

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Dear esteemed members of GSH,

As we approach the upcoming election for our new board of directors, I urge each of you to actively participate and cast your vote. The GSH Nominating Committee has selected a strong slate of candidates who have demonstrated their commitment and dedication to the GSH and its mission. These candidates have diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives that will enrich our society and help us face the challenges and opportunities ahead. **Nominations for write-in candidates for any office will close on April 24th, 2026. Write-ins must be active members and meet requirements specified in the bylaws. The GSH officers election will take place April-May 2026.**

Our society's future vitality and success depend on the leadership we choose. Your vote matters - let's make it count for the betterment of our society.

René Mott
GSH President



Marianne Rauch
(Lumina Geophysical)

GSH Candidate for
President-elect
2026-2027

Marianne Rauch holds a PhD in theoretical physics from Karl Franzens Universität in Graz, Austria. Known for her inquisitive mind, she has been actively involved in many facets of the global oil and gas industry. Throughout her career, she has researched and developed geophysical technologies, championed the integration of geology and geophysics during seismic processing, quantitative interpretation (QI), and interpretation workflows, and built and managed reservoir teams. She has also mentored numerous students and professionals and, more recently, expanded her interests into cybersecurity.

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Liza Yellott
(Ikon Science)

GSH Candidate for
President-elect
2026-2027

Liza Yellott, VP Marketing, Ikon Science, has been an active and dedicated supporter of the Geophysical Society of Houston since 2012. Over the past 14 years, she has consistently championed the Society through both her volunteer service and professional advocacy at Seitel and now Ikon Science. Liza began volunteering at GSH events early in her involvement, helped launch and grow the Society's social media channels from 2012 to present, received the President's Award in 2012, and served as 2nd Vice President in 2015-2016. Her commitment and service also led to her being voted in as an active member.



JP van Gestel
(BP)

GSH Candidate for
1st VP-elect
2026-2027

Jean-Paul van Gestel received his M. Sc. degree in Geophysics from the Delft University of Technology (1996) and his Ph. D. in Geophysics from The University of Texas at Austin (2000). He joined BP in 2000 and has worked there for the last 25 years. He works as Adviser in Geophysical Analysis supporting worldwide subsurface teams. His technical focus includes geophysical analysis, time-lapse seismic, DAS applications, seismic inversion, and cross-asset integration. He gained his foundational time-lapse experience on the Life of Field Seismic project at Valhall in Norway, after which he returned to

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Katya Casey
(Actus Veritas
Geoscience)

GSH Candidate for
1st VP-elect
2026-2027

Katya Casey is a member of AAPG, EAGE, GSH, and HGS. She has more than 30 years of industry experience in geophysical data interpretation. She holds a Master of Science degree in Geophysics from the University of Houston. Katya began her career with the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow and continued it in the United States, where she worked for Amoco Petroleum, Vastar Resources, BHP Billiton, Apache, and Murphy Oil. Currently, she is one of three managing directors at Actus Veritas Geoscience, LLC, established in 2016, and cofounder and managing partner of the Value-network community U3 Explore

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Justin Simmons
(TGS)

GSH Candidate for
2nd VP-elect
2026-2027

Justin Simmons is a seasoned sales strategist and technical leader with deep geophysical expertise in the oil and gas services sector. Currently serving as Vice President – Onshore Seismic at TGS, he brings more than 18 years of experience driving revenue growth, cultivating strategic client relationships, and aligning commercial strategies with organizational goals. Justin's career spans senior commercial and business development leadership roles at S&P Global and IHS Markit, complemented by earlier technical foundations as a geophysicist at TGS. His background includes extensive work with global IOCs, commodity

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Stephen Chellete
(Nanometrics)

GSH Candidate for
2nd VP-elect
2026-2027

Stephen Chellete is a geophysical industry professional with more than 30 years of experience in seismic technology, business development, and energy industry solutions. He currently serves as Senior Sales Manager at Nanometrics Inc. in Houston, where he works with clients to advance monitoring and sensing technologies across the energy sector.

Earlier in his career, Chellete held leadership and strategic roles with MicroSeismic, Well Data Labs, Seismos, 3DGeo, Geotrace Technologies, and Core Laboratories, supporting operators with technology-driven solutions for reservoir
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Tanima Duttas
(Landmark,
Halliburton)

GSH Candidate for
Secretary-elect
2026-2027

Dr. Tanima Dutta is a Geophysics specialist with extensive experience across global sedimentary basins, supporting exploration, reservoir characterization, field development, and 4D seismic monitoring. She integrates advanced rock physics and quantitative seismic interpretation (QI) to enhance subsurface understanding and reduce uncertainty in decision-making.

Currently with Landmark, Halliburton, she focuses on advancing next-generation workflows that combine Geophysics with artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve
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Lucas Nibert
(BP)

GSH Candidate for
Secretary-elect
2026-2027

Originally from West Virginia, Lucas obtained a B.S. in Geology from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, focusing on Economic Minerals. He then worked for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for two years on water quality, fluvial geomorphology, and high-resolution 3D photogrammetric modeling. In 2018, he earned a Master's Degree in Geological Sciences from the University of Alabama, where his research centered on shallow tropical carbonate systems in Cuba and South Florida.

His journey as a geophysicist began in 2021 with BP, contributing across
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Wendy Liu
(SLB)

GSH Candidate for
Treasurer-elect
2026-2027

Wenmiao "Wendy" Liu is a Senior Geophysicist at SLB specializing in marine seismic data processing and imaging. Her technical expertise spans shallow hazard analysis, earth model building, seismic interpretation, and well log evaluation. She has extensive experience with the data in the Gulf, offshore Guyana, and offshore Namibia.

An active member of the Geophysical Society of Houston (GSH), Wendy served as Advertising Co-Chair (2023), Data Acquisition & Imaging SIG Leader (2024), and planning committee member for the 2024 Fall Forum and 2025 Spring
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Andrew Pomroy
(Ecopetrol America)

GSH Candidate for
Treasurer-elect
2026-2027

Andrew is a geophysicist with over 15 years of industry experience, working in both the operator and contractor/service provider space. He is the lead development geophysicist for K2 field in deepwater GoA at Ecopetrol America and has previously held a variety of roles at BP, Geoteric, and BHP. Through his wide-ranging career he has developed a strong skill set and proclivity for seismic interpretation and analysis using cutting edge technologies for efficient interrogation of 3D volumes and computed attributes. He holds a Professional Masters in Petroleum Reservoir Systems from Colorado School
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Naila Dowla
(Dowla Analytics)

GSH Candidate for
**Communications
Director-elect**
2026-2027

Naila Dowla is running for the Communications Director for GSH and is currently the chairperson for the Potential Fields SIG. Naila has been involved with the geoscience community in Houston since undergrad. She completed her BS in Geophysics and her PhD in Geology, both from the University of Houston. During her time at UH, she held numerous officer roles for the AAPG student chapter and was an active planner of the Student Expo.

After she completed her PhD, Naila worked as a Geophysicist at Kosmos Energy in Dallas. She has since started her
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Marianne Rauch bio continued from page 1

Rauch has authored many technical publications and is an experienced presenter. She is highly active in professional societies, serving on the technical committees of URTeC and IMAGE, co-organizer of the yearly 4D Forum and Critical Minerals Workshop. Her leadership roles include First Vice President of the Geophysical Society of Houston and Past Second and First Vice President of SEG. She has organized and chaired numerous sessions at major conventions and regularly reviews abstracts and articles for publication. A passionate mentor to both young and mid-career professionals, she currently serves as Chief Operating Officer at Lumina Geophysical. She looks forward to serving the Geophysical Society of Houston as President, leading programs that support and strengthen the Houston geophysical community.

JP van Gestel bio continued from page 1

Houston in 2010 to work on the first 4D OBN surveys in the Gulf of America. Now he is applying his knowledge to various areas around the world including North Sea, Azerbaijan, Trinidad, and CCUS projects. He has presented extensively throughout his career at international conferences such as SEG and EAGE, with more than 75 published abstracts. A career highlight was serving as the 2024 SEG North America Honorary Lecturer. He is an active member of SEG, EAGE and GSH.

katya Casey bio continued from page 1

Katya is fostering and administering collaborative projects and peer-reviewed content for reports, presentations, and events in Earth Sciences and technologies on the U3 Explore platform. She is adept at project definition and optimization of team dynamics. Provides mentorship and develops early career geoscientists and colleagues through publications, training, teaching, and industry forum presentations. She has coauthored papers and presented on geospatial, geophysical methods and technologies, and play-based exploration. Katya has received an Award in “Leadership in Technology” from the Association of Women in Computing in 2008 and an Honorary Membership Award from the Geophysical Society of Houston in 2018.

Justin Simmons bio continued from Page 1

market stakeholders, and multi-client seismic ventures, consistently demonstrating his ability to build high-value partnerships. He holds a BA in Exploration Geophysics from the University of Oklahoma. Justin lives in Katy, Texas and enjoys playing tennis and golf, riding bikes with his three daughters, and long weekends in the Hill Country with his wife, Catherine.

Stephen Chelette bio continued from page 2

development, completions optimization, and production performance. He began his career as a processing geophysicist with Digicon Geophysical and later as a field geophysicist with Geco-Prakla-Schlumberger, building the technical foundation that continues to inform his work today. Stephen also looks forward to applying his industry experience in service to the community as Second Vice President of the Geophysical Society of Houston (GSH).

Dr. Tanima Dutta bio continued from page 2

predictive capabilities and operational efficiency. Dr. Dutta holds a Ph.D. in Geophysics from Stanford University and an MBA from The University of Texas at Austin. An active member of the geophysical community, she is committed to fostering technical excellence and collaboration, and is eager to serve and contribute to the continued success of GSH and the broader Houston geophysics community.



Lucas Nibert *bio continued from page 2*

multiple deepwater basins. Lucas has matured prospects across Thunder Horse, Mars-Ursa, and more; supported well planning & operations; and delivered subsurface models and trajectory concepts for major hub-scale opportunities. He helps lead seismic reprocessing efforts and infill characterization for Thunder Horse Field, and remains committed to technical excellence, mentorship, and strengthening Houston's geophysical community.

Wendy Liu *bio continued from page 2*

Symposium. She also served as a Key Contact for the IMAGE Conference technical programs in 2025.

Wendy holds a B.S. in Physics from Rice University. Beyond geophysics, she is an award-winning film scoring musician, a Board Member of Rice Alumni in Natural Sciences (RAINS), and Director and Conductor of the YuRise Neurodivergent Family Choir.

Andrew Pomroy *bio continued from page 2*

of Mines and a B.S. in Geology from the University of California at Davis. He's been a member of SEG since 2007 and an active GSH member since 2017.

He has a passion for people which leads him to build strong working relationships and fuels his enthusiasm for teamwork, mentoring, and coaching. In his personal life Andrew enjoys playing volleyball and spending time with his wife and two sons, ages 4 and 6.

Naila Dowla *bio continued from page 2*

own consulting company, Dowla Analytics, LLC, in which she applies data science methods to solve geoscience problems.

