

# SDP Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 3, Winter 1997

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## Reflections from Your 1997 President

I'm pleased to report that the 11th Annual Meeting of the Society, held in Colorado Springs on September 21 through 24, was a great success. The panel presentations on Monday were on target in addressing current issues. Many thanks to Steve Barreca and his committee for this program. The training programs on Tuesday were quite effective as 14 of those who attended, successfully took the certification test on Wednesday morning. Thanks to Susan Jensen for coordinating the training sessions and to Clarence Mouglin for overseeing this year's certification program.

My previous letter to you was a lament on the lack of new faces in leadership roles within the Society. We're making some progress on this front, although not nearly enough. Ron Kalich has stepped up to the plate and volunteered to lead the Membership Committee. Thanks, Ron, I know you'll do a great job. We've made real improvements in the services to members, for example, the home page developed by Dave Birenbaum, but the membership ranks are decreasing. Help Ron bring in new members or reactivate old ones.

As you can see from this letter thus far, it takes a number of people to make this Society go. Thanks to them, my job as President has been an easy one. If I tried to thank them all, I'd miss someone. But, there is one other person I'd like to thank by name: Rod Daniel. We are fortunate to have him as our Executive Director. He is a great asset to the Society and makes things much easier for the rest of us.

I wish Steve Barreca and the other new officers the very best in 1998. Please give them your support.

*Bill Stout*

## Steve Barreca to Head the 1998 Board of Directors

Congratulations to all the newly elected members of the 1998 Board of Directors. Elections were held at the Annual Meeting on September 22, 1997. The 1998 Board of Directors is as follows:

President:	Steve Barreca, Technology Futures, Inc
Vice President:	Larry Kennedy, NOVA Gas Transmission
Treasurer:	Earl Robinson, AUS Consultants

Secretary: Terry Fowler, Pacific Gas & Electric  
Past President: William Stout, Gannett Fleming Valuation & Rate Consultants, Inc  
Director at Large: David Birenbaum, Missouri Public Service Commission  
Director at Large: Anthony Flesch, GTE Telephone Operations

*L-R, 1998 Board of Directors: David Birenbaum, Larry Kennedy, Tony Flesch, Steve Barreca, Terry Fowler, Bill Stout (not pictured), Earl Robinson)*

### **1998 Annual Meeting to Be Held in Cincinnati, Ohio**

Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend the 1998 Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Meeting to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 4-7, 1998. The Omni Netherland Plaza, site of the meeting, is one of America's grand hotels that has been newly remodeled. In response to comments from our membership, we will be making several changes to the format of the SDP Annual meeting. The meeting will be one day longer than in past years, allowing more time for breakout sessions and industry specific discussions. We are planning functions away from the hotel so we can take advantage of the many offerings of the city. As in past years, there will be one full day of training, and the examination for Certified Depreciation Professional will be offered. A committee is working on all these details. The next newsletter will provide specific registration information and materials. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this meeting, please contact Larry Kennedy, 1998 SDP Vice President and Chair of the Program Committee.

### **SDP Goes Live on the Internet!**

#### **Website Makes Debut at Annual Meeting**

*Dave Birenbaum, Home Page Committee Chair*

SDP's web site was unveiled at the Colorado Springs annual meeting luncheon via a live dial-up session. David Birenbaum surfed the Net to familiarize those in attendance with the various capabilities of our site. Special thanks are in order to member and Business Sponsor Ed Wotring for permitting SDP to use his AOL account for this purpose. Check out our home page at:

**[www.depr.org](http://www.depr.org)**

The concept of an SDP Home Page began in 1994 as a bulletin board established with the Michigan Public Service Commission. As use of the Internet exploded, we realized the need for a true home page that would perform several functions and be easy to access. As a result of a vote of the membership at the 1996 annual meeting, we began work on the current home page. A committee of members and

the SDP Board discussed what the look and feel of such a site should be. It was decided early on that the website should provide useful information to members and also be a tool for marketing the Society to potential members.

To that end, DEPR.ORG provides a wealth of information for the surfer on such topics as:

- benefits of membership and a printable application form
- certification requirements
- officer and committee chairs with e-mail links
- indexed access to the entire Constitution & Bylaws
- access to current and past newsletters
- access to all Journal abstracts and ordering information
- information on past and future annual meetings
- training and other depreciation-related events
- references for depreciation publications
- links to government, utility, and other useful web sites

The home page is by no means static! (See related article on Page 3.) We welcome your feedback and volunteers to help will also find themselves welcomed. E-mail your suggestions to the Internet Committee at:

dbiren01@mail.state.mo.us.

David Birenbaum, Chair  
Terry Fowler  
Jeff Holt  
Susan Jensen  
Jacob Ransom

**SDP Welcomes New Members:**

**Charles Blickle**, Consultant, Atlanta, GA  
**Jack Collins**, Southwestern Bell  
**Patricia Frazier**, BellSouth  
**Fion Tang**, Nevada Bell

Memberships invoices for 1998 renewals will be mailed by the the first of January, 1998. Please take a few moments to renew your membership and to insure that all your membership information is correct. Many telephone area codes have changed over the last year, and the SDP office may not have that information. In addition, we would like to have everyone's e-mail address to include in the next membership update. Please send updates and corrections to the SDP office:

FAX: 202/966-2283

e-mail: rdaniel@his.com

or visit the SDP web page at [www.depr.org](http://www.depr.org) and leave information through the web page.

### **Web Presence Adds More Benefits to Members**

*David Birenbaum*

SDP members can now take advantage of several of our home page's features. If you would like the world to have access to your employer's website or a site which depreciation professionals may find of interest, the Internet Committee will add that link. Please pass the full URL (Internet address) on to the Committee at:

[dbiren01@mail.state.mo.us](mailto:dbiren01@mail.state.mo.us)

Future depreciation-related events and training opportunities await you on the home page Events subsection. Job openings of interest to members are also being posted. We are counting on member input so we can populate these areas with items of interest. SDP reserves the right to deny posting of or linking to any information it feels is inappropriate.

As a result of suggestions received from our members, several improvements to the SDP website are in progress at this writing for a members-only section. Our membership directory will be added and maintained as current as the information made available to our Executive Secretary. All information now published in the bound directory will be available, unless a member specifically requests certain information not be posted. Access to the directory on DEPR.ORG will be restricted to members, who will receive a password once annual dues are received.

An additional service to members will be to make the posted e-mail addresses active. As a result you would require only clicking on the address rather than typing in the whole address to send any member an e-mail. Please keep the Executive Secretary updated with your e-mail account name.

Have you wanted to locate a certain document, but were unsure where it could be obtained? Perhaps you have a question regarding a certain technique or are curious if a certain issue has been addressed in some forum. These types of questions may be posed to members and responses received on a discussion group bulletin board now under design.

As a service to members, job openings will move to the password protected area once passwords are distributed.

### **Certified Depreciation Professional Examination**

*Clarence Mougín, Certification Committee Chair*

During 1997, 17 candidates submitted applications to take the certified depreciation professional examination. At the Society's 11th Annual Meeting on September 24, 1997 in Colorado Springs, the test was administered to 14 candidates. In June, at a depreciation seminar in Washington D. C., three candidates took the test.

The results from the 1997 examination were that 14 candidates passed the ethics and technical sections of the certification test. The average score for the ethics portion was 85.3% and for the technical section 78.5%. The average time to complete the test was 3 hours and 15 minutes. Completed applications with the required references were received from 12 candidates. Their certificates have been issued and mailed. With 18 members certified in 1996 and 12 more in 1997, the total number of certified depreciation professionals is now 30 members.

The Society commends all who completed the examination and congratulates those passing the examination. Being a certified depreciation professional brings credit to the Society and professional status to individuals. Those who did not pass the examination on their first attempt are allowed to retake the examination one more time at no additional cost. The examination will be repeated at the 12th Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio and at an Aly Elfar depreciation seminar in Florida in early 1998. Watch the SDP Newsletter for other future certified depreciation professional's examination testing locations in 1998. The Certification Committee thanks the members who prepared questions for the 1997 certification examination and the trainers who ably instructed at the Colorado Springs training sessions.

The designation of certified depreciation professional requires a recertification within a five-year period. Details of the recertification program have not been completed, but it is anticipated that active participation in the Society by writing articles, training and participation in committees will meet the recertification requirements.

### **Upcoming Events**

Capital Recovery & Fixed Assets Valuation  
Seminar Instructor: Aly Elfar, PhD  
Miami, FL, February 23-26, 1998  
For more information: 613/825-6611

### **SDP SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

AUS Consultants  
BellSouth  
GTE Telephone Operations  
Sprint - Local Telecom

### **BUSINESS SPONSORS**

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

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**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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES JANUARY 1, 1998 - DECEMBER 31, 1998

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Business Sponsor @ \$300

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

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

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

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