

Association for Women Geoscientists



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December 6, 2011

Dear AWG Professional Member,

It's renewal time for your AWG Professional membership. We appreciate your continued support of our wide range of programs that benefit students and women in the geosciences.

Your association is financially stable and has been able to stay active during this challenging year. On-going programs such as the Chrysalis Scholarships and Geoscientists in the Parks continue to support women in early career stages with financial assistance, career *Enhancement* and professional development. Our awards at the International Science and Engineering Fairs across the country *Encourage* high school students interested in geosciences, and various Chapter-sponsored scholarships help undergraduate students. AWG's Outstanding Educators never fail to amaze, inspire and *Encourage* other women in the geosciences. AWG is, of course, always looking for people to develop and coordinate new projects and future field trips. There is plenty to do. **Renew online now and jump right in!**

You will notice an option on the renewal form for renewing for two years at a time. This saves you money and reduces paperwork. You can help AWG plan ahead with more fiscal confidence. Please send any questions to office@awg.org and our office assistant, Mona Scott will quickly and expertly handle your query.

Renewing promptly will keep your subscriptions to *Gaea* and AWG E-Mail News coming without interruption. Our advertising revenue for both publications has helped to offset some of our costs in recent years, so encourage your institution to advertise job openings with us, and read the ads if you are looking for a new position.

You may also note on the renewal form a chance to make a tax-deductible contribution to the AWG Foundation with your dues payment -- either to the general fund or to one of several specific scholarships or funds. AWGF is particularly interested in increasing the endowment set aside to support the Chrysalis and Minority Scholarships. Chrysalis is one of AWG's oldest and best programs, while the Minority Scholarship is the latest addition to the benefits offered to students. Chrysalis Scholarships are specifically for women who have interrupted graduate study because of life events, and need a modest financial boost (and sometimes a major emotional one) to finish their degrees. The Minority Scholarship Program offers financial support to minority high school seniors through undergraduate seniors majoring in Earth Science, as well as the support of an AWG mentor. We'd like to see an endowment large

enough that the interest income can fund both scholarships in future years and free the fundraising efforts of the foundation for other projects. Thanks to your generous contributions we have been able to add the Field Camp Scholarship and the Suzanne Takken “Encourage” fund to our list of endowed scholarships. Our goal is to increase each of these endowments so that more of these scholarships can be awarded to deserving and promising geoscientists.

Please! Before the other demands of your life take over, get out your checkbook or credit card and renew your membership to ensure that you continue to receive all the benefits of membership! Make sure to check your contact information and make any needed changes. You may renew by mail, fax or by renewing online. Welcome to another inspirational year with AWG!

Sincerely,

Heidi Hoffower

AWG President, 2011–2012

*Please return your renewal form with payment or renew online by **December 31**. If you have any questions about the benefits of continued membership, would like to upgrade, or are interested in sponsoring specific programs, contact us at office@awg.org.*