New York State Council of Professional Geologists
2020 New Rate Structure

As we have transitioned our mission from one focused primarily on enactment of licensure to advancement and protection of the profession, it has become clear that the current dues structure cannot sustain our mission. Our evolving mission has, and will continue to have, the need to retain the services of a lobbyist. NYSCPG has retained a lobbyist for most of the past 24 years. Costs associated with our past lobbying efforts generally ranged from $15,000 to $30,000 per year, which represents a considerable value relative to typical lobbying costs on the order of $60,000 per year. While the main focus of our lobbyist was previously to achieve licensure, it has evolved into maintenance of licensure through monitoring of proposed legislation that could affect our profession. This includes recent work on issues surrounding continuing education requirements. Based on lobbying costs paid by other related professions (such as engineering and surveying), we anticipate that NYSCPG’s future lobbying costs will be approximately $60,000 per year, after the retirement of our current lobbyist in 2020. Our current and former lobbyists have given significant fee discounts to represent NYSCPG and we have been able to pass those cost savings along to our membership. This resulted in membership rates that have been significantly lower than those of other related professions for many years. In addition to an anticipated increase in lobbying costs, NYSCPG is planning for additional significant increases in operating costs in order to serve the membership. As our mission evolves, so must the way we do business. NYSCPG cannot remain a purely volunteer-driven organization. In order to effectively operate, especially after implementation of continuing education requirements, we will need to hire and Executive Director, just like most non-profit and professional organizations.

In order to prepare for these significant changes in operating costs, NYSCPG has restructured its membership rates to be reasonable and equal to or significantly lower than those of other related professions.

Membership is divided into four categories including “Full Member” for NYS licensed geologists, “Associate Member” for non-licensed members, and others; “Retiree Member” for licensed geologists who are no longer practicing; and “Student Member”. This necessitated a reorganization of corporate sponsorship and corporations will now be recognized as “Sustaining Members” in and of themselves, with no membership bundles.

NYSCPG fully recognizes the implications that this new membership rate structure may have on your personal budget. However, it is important that each of us who are or may become a licensed professional geologist be accountable for this practice. NYSCPG will continue help you maintain your professional licensure in the long term.