

SDP Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 1, Spring 2000

A Message From Your President

Earl Robinson, CDP



Recently, I experienced several occurrences of retina detachment and a detached macula requiring unexpected eye surgery. Thanks to quick action by the skilled surgeons and excellent technology the doctors tell me that all is progressing well. Was it life threatening? No. Was it or will it be life changing? Hopefully not, but it's too early to be certain. What does this have to do with depreciation and/or SDP. Well, events like this seem, at least to me, to somewhat heighten and/or alter ones focus or perspective.

In my circumstance, thank goodness for ever-advancing technology and the skill of the surgeons. By comparison, for the industries we serve to enable advances and the continued provision of excellent customer service, the companies' need to have appropriate levels of depreciation (recovery of assets) if they are to invest in new facilities and remain successfully operating entities. While some utility operating asset classes are constructed using more basic properties, other asset categories clearly reflect more rapidly changing procedures and technologies. In any event, the companies' recover needs to be reflective of current and anticipated operations. As noted, operating companies need to be ever mindful and successful in obtaining adequate levels of depreciation to remain successful and profitable in order that they might continue to grow and provide excellent customer service at reasonable prices. To the extent that such events occur, society is far better off as a result of advances in products and services as well as general working and living conditions.

What correlation is there between my recent experience and the SDP? In whatever profession or discipline, however glamorous or mundane, one's ability to efficiently accomplish a given task is a function of one's skill as well as the sources from which one can draw support. SDP clearly is an organization comprised of many skilled individuals with whom we can network to obtain ideas and find solutions to tasks and/or current challenges. In this regard we need to seek to expand our network through the addition of members to the Society. Our membership chair, Ron Kalich, works to maintain existing members as well as expand our rolls. In addition, I challenge each of the existing members to seek out company staff or associates as well as acquaintances within the depreciation field as new members.

To further improve and validate the members' skills, SDP provides annual training as well as provides Certification of its members. Currently, the society is in the process of finalizing the criteria and requirements for re-certification of members who have previously successfully completed the written exam and other related qualifications. While the current training is somewhat limited in scope, the Society's Board is ever mindful of its members' needs and will continue to seek to address such matters in the best way possible.

The society's web page at www.depr.org contains a variety of information about the organization. Lou Walters, the web page editor continues to make changes as new information is obtained. If you have any items or ideas for or about the society that you believe would be beneficial to the society's members or the world at large please contact Lou or the Society. The Board will consider all items and their appropriateness for our web page.

The Society's value to its members is further enhanced through the diverse program covering a variety of topics at each year's annual meeting. Tony Flesch and his program committee is working diligently at assembling the topics and presenters for this year's upcoming annual meeting to be held October 1-4, 2000 at the Omni Charlotte Hotel in Charlotte, NC. This year's theme, "Deregulation and Depreciation for the New Millennium", promises to be interesting and dynamic. So mark your calendars and be sure to be there to gain the full benefit from your society. See you in Charlotte.

SDP 2000 Annual Conference

October 1-4, 2000

Charlotte, NC

For more information on Charlotte, visit: <http://charlottecvb.org/>

2000

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SDP 2000 Annual Meeting

Tony Flesch

Mark your calendars for the new millennium Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Conference, October 1-4, 2000 at the Omni Charlotte Hotel in Charlotte, NC. Plans are underway for a truly memorable meeting in 2000. Plan to be there to welcome your Society into the new millennium.

The 2000 conference will focus on "Deregulation and Depreciation for the New Millennium." Tentative speakers and topics for this year's conference include:

- Ms. Jo Anne Sanford, Chairperson, North Carolina Utilities Commission.
- Mr. Gary Walsh, Executive Director, South Carolina Public Service Commission.
- Fatina Franklin, FCC, "Regulatory Update"
- Richard Lane, Ph.D., President, Lane, Westly Inc. "New Horizons in Depreciation"
- David Foster, Arthur Andersen, "FASB Salvage & Cost of Removal"
- Jim Heslin, PowerPlan, "Fixed Asset / Capital Recovery Systems Presentation"
- Broadband / DLS Deployment Presentation, BellSouth Speaker
- "SDP Professional Development" - Panel discussion – focusing on SDP Training, CDP exam, recertification, and future training.

As always, this year's meeting will also include several relevant panel discussions as well as the ever-popular concurrent industry discussion sessions. Training will again be offered on Sunday, and the CDP exam will be given on Wednesday morning.

The meeting agenda will also be continually updated on the SDP website, so visit the SDP web page at www.depr.org and click on the "meetings" button to watch our agenda develop.

The program committee is hard at work to make this year's program a truly memorable beginning to the new millennium. The 2000 program committee consists of:

- Jeff Holt - BellSouth, 205-977-8935
- Rick Lytle - Pennsylvania Power and Light, 610-774-5085
- Bob Kenney - Ameren Services, 314-554-2945
- Tony Flesch, GTE, Program Committee Chair, 972-718-5934

If you have any suggestions regarding this year's program, please contact any of the program committee members listed above.

Also, an excellent way to demonstrate your continued support of your Society is to have your organization be a sponsor at the Society's annual meeting. If your organization is interested in sponsoring any of the breakfasts, breaks, lunches, or hosting a reception, please contact any of the program committee members. We'll be happy to insert your company name (Sponsored by >Put your Company Name here<) on the meeting agenda.

Make your plans to arrive early or stay late at one of the South's most exciting cities. Professional sports and quality fine arts are just a sampling of the many offerings in Charlotte. Charlotte is the home of the Carolina Panthers of the NFL and the Charlotte Hornets of the NBA. The Omni Charlotte www.omnihotels.com Hotel is located in the heart of Downtown with great museums, shopping and restaurants within easy walking distance. The Charlotte International Airport is a hub to major airlines and an easy commute for many. For more information on Charlotte's many attractions, visit the Charlotte Convention and Visitors Bureau Page at www.charlottecvb.org.



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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

Call for Journal Articles

It's not too late, although it will be soon, to submit an article for the 2000 SDP Journal. Pat Lee, Chair of the Journal Committee, needs to know by the end of April if you plan to submit an article, and the articles must be submitted no later than May 30th. Please contact Pat at PLEE@psc.state.fl.us if you plan to submit an article. Or, contact the SDP office for publication guidelines.

Looking for Hard to Find Depreciation Resources?

Leroy Murphy has a collection of older depreciation books and resources that he will give to other SDP members for the cost of shipping. If you are interested in learning more about his archives, you can e-mail Mr. Murphy at caprecov@enteract.com.

Welcome to our Newest Members

Sonja Biehler, Global Crossing, Rochester, NY

Todd Bond, Ameritech, Hoffman Estates, IL

Kenneth Engel, Hillsborough County Property Appraiser, Tampa, FL

Larry Loos, Black & Veatch Corp., Kansas City, KS

Norman McIntyre, MacKay & Partners, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada

Neil McMeckan, EPCOR Utilities, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Monique Rouleau, Regie de L'energie, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Rosetta Schad, Missouri Public Service Commission, Jefferson City, MO

Rob Turner, Hillsborough County Property Appraiser, Tampa, FL

Tim Willmath, Hillsborough County Property Appraiser, Tampa, FL

Robert Zises, NACOMEX USA, New York, NY

Recertification Guidelines Will be Available Soon

The final edits are being completed on the Recertification Guidelines for Certified Depreciation Professionals. Certification is good for five years from the date of the certificate. All the necessary requirements and processes for applying for recertification will be mailed to all CDP's later this Spring. We will plan to post those details on our web page as well.

Certified Depreciation Professional Examination

SDP is accepting applications for its Certified Depreciation Professionals examination. It will be given at its Annual Meeting in Cincinnati on Wednesday, October 6, 1999 from 8:00AM to Noon. Applications can be obtained from the SDP Office.

CDP Requirements:

Candidates: Any **member** of the Society of Depreciation Professionals, who is a practicing depreciation professional or engaged in the depreciation profession, who wishes to become designated by the Society of Depreciation Professionals as a Certified Depreciation Professional may apply for such certification with the Society.

Membership: The candidate must be an active member of the Society of Depreciation Professionals.

Experience: The candidate must have a minimum of **five** years of full time depreciation experience; at least two of the five years must be in the area of depreciation administration.

Examination: The evaluation of a candidate's technical depreciation proficiency and acquaintance with the Society's requirements for certification, principles and basic precepts of the profession is accomplished by means of a written examination. A minimum passing score will be mandatory to qualify for Certification. The examination is constructed to reveal a candidate's knowledge, ability and expertise in depreciation matters. Areas covered in the examination include: Life analysis, grouping of property, service life calculation, net salvage analysis, historical experience vs. future expectation and SDP ethics.

A full day of training on Sunday, October 1st, will focus on preparation for the examination.

If you plan to take the examination for Certified Depreciation Professional you need to submit an application and pay the CDP fee of \$100. The fee covers the cost of preparing the examination and the administrative costs associated with designating individuals as Certified Depreciation Professionals. Applications are available through the SDP office.
