



*North American Geosynthetics Society - A Chapter of the International Geosynthetics Society*

President: Robert Mackey  
President-Elect: John Henderson

Treasurer: Corey Bobba  
Past-President: Dean Sandri

WEBSITE: [www.nags-igs.org](http://www.nags-igs.org)

**REPORT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN GEOSYNTHETICS SOCIETY (NAGS)  
BIENNIAL MEETING  
LONG BEACH, CA  
APRIL 2, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by outgoing President Dean Sandri. There were 20 in attendance.

A brief overview of NAGS was given. NAGS is a chapter of the International Geosynthetics Society made up of individual members whose mission is: "To provide leadership in advancing the education, and research of geosynthetics." The management structure of NAGS includes an elected Board of Directors and a paid Executive Director.

The 2011-2013 Board of Directors includes:

President: Dean Sandri – Anchor Wall  
President-elect: Robert Mackey – S2Li  
Treasurer: Corey Bobba - FHWA  
Immediate Past President: David Elton – Auburn University  
Vice Presidents:  
Marolo Alfaro – University of Manitoba  
Richard Brachman – Queens University  
John Henderson - TenCate  
Jay McKelvey – Earth Engineering, Inc.  
Dhani Narejo – GSE  
Executive Director – Dave Suits

Outgoing President Sandri reviewed his two years as President. The income from our involvement in the Geo-Frontiers 2011 Conference was \$75,000. This was due to the efforts of the past Board of Directors. Over the past two years significant accomplishments in the following areas have been made: 1) Bi-monthly Board meetings; 2) Resurrection of regional short courses in conjunction with the Geosynthetics Materials Association; 3) The establishment of NAGS as a registered provider of professional

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development hours; 4) Initiated the thought process of an appropriate name change; 5) Bid on and was granted the hosting of the Geo-Americas 2016 Conference.

Following these remarks Dean introduced incoming President Robert Mackey, and turned the President's gavel over. Dean wished Bob well and offered to listen, guide, and support his efforts. Bob assumes this role following this biennial meeting.

The 2013-2015 Board of Directors was introduced:

President: Robert Mackey – S2Li

President – elect – John Henderson – TenCate

Treasurer – Corey Bobba

Immediate Past President – Dean Sandri – Anchor Wall

Vice Presidents:

Michael Bernardi – TenCate – Newly elected member

Richard Brachman – Queens University

Jay McKelvey – Earth Engineering, Inc.

Dhani Narejo – GSE

Executive Director – Dave Suits

Co-opt Members to be determined by the Board. Up to 2 co-opted members may be added.

Following the introduction of the new Board, incoming President Mackey reviewed his goals for the next two years. Bob opened his remarks with the question, “Who or what is NAGS?” He shared these thoughts regarding the question: 1) NAGS is a Society of dedicated and active members who help carry out the basic mission of the Society of promoting education in the area of geosynthetics. They also belong to a number of other professional organizations that provide the opportunity for interaction with those who may not be familiar with these materials. 2) There are a number of other geosynthetics related organizations in North America that NAGS interacts with routinely. These include: The Industrial Fabrics Association International and its Geosynthetics Materials Association division; The Geosynthetics Institute; The Geo-Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers; The International Association of Geosynthetic Installers; The

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Fabricated Geomembrane Institute; and The Canadian Geotechnical Society and its geosynthetics committee.

Bob stated the following as his basic goals for the coming two years: 1) Strengthen the bridges with above organizations, and build new ones with others; 2) Expand our definition of education; 3) Improve communications using our new web site and Facebook page; 4) Bring the By-Laws up to date; 5) In one to two years develop a long range strategic plan.

Following these remarks Bob recognized the outgoing officers of the Society: 1) Dean Sandri as outgoing President; 2) Marolo Alfaro as an outgoing Vice President; 3) David Elton as outgoing Past President.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

L. David Suits, Executive Director

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