including new members. A member can claim "early career" status for only one three-year period.

\*\*The rate for Life Membership is calculated at \$100 per year, beginning with the first unpaid year of membership until the calendar year in which the member turns 65, with a minimum rate of \$500.

\*\*\*This column shows the value of each originally approved rate in 2018 dollars, adjusted for inflation. The inflation index used is the BLS CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) U.S. city average.

## Proposal to Update Privacy Policy

We are updating the Privacy Policy to clarify what personal data SSA collects and stores from members/users even though, in consultation with our lawyer Sarah Mooney and our technology consultant Kevin Cristiano, we do not believe SSA is subject to GDPR. We have concluded that SSA is likely not covered by the GDPR because 1) SSA does not have a physical presence in the EU (*i.e.*, no office or employees in the EU), 2) is not targeting its goods or services to individuals in the EU (*i.e.*, not marketing goods or services in different EU languages or allowing customers to pay with EU currency), or 3) is not monitoring the online behavior of individuals in the EU.

The updated language is meant to make the Privacy Policy more transparent and consistent with GDPR principles (even though our position is that we are not subject to the GDPR).

### SSA Privacy Policy (proposed)

This Privacy Policy describes the types of personal and non-personal information we collect on the SSA Web site and through the Editorial Manager, a third-party vendor that we contract with to provide services to SSA, how we use such information and to whom and under what circumstances we may disclose it. By using this website or Editorial Manager, which is maintained by ARIES, you agree to the terms of this Privacy Policy. If you do not agree to this Privacy Policy, please do not use any of these sites.

SSA gathers information at headquarters, at various events, and in external offices, primarily those of editors, about members, authors, and all others who participate in any way in the Society's activities. Every Society officer, volunteer, staff worker, and member who has access to these data is charged with respecting the privacy of those who provided it and is to act in accord with this Privacy Policy.

### Why personal data are collected

To provide you with SSA services, we must process information about you. Addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, other contact information and information related to scientific interests are collected from SSA constituents in the course of providing SSA services such as memberships, orders, meeting registration, abstract submission, submission of articles, and in various other interactions with SSA or our affiliates or third-party vendors. Such information is required to complete the individual order or deliver the service.

Other demographic information, such as age, student status, and employment data, is collected when individuals apply for membership or are suggested for various positions in the Society. Except as described below, these data and any other information of a personal nature, such as age, are collected on a purely voluntary basis; furthermore, they are not shared or used in such a way that an individual is identified. Principal uses of these data are for internal assessments of SSA programs and the membership. Additionally, these data, in a consolidated form, may be used in publicly distributed statistical descriptions and studies of the SSA constituency.

SSA members may add, correct, or update their personal information through a form on the SSA Web site or by contacting Member Services by phone at: +1-510-525-5474 or by e-mail at [membership@seismosoc.org](mailto:membership@seismosoc.org). We store data until it is no longer necessary to provide our services, or until you request to have your membership profile deleted - whichever comes first. This is a case-by-case determination that depends on a number of factors.

#### What personal data are made available

SSA's online Membership Roster contains basic contact information and membership data. It is provided to facilitate personal communication between members only. The roster is available only to members and requires a personal log-in. Members share the responsibility for the security of their data with others and help ensure it by keeping their access codes confidential. The downloading of large numbers of records is forbidden.

Postal membership mailing lists may be exchanged with or sold to other scientific societies or publishers for one-time use. Such exchanges are made only if the material to be sent is deemed beneficial to the SSA members to be contacted and advances the scientific missions of both societies. Such exchanges are reviewed by SSA management and/or Society officers, depending on the nature of the message and the distributions they are to be given. Lists for approved mailings may be selected by scientific specialty, geographic location, and/or student status. SSA will occasionally mail or e-mail a notice on behalf of another organization to selected groups of SSA members. Such mailings are subject to the same review process. Electronic mail addresses are not sold.

Personal data may occasionally be transferred to third parties who act for us for further processing in accordance with the purposes for which the data was originally collected.

Other demographic data are needed from time to time to help understand such matters as membership trends, and age differences with respect to reaction to programs. These data are retained to provide a statistical overview of the Society so that the leadership can better understand how the population is changing and consider how to meet changing needs. Constituents who elect to provide such data may be assured that it will never be made available publicly in any form that identifies individuals.

#### Opt in v. Opt out

Every individual who provides information to SSA through this website is asked to review and agree to this Privacy Policy. Any individual may decline to provide information requested by SSA, and that may make it impossible for SSA to provide the services for which such information is needed for security and/or identification purposes. By joining, all members agree to provide basic personal information and demographic data to SSA.

When SSA sends emails, such as the 3-Minute newsletter, Seismogram or mass e-mail letters, all users have the option to "unsubscribe" from future mailings.

A member may request not to be included on any list to be used by an organization other than SSA by sending an e-mail to [membership@seismosoc.org](mailto:membership@seismosoc.org) asking to be excluded from mailing lists exchanged with other societies. It is the intent of SSA policies to ensure that members are kept informed but do not feel burdened by what they receive as a "benefit" of membership. The officers of the Society and staff welcome comments from members as to the effectiveness of e-mail and mail as a communication tool on any specific case.

#### Keeping data about individuals secure

We have taken certain physical, electronic, contractual, and managerial steps to safeguard and secure the information we collect from visitors to the websites listed in first paragraph of this Privacy Policy.

Sensitive demographic, payment, and activity information is stored in a separate, secure database that is not accessible via the Membership Directory.

Credit card information provided to SSA via its Web site is transmitted via a secure server with commercial encryption software. Those not able to use a secure server may opt to make payments another way, via phone, fax, or postal mail.

#### Cookies

A “cookie” is a file a Web site stores in a user’s computer for future reference. SSA uses cookies occasionally to improve some of its services. Individuals may set their browsers to reject cookies; however, there may be SSA services that will not function unless the user accepts the SSA cookie. Information supplied through an SSA cookie is used only by SSA and not shared with others.

#### Links to other sites

SSA links to other Web sites that are not controlled by SSA. A link from the SSA Web site is not an SSA endorsement for any company, organization, or individual. SSA is not responsible for the privacy practices or the content of those sites.

#### Governing Law

This Privacy Policy and the privacy practices of SSA will be subject exclusively to the laws of the State of California within the United States of America. You agree to submit any dispute arising out of your use of this Web site to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in the State of California. SSA makes no representation that this Privacy Policy and such practices comply with the laws of any other state or country. If you reside outside of the United States, by using the SSA Web site, you consent to the transfer and use of your information outside your country. This data transfer is necessary to provide the membership services to you.

#### Questions regarding the Privacy Policy

If you have any questions about our Privacy Policy or the use of the SSA Web site in general, please contact us by e-mail by writing Sydni Schieber at [info@seismosoc.org](mailto:info@seismosoc.org).

#### Changes to the Privacy Policy

If and when our data practices change, we will (as soon as practicable) post the changes on our Web site to notify you of the changes. We encourage you to check this page frequently.

Adopted by the SSA Board of Directors, 14 May 2018.

## Privacy Policy **CURRENT**

**This Privacy Policy describes the types of personal and non-personal information we collect on the SSA Web site, how we use such information and to whom and under what circumstances we may disclose it. By using the Site, you agree to the terms of this Privacy Policy. If you do not agree to the policy, please do not use the Site.**

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### Why personal data are collected

Addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, other contact information and information related to scientific interests are collected from SSA constituents in the course of providing services such as memberships, orders, meeting registration, abstract submission, submission of articles, and in various other interactions. Such information is required to complete the individual order or deliver the service.

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SSA members may add, correct, or update their personal information through a form on the SSA Web site or by contacting Member Services by phone at : +1-510-525-5474 or by e-mail at [membership@seismosoc.org](mailto:membership@seismosoc.org).

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### Opt out

Any individual may decline to provide information requested by SSA. Sometimes the only way to opt out, however, is to provide perform the activity via paper form (e.g. membership renewal or meeting registration.) When requested data is not provided, SSA may be unable to provide the services for which such information is needed for security and/or identification purposes.

A member may request not to be included on any list to be used by an organization other than SSA by sending an e-mail to [membership@seismosoc.org](mailto:membership@seismosoc.org) asking to be excluded from mailing lists exchanged with other societies. It is the intent of SSA policies to ensure that members are kept informed but do not feel burdened by what they receive as a “benefit” of membership. The officers of the Society and staff welcome comments from members as to the effectiveness of e-mail and mail as a communication tool on any specific case.

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*Adopted by the SSA Board of Directors, April 7, 2009.*

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Every individual who provides information to SSA through this website is asked to review and agree to this Privacy Policy. Any individual may decline to provide information requested by SSA, and that may make it impossible for SSA to provide the services for which such information is needed for security and/or identification purposes. By joining, all members agree to provide basic personal information and demographic data to SSA.

When SSA sends emails, such as the 3-Minute newsletter, Seismogram or mass e-mail letters, all users have the option to “unsubscribe” from future mailings.

A member may request not to be included on any list to be used by an organization other than SSA by sending an e-mail to [membership@seismosoc.org](mailto:membership@seismosoc.org) asking to be excluded from mailing lists exchanged with other societies. It is the intent of SSA policies to ensure that members are kept informed but do not feel burdened by what they receive as a “benefit” of membership. The officers of the Society and staff welcome comments from members as to the effectiveness of e-mail and mail as a communication tool on any specific case.

#### Keeping data about individuals secure

We have taken certain physical, electronic, contractual, and managerial steps to safeguard and secure the information we collect from visitors to the websites listed in first paragraph of this Privacy Policy. Sensitive demographic, payment, and activity information is stored in a separate, secure database that is not accessible via the Membership Directory.

Credit card information provided to SSA via its Web site is transmitted via a secure server with commercial encryption software. Those not able to use a secure server may opt to make payments another way, via phone, fax, or postal mail.

#### Cookies

A “cookie” is a file a Web site stores in a user’s computer for future reference. SSA uses cookies occasionally to improve some of its services. Individuals may set their browsers to reject cookies; however, there may be SSA services that will not function unless the user accepts the SSA cookie. Information supplied through an SSA cookie is used only by SSA and not shared with others.

#### Links to other sites

SSA links to other Web sites that are not controlled by SSA. A link from the SSA Web site is not an SSA endorsement for any company, organization, or individual. SSA is not responsible for the privacy practices or the content of those sites.

#### Governing Law

This Privacy Policy and the privacy practices of SSA will be subject exclusively to the laws of the State of California within the United States of America. You agree to submit any dispute arising out of your use of this Web site to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in the State of California. SSA makes no representation that this Privacy Policy and such practices comply with the laws of any other state or country. If you reside outside of the United States, by using the SSA Web site, you consent to the transfer and use of your information outside your country. This data transfer is necessary to provide the membership services to you.

#### Questions regarding the Privacy Policy

If you have any questions about our Privacy Policy or the use of the SSA Web site in general, please contact us by e-mail by writing Sydni Schieber at [info@seismosoc.org](mailto:info@seismosoc.org).

#### Changes to the Privacy Policy

If and when our data practices change, we will (as soon as practicable) post the changes on our Web site to notify you of the changes. We encourage you to check this page frequently.

Adopted by the SSA Board of Directors, 14 May 2018.

Code of Ethics  
BOD Meeting on May 14

The question before the Board is whether to develop a code of ethics for the Society, of which one part would be the recently adopted Code of Conduct for SSA meetings, and if so, how to proceed. What is the approach to determining the scope of the code of ethics and its implementation?

For reference (not intended to be a complete list):

AGU has the most developed policies: <https://ethics.agu.org/policy/>

AAAS – American Association for the Advancement of Science

- No dedicated page for a Code of Ethics/Code of Conduct
- [Human Rights in Codes of Ethics of Scientific and Professional Societies](https://www.aaas.org/page/human-rights-codes-ethics-scientific-and-professional-societies)  
<https://www.aaas.org/page/human-rights-codes-ethics-scientific-and-professional-societies>
  - Page on human rights in societies' codes of ethics. Includes example language for societies to use when considering how to add human rights to their own code of ethics.
- AAAS Annual Meeting Code of Conduct  
<http://meetings.aaas.org/policies/>
  - Code of Conduct for the AAAS Annual Meeting, including definitions of harassment and how to report it.

GSA – Geological Society of America

- GSA Code of Conduct  
[https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Membership/Code\\_of\\_Conduct/GSA/Membership/Code\\_of\\_Conduct.aspx?hkey=1a11cac9-2183-4e8f-8cbd-3d930591fb56](https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Membership/Code_of_Conduct/GSA/Membership/Code_of_Conduct.aspx?hkey=1a11cac9-2183-4e8f-8cbd-3d930591fb56)
  - Not as detailed as other documents. Consists of:
    - Responsibilities of members toward science and the profession, students and colleagues, employers and employees, clients and end users, public and humankind, and the environment and natural resources.
    - 8 principles of Conduct
- Events Code of Conduct  
<https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/EventConductCode/GSA/Events/Conduct.aspx?hkey=7f3f608e-442a-466d-81bf-1f78d55f53d4>
  - Expected behavior, as well as unacceptable behavior, its consequences, and how to report it.

AAPG – American Association of Petroleum Geologists

<http://www.aapg.org/about/aapg/overview#2474265-code-of-ethics>

AGI – American Geosciences Institute

- <https://www.americangeosciences.org/community/agi-guidelines-ethical-professional-conduct>
  - Guidelines for Ethical Professional Conduct

AIH – American Institute of Hydrology

- Code of Ethics – PDF (2 pages)  
<http://www.aihydrology.org/> (click on About)
  - Code of ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct. Focus on member relations to public, clients, and other professionals. No mention of harassment.

SEG – <https://seg.org/ethics>

## May 2018

### Proposal for a second SSA conference

An SSA topical meeting would be organized to meet the twin goals of furthering the Society's mission and supporting its financial health. If successful, this meeting would be an annual event with varying topics to engage the breadth of the SSA community. The meeting is intended to focus on topics best suited for discussion in a smaller setting and that can:

- Attract a sufficient audience (100 – 150) for a two- to three-day meeting.
- Respond to an unmet need within the community, ripe for further exploration.
- Form the basis of a subsequent editorial product (SRL or BSSA), thereby producing additional revenue.
- Relies on a program committee of four volunteers to review abstracts, support outreach to the community and chair program onsite.

The addition of one topical meeting can be produced with existing staff and contractors and the same structure in place to produce the annual meeting. This summer we are launching a new abstract submission system via AAG, and the contract and license includes using the system for multiple meetings. The system will automate our processes, replacing what used to be done by hand. This plan assumes that the meeting:

- Serves 100 – 150 attendees, offering discounted rates for student and developing country SSA members.
- Makes at least \$25K (excluding staff time; excluding subsequent page charge revenue).
- Takes place between June and December of any year, beginning in 2019.

The conference can be held anywhere that makes most sense to cultivate an excellent meeting based on the topic or target community. Ideally the setting would support the exchange of information and networking aspect of the gathering – i.e., a deluxe venue that is still easily accessible to major airports. An ideal venue would allow all attendees to stay in one place with space for both the meeting sessions, meals, and informal interactions.

Paired with the SSA objective to engage internationally, this meeting may be held outside of the US. If within the US, we would be flexible in selecting a location, taking advantage of hotel availability and pricing. Some examples of locations include: Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa in Lost Pines, Texas, which is located on 400 acres of woods outside of Austin; Sheraton at Wild Horse Pass in Phoenix; Keystone Resort, which is about 90 miles from Denver airport; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, CA; Sheraton near Kona on the Big Island, Hawaii; and the Hyatt in Albuquerque.

If this meeting becomes a recurring activity, then the Meetings Committee would approve the topic for the conference.

## SSA News and Notes

### Student-Run Seismology at New York Conference

The participants at the Seismology Student Workshop (SSW) introduce themselves with an exercise that has been a highlight of the workshop since its start in 2013. Students write their research interests on a whiteboard, circling topics they have in common with others and drawing lines to connect their fields of expertise. The finished board—a riot of colors, drawings, and exclamation points—offers a dynamic glimpse at one of seismology's most unusual conferences.

The sixth annual SSW, held on 14–16 March at Lamont–Doherty Earth Observatory, is the country's only seismology meeting run entirely by students. Sponsored by SSA and Columbia University's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, this year's workshop is the largest yet, including 55 attendees from 35 institutions across the United States and as far away as China and Turkey. Lamont–Doherty students Kira Olsen, Rachel Marzen, Genevieve Coffey, and Christopher Carchedi were the organizers of the 2018 workshop.

The two days of talks, poster presentations, and career advice attracted both first-time attendees and students who have made the trek multiple times, drawn by the chance to speak about their work in a low-pressure environment.

Thomas Luckie, a Ph.D. student at the University of Southern California, was one of several repeat attendees. "I'm coming back to the workshop because I enjoy the opportunity to meet and connect with other seismology graduate students in a small and more relaxed setting," he said. "Professionally, this can be hugely beneficial since many of the attendees will become future collaborators and reviewers."

Topics presented at the workshop included subduction zone research, mantle studies, earthquake physics, and imaging. SSW presentations are leisurely, 25 min for talks and 2 hrs for posters, to encourage discussion and thorough descriptions of methodology and workflow. For students in the middle of research projects, these step-by-step explanations help them develop what one participant called "the weapons of choice" to collect and address their data.

"The ability to learn more about methodologies is particularly attractive," said Amanda Price, a Washington University Ph.D. student. "I have struggled with learning about methodologies employed from journal articles, which are very short. I want to expand my tool belt."

Questions, comments, and suggestions flowed freely at the workshop, as the attendees shared information about software packages, equations, and glimpses of fieldwork conditions. (Servicing broadband seismometers in Antarctica, for instance, requires helicopters and teamwork to heave blocks of ice and snow, said Penn State Ph.D. student Austin White-Gaynor.)

"In large conferences, speakers only have about 15 minutes to talk about their research, so they commonly do not have enough time to talk about technical details," said Xongbo Xu, a first-time attendee from Boise State University. "It's wonderful to be together here for two days, to easily ask questions."

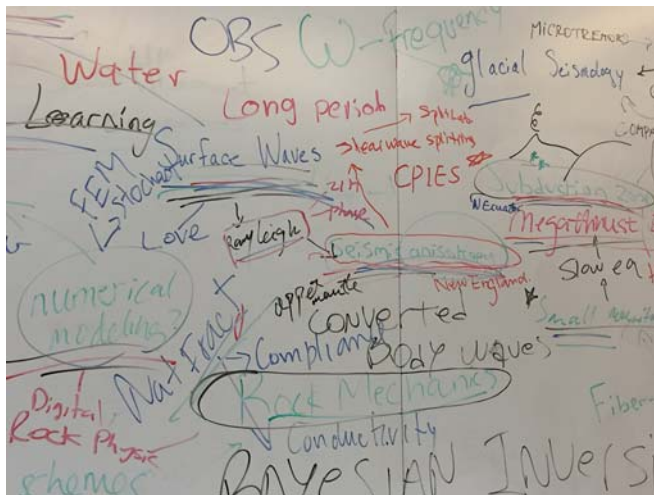
Several of this year's participants said that they did not consider themselves seismologists, but found the workshop useful because they use seismology methods. "I am interested in feedback on some of my ideas from earthquake seismologists, because as a rock mechanics student I usually attend conference sessions with other scientists who are focused on field geology, microstructures or experimental rock deformation," said Caroline Seyer, a McGill University Ph.D. student.

Austin Pierce, a first-year master's student at North Carolina State University, is a geologist who used seismic profiling for the first time last summer when he worked with a team in Myanmar, studying the fate of Irrawaddy River sediments. Presenting a poster at SSW for the first time, he said the workshop was "opening my eyes to the possibilities from using seismic data. And I'm also looking for feedback on how to process the data we're collecting now."

The quality of the discussions at the student-only event impressed Brennan Brunsvik, a first-time attendee from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. "I think maybe people are less intimidated to ask questions, without any professors around," he suggested.

"When senior scientists are no longer in the room, I think students sometimes surprise themselves with how much expertise they have in a given area," agreed Olsen. "It's wonderful to have a space where students more readily share ideas and jump into the conversation."

Published Online 11 April 2018



▲ To break the ice in the Seismology Student Workshop (SSW), attendees share their interests on a whiteboard, circling topics they have in common with others, and drawing lines to connect their fields of expertise. The color version of this figure is available only in the electronic edition.



## **Seismological Society of America Final Report on Seismology Student Workshop 2018**

The sixth annual LDEO Student Seismology Workshop (SSW) was held March 14 – 16, 2018 and drew 55 graduate students from 36 academic institutions in four countries. As in previous years, the workshop was organized by LDEO graduate students and consisted of two days of AGU-style scientific talks, posters, and discussions aimed at graduate level researchers (agenda attached). This year's workshop built upon the successes of previous years and the result was a more ambitious workshop than ever before. Because there were 84% more applicants to the 2018 workshop than in 2017, we were able to admit an especially strong cohort of young scientists (44% women), and feature more graduate-student research than in previous years. We increased the number of attendees to this year's workshop by 20% from 2017, and support from SSA allowed us to subsidize the cost of travel to the workshop for 44% of the participants. In addition to the scientific presentations, we drew upon attendees' broad range of experiences to host a career-panel discussion on seismology related internship and career opportunities. In a survey completed after the workshop, all respondents reported being satisfied with the workshop ( $\geq 3/5$ ) and the majority of respondents rated their overall satisfaction as 5/5. 95% of respondents indicated that they would be interested in attending the workshop again in the future.



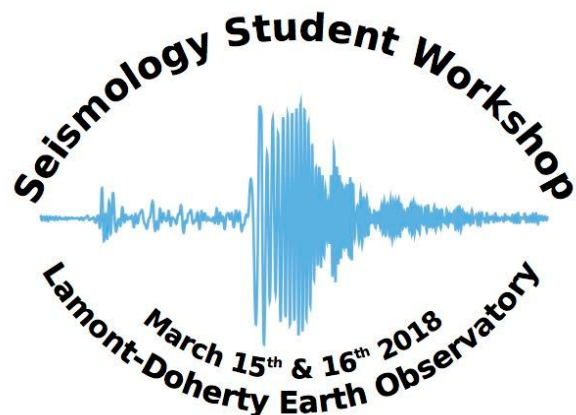
**Budget:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Accommodation	<b>\$7,107.00</b>
Dinner night 1	<b>\$575.95</b>
Dinner night 2	<b>\$1,135.00</b>
Dinner night 3	<b>\$440.60</b>
Coffee	<b>\$380.00</b>
Lunch	<b>\$1,219.00</b>
Customized pens	<b>\$100.32</b>
Beverages	<b>\$101.00</b>
Snacks	<b>\$124.76</b>
Travel reimbursements*	<b>\$3,250.00</b>
After Dinner Cleaning Lamont	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,483.63</b>
<b>SSA Support</b>	<b>\$11,000.00</b>
<b>Other Support</b>	<b>\$3,483.63</b>

\*This number is the amount of travel support accepted. We offered more than \$4000 in travel support.

Additional expenses were covered using support from the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University, as well as workshop registration fees.

The SSW Organizing Committee greatly thanks SSA for its generous support. We found that the partnership between Lamont-Doherty and the SSA greatly enhanced the workshop experience.



### Wednesday, March 14

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#### Check into hotel

After  
3:00 pm

**Holiday Inn - Orangeburg**  
329 Route 303,  
Orangeburg, New York, 10962

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8:00 pm

Attendees will carpool to dinner from the hotel (meet in the hotel lobby at 7:30 pm)

Dinner at **Mountain House Pizza**  
330 Route 340, Sparkill, NY, 10976

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### Thursday, March 15

Seminar Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Comer Geochemistry Building

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8:00 am

Carpool from **Holiday Inn** to LDEO and check in

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8:30 am

#### Opening Remarks

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#### *Session 1: Mantle Studies*

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9:00 am

High-Resolution Body Wave Tomography of the  
Ross Sea Embayment, Antarctica

Austin  
White-Gaynor

Penn State

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9:30 am

Constraining the Mechanism of D'' Anisotropy:  
Diversity of Observation Types Required

Neala Creasy

Yale

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10:00 am

#### Coffee and introductions

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#### *Session 2: Imaging California*

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11:30 pm

A receiver function study to investigate crust and  
lithosphere beneath Southern California using  
Wavefield Iterative Deconvolution

Ailiyasi  
Ainiwaer

Texas  
Tech

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<b>12:00 pm</b>	Basin, Fault Zones, and Adjacent Mountain Ranges: Seismic Velocity Structure of the Coachella Valley, Southern California	Rasheed Ajala	Louisiana State
<b>12:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<i>Session 3: Shallow Imaging</i>			
<b>1:30 pm</b>	Evidence for Terrane Accretion, Localized Rifting and Magmatism from the Crustal Velocity Structure of the Southeastern United States	Rachel Marzen	LDEO
<b>2:00 pm</b>	Tomographic evidence for reduced crustal seismic velocity in the Nemaha Fault Zone, Oklahoma, USA: an argument for fracture-enhanced permeability in a relatively aseismic structural uplift	Nathan Stevens	Cornell
<b>2:30 pm</b>	Multiscale Seismic Simulation in Fractured media and Compliance Estimation of proppant-filled Fractures	Edith Sotelo	Texas A&M
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Poster Session I</b>		
<i>Session 5: Subduction</i>			
<b>5:15 pm</b>	Multiscale Imaging of the Alaskan Subduction Zone	Robert Martin-Short	UC Berkeley
<b>5:45 pm</b>	Corrugated megathrust revealed offshore Costa Rica	Joel Edwards	UC Santa Cruz
<b>6:15 pm</b>	Imaging the Subducting Juan de Fuca slab beneath Mount St. Helens	Michael Mann	Cornell
<b>6:45 pm</b>	Leave for dinner at <b>Zapata Mexican Restaurant</b> 779 Route 340, Palisades, NY, 10964		
After dinner attendees will carpool to the			
<b>Holiday Inn - Orangeburg</b> 329 Route 303, Orangeburg, New York, 10962			

**Friday, March 16**Seminar Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Comer Geochemistry Building

<b>8:30 am</b>	Carpool from <b>Holiday Inn</b> to LDEO		
<b><i>Session 6: Earthquake Physics</i></b>			
<b>9:00 am</b>	Exploring the relation between backprojection images and earthquake source processes	Jiuxun Yin	Harvard
<b>9:30 am</b>	Stress drop variability of intermediate-depth earthquakes in Japan	Shanna Chu	Stanford
<b>10:00 am</b>	Spatial distribution of Site Response and Building Damage in Mexico City resulting from the Puebla Earthquake 2017	Marshall Pontrelli	Tufts
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Poster Session II</b>		
<b>12:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b><i>Session 7: Ambient noise</i></b>			
<b>1:30 pm</b>	Rayleigh-wave source kernels of multicomponent crosscorrelations from traveltimes and waveform adjoints	Zongbo Xu	Boise State
<b>2:00 pm</b>	Tracking Groundwater Levels using the Ambient Seismic Field	Tim Clements	Harvard
<b>2:30 pm</b>	Shear wave structure of Mount St. Helens, WA region from ambient noise, earthquake surface waves and receiver functions	Kayla Crosbie	Cornell
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b><i>Session 8: Long Period Seismicity</i></b>			
<b>3:30 pm</b>	Detecting slow earthquakes in Marianas subduction zone using OBS data	Amanda Price	Washington University
<b>4:00 pm</b>	Large geophone array studies of volcano seismicity at Mount St. Helens: volcanic-tectonic, low-frequency, and surface signals	Margaret Glasgow	University of New Mexico
<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Poster Session III</b>		
<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Career Panel</b>		
<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>		
<b>7:45 pm</b>	<b>Dinner in Comer</b>		

**Poster Session I - Thursday 3 pm**

Rhiannon Viece - Using Cross-Correlation Methods to Characterize Earthquakes Associated with the Socorro Magma Body

Junlin Hua - The lithosphere-asthenosphere boundary beneath the North Anatolian Fault

Kyle Homman - Crustal Structure across the Appalachian Basin

Cate Bressers - Upper mantle structure beneath the northern part of the East African Plateau using data from the NE Uganda temporary seismic network

Kelly Olsen - Development of a Shallow Decollement Along the South-Central Chile Margin from 2D Seismic Reflection Data

Wenpei Miao - Shallow structure S wave velocity model beneath the Gulf of Mexico passive margin by joint inversion of Rayleigh wave ellipticity and phase velocity

Alex Burky - Unraveling the Origin of the Bermuda Rise Using Receiver Functions: Insights from Mantle Discontinuity Structure

Zhenxin Xie - Crustal anisotropy beneath Northeastern margin of Tibet Plateau and its geodynamic implications

Yiran Li - Seismic Anisotropy Beneath Eastern North America: Results from Multi-Event Inversion

Eric Goldfarb - A New Method to Supplement Seismic Inversion Tomography; Computed Tomography Scanning of Drill Cuttings to Estimate Elastic Properties

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**Poster Session II - Friday 10:30 am**

Mariah Hoskins - The role of structural heterogeneity and slip modes on the seismic swarm in the Esmeraldas, Ecuador

Caroline Seyler - Rupture to the trench? Frictional properties of incoming sediments at the Cascadia subduction zone

Brian Dye - Identifying Strombolian Eruptions in Seismic and Infrared Images through Cross-Correlation of Seismic and Image Luminosity on Mt Erebus, Antarctica

Brennan Brunsvik - Evaluation of the causes of L'Aquila earthquake interaction and patterns

Thomas W. Luckie - Validation of 3-component PASSCAL Texan data by direct comparison to collocated 3-component instrument (RT-130) data

James Benco - Possible Hydroseismic Triggering for Small Earthquakes Occurring within the Fox River Valley, Northeastern Illinois

Geovanni Martínez-Mendoza - Seismic amplifications in the Valle of Mexico using spectral ratios of teleseismic surface waves recorded with broadband stations.

Chenhao Yang - Significant effects of shallow seismic properties on Rayleigh phase velocities up to 25 s

Nawa Dahal - Determination of Depths of Small Magnitude Local and Regional Earthquakes Recorded by a Sparse Seismic Network

Austin Pierce - Seismic Study of Sediment Transport on the Irrawaddy River

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### **Poster Session III - Friday 3:30 pm**

Bar Oryan - An examination of upper plate aftershocks of the Tohoku-oki earthquake: Are they caused by a long-term change in the dip of the subducting plate?

Bing He - Deriving coseismic slip from the interseismic locking distribution in Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica

Carlos Herrera - Comprehensive comparison of ground motion prediction models for Chile and Canada with recent Chilean megathrust earthquakes

Fei Deng - Local earthquake tomography of Tengchong volcanic area

Isabella Gama Dantas - Bayesian inversion for upper mantle structure using surface waves and scattered body waves in Alaska

Sharif Morshed - Mathematical modeling of zero frequency seismic velocities of anisotropic cracked rock

Urbi Basu - Pn tomography and anisotropy study of the central United States

Xiaoran Chen - Looking for the Edge: Does Lateral Change in Azimuthal Anisotropy Mark the Limit of the North American Craton?

Yasemin Korkusuz Öztürk - Preliminary Results from 3D Dynamic Earthquake Fracture Simulations in the Sea of Marmara

Zeynep Coşkun - Moment Tensor Inversion of Earthquakes in the Sea of Marmara and Surroundings: Restraining Bend between the Ganos Fault and the Main Marmara Fault

# SSA Honors Procedures

Draft update [April 21, 2018](#)

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## ***Honors Committee of the Seismological Society of America***

### **Establishment**

The SSA established the standing Honors Committee (HC) by vote of the Board in 2003.

### **Committee Responsibilities**

The responsibility of the HC is to oversee and encourage the activities of all honors-related subcommittees created by the Board and placed under the management of the HC. This has included the Reid Medal, the Richter Award, the Press Award, and the award for Distinguished Service to SSA. The SSA Representative to the COSMOS/EERI/SSA Bolt Medal is also under the jurisdiction of the HC. When the HC was created it was specifically instructed not to manage the Joyner Lectureship, any Eastern Section awards, or SSA travel grants.

The specific management responsibilities are as follows: 1) to populate those honors-related subcommittees, 2) to create any additional rules, selection criteria and time-tables beyond those mandated by the Board, necessary for the operation of those honors-related subcommittees, and 3) to periodically review the functioning of the honors program and recommend changes, if needed, to better address the stated goals of the honors program. In addition, the HC (along with the Honors subcommittees and Board members) will act to solicit nominations for all honors for which nominations from the general membership are permitted. To stimulate nominations the HC will contact potential nominators representing a cross-section of SSA membership, including domestic and international members, and members in academia, industry and government. However, the HC and award subcommittee members will not suggest names of potential nominees.

To reduce the potential for conflict of interest among the HC and its award subcommittees, and to stimulate a broad cross section of nominations, the HC will also formulate a separate Committee to encourage nominations including the ability to suggest names of potential nominees. This SSA Awards Encouragement Committee will be formed of 5-6 members of the seismological community covering a wide cross-section of the Society. This Committee will not write any nominations itself, but will instead have conversations with Society members to develop and encourage award nomination submissions. This Committee will report its activities to the chair of the HC in a letter after the nomination period has ended.

Recognizing the awards need to be consistent with the values of the Society, the HC and its award subcommittee members may consider factors such as professionalism, in addition to technical merit and achievement when choosing awardees.

### **Committee Membership**

The HC consists of 7-9 members. By recent tradition it consists of the chair, the former chair, and the chairs of the subcommittees plus any additional members that may be added for balance. Ideally, HC members would represent a cross-section of SSA, including domestic and international members; members in academia, industry, and government; and members of various ages. Committee Members must be Regular or Honorary members in good standing of SSA. Normal term of service is two years.

### **Procedure for Submission of Nomination Packages**



The components required for each nomination package are described under the sections pertaining to each award. Nomination packages shall be submitted by the advertised nomination deadline (February 15 of each year) via email to [awards@seismosoc.org](mailto:awards@seismosoc.org) (which will automatically forward them to the Executive Director, Secretary, and chair of the HC). Nomination packages shall be provided as single attachments to the email using zipped files if multiple supporting documents comprise the package. Acceptable document formats are .txt., .docx, or .pdf. While electronic submissions are encouraged, hard copies may be mailed to:

Secretary, Seismological Society of America  
c/o Nan Broadbent  
400 Evelyn Ave, Suite 201  
Albany, CA 94706-1375  
Fax: +1-510-525-7204

Upon receipt by SSA, the Executive Director, Secretary, and chair of the HC will jointly verify that the nominees are eligible. In the event that a nominee is found to be ineligible, the Executive Director will contact the nominators to inform them. The packages for all eligible nominees will be provided by the HC Chair to the chairs of the individual award subcommittees for review.

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## ***Harry Fielding Reid Medal Nomination Subcommittee***

### **Establishment**

The SSA established a standing Medal Nomination Subcommittee by vote of the Board in 2003 to assist with the generation of nominees for the *Harry Fielding Reid Medal* (In 2004 the Board voted to name "The Medal" after Harry Fielding Reid). The following is based on revisions of sections 12.1-12.3 of the Policy and Procedures Manual as approved by the Board in 2003.

### **Award Criteria**

The *Harry Fielding Reid Medal* of the Seismological Society of America shall be awarded for outstanding contributions in Seismology or Earthquake Engineering and is the highest honor of the Society. It shall be awarded no more frequently than once in any calendar year.

### **Eligibility for the Award**

The Medal may be awarded to any individual. No individual who is a member, member-elect, or officer of the Board of Directors at the time of the nomination deadline shall be eligible for nomination.

### **Nomination Procedures**

A nomination package consists of 1) a letter of nomination no more than 2 pages long summarizing the nominee's significant accomplishments and 2) letters, each no more than 2 pages long, from at least two but no more than five members of the Society. Optionally, the package may include a curriculum vita and bibliography in support of the nominee.

The Medal Subcommittee should attempt to assure that up to but no more than 3 nominees are available annually for consideration by the Board for the *Reid Medal*. The subcommittee should use their contacts to encourage people to submit nominations (without suggesting names), 2) select the top three if need be, and 3) provide their commentary on the nominations to the HC Chair who will forward it, along with the relevant nomination packages, to the Executive Director for inclusion in the materials for the April meeting of the Incoming Board.

Any unsuccessful nomination may be considered again in the following year's award cycle without resubmission of the nomination package if requested by a nominator before January 15 of that year. To be reconsidered in subsequent years (beyond the year immediately following the original nomination) a new nomination package must be submitted. The HC Chair will notify nominators via email prior to January 15 to confirm willingness for reconsideration of a package for a second year.

#### **Awardee Selection**

The Board of Directors will select the recipient of the Medal from among the nominees provided by the Secretary.

#### **Description of the Award**

The Medalist receives an inscribed bronze medal. The awardee's Annual Meeting registration fee is waived, and a subsidy for travel to the Annual Meeting may be given, at the discretion of the Board.

#### **Subcommittee Membership**

The subcommittee will consist of six persons including the chair. All subcommittee members must be SSA members. One member of the subcommittee should also be a member of the HC. Members are drawn, to the extent possible, from past SSA Medalists and a mixture of early- and mid-career SSA members. Normal term of service will be two years.

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### ***Charles F. Richter Early Career Award and an Early Career Subcommittee***

#### **Establishment**

The SSA established an Early Career Award by vote of the Board in 2003, which, in 2004 was named after Charles F. Richter. The SSA also establishes a standing Early Career Subcommittee to manage this award.

#### **Award Criteria**

The award honors outstanding contributions to the goals of the Society by a member early in her or his career. No more than one *Richter Early Career Award* may be given in each calendar year.

#### **Eligibility for the Award**

Nominees must satisfy the following criteria: 1) they must be Regular or Honorary Members of the Society in good standing and 2) their most recent academic degree must have been awarded no more than 6 years prior to April 18 of the year in which they are selected for the award. Family or medical leave, if provided by the candidate's institution and taken by the nominee during this six-year period, can extend the six-year period.

#### **Nomination Procedure**

Any member of the SSA may nominate a candidate for this award. (Members of the

Richter subcommittee may not nominate candidates for the award since they will be selecting a proposed winner.) The nomination package should contain 1) a letter of nomination no more than 2 pages long that establishes the nominee's eligibility and summarizes the nominee's significant accomplishments, 2) a curriculum vitae including bibliography, 3) 2 - 4 supporting letters no more than 2 pages long, at least 2 letters of which must come from individuals not currently employed at the nominee's current institution or the institution from which the nominee received her or his most recent degree. Any unsuccessful nomination may be considered again in the following year's award cycle without resubmission of the nomination package if the nominee still meets eligibility requirements and their reconsideration is requested by a nominator before January 15 of that year. To be reconsidered in subsequent years (beyond the year immediately following the original nomination) a new nomination package must be submitted. The HC Chair will notify nominators via email prior to January 15 to confirm willingness for reconsideration of a package for a second year.

### **Awardee Selection**

The Richter subcommittee will review all nomination material and endeavor to select one qualified recipient for the award to recommend to the Board; the Board will conduct an up or down vote on the proposed recipient. In the case the subcommittee feels there is no qualified recipient they will recommend that no award be conferred that year. If the subcommittee cannot decide between two nominees who are apparently equally deserving of the award, the subcommittee may forward two names to the Board. In this situation the Board will vote to select one recipient.

After making its selection the Richter subcommittee should write a letter to the Board containing 1) a list of all nominees, 2) the proposed winner, 3) some text briefly explaining the nominees' characteristics that justify the subcommittee's decision (preferably text that will persuade the Board and can be lightly edited and posted on the SSA web page), 4) optionally, if deemed necessary, some text listing in general terms, without naming names, the reason the proposed winner was preferable to the other candidates and 5) a brief description of the selection process. The subcommittee will provide this letter to the HC Chair who will forward the letter and nomination package for the proposed winner to the Executive Director for inclusion in the materials for the April meeting of the Incoming Board. The Board will vote up or down on the proposed winner.

The HC does not review the Richter Subcommittee decisions. The HC may review the procedures and/or act in an advisory capacity to the subcommittee. The HC, the SSA Board and staff should keep names of nominees and nomination materials private.

### **Description of Award**

The Richter awardee receives an inscribed photo-plaque with a picture of a young Charles Richter. The awardee's Annual Meeting registration fee is waived, and a subsidy for travel to the Annual Meeting may be given, at the discretion of the Board. The Richter Awardee also receives a \$1000 cash award from the William B. Joyner Memorial Fund.

### **Subcommittee Membership**

The subcommittee will consist of six persons, including the chair. All subcommittee members must be SSA members. One member of the subcommittee should also be a member of the HC. Members are drawn, to the extent possible, from past SSA Medalists, winners of the *Richter Early Career Award* and other highly respected professionals. No person eligible for the *Richter Early Career Award* may sit on the subcommittee. Normal term of service is two years.

### ***The Frank Press Public Service Award and a Public Service Award Subcommittee***

#### **Establishment**

The SSA established a Public Service Award by vote of the Board in 2003. They subsequently, in 2005, voted to name the award the *Frank Press Public Service Award*. The SSA also established a standing Public Service Award Subcommittee to manage this award.

#### **Award Criteria**

The award honors outstanding contributions to the advancement of public safety or public information relating to seismology. No more than one *Frank Press Public Service Award* may be given each calendar year.

#### **Eligibility for the Award**

This award may be given to any individual, combination of individuals, or to any organization. No individual who is a member, member-elect, or officer of the Board of Directors at the time of the nomination deadline shall be eligible for nomination.

#### **Nomination Procedure**

Any member of the SSA may nominate a candidate for this award. The nomination package should contain a letter of nomination no more than 2 pages long summarizing the nominee's significant accomplishments and 2 - 4 supporting letters no more than 2 pages long. At least one supporting letter should be written by an SSA member. If an individual is being nominated, a curriculum vitae or biography is advisable but not required. The subcommittee may not nominate candidates for the *Frank Press Public Service Award* since they will be making the selection.

Any unsuccessful nomination may be considered again in the following year's award cycle without resubmission of the nomination package if requested by a nominator before January 15 of that year. To be reconsidered in subsequent years (beyond the year immediately following the original nomination) a new nomination package must be submitted. The HC Chair will notify nominators via email prior to January 15 to confirm willingness for reconsideration of a package for a second year.

#### **Awardee Selection**

The Awardee is selected by the subcommittee, which should review the nomination packages taking into account differences in experience and culture of the nominators. The subcommittee should write a letter to the Board containing 1) a list of all nominees, 2) the proposed winner, 3) some text briefly explaining the nominees' characteristics that justify the subcommittee's decision, 4) optionally, if deemed necessary, some text listing in general terms, without naming names, the reason the proposed winner was preferable to the other candidates and 5) a brief description of the selection process. The subcommittee will provide this letter to the HC Chair who will forward the letter and nomination package for the proposed winner to the Executive Director for inclusion with the materials for the April meeting of the Incoming Board. The Board will vote up or down on the proposed winner.

The HC does not review the *Frank Press Public Service Award* Subcommittee decisions. The committees, Board and staff will keep the names of nominees and nomination materials private.

#### **Description of Award**

The Press Award recipient receives an inscribed photo-plaque with a photo of Frank Press. Annual Meeting registration fee is waived for the awardee or the awardee's representative, and a subsidy for travel to the Annual Meeting may be given, at the discretion of the Board.

#### **Subcommittee Membership**

The subcommittee will consist of five persons including the chair. One member of the subcommittee should also be a member of the HC. Members need not be SSA members. Subcommittee members should include junior and senior professionals who are well informed about public service organizations. Normal term of service will be two years.

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### ***Distinguished Service to the SSA Award***

#### **Establishment**

The SSA established a *Distinguished Service to SSA Award* by vote of the Board in 2003. The Board may later choose to name this award after some appropriate person.

#### **Award Criteria**

This award honors outstanding service to the SSA.

#### **Eligibility for the Award**

This award may be given to any person. There is no restriction on the number of such awards that may be given in any year. No individual who is a member, member-elect, or officer of the Board of Directors at the time of the nomination deadline shall be eligible for nomination.

#### **Nomination Procedure**

Any member of the SSA may nominate a candidate for this award. A single nomination letter must be submitted. Nomination letters shall be included in the materials provided to the Board for consideration at the April meeting of the Incoming Board; for reference, the HC Chair shall forward the letter(s) to the subcommittee Chair as well. Any unsuccessful nomination may be considered again in the following year's award cycle without resubmission of the nomination package if requested by a nominator before January 15 of that year. To be reconsidered in subsequent years (beyond the year immediately following the original nomination) a new nomination package must be submitted. The HC Chair will notify nominators via email prior to January 15 to confirm willingness for reconsideration of a package for a second year.

#### **Awardee Selection**

The Awardee is selected by the Board by a three-fourths vote.

#### **Description of the Award**

Awardees become Honorary Members of the Society. The awardee's Annual Meeting registration fee is waived, and a subsidy for travel to the Annual Meeting may be given at the discretion of the Board.

### ***Outstanding Student Presentation Award and Student Presentation Award Chairpersons***

#### **Establishment**

The SSA established an Outstanding Student Presentation Award by vote of the Board in 2003. The SSA also established an ad-hoc task subcommittee, the Student Presentation Subcommittee, to judge this award. In 2015, in response to the establishment of the new judging form and procedures that allow anyone to submit presentation evaluations, the subcommittee was replaced by two co-chairpersons.

#### **Award Criteria**

The award is given for an excellent poster presentation or talk at the Annual Meeting. The award may be given to 0 - 10% of the presenting students at the meeting, based upon an absolute standard of excellence and criteria developed by the HC. The 'absolute standard' rule was adopted so that students were not competing directly against each other.

#### **Eligibility for the Award**

At the time of the presentation, each awardee must be registered as a student and also must be a Student Member of the SSA in good standing. All student presenters are considered eligible for the award. However, the student presenter must be the first author on the abstract and must also make the presentation. Typically the abstract submission form for Annual Meeting has check boxes in which students can indicate if they satisfy the eligibility requirements.

#### **Awardee Selection**

All meeting attendees (including students) are encouraged to judge student presentations, and each attendee may submit more than one evaluation. Attendees may not nominate their own student or advisee, a student from their own institution, or a student on a project in which they are or were involved. An evaluation form (developed in 2004 and modified in 2012) includes ratings of 1 to 5 for three areas: presentation style, knowledge of field, and graphics. The form also includes an area for general comments on why the student presentation was outstanding. The form may be provided in paper or electronic form (or both) as appropriate.

The Student Presentation co-chairs will evaluate the completed nomination forms and use the individual presentation ratings and general comments to guide the selection of awardees. Awardees should be selected by a deadline set by the HC, preferably within 2 weeks after the end of the Annual Meeting.

#### **Description of Award**

Names and photos of the awardees and their presentation titles and names of host institutions are to be published in Seismological Research Letters and posted on the SSA web page.

#### **Student Presentation Award Co-chairs**

The Student Presentation Award co-chairs are selected by the HC. Term of service ends after the awardees have been selected. A co-chair may be reappointed in any subsequent years.

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### ***The COSMOS/EERI/SSA Bruce Bolt Medal***

#### **Establishment**

The Bruce Bolt Medal is awarded jointly by the Consortium of Strong Motion Observations Systems (COSMOS), Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and SSA to recognize individuals worldwide whose accomplishments involve the promotion and use of strong-motion earthquake data and whose leadership in the transfer of scientific and engineering knowledge into practice or policy has led to improved seismic safety.

#### **Award Criteria**

The following three criteria are used to select the recipient:

1. promotion of strong-motion instrumentation or advancing strong-motion data processing or data utilization;
2. technical contributions in seismic engineering or engineering seismology; and
3. leadership in the transfer of knowledge into practice or policy that has led to improved seismic safety.

#### **Awardee Selection**



Nominations will be reviewed in confidence by a six-person Joint Nomination Panel formed by two representatives from each of the three sponsoring organizations. The Joint Nomination Panel is charged with applying the award criteria to select a nominee worthy of the high level of professional recognition represented by the sponsorship of the Bruce Bolt Medal by SSA, COSMOS, and EERI. The recommended nominee will be considered in confidence by each organization's board for their approval and joint selection of the medalist.

#### **Eligibility for the Award**

Current members of the Joint Panel are not eligible for nomination.

#### **Nomination Procedures**

Members of EERI, SSA, and COSMOS may submit nomination packages. Packages consist of the following components; incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.

1. a signed nomination letter, which should be no longer than two pages and must address the ways in which the candidate meets all three of the award criteria
2. a substantial summary of the professional history of the candidate including employment, significant publications, honors, and activities and accomplishments relevant to the Bolt Medal criteria
3. current contact information for the candidate
4. Up to three signed supporting letters (each no longer than two pages) may be included in the nomination package. Such letters should include a personal perspective on the nominee and his/her sustained impact on the field.

Nomination packages for the Bruce Bolt Medal should be sent to the chair of the Bolt Medal Joint Nomination Panel. The preferred format is one combined .pdf file submitted by email. However, hard copies may be sent to the Joint Panel chair. Current contact information for the chair may be found on the SSA website.

The nomination period for the Bolt Medal is typically 1 August - 31 October, with the award to be given in the following calendar year.

#### **Description of the Award**

The award is issued annually and is presented to the recipient at the annual meeting of the recipient's choice among the three sponsoring organizations.

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#### ***Honorary Membership in SSA***

Honorary membership is reserved for recipients of the *Reid Medal* or the *Distinguished Service to the SSA Award* or for existing Honorary Members on the date of the adoption of section 2.05 of the Bylaws. Honorary members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership in the society.

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### **Conflict of Interest in Awards**

In decisions for any and all awards Committee and Subcommittee members with a conflict of interest (friend, close colleague, etc) with one of the nominees should recuse themselves from participating in the selection of that nominee. Members of the Board of Directors who have contributed to any nomination package should recuse themselves from votes pertaining to the corresponding award.

### **Announcements and Award Ceremony**

All award eligibility criteria and nomination instructions contained in this document shall be posted and maintained up-to-date in a publically-accessible location on the SSA website.

At least once each year, the Executive Director shall, by means of a notice in Society publications and electronic communications, inform the membership of the award nomination deadline, criteria, and procedure for nominations.

All awards and awardees are announced in SRL and on the SSA Web page. SSA issues releases to our contacts in the press and make announcements in our email newsletter and our posts on social media. The name and photo (if possible) of the each awardee and a description of his or her accomplishments are to be published in Seismological Research Letters. Awardees will be announced as soon after selection as possible and the awardees are to be honored at the Luncheon of the Annual Meeting following his or her selection.

For the *Reid Medal* a nomination citation and awardee's response should be given at the SSA luncheon along with the "Medal" and published in SRL and posted on the Web. At the discretion of the Board and meeting organizers, short nomination citations and responses for the *Richter Early Career* and the *Frank Press Public Service* awards may be given at the SSA luncheon. These or longer versions should be published in SRL and posted on the Web. The names, photos (if possible), presentation titles, and institutions of each student presentation award winner should be posted on the Web and published in SRL.

### **Honors Timeline**

**By September 1** HC and subcommittees should be populated, should receive a copy of these guidelines, and should begin discussions of possible candidates and nominators for each award.

#### **October through December**

Announcements should appear in SSA forums (November/December SRL, 3-minute Updates, social media etc.) and the listservs of related organizations (e.g., IRIS and SCEC). Committee members should utilize scientific and other meetings across the community to encourage nominations from colleagues. The HC Chair contacts nominators regarding resubmission of unsuccessful nominations from previous year.

#### **January**

Special email should be sent to members, listservs of related organizations, and social media to encourage nominations. By January 15, requests for reconsideration of

unsuccessful nomination packages from previous year are submitted via email to [awards@seismosoc.org](mailto:awards@seismosoc.org).

**February 15 nomination deadline**

Committee deliberations occur in late February and early March.

**March 15**

Sub-committee reports to the Board are due to the HC Chair who provides them to the Executive Director for inclusion in the materials for the April meeting of the Incoming Board.

**April 1**

Prior to the annual Board meeting: Reid Medal nominations and subcommittee reports for Richter, Press and Distinguished Service Awards are sent to the Incoming Board.

Immediately after the annual meeting the Executive Director contacts the nominators of unsuccessful packages to inform them that their nominee was not selected for an award and to notify them, if applicable, of the option to resubmit the nomination package the following year.