

# SDP Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 1, Spring 1997

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## A Message from Your President, William Stout

What is the Society of Depreciation Professionals? Is it an Annual Meeting in the Fall? Is it this newsletter? Is it a journal of articles on the subject? Is it a certificate that says you passed a test? Yes, these are all elements of our active healthy professional society. The only ingredient missing is YOU!

Why did you join SDP? Was it simply to list another membership on your resume? Or, did you want to contribute to and benefit from a body of knowledge on the subject? By a body of knowledge, I mean the collective experience in the field of depreciation of the membership of this society. This knowledge base is considerable, but you cannot add to it or learn from it if you do not participate. Throughout the ten-year history of the society, a core group of people has done EVERYTHING! The membership in this group has changed very slowly. It is time to pick up the pace of change!

This is my challenge to you. After you read this newsletter, call an officer or committee chair (all of our numbers are listed in this newsletter) and volunteer to help with some aspect of the society's operation. Write a newsletter article, get someone to write a journal article, help put together the annual meeting . . . Your participation will be greatly appreciated and I promise that you will receive a benefit as well.

For those of you looking for something more, I have an opportunity. We need a Membership Chair. It is not a difficult job, particularly with a great Executive Director like Rod Daniel. I want you to call me and volunteer to serve in this capacity. If we had someone with your energy serving as Membership Chair there is no telling how far we would go! I look forward to hearing from you.

Bill Stout

## 1997 Annual Meeting to Be Held in Colorado Springs

The 1997 Annual Meeting promises to be an educational and enjoyable experience. The meeting schedule will be similar to the 1996 meeting and will be as follows:

Sunday, September 21st

4:00 - 6:00pm Registration and Reception

Monday, September 22nd

8:00 - 5:00pm Annual Meeting

6:00 - 7:30pm Reception

Tuesday, September 23rd

8:30 - 5:00pm Training  
Wednesday, September 24th  
8:00 - Noon Certified Depreciation Professional Examination

Discussion topics for this year's conference will be both informative and exciting. They include: the importance and role of depreciation in the future; the need for objective techniques to assess the impact of technological obsolescence on economic lives and depreciation; the status of power industry regulation; and the impact that competition and regulatory, legislative, and technological changes are having on the value of company assets e.g., Stranded Plant. Don't miss the networking - don't miss the training - don't miss the fun; register today.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Antlers Doubletree Hotel in Colorado Springs. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations now if you plan to attend. You can reach the Antlers Doubletree Hotel by calling 719/474-5600. Be sure to identify yourself as part of the Society of Depreciation Professionals. You will receive a special room rate of \$95.00, single or double occupancy. A limited number of rooms at the government rate are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Colorado Springs recently opened an improved and expanded airport. This new facility offers a greater number of flights with convenient non-stop or connecting flights from most major cities throughout the United States and Canada.

#### **Letter from the Editor, Larry Kennedy**

As Editor of the SDP newsletter, I would like to share some of my thoughts regarding this communications tool.

This Newsletter is the principal source of communications between SDP management and membership. In this regard, the newsletter should convey and promote the objectives of the SDP Board of Directors, and provide a status of the various Board and committee initiatives.

Additionally, the newsletter should be a vehicle for the sharing of opinions and issues amongst the membership. As such, your input is critical. Use the newsletter to inform the SDP membership of job openings, regulatory decisions, or any acknowledgments. Your comments on any of the past or present newsletter or journal articles are encouraged. Pertinent comments will be published in the next newsletter.

I look forward to working with you to continue to provide a communications link that is informative and meaningful for both SDP management and membership. Please contact me with any comments at (403)290-8980, (403)290-7341(FAX), or e-mail me at [larry.kennedy@pipe.nova.ca](mailto:larry.kennedy@pipe.nova.ca)

## **Journal Committee Requests Articles for the 1997 SDP Journal**

Jerry Houck, Chair of the SDP Journal Committee, is ready to accept submissions of articles for the next SDP Journal. Abstracts and articles should be submitted in MS Word format to: Jerry Houck, GTE Telephone Operations, 600 Hidden Ridge, HQE01H17, Irving, TX 75038.

## **SDP Home Page Becoming a Reality! David Birenbaum**

Development of a Society Home Page continues. Look for us to go live on the Internet in not too many weeks at:

<http://www.depr.org>

After reviewing many options, the Home Page Committee has chosen TDSNET as the service provider. The Committee is working toward making these and other items available on the Internet:

- Contact information for officers, committee chairs and executive secretary
- Information about SDP of interest to the public
- Annual meeting information
- Certification information
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Current and past newsletters
- Training and depreciation-related events
- Journal abstracts
- Membership forms

Future enhancements will include interactive forms for meeting registration and change of membership information. Stay tuned!

## **SDP Welcomes New Members:**

Randy Brown, Nevada Bell, Reno, NV  
James Cunningham, New Hampshire Public Utility Commission, Concord, NH  
Cassandra Guinness, Rochester Telephone, Rochester, NY  
David Huss, Florida Power, Miami, FL  
Robert Kelly, Suburban Water Systems, Covina, CA  
William Moore, AT & T, Basking Ridge, NJ  
Robert Rogers, IRS, Sudbury, MA  
Rhonda Watts, Deloitte & Touche, Dallas, TX

## **1997 Society of Depreciation Professionals Board of Directors**

**President**, William M. Stout, Gannett Fleming Valuation & Rate Consultants, Inc., 717/763-7211 FAX: 717/763-8150  
**Vice-President**, Steve Barreca, Technology Futures, Inc., 205/822-9901 FAX:

205/822-9961

**Treasurer**, Earl Robinson, AUS Consultants, 717/763-9890 FAX: 717/763-9931

**Secretary**, Larry Kennedy, NOVA Gas Transmission LTD, 403/290-8980 FAX: 403/290-7341

**At Large Director**, Terry Fowler, Pacific Gas and Electric, 415/973-3630 Fax: 415/973-0453

**At Large Director**, David Birenbaum, Missouri Public Service Commission, 573/751-1854 FAX: 573/751-1847

**Past President**, Patricia Lee, Florida Public Service Commission, 904/413-6453 FAX: 904/413-6454

### **Committee Chairs**

**Certification Committee**, Clarence Mougins, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, 608/267-0637 FAX: 608/266-3957

**Coordinating Committee**, Earl Robinson, AUS Consultants, 717/763-9890 FAX: 717/763-9931

**Depreciation Policy & Education Committee**, Susan Jensen, Surface Transportation Board, 202/565-1536 FAX: 202/565-9000

**Ethics and Standards**, Jerry Weinert, AUS Consultants, 414/271-8580 FAX: 414/271-8623

**Journal Editor**, Jerry Houck, GTE Telephone Operations, 214/718-7352 FAX: 214/718-6320

**Membership Committee**, Vacant

**Newsletter Editor**, Larry Kennedy, NOVA Gas Transmission LTD, 403/290-8980 FAX: 403/290-7341

**Program Committee**, Steve Barreca, Technology Futures, Inc, 205/822-9901 FAX: 205/822-9961

### **Newsletter Staff**

**Publisher:** Ronald Daniel

The Society of Depreciation Professionals Newsletter is published tri-annually. Please send your contributions to the Editor.

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5505 Connecticut Ave., NW #280  
Washington, DC 20015  
202/362-0680 FAX: 202/966-2283  
e-mail: rdaniel@his.com

### **Depreciation Programs Begin Their 31st Year**

Depreciation Programs, Inc. (DPI) will offer four programs during the week of July 14 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme for this year's program is "Estimating Depreciation on the Road to Deregulation."

Core Programs A, B and C provide instruction in Basic Depreciation Concepts, Models Used in Life and Salvage Analysis and Forecasting Life and Salvage. The fourth program is new and titled, "Capital Recovery During the Transition to Competition." The focus of this program will be the economic impact of depreciation and how to plan for deregulation.

Two additional features of this year's programs will be daily seminars and the administration of the Society's certification test. The seminars will allow for small group discussions on topics of interest and will be held Monday through Wednesday after class. The SDP certification test will be given Thursday after class. If you plan to attend DPI and wish to take the examination, contact Clarence Mouglin, Certification Chair, or Rod Daniel.

If you would like more information on Depreciation Programs, call 616/375-6035.

### **Up Coming Events**

Depreciation Programs Inc

July 14-18, 1997 Grand Rapids, MI

Optional Certified Depreciation Professional Examination

616/375-6035

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75th National Conference of Regulatory Utility Commission Engineers

June 22-26, 1997 Lansing, MI

David Berquist 517/334-7196

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Capital Recovery & Fixed Assets Management

June 25-27, 1997 Washington, DC

Optional Certified Depreciation Professional Examination

Dr. Aly Elfar 613/825-6611

### **AGA/EEI Committee Meeting, Earl Robinson**

The AGA/EEI held its initial joint Accounting Services Committee meeting May 18-21, 1997 in Orlando, Florida. The meeting was administered by EEI and incorporated an ongoing reorganization of the AGA committee structure in which the previous Corporate, Plant Accounting, and Depreciation Committees have been combined into one unit. Initial thoughts are that separate sub-committees or project teams will be set up to accommodate the needs and/or topical issues. It appears that this as well as the next meeting or two will be ones of further transition. The real challenge for leadership will be to get industry people to commit significant time towards completing projects or papers, considering the growing diverse interests as well as uncertainties facing committee members. Events are moving quickly as we move towards the next century. The outcome of the recent meeting necessitates a wait and see approach as to the quantity and/or depth of the depreciation issues which will be addressed by the combined committee at future meetings.

## **Membership Update**

The Society's current paid membership for 1997 stands at 162. If you have not renewed your membership for this year, please take a moment and do so now. An invoice is included on the back page of this Newsletter. If you know of colleagues who might be interested in joining SDP, please pass that information on to the SDP office and we will send them a packet of information.

## **SDP SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

AUS Consultants  
BellSouth  
GTE Telephone Operations  
Sprint - Local Telecom

### **BUSINESS SPONSORS**

Frank Wolf, DPI  
Ed Wotring, Wotring Assoc.

### **SDP PATRONS**

John van Leeuwen  
Branko Terzic

### **SDP FRIENDS**

Herb Crowhurst  
Richard Lee  
John Russell  
Jules Breitling

## **Support Your Society**

There are four ways to support SDP. Companies may become Sustaining or Business Members. Individuals may become Patrons or Friends to SDP.

Sustaining Members \$750

Benefits: Recognition in the Journal and Newsletter and a Plaque at the Annual Conference.

Business Members: \$300

Benefits: Recognition in the Journal and Newsletter

Patrons \$200

Benefits: Recognition in the Journal and Newsletter.

Friends: \$100

Benefits: Recognition in the Newsletter.

Send your donation to:

SDP, 5505 Connecticut Ave, NW #280, Washington, DC 20015

## **We Want Your E-mail Address**

We are trying to update our records and move smoothly into the next millennium by including e-mail addresses in future directories. Please send your e-mail address to the SDP office.

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**SOCIETY OF DEPRECIATION PROFESSIONALS**  
5505 Connecticut Avenue, NW #280 Washington, DC 20015

**INVOICE**

MEMBERSHIP DUES JANUARY 1, 1997 - DECEMBER 31, 1997

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Affiliation:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues: \$35 New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Member @ \$750

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Patrons' Donation @ \$200

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Friends' Donation @ \$100

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

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