

Association for Women Geoscientists - Pacific Northwest Chapter
P.O. Box 28391 Seattle, WA 98118
www.awg-ps.org

Association for Women Geoscientists - Pacific Northwest Chapter

Chapter Annual Report

October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012

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

President - Marcia Knadle
Vice-President - Shari Silverman
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 Jennifer Saltonstall served as Publications Committee Chair/Newsletter Editor. Keith Olsen served as Website Manager and managed email communications. Marcia Knadle continues to act as chapter historian/archivist.

Board Activities

Quarterly board conference calls were held (face-to-face board meetings are now quite rare), along with several membership activities.

After 2 years of producing only one chapter newsletter a year, Jennifer Saltonstall has successfully put us back on a quarterly newsletter schedule and has produced 2 newsletters so far this year. They have been routinely sent by email and posted on the chapter website. Keith Olson has completed major updates to the AWG-PNW chapter and continuously monitors and updates content. 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.

In March, Pacific Region Delegate Lina Ma and Chapter President Marcia Knadle attended the AWG Convention in Hartford, CT. Lina attended the Spring Board meeting, and Marcia attended a portion of it.

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 Northwest Geological Society (NWGS) by holding two joint meetings in the Seattle area, and the Portland-area group held a joint meeting with the Oregon Section of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG-OR).

On October 11, AWG-PNW held a joint meeting with NWGS in Seattle. The speaker was Deb Kelley, Univ. of Washington Oceanographer in charge of the VISIONS project, investigating the Axial Seamount, an unusually active portion of the seafloor spreading Juan de Fuca Ridge off the coast of Washington and Oregon. She showed spectacular film footage of black smokers and volcanic features, and discussed the challenges facing an upcoming project to instrument the ridge.

On November 15, AWG-PNW held a joint meeting with AEG-OR in Portland, OR. Fluvial Geomorphologist Anne MacDonald gave a presentation on engineering stream crossings at pipelines. The meeting was very well attended.

On February 29, the Portland-area members and non-members attended a social mixer at the Deschutes Brewery.

On March 1, AWG-PNW held a Seattle area meeting with geoarchaeologist Brandy Rinck speaking about work she'd done at a paleolithic archaeological site in the Redmond, WA area. She used morphological analysis of soil thin sections to investigate the paleoecology of the site to shed light on the environmental and climatic setting when Paleo-Indians were living there nearly 10000 years ago.

On April 18, the Portland-area members and non-members attended a social mixer at Rontoms Lounge.

On May 11, AWG-PNW held a joint meeting with NWGS in Seattle. The speaker was Oregon State Geologist (and AWG member) Vicki McConnell. She gave a well-received presentation on the activities and current priorities of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). In addition, Vicki is President of the Association of American State Geologists, so she provided a review of how state geological surveys are faring nationwide, including a number of statistics regarding the status of women within those agencies and the progress

they've made. (As her boss, Vicki has been a stalwart supporter of Lina Ma's involvement on the AWG Board.) The meeting was well attended.

On June 9, the Seattle-area AWG-PNW members and non-members enjoyed a guided tour of the Cedar River Watershed, focusing on the reservoir system, geological engineering challenges, and watershed restoration to reduce turbidity, including decommissioning old logging roads. The trip was limited to one van, so it filled up and even had a waiting list.

On September 15, AWG-PNW members and non-members will be taking a one-day field trip to the south side of Mount St. Helens, to include a 6-mile hike through 2 debris flow zones. The Oregon sub-chapter is organizing this outing but, of course, all AWG-PNW members are welcome to attend.

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 2011 \$1000 Janet Cullen Tanaka Scholarship to Symone Stinson, a junior at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, OR. (Symone had also received the \$500 2010 award.) In addition, the chapter successfully raised enough contributions to award a second-place \$500 scholarship to Bridget Smith, a sophomore at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, OR. The chapter board gave both women AWG memberships for 2012.

In late March, chapter members Heather Vick and Patricia Reed 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, respectively. Both AWG-SAGE certificates of recognition and chapter awards were given out. For the past few years, the chapter has opted to fund science fair activities, rather than manage an AWGF matching-funds project to help fund the awards. So far, no one has stepped forward to judge science fairs in Oregon.

Chapter Outlook

Five years ago, the Puget Sound Chapter merged with the Spokane Chapter to form one chapter that served all of Washington State. Three years ago, the chapter fulfilled the promise of its new name and expanded its formal service area to include Oregon. Five Portland-area leaders (Heidi Yantz, Lina Ma, Jill Betts, now joined by Serin Duplantis, and Keith Olson) have been managing the informal Oregon sub-chapter very successfully. On the downside, our presence in eastern Washington has declined to the point that we no longer have any Spokane-area members. On the upside, several at-large members in eastern Oregon have joined our chapter. Our efforts this past year to recruit leaders in the eastern half of our service area has yielded a candidate for chapter secretary, and we hope to organize a field trip for next year in eastern Oregon or eastern Washington. Our membership has dropped some, from 67 members at this time last year to 53 members now, 35% of whom are students. Although we have new members from all over Washington and Oregon, and even Idaho and Alaska, but we've lost some chapter members to a new student chapter at the University of Oregon in Eugene. (That area was too far south for us to effectively serve anyway, so we wish them well.) However, the far greater loss this year has been long-time members who have let their membership lapse. I suspect many just forgot to renew, so this fall we'll do outreach to re-engage them. Our finances are sound with over \$6000 in the chapter's coffers, a healthy increase over last year. We hope to raise enough scholarship funds this year with contributions from local sponsors and chapter members to be able to award two scholarships again this fall. However, we're also considering offering only one \$1500 scholarship since we received only two applications last year (inflation has clearly made \$1000 less attractive than it used to be). Finally, we're looking forward to a productive year with a slightly smaller contingent of officers.

Officers for 2012-2013

President - Marcia Knadle
Vice-President - Shari Silverman
Secretary - Theresa Burton
Treasurer - Heather Vick
Past-President - Heather Vick

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. However, we will be

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losing Lina Ma as our Pacific Region Delegate chapter board member. We wish her well as AWG Secretary and expect that her tenure will be as successful as AWG-PNW alumna Shawn Blaesing-Thompson's has been.

Submitted by:
Marcia Knadle
AWG-Pacific Northwest Chapter President
September 1, 2012