

# SDP NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 3 Fall 2001

## A Message From Your President

*Anthony "Tony" Flesch*



Happy Holidays! Traditionally, at this time of year, I would begin this newsletter by wishing you all a "safe and happy holiday season." That small phrase now conveys so much more meaning and significance since the tragic events of September 11 and the subsequent biological warfare and continuing threat of further terrorist activity. Many of us were in Tucson at the SDP annual meeting on September 11 and awoke to the tragic news. Although many of us were far away from our families and homes, I can honestly say that we were all among "friends." Which brings me to one of the irreplaceable benefits of participation and membership in our Society: the friendships that you develop over the years as a member of SDP. Many people that I term as my "SDP friends and family" are those that either I probably would have never met absent the Society, or would have met only in a more adversarial regulatory setting. So, I would like to begin this newsletter by wishing you all a heartfelt Safe and Happy Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans in 2002.

My goal for 2002 will be to explore additional ways the Society can add value to its members. Over the past few years we have made significant strides by enhancing the website and adding timely relevant articles to the newsletter. We have implemented some global e-mailings of information and conducted an e-mail survey. We have also just established a new "Current Issues Committee" to keep our members informed of current issues and hot topics (see related article in this newsletter). We will continue to expand these avenues and explore new opportunities. I would also like to

challenge all of you to think of ways that you can add value to the Society. Consider writing a journal or newsletter article or getting involved on a committee.

We have a fantastic site selected for the 2002 SDP 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at Le Meridien New Orleans Hotel; and both the Program and Training committees are hard at work in preparation for another outstanding conference. Attending the annual meeting is an excellent way to keep in touch and exchange views with all your friends in the Society. The annual meeting affords an opportunity not only to hear what's going on in your particular industry, but to find out what's going on in other industries. It provides a professional forum to discuss the diverse interests and viewpoints of our members. Attending the meeting also affords an excellent opportunity to build professional relationships and share ideas with others in our industry, and to keep abreast of the ever-evolving issues facing depreciation professionals. The FASBs relating to accounting for the disposal for long-lived assets and Property Plant and Equipment are just two issues that are sure to generate some stimulating discussion. I would encourage you to mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2002 annual meeting in New Orleans (see related newsletter article).

In closing, I would like to thank all of the officers and committees for their assistance and support, and I would encourage anyone that is interested in participating on a committee to call the appropriate committee chair and volunteer your services. Finally, I would like to thank all of the members of SDP for their continued support of our Society. Please feel free to email or phone me anytime with any suggestions, questions, or comments.

*Happy a Safe and Happy Holiday Season, Tony*

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

**Society of Depreciation Professionals**

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**Election Results**

*Tony Flesch*

The election for the 2002 SDP Executive Board Officers was held at the Annual Business meeting on September 10, 2001 in Tucson, Arizona. The Society of Depreciation Professionals is pleased to announce the 2002 Officers:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Pat Morcom</b>	<b>Salt River Project</b>
Vice President:	Dick Clarke	Southern California Edison
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Dale Urban</b>	<b>Epcor</b>
Secretary:	Rhonda Watts	Deloitte & Touche LLP
Director at Large:	Chris Harris	Virginia SCC
Director at Large:	Jake Ransom	BellSouth
Past-President:	Tony Flesch	Verizon

As Vice-President, Dick Clarke assumes the duties as 2002 Program Committee Chairperson. As Secretary, Rhonda Watts assumes the duties of 2002 Newsletter Committee Chairperson. Earl Robinson moves from Past-President to the Chair of the Ethics and Standards Committee.

**Membership Report**

*Dale Urban, Chair*

The annual conference at Tucson gave me an opportunity to meet many individuals who, up to this point in time have merely been voices on the phone. I also attended the training session on Sunday and found it to be a good refresher (and I learned a lot too). I hope to see all of you next year in New Orleans! We continue to work on membership initiatives. We plan to report back to the membership on the progress of these initiatives in the spring.

**Welcome to our Newest Members**

**Wade Barber**, Pasco County Property Appraiser, Dale City, FL  
**Donna Hobkirk**, Teco Energy/Peoples Gas, Tampa, FL  
**John Lacey**, California State University, Long Beach, CA  
**Diane Plezia**, Dominion Resources Services Co, Pittsburgh, PA  
**Aaron Smith**, PowerPlan Consultants, Inc., Atlanta, GA

**Current Issues Committee**

*Tony Flesch*

The Board of Directors authorized the formation of the Current Issues Committee, and John Ferguson agreed to serve as its Chairman. The purpose of the Committee is to provide, at times other than during the annual meeting, information of interest to Society members on activities related to, but not limited to, property accounting, depreciation accounting, determination of depreciation rates, and appraisals. John's role will be to act as a clearinghouse and to prepare materials for periodic distribution to the membership. He will be aided by several members who have agreed to identify and document issues. However, other Society members should not hesitate to send John anything that may be of interest to other members.

## SDP SUSTAINING MEMBERS

AUS Consultants  
BellSouth

## BUSINESS SPONSORS

E. Wotring, Associates, Inc.

## SDP FRIENDS

Jules Breitling  
John Lamparello

## 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  
733 15<sup>th</sup> St NW Ste 330  
Washington DC 20005

## Call for Newsletter Articles

If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, submit it to Rhonda Watts at [rhwatts@dtus.com](mailto:rhwatts@dtus.com) by February 1, 2002.

## Call for Journal Articles

It's not too late, although it will be soon, to submit an article for the SDP Journal. Pat Lee, Chair of the Journal Committee, needs to know if you plan to submit an article. Please contact Pat at [PLEE@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:PLEE@psc.state.fl.us) if you plan to submit an article. Or, contact the SDP office for publication guidelines.

## Web Page News

*Lou Walters*

There are new photos on the "Photos!!!" page! For those of you who were unable to attend this year's Annual Meeting in Tucson, see what you missed! The most entertaining photos are those of the Monday Evening Entertainment - the Quickdraw competition! The competition was fierce, but a winner finally emerged victorious - and the winner was (drum roll, please) none other than yours truly! There are also photos of the excellent Training Sessions and the Guest Speakers, who performed admirably, even in the wake of the events of the morning of Sept. 11.

Please take a few minutes out of your busy day to either see what you missed or, if you attended, to see if you are in a photo! Also on the "Photos!!!" page are pics of the 2001 SDP Board of Directors.

Jake Ransom did a great job of keeping this year's agenda on the website up-to-date. As information becomes available regarding the agenda for next year's Annual Meeting in New Orleans, it will be posted on our website.

And don't forget the SDP Directory and Jobs Listing page on our website. These two pages are in a protected area of the SDP website that is restricted to SDP members only. You will be prompted for a User Name and Password. To gain access, User Name=society and the Password=society. The responses are case sensitive; "society" must be lowercase.

Be sure to visit the SDP web page for current information and valuable links. The web page address is [www.depr.org](http://www.depr.org) - see you there!



Hard at Work – Training!!

Hard at Work – Playing!!



# SOCIETY OF DEPRECIATION PROFESSIONALS

733 15<sup>th</sup> St NW Ste 330 Washington DC 20005

## INVOICE

MEMBERSHIP DUES JANUARY 1, 2002 - DECEMBER 31, 2002

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Dues:

		\$40	\$ _____	New ___	Renewal ___
Sustaining Member	@	\$750	\$ _____		
Business Sponsor	@	\$300	\$ _____		
Patrons' Donation	@	\$200	\$ _____		
Friends' Donation	@	\$100	\$ _____		

## **SDP and 9/11**

*Rod Daniel*

Most of us in our lives have never seen events as devastating and spiritually destructive as those that occurred more than two months ago. On that Tuesday morning, we were well into our usual routine expecting business as usual; what followed though was anything but usual.

At a time when those of us in Tucson were sipping our first cup of coffee and getting ready for the morning sessions, we became glued to the news broadcasts, not necessarily in panic but certainly in shock, trying to make phone calls, hoping to hear a familiar voice still intact. This mass disruption of our everyday lives, just as much if not more than the destruction of some of our proudest symbols of strength and free commerce, was the terrorists' aim – and they hit their mark, both literally and figuratively.

In Tucson, the attendees at the annual conference gathered as planned for the closing morning sessions at 9:00am on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Because of the time difference, by 9:00am in Tucson we knew that the World Trade Centers had collapsed, that the Pentagon had been hit, and that we were not going home any time soon. We gathered, if for no other reason, because we needed each other's support and communication to make sense of the incomprehensible.

As it became clear just how stranded we were in Tucson, those of us with SDP became more and more dependent upon each other to get through each day. Most of us spent a few hours each day communicating with the airlines with the hope of flying out the next day. A few energetic souls started driving in their rental cars for trips of up to 2,000 miles to get home. Our daytime pursuits went in many different directions. The SDP Krewe (as this particularly entertaining group came to be known) made day trips into the mountains, or the museums. We would generally gather by the pool bar most evenings to share our lack of success in getting flights home, and commiserate over a tequila, or two. This writer learned the many subtleties of tequilas after nearly a week of stranded nights at the hotel bar.

Ultimately, we all made it home safely. But, by being stranded and stressed and feeling somewhat ungrounded, we bonded together in ways that would never have happened under any other circumstances. I discovered new friends with SDP that I shall look forward to renewing at our next annual conference. Hopefully we will never again face a similar challenge, but if I find myself stranded because of some other natural circumstance such as a snowstorm, I hope it will be with my SDP colleagues.



The Krewe – Pat Lee, Ralph Nobel, Aly Elfar, Bob Welsh, Steve Barreca, and on top of the mountain Donna Hobkirk – climbing Mt. Lemom

## Mark Your Calendars

*Tony Flesch*

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Society of Depreciation Professional's 16th Annual Conference at the Le Meridien New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 8-11, 2002. Please check the SDP website for further details and future updates on the meeting agenda and training. Society of Depreciation Professionals website: <http://www.depr.org>



Boasting the City of New Orleans' most prestigious and convenient address, Le Meridien Hotel New Orleans stands directly across the street from the exciting French Quarter. A AAA-Four Diamond Award Winning Hotel since its opening in 1984, Le Meridien Hotel will provide you with an unparalleled level of service whether your stay is for business travel or pleasure travel.

Le Méridien New Orleans is located at the entrance to the famous French Quarter. In the heart of the city, just steps from the business district, 2-1/2 blocks to Riverfront Shopping and Boats, Harrah's Casino, and the Aquarium of the Americas; and 8 blocks to the Convention Center and the Superdome. For night owls you will find live music in the Jazz Méridien on the property. There are excellent meeting facilities on site. The hotel was newly refurbished in 1999.

After a long day of meetings or tours, relaxing amid smooth surroundings and comfortable chairs in the Jazz Meridien Lounge can be very inviting. Top that off with a glass of chardonnay and the soothing sounds of jazz, and you are in for a pleasant evening – right in your own hotel. Lounge Jazz Meridien presents weekday and weekend entertainment. Friday & Saturday entertainment showcases a Jazz Quartet from 9pm–12 midnight.

New Orleans International Airport is approximately 15 miles, 25 minutes. Transportation from the airport is located outside of baggage claim via Airport Shuttle (outside service) for \$10 per person each way or via taxi for \$24 for two people each way (prices subject to change without notice). Rental cars are also available at the airport.

### ***Le Meridien Hotel***

The Hotel For Business Meetings  
NEW ORLEANS  
614 Canal Street  
Reservations: 800/543-4300  
Tele: 504/525-6500  
Fax: 504/525-1128

### ***Some Informative Websites:***

Le Meridien Hotel  
<http://www.meridienneworleans.com/index.html>  
New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau  
<http://www.neworleanscvb.com>  
Society of Depreciation Professionals  
<http://www.depr.org>