

WESTERN AND PACIFIC REGION REPORT

2008-2009

SUMMARY

The Western and Pacific Region (WPR) conducted a series of telemeetings and one face-to-face Annual Meeting. Additionally, the WPR maintained a list-serve so that any member can receive and send email messages. These communication mechanisms allowed an interchange of information between state societies, to national leaders, and among individual members.

The WPR incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the state of Nevada in 2009.

The WPR is introducing a Resolution to the 2009 BOD meeting in St. Louis regarding active participation by NSPE in legislation and regulation implementation..

The Region elected Susanne Leckband, P.E., of Arizona to succeed Frank Fong, P.E., of California as the WPR Chair for 2009-2011.

INCORPORATION

The WPR incorporated in 2009 as “NSPE Western and Pacific Region” in the state of Nevada as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with an in-state resident agent. The Region has a bank account, therefore is required to file an IRS 990 form. Previously, the WPR was tied to the California Society (CSPE), but separation of the funds created some complications, although CSPE never had actual access to the bank account. With the incorporation, the WPR is now an independent corporation with organizational ties only to NSPE.

MONTHLY TELEMEEETINGS

The WPR conducted a number of monthly telemeetings using the Webex interchange service that allows for call-in phone connections as well as visual presentations of documents. These communications allowed for discussion on current affairs, WPR business, and interaction among the members.

The WPR concentrated on three focus areas: items of interest, regional members on NSPE committees and task forces, and continuing education. At the Annual Meeting, the Region decided to make “items of interest” an on-going topic and added “soft skill promotion” and “legislative advocacy” for 2009-2010. The focus

areas of Continuing Education, Soft Skills promotion, and Legislative Advocacy will form the basis of continuing discussion within the Region.

The monthly telemeeting altered its timing to mid-work day with improved attendance of between 12 to 19 participants..

SPECIFIC AREAS OF DISCUSSION:

Topics of Interest

State-National Agreement: The proposed and circulated State-National Agreement was brought up several times to promote improved understanding. Many points of information came up among the state representatives considering that one state has a full-time executive director, seven have part-time executive directors, and three have volunteer executive directors. It is believed the discussions assisted many who participated to realize the intentions, obligations, and benefits of the State-National Agreement.

State-Only Membership: This topic came up in several telemeetings. The state of Oregon, which has had state-only members since its inception, offered their rationale and history. The views and positions of other states assisted participants understand the issue in preparation for the Annual HOD Meeting.

Alexandria Meeting Location: A proposal to hold the Annual Meeting in Alexandria, VA came up for discussion. Generally, it did not receive much support among the WPR representatives.

List Serve Security: The Region List-serve experienced some intrusion difficulties during the year. Improvements were made to improve service security.

NSPE Committee and Task Force Members:

The intention of this initiative was to promote membership on the national groups by WPR members. While not overly successful, the discussion informed many members of the existence of the groups and need for participation. This initiative was not continued considering the reorganization at the national level.

Continuing Education:

Four states in the region have mandatory continuing education reporting requirements and others have voluntary requirements. Discussion about the

value of continuing education and how the region could assist in the effort began the evaluation of uniform requirements and education within and by the region. This will be on-going effort.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 Region Annual Meeting was a joint meeting with the Washington Society of Professional Engineers held May 15 in Tulalip, WA. Eight states of ten had representatives present presenting a wide representation. Many of the topics presented in the monthly telemeeting were on the agenda for more intense discussion and action.

Among the administrative actions were a treasurer's report and budget, election of a new chair (Susanne Leckband, P.E.), and discussion of a Candidate Screening Committee representative from California by rotation.

Recent EPA action to regulate greenhouse gasses was discussed and an article shared. The Region concluded that NSPE presently is not equipped to offer timely comments, but could work with the agencies to inject sound engineering practice and judgment to improve implementation of legislation and avoid unnecessary negative impacts related to technology. The outcome was a Resolution to be presented to the July 2009 BOD meeting.

Another topic was attendance of the state President-Elects to the HOD meeting in St. Louis.

The greatest benefit of this meeting for the attendees was the interstate networking.

Submitted by:

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