

Association for Women Geoscientists – Pacific Northwest Chapter

Chapter Annual Report

October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013

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

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

Our chapter has two appointed board positions. This past fiscal year, Pat Reed continued to serve as the Scholarship Committee Chair and Jenny Saltonstall served as Publications Committee Chair/Newsletter Editor. Keith Olsen served as Website Manager and managed most 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 and are held typically only at the start of the year. There were several membership activities mostly centered on our 2 main population centers, Seattle, WA and Portland, OR.

Jenny Saltonstall has successfully put us back on a schedule of 3-4 newsletters each year. They have been routinely sent by email and posted on the chapter website. Keith Olson continuously monitors and updates chapter website content, and updates the chapter email lists. 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.

Currently, no chapter member is a delegate to the AWG Board, but Lina Ma is now AWG Secretary, so she occasionally joins our board conference calls and gives us updates from the latest AWG Board meeting.

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. In the Seattle area we held a joint meeting with the Seattle Chapter of the Association for Women in Science (Seattle AWIS), The Portland-area group held a joint meeting with the Oregon Section of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG-OR).

On December 12, AWG-PNW held a joint meeting with AWIS in Seattle. The speaker was Susan Petty, President and Chief Technology Officer for AltaRock Energy, Inc., which has been involved

in several geothermal projects in the western US. Susan explained the basics of geothermal prospecting and the processes involved in developing it, focusing on the Newberry Crater project in OR. The meeting was very well attended, although mainly by AWIS members apparently eager for a break from biotechnology talks.

On December 18, AWG-PNW held a well-attended joint meeting with AEG-OR in Portland, OR. Darcy Berri (PBS Engineering & Environmental) spoke about dry cleaner remediation projects.

On February 27, Seattle-area members and non-members met for dinner in Chinatown followed by a tour of the Seattle Emergency Operations Center and a talk about Seattle's disaster (mainly earthquake) response and recovery capabilities and plans by Erica Lund, City of Seattle Emergency Management Department.

On April 2, the Portland-area members and non-members attended a social event at the offices of PBS Engineering & Environmental to look at rocks and a slideshow.

On April 13, the chapter held a well-attended field trip to the Grand Coulee area of central WA, led by Mark Amara, a local geologist and author. The highlight was a rather scary climb up Steamboat Rock, but the weather was good and the views of Missoula flood features were fantastic. The trip attracted people from Seattle, Portland, and even Idaho. Mark was thrilled to lead the trip and wrote an article about it in the Coulee Corridor Consortium's newsletter, where he included some very nice words about AWG as an organization. The evening before, Marcia Knadle led a quick field trip for early arrivals around the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund Site.

On September 13, AWG-PNW members attended the Women in AEG/AWG Breakfast at the AEG Annual Meeting, which was held in Seattle this year. This breakfast has become an annual event at AEG meetings, and our chapter co-sponsored the event with long-time AEG sponsors Susan Steel Weir and Deborah Green. There was no set program, but that allowed for a lively discussion of current issues for women geoscientists.

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 approved the proposal and would have awarded the chapter matching funds of up to \$750 to allow the award of a \$1500 scholarship, but was unable to do so due to insufficient donations to the unrestricted fund. The chapter raised some additional funds (including a donation from PBS Engineering and Environmental), but ended up sending AWGF \$415 so they could send the promised \$1500 check.

At the end of January, the AWG-PNW awarded its 2012-2013 \$1500 Janet Cullen Tanaka Scholarship to Adrienne Nichols, a junior at Portland State University. The chapter board gave all 6 students who sent complete applications AWG memberships for 2013.

In March and April, 4 chapter members judged projects at 5 different science fairs. Heather Vick judged projects at the South Sound Regional Science Fair in Tacoma, WA, and Patricia Reed judged projects at the Bellevue, WA Science Fair and at the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair in Bremerton, WA. This year for the first time, 2 Oregon AWG-PNW chapter members, Emerald Shirley and Emily Jenkins, judged at science fairs in the Portland, OR area. Both AWG-SAGE certificates of recognition and chapter awards were given out. For the past 3 or 4 years, the chapter has fully funded our science fair activities.

Chapter Outlook

Several years ago, the Puget Sound Chapter merged with the Spokane Chapter to form one chapter that served all of Washington State. Four 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, Serin Duplantis and Keith Olson) have been managing the informal Oregon sub-chapter events 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 central Washington, eastern Oregon, and even Idaho have joined our chapter, and we held our field trip this year in eastern Washington. Our membership is back up to 67 members, 43% of whom are students. Our finances are sound, with \$5630 in the chapter's coffers, a bit less than this time last year because of having to help support the scholarship from chapter funds and co-sponsoring the breakfast at AEG (\$250). We intend to continue to offer one \$1500 scholarship, an amount which successfully attracted more applicants. AWGF's finances have improved since last year so we have some hope of getting matching funds again, but we also have plans to step up our local corporate fundraising. Finally, we're looking forward to a productive year with a full contingent of officers.

Officers for 2013-2014

President – Kathy Vanderwal Dubé
Vice-President – Shari Silverman
Secretary – Theresa Burton
Treasurer – Elena Ramirez
Past-President – Marcia Knadle

Jenny Saltonstall and Pat Reed will switch roles, so Pat will become Publications Committee Chair (newsletter editor) and Jenny (herself a prior chapter scholarship recipient) will become the Scholarship Committee Chair. Keith Olsen will continue to manage the website and send out e-mail notices. However, we are losing Heather Vick, who over the past 7 years has faithfully served as president, then past-president and treasurer.

Submitted by:
Marcia Knadle
AWG-Pacific Northwest Chapter President
September 15, 2013