



# SDP Newsletter

## Volume 15, Issue 1, Spring 2002

### A Message From Your President *Pat Morcom*

It's hard to believe that it has been over six months since the 2001 SDP 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Tucson. In those six months we have seen many changes ranging from increased airport security to dramatic changes as industry giants declare bankruptcy as well as an increased appreciation of family and friends. SDP has seen internal changes as the Current Issues Committee was established and has issued several papers to keep SDP members up to date and the continuing improvements to the website.

The next six months will bring more changes resulting from the Enron and Arthur Andersen situation. New reporting requirements are being discussed as well as auditor rotations and of course implementing and reviewing new FASBs will keep us busy. SDP will continue to explore ways to keep members informed and to improve the Society. As a member, do you have suggestion to improve the Society or do you have an idea for a journal article or are you willing to serve on the Board? Each member adds value to our organization at both a professional and personal level. SDP has provided me the opportunity to meet other professionals whose friendship and counsel have proved invaluable over the years.

The 2002 SDP 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held at the Le Meridien New Orleans Hotel. The agenda is being finalized and will provide members with an opportunity to find out what has happened in the past year in your industry and other industries. The meeting also provides an excellent way to stay in touch with SDP members you may only see once a year, renewing friendships and building new professional relationships. This is an excellent time to share ideas and to discuss various issues with others in a professional environment. So

check out the related newsletter article and I look forward to meeting you in New Orleans.

I look forward to serving as your president this year and I thank all the board members who are assisting and supporting me as we continue to develop our Society. Please contact me or one of the other board members if you have suggestions, questions, comments or feel the desire to become a more active member of the Society.

Have a beautiful spring and a safe summer.

*Pat Morcom*

**2002 Annual Meeting of the Society of  
Depreciation Professionals  
New Orleans, LA  
September 8-11, 2002  
Details Inside!**



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**Publisher:** Ronald Daniel

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send your contributions to the Editor.*

**Society of Depreciation Professionals**

733 15<sup>th</sup> St NW Ste 330  
Washington DC 20005  
202/362-0680 FAX: 202/638-7895  
e-mail: SDP@dmg-dc.com

## Report from the Current Issues Committee

John Ferguson is the chair of the newly formed Current Issues Committee. In this role, Mr. Ferguson is responsible for being the SDP watchdog for current issues, and to share timely issues with the SDP membership. The current issues reports are being sent to active members via e-mail.

The first letter from the recently formed Current Issues Committee was distributed to SDP members in February. The letter discussed the comments of the American Gas Association, Edison Electric Institute, Florida PSC and NARUC on the proposed statement of position of the AICPA on the accounting for property, plant and equipment that was issued last July. The comment letters of these four organizations were not distributed, but are available from Rod Daniel at the SDP office upon request.

We welcome Mr. Ferguson's input on current issues. The purpose of this 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. Mr. Ferguson can be reached via e-mail at: johnferg@swbell.net

## Welcome to our Newest Members

**Scott Armstrong**, Virginia State Corporation Commission,  
Richmond, VA

**Dianne Bloom**, BellSouth, Birmingham, AL

**Katrina Bonds**, Sprint, Overland Park, KS

**Pamela Fischhaber**, Colorado Public Utilities Commission,  
Denver, CO

**James Gibson**, Polk County Property Appraiser, Clearwater, FL

**Timothy Ramsayer**, Arthur Andersen, LLP, New York, NY

**Mark Rodriguez**, MR Valuation Consulting, LLC, Woodbridge, NJ

**Arnie Vaske**, American Transmission Company, Waukesha, WI

**Benjamin Williams**, MR Valuation Consulting, LLC,  
Woodbridge, NJ

**Dean Wirick**, PacifiCorp, Portland, OR

If you know of a colleague who should receive membership information on the Society, please pass that contact information on to the office at [SDP@dmg-dc.com](mailto:SDP@dmg-dc.com). No where else will you find professional colleagues who share the same issues and concerns in the field of depreciation. Membership dues are only \$40 per year, and that fee provides you with three newsletters, the annual SDP Journal, reduced fees at the annual conference, a web page with valuable information and links, and regular communications among the members.

## SDP SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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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

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

## Call for Journal Articles

The 2000-2001 Journal was mailed to members during the first week of April. You should have received your copy by now. Congratulations to Pat Lee, and all who worked to produce the Journal, and a special thanks to all the authors. We are now accepting submissions for the 2002 SDP Journal. 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*

The SDP web page has been fully updated. Officers, upcoming events, 2002 SDP Annual Meeting info with links to related sites, recent newsletters, SDP Membership Directory – everything! You will notice an improved look to the on-line newsletter and Membership Directory – they are now PDF files that are viewed with Adobe Acrobat. This produces a much cleaner look and, when printed, the newsletter looks just like the original paper copy!

Be sure to occasionally visit the web page and review the Agenda, as it will be continually updated until finalized.

In the works – a bulletin board where depreciation issues can be discussed, where others can be used as a sounding board, and to network with other professionals in our organization.

Just a reminder - the SDP Directory and Jobs Listing page on our website are in a protected area 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. Please take a moment to review the your information in the SDP Directory. If it is incorrect, notify Rod Daniel so we can update our Directory.

There are Society members who are looking for a job. If anyone knows of a depreciation-related job opening in his or her company, be sure to let me know and I will post it!

The SDP web page address is [www.depr.org](http://www.depr.org) – see you there!

## Upcoming Events

Farconsult's Seminar, "Capital Recovery and Fixed Asset Valuation; April 17-19, 2002, Myrtle Beach, SC; For more information, please contact Aly Elfar at 613/825-6611 or [alyelfar@rogers.com](mailto:alyelfar@rogers.com)

2002 National Conference of Regulatory Utility Commission Engineers; June 23-27, 2002 Jekyll Island, GA; For more information, please contact: Ken Ellison of the Georgia Commission, at [kellison@psc.state.ga.us](mailto:kellison@psc.state.ga.us)

FERC is hosting an informal technical conference on the Accounting and Reporting of Asset Removal Obligations, on Tuesday, May 7, 2000. It will begin at 9:00 am in the Commission Meeting Room at the FERC office in Washington D.C. All interested parties are invited to attend. If you would like more information contact Mark Klose (Project Manager) at (202) 219-2595 or [mark.klose@ferc.gov](mailto:mark.klose@ferc.gov), Raymond Reid (Technical Issues), at (202) 219-2928 or [raymond.reid@ferc.gov](mailto:raymond.reid@ferc.gov) or Julia Lake (Legal Issues), at (202) 208 2019 or [julia.lake@ferc.gov](mailto:julia.lake@ferc.gov) .

The AGA/EEI Conference; May 19-22, 2002; Hyatt Regency Vancouver; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; For more information contact Doug Allen at AGA (202) 824-7261 or [dallen@aga.org](mailto:dallen@aga.org)

AGA/EEI Property Accounting & Depreciation Training Seminar; May 22-23, 2002; Hyatt Regency Vancouver; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; For more information contact: Doug Allen at AGA (202) 824-7261 or [dallen@aga.org](mailto:dallen@aga.org)

Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Conference; September 8-11, 2002, New Orleans, LA; For more information, please contact Rod Daniel: [rdaniel@dmg-dc.com](mailto:rdaniel@dmg-dc.com)

**Society of Depreciation Professionals MEETING RESERVATION FORM**  
**16th Annual Meeting \* September 8-11, 2002 \* Le Meridien Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Early Registration Deadline: August 5, 2002**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you need special assistance.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2002 Annual Meeting – Member (\$200)\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2002 Annual Meeting – Nonmember (\$225)\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2002 Training (\$100) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2002 Membership Dues (\$40) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2003 Membership Dues (\$40) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Certified Depreciation Prof Exam (\$100) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Fee (Includes recep & luncheons) (\$50) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Late Fee After August 5 (\$20)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check (payable in US dollars to: Society of Depreciation Professionals)

Visa/MasterCard/AmEx Card \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Location:</b> Le Meridien Hotel 614 Canal St, New Orleans, LA Reservations: 800/543-4300 Tele: 504/525-6500; Fax: 504/525-1128 <b>Room Rates:</b> \$139 Single; \$159 Double Request special rates for Society of Deprec. Prof. Hotel reservation deadline: <b>August 5, 2002</b> <b>Return this form to:</b> SDP, 733 15<sup>th</sup> St NW #330, Washington, DC 20005 <b>Or FAX to:</b> 202/638-7895</p>
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