

Get to know Seattle AWIS at a Potluck

Join us for a casual gathering at Woodland Park

Wednesday, June 21, at 6:30 pm

Where: We are meeting at Shelter #3 at Woodland Park; it is just east of the south entrance of the zoo on 50th.

Directions:

From the South / Downtown:

Take I-5 north to NE 50th St (Exit #169).

Go west to the south entry at N 50th St. and Phinney Ave.

From the North:

Take I-5 south to NE 50th St (Exit #169).

Go west to the south entry at N 50th St. and Phinney Ave.

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

What to expect: Please bring a favorite dish to share and your smiles!

We will be out enjoying the Seattle summer months, and will be back in September!
Look for us then for a great line up of interesting programs. Enjoy!

The AWIS Year in Review 2005-2006

by Maralee McVean, President, Seattle AWIS

As National AWIS gets ready to celebrate their 35th anniversary, it is essential for us to evaluate the relevancy and importance of both national AWIS's and our local chapter's activities. National AWIS continues to spearhead studies and reports on the role of women in science. They have recently released reports on gender differences among faculty and reports on which career track women faculty tend to choose. AWIS leaders contributed to articles about the increasing number of women faculty. National AWIS also updated their mentoring guide, *A Hand Up*, which is a useful resource for people who desire to pass their knowledge on. They also offered fellowships to promising scientists at various stages of study. More information on National AWIS can be found at www.awis.org.

Over the last year, Seattle AWIS's monthly membership meetings have featured speakers presenting science or career-oriented topics including breast cancer research, gender and science education, career coaching, global warming, and career panels. Perhaps more importantly, these meetings provided ample opportunities for networking. Our members include a diverse mix of scientists in industry, academia, and governmental jobs, giving us the prospect to pick the minds and hearts of a variety of backgrounds and personalities. At the core of our organization are the people. It is only through the active participation of members and guests that we are able to make a difference.

We are interested in increasing the profile and interaction of Seattle-AWIS with various groups. This year we co-sponsored meetings with various professional women's groups including the Association of Women in Environmental Professions and the Association of Women Geoscientists, giving our members the chance to network with a broader range of professionals. In addition, our members presented posters at various functions including the Sigma Xi conference, LEAP conference, WISE conference, and our members presented science topics at the annual Expanding Your Horizons conference aimed at increasing middle school girls' interest in science.

Our activities include a mentor-protégé program affiliated with the University of Washington that pairs undergraduate women science majors with women in working scientific fields. The mentor-protégé program has been extended to include post-doctoral women and others who are considering a career change. Our Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS) program works with middle school girls who meet monthly with their AWIS mentors to do hands-on science activities and field trips. We also sponsor yearly scholarships to undergraduate women in Washington institutions who demonstrate great promise in their fields and also financial need.

We are eager to sponsor more networking events, i.e. happy hours, open houses and charitable/scholarship giving events. We need more hands to continue and to expand our mission. If you are interested or have ideas to share, please contact us at our website www.seattleawis.org. Have great summer and we'll see you in September!

AWIS Budget Proposal for 2006-2007

From Reitha Weeks

At the June potluck, chapter members will be asked to approve the operating budget for next year, July 2006 through June 2007. Included in this newsletter is the budget for this year, the amount spent to date, and the proposed budget for 2006-2007. Not all expenses for this year have been reported yet, but we have kept our expenses well below our expected budget. Next year's budget is an increase of \$370, primarily for program, outreach, and mentor/protégé expenses. Explanations about the increases for certain committees are included with the budget. The proposed budget will require using chapter

reserves to cover increased costs but there will still be a healthy reserve for unexpected expenses. If you have any questions about the budget, please contact Reitha Weeks, chapter treasurer, at rsweeks@msn.com.

AWIS-Seattle Chapter Proposed Budget for July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007

Expenses	Current Budget 7/05 - 6/06	Spent as of 5/15/06	Proposed Budget 7/06 - 6/07
Newsletter	\$1100	\$398*	\$1100
Membership	50	39	50
Website host	120	120	120
Program	175	145*	250
GEMS	510	134*	510
Scholarship	20	12*	20
Publicity	100	25	95
Outreach & Mentor- Protégé	125	119	425
TOTAL	\$2200	\$992*	\$2570

*More expenses are expected

Income	7/05 - 6/06	Proposed 7/06 - 6/07
Member Dues, received	\$1160	\$1300
Expected	60*	
CD Interest	142	150
Member contributions	200	100
Microsoft Contributions	792	~\$792
TOTAL	\$2354	\$2342

Current Assets (5/06)

General Fund (Checking & CDs) \$8875
 Scholarship funds (currently ~\$8,762) are accounted for separately from other chapter funds.

EXPLANATIONS:

- Newsletter:** The newsletter budget will have more expenses this year and is not going to be reduced for next year. We may not be able to keep next year's costs as low as this year.
- Program:** We have planned \$20 per meeting for refreshments plus \$50 for another picnic shelter in June 2007.
- Outreach & Mentoring:** We would like to have 2-4 wine and cheese socials during the year. There may be costs for venues and for snacks. There may also be other mentoring events.
- Publicity:** We would like to be able to publicize the meetings and socials through paid ads if necessary.
- Income:** This year, we have \$250 less in membership dues than last year at this time. We are projecting only a small increase in dues for next year but we hope our socials and better meeting advertising will increase membership by more than predicted.
- TOTALS:** We are proposing to spend \$230 more than our proposed income. This will be primarily for new events that we hope will increase awareness and membership in our chapter. The chapter will still have a healthy balance even with this increased spending.

Scholarship Committee

by Fran Solomon

The following letter from a past AWIS scholarship winner illustrates why Scholarship Committee work is so rewarding! Please contact Fran Solomon (fran.solomon@metrokc.gov) if you would like to participate next year. The committee's work includes fundraising, distributing scholarship applications, reviewing applications, selecting and interviewing finalists, and selecting scholarship winners. You are welcome to select any aspect that appeals to you.

Hi Dr. Fran Solomon,

This is Huyen Huynh. I don't know if you remember me, but I received a scholarship from AWIS in 2004 before I attended WSU. I just wanted to say thank you for yours and AWIS help and support. Currently, I'm attending summer school in order to graduate this August with a degree in Civil Engineering. Starting August 1st, I will be working for Washington Department of Transportation in Port Orchard. I'm very excited to start work and begin a new chapter in my life. Again, thank you!

Huyen

AWIS May Program: A Presentation by a Public Health Professional

by Jenny Garnett

On May 17, AWIS hosted Dr. Jude Van Buren as the speaker at the May monthly meeting. Dr. Van Buren is the manager of the Epidemiology, Health Statistics, and Public Health Laboratories for the Washington State Department of Health. She began her talk with an explanation of some of the basics of public health, such as the public health triangle comprised of host, agent, and the environment, which all must be present and compromised for an outbreak to occur.

Dr. Van Buren then discussed public health issues in developing countries, using her experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay to illustrate many of the challenges and successes over the years. For example, infant mortality in Paraguay is down from 26 to 13 in every 1000. However, there are still many public health challenges that people face, such as: lack of clean running water, poor hygiene, poverty, lack of education, unstable government health services, poor food handling, and lack of regulations for food, water, sanitation etc. Dr. Van Buren then closed with information on why the world is primed for another pandemic, particularly an outbreak of the flu. Most people are not immune to the flu, vaccines take months to produce and are not 100% effective; additionally, we live in a world economy that makes it easy for disease to spread before it is identified. However, it is unknown how severe the pandemic might be, when and where it might strike, and how long it will last. More information about disaster preparedness is available from the Washington State Department of Health.

Open AWIS Board Positions and Committees for 2006-2007

Put your interests and talents to good use by participating on an AWIS committee! Any amount of time is appreciated: volunteer for a single event or a year's worth of events. You can promote science education and career opportunities for women through a variety of committee activities such as planning programs, preparing newsletters, or participating in community outreach events.

We continue to need new members to step up and get involved to keep the Seattle AWIS chapter strong. Elections for board positions will be held in June—please consider joining the AWIS board or volunteering to help with some of the AWIS activities! The following is a brief description of the AWIS board positions, committees and their activities.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: (chair and committee members needed)

This committee is responsible for organizing our community outreach activities. Committee members are needed for the year or for single events. Some of potential events include:

- a. **Student/Faculty Receptions** (Fall & Spring) – Women students and faculty in science and related fields are invited to socialize and get better acquainted with AWIS members at afternoon receptions at various community colleges. Outreach Committee makes the necessary arrangements with a host department at the colleges, furnishes refreshments, and organizes AWIS members to attend.
- b. **Science Education Events** – The Outreach Committee communicates and coordinates requests for names of scientists interested in being resources for teachers, conferences or other science education efforts. This committee also serves as liaison between organizers of Expanding Your Horizons programs and AWIS members that lead hands-on workshops.

SECRETARY (Chair needed)

This position takes and distributes Board meeting minutes and acts as the official record keeper for the Chapter. This committee is a vital resource for other members to confirm dates of activities and Board decisions.

MENTOR-PROTEGE COMMITTEE: (Mentors needed)

This committee organizes our annual mentor-protégé program which pairs interested women (students and non-students) with professional women already established in a field of science or technology. Mentors and protégés are recruited in the fall and matched by interest for one-on-one meetings during the school year. The committee plans two or three group events (e.g., dinners or tours) during the year to further broaden protégés' exposure to careers in science.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: (2 positions open)

This committee plans the programs at the general chapter meetings, Sept. through June. They contact and make all arrangements with the speakers, introduce them at the meetings and write a review of the program for the AWIS newsletter. The committee also arranges the meeting space, room requirements, and provides refreshments at the general meetings.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: (Open board position; additional members needed)

Annually, our chapter presents 3 or more scholarships to junior or senior women majoring in a science, math or engineering field at a college or university in the state of Washington. This committee is responsible for soliciting scholarship funds from private and corporate sources. They publicize the scholarships, distribute applications in January, judge the applications in April-May, select winners in June, and present the scholarships at the September AWIS meeting at the start of the new academic year.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: (Additional members welcome)

This committee assists in maintaining the database of organizations, companies, and academic departments that are sent flyers about monthly chapter meetings/programs. They maintain the chapter membership e-mail list and send chapter announcements via e-mail. They notify appropriate campus and local publications of meeting dates and program topics. Special events are publicized more extensively.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: (Chair needed)

The membership committee's mission is to account for and communicate effectively with the membership at large. This entails using and customizing a web-based database management system to up-date and maintain member addresses, e-mails and phone numbers through coordination with the National AWIS office. This committee is also responsible for developing and distributing chapter information to support outreach, publicity, and mentor/protégé committees.

GEMS PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

This committee organizes the GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math & Science) Program for 20 high school women. The students are nominated by their science teachers. The program meets monthly October through June providing time for hands-on science projects and discussions. The program arranges for mentoring experiences, job shadowing, and community service projects for the students.

If you would like to participate on any of these committees or specific events, or would like more information, please contact the current committee chairs listed below.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair(s)</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Outreach	-----	
Mentor-Protégé	Becky Klein Claire Horner-Devine	rebklein23@gmail.com mchd@u.washington.edu
Secretary	Libby Colasurdo	lcola123@aol.com
Program	Jaime Forbes Kate Duttro Jennifer Garnett	jaime_forbes@merck.com duttro@eskimo.com jgarnett12@gmail.com
Scholarship	Fran Solomon	fran.solomon@metrokc.gov
Newsletter/Web	Jennifer Madeoy Chelsea Leader	awisnewsletter@yahoo.com chelsea@matrixcts.com
Publicity/e-mail	Carol Thompson	cloudles@earthlink.net
Membership	Jessamine Fung	jesseminef@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Reitha Weeks	rsweeks@msn.com
GEMS Program	Natascha Mueller Erica Boni	tassynat@yahoo.com

AWIS-Seattle

Website
www.seattleawis.org

General Business
4706 33rd Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98105

Scholarship Donations
AWIS Scholarship Committee
5805 16th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98105