

AWG DELEGATE REPORT

REGION: Pacific

Date: Oct. 1, 2008

Delegate Name(s): Tonia Johnson (PAC1) and Pat Cooper (PAC2) (term begins 10/1/08), Marcia Knadle (term ends 10/1/08)

Alternate(s): Kirsten Nicolaysen (term ended April, 2007) and Megan Murphy-Bishop (term ends 10/1/08), Heidi Hoffower (term begins 10/1/08)

Summary of delegate responsibilities: The following is a partial list of delegate responsibilities. Please refer to the delegate manual for a comprehensive listing.

- Communicate with regional members (e-zine, email updates, etc.)
- Communicate with regional chapters (chapter forms and status)
- Member of the board of director's – attend all board meetings during term of office and provide a written report of the activities that were conducted in your region to the board (for each meeting)
- Coordinate AWG booth activities within the region with president-elect
- Facilitate membership drive within the region in conjunction with national membership drives
- Participate in at least one “committee” or program (Chrysalis, minority scholarship, etc.)
- Provide one regional article for *Gaea* according to the schedule provided in the delegate manual

Number of regional members: As of Oct. 1, there are ~310 Members in the Pacific region

Chapter activities: There are 3 chapters on the books still: Pacific Northwest, Sierra and SF Bay Area.

Pacific Northwest Chapter

- 1) We have approved changing our chapter name to the Pacific Northwest Chapter.
- 2) As part of the effort to coordinate across the region, we held a telephone conference/chapter meeting on April 9th, 2008. This worked well from the perspective of KN who could not drive to Seattle that day.
- 3) An AWG-PNW member retreat occurred in Hood River, Oregon in April.
- 4) Local chapter members attended the Open House held by the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington on May 3rd.
- 5) AWG members attended the NWGS meeting in May and at which we awarded the 2007 scholarship and announced the renaming of the scholarship to the Janet Tanaka scholarship.
- 6) A regional field trip (“Wine, Water and Basalt: Regional Geology of southeastern Washington State”) will occur on Sept. 5th and 6th. So far there are 11 participants registered for the trip including the trip leader.

Sierra Chapter

- 1) Members and friends attended our 7th annual brunch and walk/ride along the American River bike path toward Folsom Lake in January. Most of the group chose to walk and talk.
- 2) Three Sierra Chapter members attended a field trip to look at ancient cold seeps and their relationship to tube worms in the present-day Great Valley in March. The trip was hosted by the Bay Area chapter. It was a great opportunity to interact with our sister chapter.

Sierra Chapter has been struggling for a few years with declining membership and participation. This decline is the result of members changing lifestyles and commitment: Members have reduced their level of activity to concentrate on family issues; several members have moved, and a few are preparing for retirement.

The remaining officers have taken turns covering offices, and planning events, so that our ideas and energy feel stale. The officers have agreed to work

together to recruit new members in an attempt to revitalize the chapter. At a minimum, we will hold an informal get-together in January as we have every year since 2001. At that meeting, we will likely plan additional events on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis. Additionally, the members contacted indicated interest in participating, but not necessarily leading, future chapter events. The remaining active members and officers have indicated interest in resuming the Sierra Chapter scholarship to a Sac State student(s). Our former liaison at California State University Sacramento has reduced her participation as well, so that our newsletters were no longer being posted. AWG has been invited to participate in a Student's Night in conjunction with AEG, in which students are invited to present their work, and may be able to reestablish our relationship with the university.

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

1) Gave SAGE (Special Award for Geoscience Excellence) certificate awards to eight

students exhibiting outstanding geoscience projects at five science fairs held throughout the Bay Area. Each of the girls received a gift bag that included: a GSA Yosemite Valley Geologic Jigsaw Puzzle; a USGS Loma Prieta Earthquake Coffee Mug and a DVD entitled, "Shock Waves - One Hundred Years After the 1906 Earthquake"; a box of ten "Break Your Own Geodes"; a hematite and an arrow-head necklace; information and maps for five of our western national parks that featured color cross sections of Bryce Canyon, and a Bryce Canyon screen saver. Additionally, each of the girls had their dinner provided for at our annual Student Awards Banquet, and will receive a free one-year student membership to AWG, which includes a one-year subscription to our local newsletter as well as our international newsletter, *Gaea*.

2) Organized our annual Outstanding Student Awards banquet for eight student awardees from Bay Area universities. Each student was given a framed certificate, a \$50 check, an REI gift certificate for \$50, and a one-year student membership in the San Francisco Bay Area AWG chapter.

3) Encouraged members to present their research to us in our technical meetings.

- 4) Mentored individuals who are: students considering the geosciences as a college and/or career choice; women who would like to change jobs or the focus of their careers; and new college grads looking for their first full geosciences position or advice on graduate schools and funding.
- 5) Hosted a booth at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco in December 2007.
- 6) Held ten chapter business meetings of the Board of Directors (attendance 3–6).
- 7) Offered three technical dinner meetings (attendance average approx. 58):
 - Fall General Meeting, October 2007, featuring Dawn Sumner, Professor – Department of Geology, UC Davis: “How to Look for Life on Mars with Scientific Integrity”;
 - Spring General Meeting, March 2008, featuring Ruth Harris, a supervisory research geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey and the project chief for the Earthquake Probabilities and Occurrence Megaproject: “The Predictability of California Earthquakes – Test Case Parkfield”; and
 - Our 2008 Outstanding Student Awards Banquet featuring carbonate stratigrapher Jean C. Hsieh, who spoke of her research work “From collecting pebbles to looking for oil, why I became a geologist”.
- 8) Worked as a team to produce one newsletter with additional timely announcements of technical dinner meetings, learning opportunities, education outreach efforts and job/position announcements which are emailed to chapter members and are posted on our chapter website.
- 9) Maintained a chapter web site to provide a location for chapter activity announcements and chapter information. The new web site (<http://www.sfbayawg.org/>) is generously hosted for us at no cost by San Jose State University.
- 10) Organized one field trip (attendance average approx. 16):
 - Spring Field Trip, March 2008, led by Dr. Hilde Schwartz, UC Santa Cruz, “A Paleocene Cold Seep System in the Panoche Hills, CA”.
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Regional activities:

The Annual AWG Fall BOD meeting is being held in association with the annual GSA meeting in Houston. The AWG will have a booth at this meeting.

Summary of delegate activities:

Megan – I helped to select this year’s AWG–Brunton award as part of the committee. We had the good fortune of having three very talented women apply for this award, so the choice was not easy. I was also a judge for the Tri–Valley Science and Engineering Fair. This was a great experience to interact with some really interesting local students! Finally I wrote a short article for GAEA on my field experiences in Western Australia.

Kirsten – I will be taking over as coordinator of the science fair judging for the Pac NW section this coming year. I am also leading a regional field trip Sept. 5th–6th titled “Wine, Water and Basalt: local geology of SE Washington state”. So far there are 11 participants, including myself; I think we’ll have an excellent time on this field trip!! I have enjoyed my time as an alternate delegate to the national board. I’m stepping down from that position at the end of my term, as my service requirements at Whitman College have ramped up, as have family requirements (now 2 kids under 4). I’ll continue to be active in the local chapter. Best wishes to all!

Tonia – My main contribution to AWG since March includes editing and rewriting the program chair guidelines. Moving has kept me occupied and my efforts for a southern California chapter was put to the wayside. I hope to be actively involved with the Minnesota chapter and be on the board again in the future.

Goals for the next year:

Megan – I plan to continue working on the AWG–Brunton Award Committee and hope to increase the number of applicants. I would like to continue working at

the local science fairs. I will shortly be the Delegate for the Pacific Region and am looking forward to interacting with everyone more closely!

Pat –

Heidi – In this upcoming year as an alternate delegate, I would like to learn about the Pacific section and uphold my responsibilities as a BOD member. Locally, I am helping to coordinate the initiation of a new chapter here in the San Joaquin Valley. As Bakersfield, CA is home to several major oil & gas company offices, numerous environmental firms, an active geology department at California State University Bakersfield, and a lively geological society affiliated with AAPG, it is only fitting to add a local AWG chapter! Stay tuned!