

**American Society of Safety Engineers
Council on Practices and Standards
Public Sector Practice Specialty
Advisor Committee**

The Advisory Committee of the Public Sector Practice Specialty of the American Society of Safety Engineers met via teleconference at 5:05 pm EDT on April 2, 2010. This document is an accurate representation of that meeting.

The following members were present Fred Fanning, Mary Beth O'Connell, Jim Higgins, Steve Dimond, Larry Holloway, Gayle Carson, and Steve Wallace.

Steve Dimond chaired the meeting as the Administrator and called the meeting to order.

Jim Higgins provided an update on the status of awards and honors for the 2009 fiscal year. He has received two nominations for the Public Sector Practice Specialty Safety Professional of the Year or SPY award. He provided both nominations to the members of the advisory committee for a vote. He requests that all members get their votes to him no later than Friday April 9, 2010. Jim also sent out articles from the Perspective newsletter for each member to vote on. He reminded the group that he needs the votes back to him no later than April 6, 2010.

Mary Beth O'Connell then discussed Membership. She noted that she has been sending out welcome emails to new members and farewell emails to those leaving the practice specialty. She reminded us that she had stopped getting the list of new and departing members, but is now receiving them again. She noted that most members leaving had changed specialties in their job or a mistake had been made and they wanted to stay a member. The question was asked about the number of members and Mary Beth noted that it was about the same each month with those new members equaling leaving members, the number remains just above 700. The question was then asked with that many members should we let them vote on awards and honors. A short discussion ensued and it was noted that obtaining a vote from a membership that large would be too wieldy and that the other practice specialties use the same method current used by the Public Sector Practice Specialty.

Fred Fanning discussed the upcoming PDC. Fred noted that the PDC begins on Sunday with a Council on Practice and Standards breakfast at 7:00 am followed by the Council on Practices and Standards meeting beginning at 8:00 am and probably ending around 10:30 am. Steve Dimond as the administrator is required to attend the Council on Practices and Standards meeting; however, others can attend, but cannot vote.

Fred then noted that Steve Dimond will attend the House of Delegates on behalf of the Public Sector Practice Specialty as the only voting member. At 3:00 pm we are all invited to the Vendor Reception in the vendor hall. The last item on Sunday is our Public Sector Practice Specialty Networking Meeting at 5:00 pm. The hotel and room will be announced later. Fred explained that in the past this has been our advisory committee meeting, but was just changed for this PDC to try to get more member involvement. Fred then highlighted the presentations for this year's PDC that were sponsored by the Public Sector Practice Specialty. He encouraged all advisory committee members to attend the sessions that are:

- Fred Fanning presents session 516 from 10:45 am–11:45 am Monday, June 14, 2010

- Amy Stewart presents session 634 1:00 pm–2:00 pm, Tuesday, June 15, 2010
- Dr. Betty Lee presents session 708 9:15 am–10:30 am Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Fred reminded those on the call that the Council on Practices and Standards Awards Lunch from 12:00 am–1:00 pm on Tuesday, June 15, 2010. During this luncheon the winner of the Public Sector Practice Specialty SPY will receive the award. Those that want to attend must include this in the package to sign up for the PDC, there are only a few tickets on site.

Fred asked that advisory committee members reach out and solicit nominations for next year's PDC. He noted that we normally sponsor three presentations, but with a cut off of July 31, 2010 we need to get the word out. He noted that we have two presentations already with one possible; however, it wouldn't hurt to get one or two more.

Steve Dimond then opened the meeting for discussion.

The issue was raised about a request from the Environmental Practice Specialty for the Public Sector to participate in a round table with someone from the Center for Environmental Quality. Steve Dimond is working the issue and said it sounded like something we should do.

The question of the Military Branch was raised. Fred Fanning attended the Council on Practices and Standards meeting where this was discussed and noted that he had offered the Public Sector as a mentor for the Military Branch, but that Jack Fearing had countered that offer noting that the International Practice Specialty could bring international military members in as well as US military members. The discussion that ensued was very lively and in the end a motion was made and approved to form a Military Branch to be mentored by the International Practice Specialty. It was noted by some on the call that that was an interesting choice. Steve said he would reach out to Chris Gates and Jack Fearing to stay involved.

The issues involved with the down economy were discussed. It was apparent from those speaking that this is a concern for our members. Steve noted that he provided information for those unemployed in his next administrator's message. There was also a discussion about the possibility of consulting even if on a part time basis. The services provided by ASSE were also discussed and noted that this was a good place to start.

The discussion then turned to efforts by Nancy McWilliams of the Department of Commerce. Nancy and a group of safety professionals are trying to improve the federal career program of Safety Management by adding an educational requirement. It was noted that this effort has been on-going for some twenty years with many involved. There are a number of issues with this the least of which is that the federal career job series belong to the Office of Personnel Management and they have been reluctant to change them in the past. It was noted that requiring a college degree would be a great step forward, if it could be done.

Steve Dimond noted that the Newsletter Editor position is vacant and Fred Fanning is acting until it is filled. He noted that it was not a very time consuming job, but does require more work than most committee positions. Fred Fanning explained that he was able to get enough articles for the April edition; however, he noted that the practice specialty is no longer one newsletter ahead.

There being no further business, Steve Dimond, adjourned the meeting.