

Association for Women Geoscientists - Puget Sound Chapter
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www.awg-ps.org

Chapter Annual Report

October 2004 through September 2005

This year there were transitions within the board with a new president and the past president taking on the position of secretary.

President - Lynn Moses
Vice-President - Paula York
Secretary - Marcia Knadle
Treasurer - Carla Whittington

Shawn Blaesing-Thompson served as Publications Committee Chair and Webmistress. Amanda Taub the Scholarship Committee Chair resigned the position for family reasons, and Shawn Blaesing-Thompson took on the duties of the position for the remainder of the year.

Activities

Four board meetings were held throughout the year, plus a number of membership activities. December 4, 2004 was the Chapters' 20th Anniversary Celebration. The celebration included a morning Mima Mounds field trip lead by Lynn Moses, and an afternoon potluck party with chapter members and friends. Included in the festivities were three of the founding members, who talked about their careers. This also marked the beginning of the documentation of the History of the AWG-Puget Sound chapter by Marcia Knadle.

This year a new website was developed and webpage redesign is in progress. We now have a calendar to identify upcoming chapter activities, events and fieldtrip and people to contact. New pages developed so far are a page with short biographies of AWG-PS board members, and a page for listing recent publications by chapter members. To help connect the membership, there are plans for a page to spotlight the founding AWG-Puget Sound chapter members, and then other members.

The AWG-PS board decided to move our \$1,000 scholarship award from May to October. The AWG Foundation approved this change. The application requirements for the \$1,000 scholarship are identified on the website with a due date this year of October 28, 2005. Anne Udaloy has accepted the appointment as Scholarship Committee Chair starting the next fiscal year. The transfer of scholarship information from the past chair, Shawn Blaesing-Thompson to the new chair is ongoing.

The chapter newsletters are now routinely sent by email and are also posted on the chapter website. We also electronically send the newsletters to a large number of interested people that are not currently members. This complimentary copy list is being used for recruitment into the chapter as active members. Because the bylaws were amended in 2004, we can now transmit the election ballot for board candidates and the chapter directory to members electronically.

Field Trips

The Mima Mounds field trip occurred on December 4, 2005 as part of the 20th anniversary AWG-PS chapter celebration. The Cougar Mountain field trip led by Betty Lyons, was held on March 26, 2005. Despite the pouring down rain, members reviewed Coal mining historical displays along Coal Creek, and looked at outcrops of Eocene Renton Formation. A group of AWG-PS chapter members participated in a May 7, 2005 field trip with Ice Age Floods Institute members to look at Spokane Flood geomorphology and the springtime wildflowers in Frenchman Coulee, eastern Washington.

Outreach

We participated in judging several science fairs during the spring. The Mid-Columbia Regional Fair in Richland was judged by Elaine Brouillard. The South Sound Regional Fair at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma was judged by Paula York and Shawn Blaesing-Thompson. The Washington State Science and Engineering Fair in Bremerton was judged by Paula York and Marcia Knadle. Judging these science fairs is an excellent way of connecting with the students after they have developed a science project for presentation. One judge said "It's fun to see how creative students can get

with their exhibits, and gratifying to get a chance to encourage them." Next step is how to be involved and help in the development of the scientific process side?

Outreach also occurred in other ways this year. A roster of the AWG-Puget Sound chapter members with their college affiliations and professional work was requested from AWG-National to help learn more about chapter members and to help strengthen and develop networking with members. The goal is to have more member participation in more chapter activities. Also, there has been outreach by the board members to their professional contacts in Canada and Oregon.

Another AWG-PS chapter outreach was to find ways to support high school and college students by reinforcing and mentoring girls and young women and showing them that science is interesting and fulfilling as a career. We are considering a one-year appointment of a Junior-Senior-Graduate school level college student for representation on the AWG-PS board, with voting privileges. Also, a questionnaire was developed by Paula York for middle school teachers to identify the best way to help gain science student participation. This fall the questionnaire will be distributed to several school districts in the area where Paula works.

Another outreach concept is to develop a program with a process to supply small (\$100-\$500 range) mini-grants to support student scientific research. This program would let student's apply for grants to fund some or all of a project. The board members are considering creating and appointing a Grant Committee Chair to help develop the framework and outline the process.

This past year we have continued connecting with other professional groups in the Puget Sound Area by participating in joint meetings and functions that cross memberships interests. The professional groups we have contacted are the Northwest Geological Society (NWGS), Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG-Washington chapter), and the Association for Women in Science (AWIS).

In May 19, 2005, a joint dinner meeting was held with the AEG-Washington State chapter. At this year's joint meeting Lynn Moses gave a talk on the Unstable Slope Management System developed within the Geotechnical

Division of the Washington State Department of Transportation. Future plans are to have annual joint meetings with the AEG-Washington State chapter, and this next year we plan to utilize the AWG-National speaker's list. A joint dinner meeting has been scheduled for December 2005 with NWGS and speaker Dr. Elizabeth Nesbit from the UW Burke Museum.

AWG-PS Crafty Geoscientists Days started up this past spring and we have had several afternoon meetings for members; one meeting was creating cards and scrapbooking, and one meeting was on creating soups and sauces. Plans are in the works for future meetings on jewelry making, and on knitting and crocheting. This has been a great way to kick back and socialize with other members while picking up some new techniques and tricks.

Our membership has increased from 36 to 39, and our hopes are to continue with an upward trend this next year. Our finances are sound with a balance of \$3,622 in the Chapter's coffers. We hope to add to our scholarship fund this next year with contributions from local sponsors, and chapter member contributions. We thank Carla Whittington our outgoing treasurer. She has held different board positions for the past eight years. We appreciate her great spirit in supporting and participating in the AWG-PS Chapter. The board has worked tirelessly and efficiently this past year carrying out the chapter activities and achieving our goals, while maintaining and balancing their professional and personal lives.

We are planning an Oktoberfest to kick off the new fiscal year, introduce the board members and Committee Chairs, and bring chapter members and families together for a celebration.

Officers for 2005-2006

President - Lynn Moses

Secretary - Marcia Knadle

Treasurer - Wendy Gerstel

Shawn Blaesing-Thompson will continue as the Publications Committee Chair and Anne Udaloy will begin serving as the Scholarship Committee Chair.

Submitted by:

Lynn J. Moses, AWG-Puget Sound Chapter President
September 12, 2005