

Association for Women Geoscientists – Pacific Northwest Chapter

Chapter Annual Report

October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014

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

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

Our chapter has two appointed board positions. This past fiscal year, Jenny Saltonstall served as the Scholarship Committee Chair and Pat Reed served as Publications Committee Chair/Newsletter Editor. Keith Olsen served as Website Manager. Marcia Knadle continues to act as chapter historian/archivist.

Board Activities

An in-person board meeting was held at the start of the chapter year in October and Quarterly board conference calls were also held to coordinate chapter activities. There were several membership activities centered on our 2 main population centers, Seattle, WA and Portland, OR.

Lina Ma was on the national AWG board and gives us updates from the latest national AWG Board meetings. Dennise Templeton is representing the region for the upcoming year. The monthly national AWG conference calls are also helpful for disseminating national AWG news.

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 Northwest Geology Society. The Portland-area group held a joint meeting with the Oregon Section of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG-OR).

Jenny Saltonstall, AWG member and hydrogeologist at Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. gave a talk at the January 27, 2014 AWG-PNW meeting on “An Overview of Puget Lowland Geology and Considerations for Stormwater Management.” We enjoyed pizza and salad while Jenny discussed different soil characteristics associated with Puget Sound geology and infiltration/runoff characteristics.

On April 8, 2014, AWG-PNW held a joint meeting with the Northwest Geology Society in Seattle. Jody Bourgeois, AWG member and professor at the UW Earth and Space Sciences Department,

gave a talk titled “Travels in Geology – Antarctica and the Scotia Arc: Tectonics, Climate, and Life.” Jody not only discussed the geologic and tectonic history of Antarctica, but presented incredible slides of icebergs, many species of penguins, and followed the travails of early Antarctica explorers.

Portland members had social/catch up/networking events at the Tea House on January 27, and June 24, 2014. The Portland area members held a joint meeting with the Portland AEG in March 2014 where Laura Maffei gave a presentation about litigation, being an expert witness, Oregon Geologist laws, and negligence. There was a hike/field trip to Silver Falls on Saturday, July 19, 2014 to look at the geology and fossils in the area. On September 28, 2014, the Portland-area members had a hike to Punchbowl Falls on the Eagle Creek Trail in the Columbia Gorge to view the numerous basalt outcrops and waterfalls.

Outreach

At the end of January, the AWG-PNW awarded its \$1,500 Janet Cullen Tanaka Scholarship. There were three applicants for scholarship. The scholarship was awarded to Emma K Myers. Emma is a Senior at Western Washington university studying geology with a geophysics concentration. Her senior thesis research is a study of a series of glacial avalanches that have taken place on Iliamna volcano, in the Cook Inlet region of Alaska. Her goal is to identify the trigger for these events by compare their time history external drivers such as a changing climate and volcanic heating. She has recently participated in a summer internship with Dr. Rick Aster at Colorado State University and his PhD student Nicole McMahon assessing the seismicity of Antarctica, and will graduate from WWU in December of this year. She plans to continue her education in a Master’s Program in Geophysics.

Patricia Reed judged projects at the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair in Bremerton, WA for AWG. Prizes were awarded to: Helen Carson for “Investigating the Annual Formation of Water Ice Clouds at Mars Hellas Basin” to Katherine Landon for “Mitigating Seismic Liquefaction Using Magnetized Iron Nanoparticles in a Ferrofluid” and to Denali Sanders for “Testing Turbidity.”

Chapter Outlook

Several years ago, the Puget Sound Chapter merged with the Spokane Chapter to form one chapter that served all of Washington State. Since that time, our membership has expanded to include members from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska, with most members in Washington and Oregon. Our 2013-2014 membership included 60 members, 32% of whom were students. Our finances are sound, with \$6,045 in the chapter’s coffers. We intend to continue to offer one \$1,500 scholarship, an amount which successfully attracted more applicants. We are somewhat concerned about the drop in dues rebates with the decrease in national AWG dues rates and are looking at ways to raise additional money for chapter operating expenses and our annual scholarship.

Association for Women Geoscientists – Pacific Northwest Chapter
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Officers for 2014-2015

President – Kathy Vanderwal Dubé
Vice-President – open
Secretary – Theresa Burton
Treasurer – Elena Ramirez
Past-President – Marcia Knadle
Scholarship Committee Chair – Jenny Satonstall
Editor – Shari Silverman
Website – Keith Olsen

Submitted by:
Kathy Dubé
AWG-Pacific Northwest Chapter President
October 14, 2014