

Association for Women Geoscientists - Puget Sound Chapter
1910 East 4th Avenue, PMB #65, Olympia, WA 98506
www.awg-ps.org

Chapter Annual Report

October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006

This past fiscal year there was a change in the board, with no vice-president being elected.

President - Lynn Moses
Vice-President - vacant
Secretary - Marcia Knadle
Treasurer - Wendy Gerstel

Other board members for this past fiscal year included Shawn Blaesing-Thompson serving as Publications Committee Chair and Web-mistress; Anne Udaloy serving as the Scholarship Committee Chair; and Paula York, past chapter Vice-President (FY 2005), serving as a Delegate for the Pacific Region.

Activities

Three board meetings were held throughout the year, plus a number of membership activities. The documentation of the History of the AWG-Puget Sound chapter is being continued by Marcia Knadle.

The new website was developed and webpage redesign is in progress. The latest statistics indicate that we have had increased website visits this past year. The calendar is useful for members to identify upcoming chapter activities, events and fieldtrip and people to contact. To help connect the membership, there are plans for a page to spotlight the founding AWG-Puget Sound chapter members, and then other members.

Wendy Gerstel, AWG-PS chapter treasurer, set up a new AWG-PS chapter banking account this year and also established a new chapter mailing address.

The 2005 AWG-PS Scholarship was awarded to Central Washington University undergraduate Jennifer Perry. The \$1,000 award was announced at the December 2005 joint dinner meeting with the Northwest Geological Society and AWG-PS chapter. A special AWG-PS award dinner was held in May 2006 in Ellensburg for Jennifer. The application requirements for the \$1,000 scholarship are identified on the AWG-PS chapter website, with a due date this year of October 27, 2006.

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 who 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

On May 20, 2006 a field trip was led by Tom Badger, Assistant Chief Engineering Geologist, Washington State Department of Transportation, through a portion of the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass corridor that experienced several rock-fall events this past winter. The attendees for the field trip met at the summit and made several field stops to look at rock cuts along the corridor. The field trip guide gave an excellent photographic review of the sites depicting the major rock structures. A geologic map used for reconnaissance work along the corridor was part of the guidebook. Tom also graciously gave an informal talk at the Scholarship award dinner for Jennifer Perry in Ellensburg that evening.

Outreach

We participated in judging several science fairs during the spring. The Mid-Columbia Regional Fair in Richland was judged March 9th in Kennewick, WA. by Elaine Brouillard again this year. Rob Barnes and Heather Vick volunteered to judge at the South Sound Regional Fair at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma on March 18th. Wendy Gerstel judged The Washington State Science and Engineering Fair in Bremerton on March 31st and April 1. Awards were given to seven students this year ranging from certificates of

recognition, to books and savings bonds. Judging these science fairs is an excellent way of connecting with the students after they have developed a science project for presentation. We need to see how we can be more involved in helping in the development of the scientific process side.

Shawn Blaesing-Thompson submitted two AWGF proposals for the AWG-Puget Sound chapter for funding. The AWGF awarded the two proposals, each with its own account name. The AWGF awarded the chapter \$1,000/year for the Scholarship fund for two fiscal years (2005-2006 and 2006-2007). The AWGF also awarded the chapter \$285/year for two fiscal years for Science Fair support which covers costs for student awards and judges expenses. A requirement for these AWGF awards is that the AWG-PS chapter members need to raise half of each of those amounts each year.

Another scholarship outreach, thanks to Anne Udaloy, is the AWG-PS connection with the University of Washington Undergraduate Scholarship Fair that is held on campus each year. This will be the second year for AWG-PS chapter participation at the October 19, 2006 scheduled event. It is a great opportunity for the chapter to gain recognition with UW undergraduate students.

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 still considering a one-year appointment of a Junior-Senior-Graduate school level college student for representation on the AWG-PS board, with voting privileges.

Another outreach concept still not realized 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 membership interests. The professional groups we have contacted are

the Northwest Geological Society (NWGS), Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEEG-Washington chapter), the Association for Women in Science (AWIS), and the Association of Women in Environmental Professions (AWEP).

A joint dinner meeting was held in December 2005 with NWGS. The speaker was Dr. Kathryn A. Hoppe from the UW Earth and Space Sciences who talked about her research on "Tracking Mammoths and Mastodons: Using the Chemistry of Teeth to Reconstruct the Lifestyles of Extinct Animals." A joint meeting with AWIS and AWEP was held in April 2006 in Seattle on "Global Climate Change in Puget Sound: What Can We Expect in the Next 50 Years." presented by Dr. Amy K. Snover.

Our membership has increased from 36 to 41, and our hopes are to continue with an upward trend this next year. Our finances are sound with a balance of \$3,700 in the Chapter's coffers. We hope to add to our scholarship and science fair funds this next year with contributions from local sponsors, and chapter member contributions. 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.

Officers for 2006-2007

President - Lynn Moses

Vice-President - vacant

Secretary - Marcia Knadle

Treasurer - Wendy Gerstel

Shawn Blaesing-Thompson will continue as the Publications Committee Chair and Web-mistress and Anne Udaly will continue serving as the Scholarship Committee Chair.

Submitted by:

Lynn J. Moses

AWG-Puget Sound Chapter President

September 15, 2006