

Association for Women Geoscientists

Puget Sound Chapter

P.O. Box 4229, Kent, WA 98089

www.scn.org/psawg

Chapter Annual Report October 2003 through September 2004

Our chapter has remained quite active over the past year, in part because we had a full slate of officers:

President: Marcia Knadle
Vice-President: Shawn Blaesing-Thompson
Secretary: Paula York
Treasurer: Carla Whittington

Lynn Hultgrien served as the Scholarship Committee Chair and Amanda Taub served as the Publications Committee Chair (newsletter editor).

The main activity we tackled was hosting the 2003 AWG Convention (Oct.-30-Nov.1). After the convention, our chapter programs were somewhat limited – I believe we were all exhausted. We maintained roughly the same amount of outreach as last year, have had 2 excellent chapter meetings, and we will be having a field trip later this month. Our finances are very sound, almost \$3700 with the addition of profits from the convention. We had hoped that the convention would increase interest in chapter membership this year, but it didn't rise appreciably (36 compared to last year's 34). On the other hand, our larger e-mail contact list has grown considerably, and there's hope some of those additions will decide to join.

It has worked out well to send our newsletters electronically, now that all but one or two of our members have functional e-mail. We've amended our bylaws to allow for e-mail transmittal of the ballot, and we now send the chapter directory to members electronically as well. The web site (built and managed by VP Shawn Blaesing-Thompson) has been a good outreach tool; we also post our newsletters there.

The officers haven't held as many business meetings as normal, partly because of post-convention exhaustion. We're beginning to bounce back from this, and I anticipate we'll begin holding meetings more regularly this fall, both for the officers and for the general membership. Only two full newsletters were issued, but we sent out an additional meeting notice and a separate brief newsletter with the ballot and the directory. Our next newsletter should come out in late September or October.

For over 10 years, we sponsored an AWG membership for a Russian woman, Elizaveta Zaykova (Institute of Mineralogy, Miass-Ilmen Reserve). A few years ago, we lost contact with her when her e-mail address quit functioning, so we quit sponsoring her. If AWG gets inquiries, our chapter would be open to sponsoring another membership for a woman from the Far East / Pacific Islands who would like to be a member but can't afford it.

Activities

October/November 2003

2003 AWG Convention: “Climbing Higher into the 21st Century”

We put a great deal of energy into convention planning and had a small core planning committee with a larger extended committee. The core committee was:

Chair:	Marcia Knadle
Budget & Registration:	Carla Whittington
Venues:	Jean Boucher
Fundraising:	Alicia Musselman
Advertising:	Amanda Taub
Computer Support:	Shawn Blaesing-Thompson

Members of the more extended committee included Paula York, Janet Tanaka, Kathy Goetz-Troost, and Liz Nesbitt. Several other chapter members (and friends of members!) volunteered to help out with various tasks at the convention.

The convention included a full day of presentations, a Halloween Party, a full-day field trip on Seattle-area geology, and a tour of the Burke Museum. Fun events included a welcoming party and GeoHaiku and Geo-Costume contests. The conference day was attended by 47 paid participants (plus 8 panelists who each attended a half day), and the Seattle field trip drew 32 participants. Sarah Andrews (author of the Em Hansen forensic geology mysteries) was our main keynote speaker, with Gail Ashley and Nadine Romero as additional plenary session speakers. The rest of the day was filled with panels and workshops, led by Allison Kozak, Shawn-Blaesing Thompson, Janet Tanaka, Helen Delano, Elizabeth Pottorff, and Barbara Maher.

The convention had several corporate sponsors, including Shannon & Wilson, Inc., Washington Group International, Watershed Geodynamics, Luna Bars, and The Mountaineers Club Bookstore. The workshops were co-sponsored by the Association of Engineering Geologists and the Northwest Geological Society.

The convention made \$1600 for our chapter, several hundred of which was profits from Sarah Andrews signing and selling her books, both at the convention and at the AWG booth at GSA. The large profit was a complete surprise, since we were wondering if the event would break even when it started. We sold more books than we expected, and some last-minute corporate support came in. We'd also overestimated some of the administrative expenses. AWG made nearly \$200 from product sales at the convention and the AWG booth at GSA.

In addition to hosting the convention, we arranged meeting facilities for the fall AWG Board of Directors meeting. We also recruited several people to help staff the AWG booth during GSA.

February 2004

Program Meeting: “Running Your Own Geoscience Consulting Business” Panel Discussion with Anne Udaloy, Susan Roth, Lynne Rodgers Miller, and Sue Perkins

This was an unusually well attended (17) meeting for us. It was a panel discussion with local women who have opened geoscience consultancies over the past 5-10 years. We met at the offices of one of the panelists (Udaloy Environmental Services) and brought in Thai take-out food for dinner – a nice change from pizza. I moderated discussion of a long list of questions about the nuts-and-bolts of setting up and running a geoscience consulting business, as well as the pros and cons of doing it. This was one of the most successful meetings we’ve ever held, and I believe the topic would work well for any chapter in a large urban area.

July 2004

Social Meeting: “Heads in the Sand” Geo-Film Festival and Scholarship Award Event

We met to eat pizza and to see one feature film and one documentary. The feature film *The Core* produced plenty of derisive laughter, as did the documentary *The Mole*, about a subsurface-garbage-compaction-and-emplacement machine that the local regional landfill tried out in the late 1960’s. Needless to say, it ultimately didn’t work very well despite the massive infusion of federal funds and the hilariously upbeat documentary tribute. We also presented our scholarship recipient, Melinda Menke of Central Washington University, with her check. The meeting was held at my home and had 8 attendees.

September 2004

Field Trip: “Geology Tour of North Central Washington,” with Dr. Ralph Dawes, Wenatchee Valley College

After the announcement came out, a geology professor at Central Washington University asked to bring a vanload of her students along, so it will actually be a joint field trip. We have 8 signed up so far from our group, so we’re expecting about 20 people on this upcoming two-day trip exploring the Wenatchee area.

Outreach

May 2004

Intel International Science and Engineering Fair Judging

AWG-PS Vice President Shawn Blaesing-Thomson attended and judged Earth and Space Sciences entries for AWG. The \$1000 AWG award went to Sarah Rose Langburg for her work on Juan de Fuca Ridge volcanism, and Shawn also gave 2 Honorable Mention awards of \$100 to Carolyn Larson and Shannon Babb. Incidentally, Ms. Langburg ended up being judged one of the top three “Young Scientists” honored at the fair, as well as the first-place winner in her category. No one was available to judge the Washington State Science Fair this year.

June 2004

AWG Puget Sound Chapter Scholarship

We awarded our 2003 AWG Puget Sound Chapter Scholarship of \$1000 to Melinda Menke, now a senior at Central Washington University studying silent earthquakes (aka “transient creep events”) in the Cascadia Subduction Zone. This year, our half of the scholarship was funded entirely by individual contributions, in part because we’d already solicited contributions from our usual corporate sources for the convention. Next year, we’ll hopefully be able to solicit funds from some of those same sources for the scholarship.

Officers for 2004/2005

President: Lynn Moses (10/1/2004-9/30/2005)

Vice-President: Paula York (10/1/2004-9/30/2005)

Secretary: Marcia Knadle (10/1/2004-9/30/2006)

Treasurer: Carla Whittington (10/1/2003-9/30/2005 – the 2nd year of a 2-year term)

We mainly shuffled our officers around, partly in response to the term limits we included in our bylaws, and partly because most officers still wanted to serve but needed a change. We did recruit a new president: Lynn Moses, an engineering geologist with the Washington State Department of Transportation. As for our appointed board members, Amanda Taub is replacing Lynn Hultgrien as the Scholarship Committee Chair, and Shawn Blaesing-Thompson is replacing Amanda as the Publications Committee Chair (Editor). We thank Lynn Hultgrien for several years of service as Scholarship Committee Chair. We also made minor amendments to our bylaws, mainly to make them conform better to AWG bylaws and procedures regarding chapter officers and elections.

With a full team of officers again and enthusiastic new leadership, I’m looking forward to another active year. My personal goals are to help our new president come up to speed, to help the chapter have more regular membership meetings and newsletters (ideally every other month), and to begin developing at least one direct outreach project over the coming year. As secretary, I’m planning to organize and find a new home for chapter archives, starting with organizing my own files.

Respectfully submitted by Marcia Knadle
Sept. 10, 2004