

## **AAG PACIFIC COAST REGIONAL COUNCILOR DUTIES** (updated June 2022)

The Regional Councilor serves a term of three (3) years, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. The Regional Councilor serves on both regional and national levels as a member of the APCG Executive Committee (non-voting member) and a member of the AAG National Council (voting member). On the AAG National Council the APCG representative is known as the Pacific Coast Regional Councilor. <https://www.aag.org/governance/>

The AAG is divided into nine (9) regions in the United States. The APCG was founded in 1935 but did not become the Pacific Coast Regional Division of the AAG until 1952. The Councilor represents geography programs in APCG territory of eight (8) western states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington), the Canadian Province of British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory.

The **primary roles** of the Regional Councilor are

- 1) serve as a member of the AAG Council and act as a liaison between APCG and AAG
- 2) to represent the concerns and needs of the APCG/Pacific Coast Region to the AAG Council
- 3) to attend and actively participate in meetings of the AAG Council (4 per year)\*
- 4) to attend and actively participate in the annual APCG conference & EC meeting (1 per year)\*
- 3) to facilitate coordination between the APCG and AAG each year for annual APCG regional meetings (in terms of support services offered by AAG)

*\*Note: Meet attendance in person is ideal but some hybrid/ online options may be available.*

> Additional details about this position and answers to common questions are below.

### **AAG COUNCIL ACTIVITY**

#### *Time commitment*

- Attend 4 Council meetings per year: Meetings = 1 to 2.5 full days - Spring, Summer, Fall
- Reading/Prep: 2 to 4 hours ahead of each meeting session to read, take notes, and prepare for votes on Agenda packet (200- 320 pages).
- Travel to/from meeting sites (some hybrid/online options may be available).
- Email - participate in AAG Council email discussions & issues (30 minutes/week to 1 to 3 hrs./week)
- Write and submit annual Regional report to AAG Council (30 minutes to 2 hours/year)
- Prepare and submit AAG Regional Councilor profile for AAG website (15 to 30 minutes/year)
- Respond to APCG member requests concerning AAG news, events, other matters (5 to 45 minutes/month)
- Respond to AAG emails for information about APCG membership, annual conference, etc. (5 to 45 minutes/month)
- Facilitate annual AAG survey of Department Chairs and Program health for Pacific Coast Region
- Deliver outcome of APCG elections to AAG/update contacts (5- 10 minutes/year)
- Coordinate with AAG Staff on news/matters of related to APCG (5 to 45 minutes/month)

#### *Duties:*

In addition to the items above,

- Actively participate in discussions and vote on various matters before AAG Council.
- Represent APCG to the AAG Council

- Facilitate communication and understanding between AAG and APCG about various issues, initiatives, decisions at the national and regional level
- Relate and present timely notices concerning matters and issues from AAG Council to the APCG members
- Facilitate coordination between the APCG and AAG each year for annual APCG regional meetings (in terms of support services offered by AAG)

### **What is AAG Council?**

The AAG Council is the governing body of the American Association of Geographers. As such it is tasked with establishing committees and determining AAG policies and procedures. As a Regional Councilor, you will be involved in interviewing and appointing Editors, Assistant Editors, and Editorial Boards for the AAG's journals, approving the AAG's budget, voting on matters of AAG policy and procedures, serving on ad hoc committees and Task Forces, and developing and implementing new AAG initiatives and projects. Service on AAG Council also involves discussing and being familiar with AAG Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rules, Strategic Plan, Long Range plan, Professional Conduct Policy and Procedures, and Professional Ethics. You will likely be asked to serve on ad hoc committees associated with AAG initiatives, and you will have the opportunity to serve as liaison to a range of AAG Committees. Regional Councilors are also eligible to serve as AAG Secretary or AAG Treasurer. In short, you'll get to learn a lot about how the AAG works and have input that really can make a difference in the success of our organization! More information about AAG Governance: <https://www.aag.org/governance/>

The AAG **Council consists of** elected officers and councilors that serve on the AAG Executive Committee, National Councilors, Regional Councilors (6 people). The AAG Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice President, immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Director (ex officio). The roles and responsibilities of the AAG Council are outlined in the Constitution of the American Association of Geographers. For more information visit AAG: <https://www.aag.org/governance/>

### **What are AAG Regions?**

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) is organized into nine (9) regional divisions representing different regions of the United States. The regional divisions promote the objectives of the association through meetings and activities in their respective areas. Each region is represented by a councilor who focuses on membership at a more local level, while coordinating activities with the AAG council and national office.

### **APCG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) ACTIVITY**

#### *Time commitment*

- Travel & Attend 1 annual APCG conference per year (2 to 3 days - in person ideal/hybrid options may be available)
- Attend 1 APCG Executive Council Meeting (1- 3 hours, held during APCG conference, in person ideal/hybrid options may be available)
- Reading/Prep: 1 to 2 hours ahead of each meeting session to read EC Meeting Agenda, prepare notes, collect information to help with EC meeting discussion and relate timely updates from AAG to APCG and vice versa
- Present a short verbal report at APCG's annual business meeting and EC meeting about important AAG activities that could affect the region
- Write and submit annual Regional Councilor report to *Pacifica* (1 to 2 hours/year)

- Email - participate in APCG Exec. Council email discussions & issues (30 minutes/week to 1 to 3 hrs./week)
- Submit Regional Councilor profile for APCG website (15 to 30 minutes/year)
- Respond to APCG member requests concerning AAG news, events, other matters (5 to 45 minutes/month)

*Duties:*

In addition to the items above,

- As with the broader AAG Council responsibilities, it is your chance to make a difference in the direction and success of APCG.
- Serve on the APCG Executive Committees and participate in shaping our organization's activities and policies
- Actively participate in discussions before APCG Executive Council (email, online, zoom)
- Share timely updates and information from AAG to APCG EC
- Read and comment on APCG's proposed financial initiatives
- Help to select upcoming conference & meeting host locations
- Be involved in the selection of editors for *The Yearbook of the APCG*
- Update AAG Regional Councilor duties (this document/each year or 3 years as needed)
- Participate in APCG ad hoc committees
- Be familiar with APCG Constitution and Bylaws (<http://apcgweb.org/history-governance> found on APCG's website)
- Keep updated notes for the Regional Councilor report for the Pacifica as events/issues unfold, then add to the annual report (to keep APCG members better informed about AAG initiatives, support for our regional meetings, and other issues discussed at the AAG Council meetings that may be of interest to our members)
- Facilitate communication and understanding between APCG and AAG about various issues, initiatives, decisions at the national and regional level
- Note: The Regional Councilor is non-voting member of the Executive Council.

***What is the APCG Executive Committee?***

It is the governing body of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers and consists of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, the immediate past-president, and the AAG Councilor. More information about the APCG EC can be found on the APCG website here: <http://apcgweb.org/history-governance>

**COMMON QUESTIONS**

***What do I get out of it?*** Primarily, you get to contribute to AAG and APCG and work with a bunch of interesting people, including not only other Regional and National Councilors and AAG Presidents, but also the Executive Director, Meridian Place staff, and AAG members from around the world. I have made a number of good friends and valuable professional contacts through my service, and I feel that I helped the organizations in some fairly fundamental ways. I also have a better understanding about why some things work the way that they do in AAG and APCG. By the way, there is no honorarium, but AAG does cover your travel expenses for Council Meetings as well as registration for the AAG's Annual Meeting.

***Do I really have anything to contribute?*** The answer is Yes! Council needs a diverse range of viewpoints to function well. That means scholars from not only different specializations across geography, but also perspectives from people of diverse backgrounds and varied academic

institutions. Council is not really about your research background or accomplishments – it's about how you can contribute to helping AAG and APCG better serve our members.