

SDP Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 2, Summer 2000

A Message From Your President

Earl Robinson, CDP



Hello everyone,

The year 2000 is moving by rapidly. We are now nearly six (6) months past the dreaded "y2k" date related to which there were many questions and concerns about all the data or "IT" problems that might occur. It appears, that aside from some limited difficulties, most every thing went rather smoothly. However, as part of the effort to move past the "y2k" date, many, if not most, companies completed a variety of computer system upgrades to insure that their systems would not crash and/or malfunction. In doing so, many of the accounting systems changed, and not always for the better. As a result of making the various system changes, data recovery for the completion of depreciation studies, either current or historical data, routinely resulted in a new challenge for the operating companies declining staff levels.

In the course of completing depreciation studies over the last year or more it has been noted that numerous data items have been lost and/or have become more difficult to extract from various companies new data systems. While some of the situations may be the product of lack of knowledge about new systems, in other circumstances, decisions and/or oversights simply resulted in the loss of historical data records. Once lost it is highly unlikely that such data will be retrieved in future periods.

In some companies there may be a lack of management understanding and/or acceptance relative to the value of such historical data or detailed depreciation data in general. In such cases, the belief might be that with the movement towards increasing amounts of deregulation there is less need for detailed historical depreciation data. As depreciation

professionals, it is our task and responsibility to insure that management fully understands the value of systems to assemble and maintain historical records as well as to maintain the integrity of such data.

SDP provides a framework to provide the guiding principles underlying the importance of depreciation methods and systems. Likewise, it also provides a network to enable its members and participants to share current and prospective factors likely to affect depreciation now and in the future.

Accordingly, I invite all of you to attend our upcoming meeting in Charlotte, NC, October 1-4, 2000 and, further, to share the importance of our society with your managers and associates—plus bring them with you to the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you in Charlotte.

SDP 2000 Annual Conference

October 1-4, 2000

Charlotte, NC

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



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Impossible / I'mpossible

Rod Daniel

SDP Executive Secretary

Walt Disney once said "It's kind of fun to do the impossible." Now, I understand just what he meant. June 22-26, I participated in the Washington, DC, AIDS Ride, a fundraising event in which I rode my bicycle 340 miles from Raleigh, NC, to Washington, DC. It was an extraordinary event partly because I pushed myself physically beyond my imagined limits. It was also extraordinary because of the emotions shared by 1,700 riders and 500 volunteers who worked together as an incredible team for 5 days. We were free from our normal daily distractions, allowing us to focus totally on this endeavor. We experienced extreme joy, and at times extreme sadness. We rode more than 100 miles each day for 3 days in searing heat with hills that just wouldn't stop. We passed through small towns in North Carolina and Virginia where local residents stopped what they were doing to help us on our journey, and to lend support. The final day was a relatively easy 40 miles into downtown Washington for a closing ceremony on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the Capitol. It was difficult to hold back tears as we rode the final 40 miles on streets that were lined with cheering crowds supporting our efforts.

The point of the ride was to raise money for local charities in Washington, DC. The combined efforts of the 1,700 riders raised \$4.9 million. The AIDS Ride continues to be among the country's most successful fund raising events, with five similar rides in different parts of the country throughout the summer months. The total raised by cyclists over the past 5 years has exceeded \$100,000,000. With major corporate sponsors such as Tanqueray and American Airlines, most of the money raised reaches the intended charities.

The ride was one of the most powerful and rewarding experiences of my life. Without hesitation, I became a "recycled" rider by committing to ride again in 2001.

You can learn more about the AIDS Ride by visiting their web page at www.aidsride.org



Rod Daniel - somewhere in Virginia.

Web Page News

Lou Walters continues to manage the SDP web page. The 2000 SDP Meeting Agenda can be viewed online, and a printable reservation form is also available online. The posting of an SDP membership list, which will be password protected, is anticipated shortly. Be sure to visit the SDP web page for current information and valuable links. The web page address is www.depr.org

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Kim Macleod, Sasktel, Regina, SK, Canada

Diane Grant, Tucson Electric Power Co., Tucson, AZ

Alan Zumstein, Alan Zumstein, CPA, Floyds Knob, IN

Correction: In the Spring issue of the SDP Newsletter, the President of the Society was incorrectly identified. The SDP President was then, and is now, the distinguished Earl Robinson, CDP. We apologize for this grievous error.

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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

SDP 2000 ANNUAL MEETING

By: 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 – "The Competitive Telecommunications Market and Electric Restructuring Efforts in South Carolina since 1997".
- * Fatina Franklin, FCC, "Federal 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 – Flexibility for Deregulation"

* Dan Spears, BellSouth Research Director – Science & Technology "Broadband / DLS Deployment"

* SDP Professional Development" - Panel discussion – focusing on SDP Training, CDP exam, re-certification, and future training.

As always, this year's meeting will also include relevant panel discussions as well as the ever-popular concurrent industry break-out discussion sessions. This year, there will be both an Energy and Telecom break-out session on Monday afternoon. The Energy Session will be moderated by Bob Kenney of Ameren Services, and the Telecom Session will be moderated by Lou Walters of GTE. As always, the purpose of the industry-specific break-out sessions is to discuss topics that are relevant to you, the members.

Training will again be offered on Sunday, and the CDP exam will be given on Wednesday morning.

The meeting agenda is being 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 questions or suggestions regarding this year's program, please contact any of the program committee members listed above.

An excellent way to demonstrate your continued support of your Society is to have your organization be a sponsor of the Society's annual meeting. If your organization is interested in sponsoring any of the breakfasts, breaks or lunches at this year's meeting, 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. Your Company name will also be added to the agenda on the SDP web site as a meeting sponsor!

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 Carolina Panthers have home games both weekends surrounding our meeting: Sunday October 1: Dallas at Carolina 1:00 p.m & Sunday October 8: Seattle at Carolina 4:15 p.m. The Carolina Panthers play home games at Erickson Stadium, which is only a few blocks from the Omni Charlotte Hotel. More information can be found at www.nfl.com\panthers.

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.
