

Association for Women Geoscientists - Pacific Northwest Chapter
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www.awg-ps.org

Association for Women Geoscientists - Pacific Northwest Chapter

Chapter Annual Report

October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011

This past fiscal year, the AWG-PNW chapter board was as follows:

President - Marcia Knadle
Vice-President - Vacant
Secretary - Suzanne Dudziak
Treasurer - Heather Vick
Past President - Heather Vick
Regional Delegate - Lina Ma

Our chapter has two appointed board positions. This past fiscal year, Pat Reed continued to serve as the Scholarship Committee Chair and Holly Glaser continued to serve as Publications Committee Chair/Webmistress. This summer, Holly resigned due to a prolonged illness that interfered with her ability to perform her duties. The Board decided that the position was generally too much for one person and advertised it as 2 positions: Publications Committee Chair/Editor (a Board position) and Website Manager (not a Board position). In August, Jennifer Saltonstall was appointed as Publications Committee Chair. Keith Olsen was appointed Website Manager. Holly is assisting with both transitions.

Board Activities

Three board conference calls were held throughout the past year (face-to-face board meetings are now quite rare), plus several membership activities. Marcia Knadle continues to act as chapter historian/archivist.

The AWG-PNW chapter website was monitored and updated by our capable Webmistress Holly Glaser until she became ill. In August, Keith Olson was appointed as Website Manager and is preparing to start updating the website again. Only one chapter newsletter was produced. They have been routinely sent by email and posted on the chapter website. We also electronically send the newsletter to a large number of interested people who are not currently members. This complimentary copy list is used for recruitment into the chapter and to assist colleges and universities in publicizing chapter programs.

Chapter Activities

Our chapter has traditionally connected with other professional groups in the Puget Sound area by participating in joint functions that cross membership interests. This year we've continued our connection with the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG-Washington Section) through a joint field trip held this September.

On December 8, AWG-PNW held a Happy Hour social event at the Tap House Grill in Seattle, Washington. It was attended by only 4 people, perhaps because the weather was bad enough to snarl evening traffic, and it competed with holiday shopping.

On January 15, AWG-PNW members and non-members in Portland, Oregon had an informal Saturday outing to the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals near Hillsboro, Oregon. There were 8 people in attendance, including 2 husbands.

On March 3, AWG-PNW re-scheduled a Seattle-area event that had originally been planned for the previous year. It featured pizza and an excellent presentation by Grace Winer on meteorites. The event was well attended with 16 participants, including several students, some of whom subsequently joined the chapter.

On May 18, Portland-area AWG-PNW members and non-members celebrated the 31st anniversary of the Mt. St. Helens eruption at the "Fire on the Mountain" restaurant. 7 people (students and professionals) were at this gathering.

On June 25, Pat Reed led a field trip to the Coal Mine Trail and Museum in Roslyn, Washington. Only about 5 people attended even though the weather was OK. We had a very wet spring and early summer, which may have discouraged people from even planning to attend. However, the trip did attract participants from a broad area, including eastern Washington and Oregon.

On Aug 11, AWG-PNW members and non-members in the Portland area held another Happy Hour social event at the Hopworks Urban Brewery. There were 6 people (students and professionals) in attendance.

A joint AWG-PNW/AEG-WA Section field trip to the Olympic Peninsula/Washington Coast was held September 9-11, 2011 and was graced with fabulous weather. It was led by AWG member Wendy Gerstel and AEG member Tom Badger. The field trip was the second of two jointly organized trips to the

Olympic Peninsula (the first trip was held in May 2010). AWG-PNW board members worked with AEG-WA officers to organize and manage the field trip, which was full with nearly 40 registered participants, about one fifth of which were AWG members and their partners. The trip made a profit which will be split proportionately with AEG-WA.

Outreach

Last fall, Scholarship Committee Chair Pat Reed submitted an AWGF proposal for the AWG-Pacific Northwest chapter for matching funding for the Janet Cullen Tanaka Scholarship. The AWGF awarded the chapter matching funds of up to \$750 to allow the award of a \$1000 scholarship plus a \$500 second-place scholarship if sufficient funds were raised by the chapter.

At the end of December, the AWG-PNW awarded its 2010 \$1000 Janet Cullen Tanaka Scholarship to Xiyue "Sally" Zhang, a senior at the University of Washington. The chapter honored her at the Northwest Geological Society February Meeting in Seattle, which was also attended by a number of AWG members. In addition, the chapter successfully raised enough contributions to award a second-place \$500 scholarship to Symone Stinson, a sophomore at Lynn-Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon (now attending Western Oregon University). A third applicant, Annette Patton, a sophomore at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington was ranked very close to Sally and Symone, so the chapter Board decided to give her an AWG membership for 2011 as well.

In late March, chapter members participated in judging science fair projects at the South Sound Regional Science Fair in Tacoma, Washington and at the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair in Bremerton, Washington. The awards for students ranged from AWG-SAGE certificates of recognition, to books and bookstore cards. Judging these science fairs is an excellent way of connecting with the students after they have developed a science project for presentation. For several years, the chapter had an AWGF matching-funds project to help fund the awards. However, this past year the chapter did not submit a proposal for the Science Fair project, allowing it to be dissolved and the funds returned to the AWGF unrestricted fund. The chapter decided to reimburse money spent by members for the prizes and some judging expenses out of chapter funds, and will likely continue to do so in the future. So far, no one has stepped forward to judge science fairs in Oregon. Heather Vick served as Science Fair Coordinator.

Chapter Outlook

Four years ago, the Puget Sound Chapter merged with the Spokane Chapter to form one chapter that served all of Washington State. Two years ago, the chapter fulfilled the promise of its new name and expanded its formal service area to include Oregon. There was some trepidation that the area would be too large to manage, but with the able assistance of three Portland-area leaders (Heidi Yantz, Lina Ma, and Jill Betts) managing the informal Oregon sub-chapter, the expansion has been quite successful. This coming year, we will try to recruit leaders in the eastern half of our service area to improve our presence in eastern Washington and eastern Oregon. Our membership has held fairly steady at 67 (40% students), with new members from eastern Washington, Oregon, and even Alaska. Our finances are sound with a balance of over \$5000 in the chapter's coffers, a modest increase over last year. We hope to raise enough scholarship funds this next year with contributions from local sponsors and chapter members to be able to award two scholarships again this fall. Finally, we're looking forward to a productive year with a full contingent of officers.

Officers for 2009-2010

President - Marcia Knadle
Vice-President - Shari Silverman
Secretary - Suzanne Dudziak
Treasurer - Heather Vick
Past-President - Heather Vick
Pacific Region Delegate - Lina Ma

Jennifer Saltonstall will continue as Publications Committee Chair (newsletter editor) and Patricia Reed will continue as the Scholarship Committee Chair. Keith Olsen will manage the Website and send out e-mail notices.

Submitted by:
Marcia Knadle
AWG-Pacific Northwest Chapter President
September 14, 2011