

APWA NEWS

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

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June 2001



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From the President

The baby birds are chirping and summer is upon us! I hope everyone has a chance to enjoy our beautiful state this summer. Why not take the family out to one of our scenic 230 state parks to unwind from

your fast-paced professional life? We live within a day's drive from the gems of this great country.

Speaking of beauty, how about Sunriver's river's Great Hall! More than 200 delegates enjoyed the scenic setting, excellent food and professional technical presentations at our Spring Conference in April. If you could not attend, you missed a great conference. I never realized what depth of talent our membership holds. Les Lyle and Bob Deuel are true songbirds when it comes to performing before an audience at a banquet. However, I believe I should practice my lip synch technique a bit more! Our hats go off to the Spring Conference Committee and the co-chairs Mary Meloy, Mike Elmore, and Jim Carnahan for putting together an excellent program.

I am looking forward to our Fall Conference at Seven Feathers,

October 3-5. Chris Berquist and his Umpqua Valley team are working on an exciting schedule. So put those dates on your calendar.

Our board is currently focused on compiling material regarding the chapter activities in 2000. We will submit this material to National for consideration to win the PACE award (Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence). Stephanie Reid is leading the charge to get this material to National. I know this is a tremendous task, and I extend my sincere thanks to Stephanie and everyone who has submitted information and photos. I hope everyone can join us in Philadelphia in September to celebrate our winning application.

I have been thinking about how I might spice up this message. To just see how many people get to the bottom of the page, I will award a prize to the first person to call me with the correct year our chapter was founded, and we'll publish the winner in the next newsletter. Happy Bar-B-Q's and have a safe summer.

Ron Polvi

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Conferences, Conferences, Conferences

Enjoy a look back at the Spring 2001 Oregon Chapter APWA Conference on pages 4 and 5. And look forward to the APWA International Congress and Exposition September 9-12 in Philadelphia (www.apwa.net) and the Fall 2001 Chapter Conference October 3-5 at Seven Feathers in Canyonville.

Chapter In Action

2001 Oregon Legislature Close to Wrapping Up Session

By Greg Miller
Leadership-Management Committee

The Oregon Legislature has been hard at it now since January. Many public works issues of interest to local government, consultants, and utilities have been heard. At this point, only a few of the bills introduced still have a chance to become law so our efforts can be focused on those. Most of the committees are shut down and folks are concentrating on getting bills to a vote before the end of the session in late June or early July. Things happen fast at this stage so move quickly if you see an issue that is of concern to you. Brief descriptions of bills of potential interest to members are provided below, courtesy of the Leadership - Management Committee. If you are interested, you can research them on the legislature's web site (www.leg.state.or.us), AOC's web site (www.aocweb.org/legprpt1.htm), or LOC's web site (www.orlocalgov.org/loc/legpage.html). If you want periodic email updates on legislative issues, contact the committee member tracking the area you are interested in. Research your issue, and let your legislators know how you feel. Your opinions count!

Transportation Funding: Three bills likely to pass will raise an estimated \$71.2 million for the road fund. HB2139 adjusts DMV fees to recover costs and HB2142 generates \$400 million through bond sales, to be used by ODOT for preservation and modernization projects (not maintenance). MPOs and local jurisdictions will be involved in project selection. Bonds will be repaid by an increase in titling fees, and the DMV fees from 2139, with the increases going into the road fund for 50-30-20 distribution until needed to repay bonds. AAA and truckers are OK with these bills. HB3068 allows ODOT to charge for

utility permits, raising \$4.6 million. There will be no increase in registration fees or gas taxes this session.

Transportation Policy: HB 2746 eliminates the need for local governments to certify compliance with pollution control requirements. HB 2991 establishes a rural residential speed limit of 35 mph; use by counties is optional. HB 3075 requires ODOT to use \$25 million to match local contributions to projects on state roads. HB 3106 requires ODOT study of possible commuter rail systems. HB 3355 allows ODOT and local jurisdiction partnerships for road maintenance. HB 3487 establishes a municipal tree restoration

program. HB 3712 requires ODOT to establish a safe routes to school fund. SB 844 creates traffic procedures for roundabouts.

Disaster relief funding: SB 63 provides up to \$2.5 million to local jurisdictions for use as matching funds for federal assistance in case of a disaster.

SDCs and Telecommunications: HB 2980 appears headed for enactment. Requested by OBIA and then modified in negotiations with LOC, it revises the Bancroft Bonding Act to cover parks, modifies review procedures for SDCs, provides direction on calculation of fees, lengthens notice period for changes in SDCs, and changes annual reporting requirements. HB 3697 restricts cities' ability to impose permits, taxes, and fees on telecommunications services.

Water/Wastewater/Stormwater and Environment: SB 51, 52, and 208 are the only survivors of several bills that would modify existing SB 1010 requirements, largely easing them or making enforcement more difficult. SB 51 has passed the Senate, SB 52 and 208 are still under consideration by the Senate. SB 302 is now law; it removes permit requirement for non-motorized removal or fill of less than one cubic yard from anadromous salmonid habitat. HB 2156 has passed both houses, assigns regulation of CAFOs under Federal Water Pollution Control Act to Department of Agriculture. HB 2239 eliminates water system operator certification requirements under some conditions, and brings Oregon law into compliance with SDWA. HB 2536 requires cost sharing as criterion for award of OWEB grants. HB 2540 extends the sunset on prohibition on Fish and Wildlife Commission initiating certain actions relating to fish passage on existing hydroelectric projects. HB 2605

Chapter contacts for Legislation Information

Transportation Funding

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Water/Wastewater/Stormwater/ Environment

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A complete list of bills that Oregon APWA is tracking can be found on the chapter website at www.oregonapwa.org.

passed both houses, and requires a person seeking listing of a species on Oregon threatened or endangered lists to show that person is adversely affected or aggrieved by a nonlisting. HB 3638 allows formation of regional stewardship councils that are recognized by OWEB.

Public Contracting: HB 2052 modifies public subcontracting disclosure requirements, relieving public agencies of most of the issues with the measure passed by the last legislature. Other bills that may pass this session: HB 2617 specifies additional reasons for disqualifying bidders on public contracts, HB 2624 requires contracts to submit certified payroll statements weekly, and HB 3804 requires qualifications-based selection (QBS) for consultants.

Land Use and Growth Management: There is a bill in response to measure 7, HB 3998, which will likely pass in some version. A change to the constitution yet to be drafted will have to go before the people in the November general election. Bill text and comment is available at www.orcities.org/members/M7/may_4M7.pdf.

There are a number of issues dealing with dwellings on agricultural and forest lands, and the minimum farm income requirements. Those that are still active are: HB 2463, 2543, 2714, 2804, and 3654, and SB 212.

An issue dealing with UGB's that may still pass is SB 929 requiring that all property within city limits be within a UGB.

Issues addressing land use process are HB 3944 on plat recording procedures; HB 3955 on annexation involving both cities and special districts; HB 2371 on planning and denovo appeals without hearings; and HB 2458 which eliminates the three mile incorporation.

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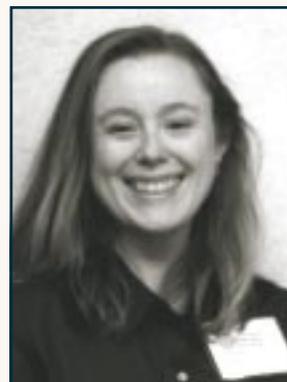
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First Lindberg Scholarship Awarded

Kathleen Feehan received the first Michael Lindberg Public Administration Scholarship to be awarded by the Oregon Chapter APWA Scholastic Foundation. Feehan is a graduate student in the Portland State University College of Urban and Public Affairs where she is pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Administration. She received a \$2,000 cash award from the chapter.



Feehan is currently employed by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, where she has been responsible for planning and administration of the Environmental Resources programs for the last four years. She holds a BS degree in Environmental Biology from Dominican College, San Rafael, California.

"My immediate professional goals include working with the Tribe to determine what is the best means to establish water quality standards for Tribal waters," Feehan said in her application. "I would also like to work with Tribal department managers to develop best management practices for Tribal actions that impact the environment."

Feehan was recommended for the award by Theresa Rapida, Ph.D, Director of the Tribal Administration Program at Portland State University.

Other winners of Chapter scholarships in 2000-2001 are: Matthew Ray Smith, OIT Department of Civil Engineering, \$2000; Jason M. Waters, PSU Department of Civil Engineering, \$1000; Julie Havelka, PSU Department of Civil Engineering, \$1000; Rachel Anne Armstrong, OSU Department of Civil, Construction & Environmental Engineering, \$2,000.

Spring Conference 2001 - Sunriver, Oregon



If you had the opportunity to attend the Spring Conference in Sunriver, you know how much fun it was, from the first warm greeting at the reception desk to the last prize awarded at the Friday lunch. And in between, a spirited golf match, the great scenery of Central Oregon, a knock-out banquet (how 'bout those singin' presidents!), and excellent sessions and exhibits.

Don't miss the fun this fall. Mark your calendar now for the Fall Conference, October 3-5, at Seven Feathers in Canyonville.





HazMat Evaluation Limits ODOT Risk

By Beth Wilson
Oregon Department of Transportation

A recent evaluation of ODOT's Hazardous Material Program shows that during the past decade the department has greatly improved the way it manages hazardous material issues, according to Jennie Armstrong, Statewide Hazardous Materials coordinator.

"The staff who handle hazardous materials issues have come from many different disciplines and have learned about these issues with very little technical assistance," Armstrong said. "ODOT staff are proud of what they have achieved and that pride is well placed."

The evaluation did find areas that need improvement to limit ODOT's risk and liability. Armstrong sought information from more than 200 people representing five federal agencies, six state agencies and nine ODOT sections. She said their input helped to recognize hazardous material issues facing ODOT and determine what needs to be done.

"We found things to be somewhat disparate and disjointed," Armstrong said. "What we needed to do was evaluate how things were going statewide and make sure that we

(Geo/Hydro) were providing coverage to people who needed to get hazardous material service."

Armstrong cited proper storage and disposal of fuel, pesticides, solvents and paint, as well as investigation and remediation of surplus property and property acquired for STIP projects, as examples of ODOT's hazardous material liability. Other problems facing ODOT include methamphetamine labs dumped along roadsides, spills from highway accidents, maintenance yards contaminated by past uses and leaking underground storage tanks.

Key findings -

The final evaluation report lists nine specific findings listed by risk and liability for ODOT management to consider. Four of the findings Armstrong considers key to the program's success include:

- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** - The current lack of SOPs results in different levels of service statewide and a failure to meet regulatory and industry standards. ODOT needs to develop SOPs for hazardous material activities, create standard report templates and set procedures for professional geologist review of technical reports.
- **Cost Recovery** - For a variety of reasons, ODOT has conducted cleanup of properties for which the agency has limited liability, and can not always recover cleanup costs

from responsible parties. ODOT needs to work with the Department of Justice to create guidelines to identify limited liability prior to conducting hazardous material cleanup, and work with the Department of Environmental Quality to recognize ODOT liability limitations.

•Hazardous Materials Special Provisions for Statewide Transportation Improvement Program -

ODOT does not always receive legally necessary hazardous materials documents from contractors prior to the start of construction, and ODOT has had problems with contractors violating environmental laws. ODOT should create guidelines specifying which contractor hazardous material documents are required, improve contract special provisions to enforce legal requirements, conduct hazardous materials construction site inspections and develop options for involving DEQ in the STIP process.

• **Regulated Inventory** - Some ODOT facilities still have problems meeting hazardous waste requirements. ODOT has recently disposed of illegally accumulated waste, at considerable unnecessary expense. ODOT needs to track required hazardous materials/waste documentation statewide and institute a facility inspection system including assignment of a coordinator at each facility and an annual inspection by Geo/Hydro.

All the findings and recommendations will be presented to ODOT management. Although some of the recommendations are already underway, an overall implementation plan is being developed.

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Hydroseed Holds Soil at Cape Cove Slide

By Beth Wilson, Oregon Department of Transportation

Contractors applying grass seed last year at the Cape Cove Slide on U.S. 101 looked more like rock climbers than planters.

"They installed vertical cables and strapped themselves to the cables on the slope, which was at nearly a 45-degree angle," said Frannie Brindle of the Geo/Hydro Section.

Sam Murphy, vice president of ECO, Inc., which contracted for the planting, admitted it took some head-scratching to figure out the unique application process. They dragged equipment along an access road to the top of the slope with a D9 Caterpillar, then pumped water from below to the seeding machine.

"Due to the steep slope, we couldn't generate enough pressure to work from below," Murphy explained.

The seeding method was equally unique. ECO crew members shot a combination of ingredients onto the soil through hoses. "The mixture looked like white glue," Brindle said. It consisted of a bio-stimulant to promote quick growth, a combination of annual rye grass and native grass seeds, and a compound to cement the material to the slope, she said.

The results?

"It now looks like a well-tended lawn," she reported. "The grass will knit together the top layers of soil and may prevent rocks from popping out of the surface and rolling down the slope - which can start erosion and present a hazard to highway travelers and to crews removing the rocks," Brindle pointed out.

She is using the technique on other coastal slides and is considering testing it in eastern Oregon near John

NEW MEMBERS

Nick Arnis, Transportation Mgr, City of Springfield, 541-726-3670

Linda Canty, Admin Secy, City of Springfield, 541-726-3670

John Cioeta, Supervisor, Portland Office of Transp, 503-823-7678

John Hawthorne, Sr Engrg Assoc, Portland Office of Transp, 503-823-7139

Roger Irvin, Senior Engineer, Benton County

Jon Oshel, Association of Oregon Counties, Salem

Pamela Ownbey, Civil Engineer, City of Springfield, 541-726-3670

Bob Pierce, Public Works Director, Central Point, 541-664-3321

Jimmie Poore, Project Mgr, Dept of Corrections, Salem, 503-373-1572 x7227

Karen Roeber, Public Works Secretary, Central Point, 541-664-3321

Laurie Starha, Road Supervisor, Benton County

James Stouder, Road Supervisor, Benton County

Pat Thurston, Engr Tech, Port of Portland, 503-731-7347

Ken Vogency, Civil Engineer, City of Springfield, 541-726-3670

Scott Weaver, Supervisor, Portland Office of Transp, 503-823-7609

Linda Williams, Sr Engrg Assoc, Portland Office of Transp, 503-823-7139

Day. A similar method will be used along I-205 in the Portland area. This time, a six-inch deep layer of topsoil, seed and compost will be blasted with air pressure onto steep slopes.

"We'll watch all these experiments closely," she said. "When you're dealing with nature, you never know if something will work - you have an equal chance of being a hero or ridiculed," she concluded.

Lignin-Based Product Tames the Dust

By Melinda Kletzok, Cawood Communications

With water in short supply this summer, road dust is becoming more of a problem than usual. Not only is it irritating, dust can leave crops vulnerable to disease and insects, create washboarding on roads, and make road conditions dangerous. Dust clouds can cause serious traffic accidents.

SureCrop Farm Services, an Oregon agricultural services business, has been working with public works departments to reduce the problem by applying Dustac®, a product that binds dust to gravel, packed dirt and paved surfaces. Now businesses are picking up on that lead and some

public works departments have even found private residence owners who want referrals for the service. Omlid and Swinney, a company specializing in fire sprinkler systems, has been using the product to suppress dust in its parking area and back lots. Says Omlid and Swinney's President, O'Jay Omlid, "It's clean and keeps the dust down."

A by-product of the paper pulping process, Dustac is made from lignin, the same substance that binds cellulose fibers in trees. The product penetrates and bonds with the road bed material, forming a protective shield and preventing dust. It also enhances the compaction of some roadbed soils. It's also biodegradable, non-toxic and non-hazardous and can be applied safely around environmentally sensitive areas.

Dustac has a neutral pH, and does not affect roadside vegetation. The product works best under low to moderate humidity and rainfall, and when ample fine soil particles are present. SureCrop applies Dustac with electronic rate control equipment that assures uniform application rates.

For more information contact 1-800-852-1121 or (541) 998-1121.

Public Works Week Celebrated in a Variety of Ways

By Sue Patterson, City of Tualatin; Eric Jones, City of Eugene;
Brenda Drake, City of Gresham

Tualatin Partners with Leadership Class at School

For the past nine years, the City of Tualatin has teamed up with the leadership class at Hazelbrook Middle School to co-sponsor a Public Works Fair. This fair includes seven, hands-on stations, each focusing on a public works topic. Following training from City crews, leadership students run the stations while all 250 of Hazelbrook's sixth grade students rotate through, learning about the city's role in building and maintaining their community's infrastructure.

An important priority is training the leadership students to actually run the fair. To do this, the City of Tualatin asks the students to choose one of the selected seven topics and then invites them on a field trip to the City's Operations Center where they learn about their subject first-hand.

One of the most popular public works topics is the backhoe competition. With safety a top priority, leadership students learn how to run a backhoe by putting a scoop of tennis balls into a large bucket. At the fair, these same students will instruct selected sixth graders to do the same. The sixth grader getting the most balls in the bucket wins a prize.



Leadership students run station at Tualatin Fair

The leadership students are later invited to the City's Public Works Picnic, where they receive recognition for a job well done and get a chance to meet other city personnel who are involved in public works projects.

The benefits of this program go beyond the school fair. Students who learn first-hand from city workers have a greater appreciation for all they do. After participating, the students are more apt to notice well-maintained roads, stop their friends from littering or vandalizing, and better appreciate what goes on behind the scenes to ensure that safe drinking water continues to come out of their tap. This program has endured for nine years because it benefits not only the people who are directly involved but also, the livability of our community as a whole.

For more information, contact Sue Patterson at (503) 691-3093, or spatterson@ci.tualatin.or.us.

Eugene "Working in the Public Interest"

More than 1,000 schoolchildren attended Eugene's annual Public Works Day open house on May 17. Youngsters got to vote for park designs, check under the hood of several new "hybrid" fleet vehicles, climb aboard large

pieces of equipment, tour an energy-efficient "pollution prevention" house, use squirt guns to see how erosion control systems work, dance through "transportation tiny town," plant wild-flower seeds, and much, much more.

Displays were intended to appeal to children but be meaning-



Energy conservation explained in Eugene

ful to adults as well. Invitations were also sent to retired Public Works employees who enjoyed an afternoon "coffee break" with old friends and former co-workers.

"The feedback from our school-aged visitors and others from the community as well as from our peers within the city organization was all positive," said Kurt Corey, Eugene's new Public Works director, who used the event as an opportunity to meet staff. "What a great way to put a face on Public Works."

Eugene's used National's "Working in the Public Interest" theme and also highlighted the department's energy-saving efforts. For more information, contact Eric Jones at (541) 682-5523, or eric.r.jones@ci.eugene.or.us.

Gresham, We Dig It!

The Department of Environmental Services' three-day event, celebrating our public works professionals, kicked off with an open house at the city's newly remodeled operations center. The following day, the city was joined by Multnomah County Transportation for a traditional showcase of equip-

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ment at Main City Park. Multnomah County supplied additional equipment and tour guides for the occasion. Over 200 local school children and the public toured the park and enjoyed a close-up look of the equipment. An informal cake reception followed with Mayor Charles Becker, DES Department Director Dave Rouse, City Manager Bonnie Kraft and several city councilors attending.

The concluding event was a reception and dedication at the city's wastewater treatment plant where a plaque was installed commemorating the completion of a \$27 million expansion. City dignitaries and Operation Management Incorporation officials cut a ceremonial ribbon to signal the official opening of the expanded service.

To increase public awareness of public works contribution to our way of life, additional displays were placed in

the Gresham Post Office, Multnomah County Public Library and the Gresham City Hall lobby where a manhole cover quilt show was featured. For more information, contact Brenda Drake at drake@ci.gresham.or.us.

Master the Challenges of Fleet Management

A two-day workshop will be held July 24-25 in Portland to help public works professionals APWA members "Master the Challenges of Public Works Fleet Management."

Sponsored by APWA, the seminar offers practical solutions for making fleet operations more effective and efficient. Top-flight instructors Les Rucker and Randy Owen of the fleet management consulting group DMG-Maximus will teach participants how to set up a business plan for fleet services, develop useful performance measures, finance fleet and equipment maintenance and replacement, design a charge-back rate program, and assess the newest tools and technologies to help fleet managers.

Cost is \$475 and includes instruction, handout materials, lunch and coffee breaks. The course will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott-Portland North Harbour (call 503-735-1818 to make reservations by July 5 and be sure to ask for the special APWA rate of \$99 plus tax).

For a registration form and more information, call the APWA Education Department at 816-472-6100 x 3511, download a form from www.apwa.net, or fax on demand at 1-800-291-9140 and ask for document # 505.

History Corner



Vanport City, 1942

The largest wartime housing project in America was built to house workers in Portland's shipyards, foundries, and related industries during World War II. In just nine months, a construction workforce of 5,000 men and women built a city to house, educate, and serve 40,000 people. They built 720 apartment buildings and 50 public service buildings (including a school and library), laid 50 miles of sidewalks, seeded 135 acres of lawn, restored 180 acres of meadowland, and planted 27,000 shrubs. Vanport was destroyed by a flood in 1948.

Courtesy City of Portland, Stanley Parr Archives and Record Center

Confessions of a Gizmo Recipient

By Eric Jones, Public Relations Committee



If you're ever in the mood for an emotional rollercoaster ride, put yourself in the front seat of the Gizmo competition.

When I arrived at the Spring 2001 chapter conference in Sunriver, I was blissfully unaware of how my fortunes would change over the next three days. In fact, at the icebreaker I was quite the happy pest, photographing and interviewing likely Golden Knuckle victims ... er, potential recipients. The next morning, the weather and my luck began to change. A damning piece of evidence — a faxed campaign flier for Stephanie Reid with my name on it — began to circulate. That afternoon, I probably sealed my fate when I introduced myself (jokingly!) at a technical session as Eric "Bulldog" Jones. Les Lyle was the moderator at the session, and he jumped on "Bulldog" like a dog on a bone.

I remained in denial through the banquet (although getting on stage and belting out "House of the Rising Sun" probably didn't help my cause). When I awoke on Friday and saw the snow coming down, I had pretty much forgotten about the Gizmo. But when I arrived at the Friday awards lunch, I realized with horror that I really was in the running.

As luck would have it, I sat at the same table as Jon Katin, who proved to be quite the fund-raiser. Back and forth the vote went, with first me, then Stephanie surging ahead, and Mike Soderquist in solid third place. "This

can't be," I thought as the points began to mount up. "This can't be," I pleaded as the tension mounted. "THIS CAN'T BE!" I cried as Ron Polvi announced ... my name!!!!

Over the next 24 hours I plunged from the heights of glory — imagine, I'm one of the select few upon whom the chapter has bestowed this great award! — to the depths of despair — how could they do this to me! My wife helped me find a place in my office where the dang thing almost fits, and over the next several days I finally came to accept reality. Every once in a while, I read the list of former Gizmo winners (it's taped to one of the rotting black balloons that festoon the underside of the umbrella), and I really do feel honored. When visitors ask "What the heck???" I proudly tell them that the chapter raised \$2,500 for scholarships on this last Gizmo go-round. But in the dead of night, when it's just me and the Golden Knuckle, the Bulldog bides his time and growls, "Your turn is coming."

Reserve a Seat Now for the Chapter Dinner at International Congress

If you're planning to attend the International APWA Congress this fall, you won't want to miss the Chapter Dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe in downtown Philadelphia.

"The Best Show in Public Works," APWA's 2001 International Congress and Exposition, runs September 9-12 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. There's nowhere better to find out what you need to know about the latest cutting-edge technology, managerial techniques, regulatory trends, and a vast array of water, fleet, and transporta-

tion tools to keep you focused on the right price at the right time. This year's Congress features 150 educational sessions, eight technical tours, and more than 400 exhibiting companies covering three exhibit halls.

A social highlight of the convention is the dinner on Tuesday evening, September 11, for all Oregon and Washington chapter members. The dinner will be held at the Philadel-

phia Hard Rock Cafe, a popular downtown nightspot in the historic Reading terminal train station, just a few blocks away from Independence

Hall. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. The entire party will be



seated together, so make your reservations now by calling Hugh Kalani, our National delegate, at (503) 632-4982.

Polvi is Lead Figure for State “Mathletes”

By Claire Levine, NW Natural

Ron Polvi, president of the Oregon Chapter APWA and director of district engineering at NW Natural, has always enjoyed working with kids. And, as an engineer, he values mathematics. In the Mathcounts program, Polvi found a way to combine the two.

Mathcounts is a national program engaging middle school students in advanced math studies. The National Society of Professional Engineers sponsors the program to encourage



children to pursue math.

“In many schools, athletes get the attention and the praise,” Polvi said. “Mathcounts tries to offer that same kind of acknowledgment to kids who love math.”

Each fall, interested students sign up for Mathcounts as an after-school activity. Participating students receive special coaching in math skills. The students compete by answering written test questions. In the non-scoring lightening rounds, proctors read questions aloud, and the first student to finish the calculation presses a buzzer and gives the answer. In spring, four students are selected to compete in local competitions, and top teams move to the state level. In May, the four top-scoring students attend a national match in Washington, D.C.

In 2001, students and teams from 19 schools competed in the state competition, and the Oregon team placed 10th in an overall field of 57 state and U.S. territory teams.

“It’s exciting seeing these young kids answer tough questions so quickly and accurately,” Polvi said.

Polvi got involved with Mathcounts as a proctor - one of the adults supervising the competitions. He quickly was caught up in the competitive spirit, and now he is president of Oregon’s Mathcounts Foundation Board. His principal job is finding contributions from corporations and individuals to finance the program.

Donations help the participating schools (56 this year) buy the nationally produced Mathcounts materials. The program also pays travel and lodging for four students, accompanied by a coach, to attend the national finals.



Polvi assists at the state finals each year in Corvallis and attends some of the preliminary contests. “Once you get hooked on the contests, you want to keep coming back.”

Polvi, who has worked for NW Natural for 13 years, also serves on the Professional Engineers on Oregon board as chair of the Professional Engineers in Construction practice division.



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Director, **Terry Kelsey**
503-823-1751

Calendar

2001 Schedule (July - November 2001)

July 24-25, Mariott-Portland North Harbour – **Fleet Management Seminar** (see page 9)

September 9-13, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – **APWA International Public Works Congress and Exposition**

September 17-18, University of Washington- Seattle, Washington – **On-site Wastewater Treatment Short Course** (Call 1-866-791-1275)

September 21-22, Wilsonville – **Working with Consultants & Contractors**

October 3-5, Seven Feathers, Canyonville – **Oregon Chapter APWA Fall Conference**

October 17-19, Inn of the Seventh Mountain, Bend – **Street Maint. & Collection Systems Fall School**

November 2001, (date & location TBA) – **Public Works Leadership Skills**

Nov. 14-16, Oceanview Resort, Seaside – **Safety in Public Works**

Contact Oregon Chapter APWA at (541) 926-0044, or fax (541) 926-3478 for registration and information, or on the internet, www.oregonapwa.org/training.



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