

Bouchedid, Michel/SEA

From: Bouchedid, Michel/SEA
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2010 12:44 PM
To: 'asceseattlesectiongeotechnicalgroupPW'ascessgg@seattlegeotech.talklist.com'
Subject: ASCE SSGG Needs Your Feedback

Dear ASCE Seattle Section Geotechnical Group Members,

This email includes a survey that will help our board choose a topic for the 2011 Spring Seminar and reevaluate the dinner meeting fee in Seattle. The survey should take no more than five minutes to complete. Please forward your answers to our President-Elect, Ghada Ellithy, at GSE@shanwil.com by Thursday November 4th.

Question #1: Spring Seminar Topic

The Spring Seminar is scheduled for Saturday April 30th, 2011 at Kane Hall, Room 220, at the University of Washington. Please choose one of the 5 topics listed below that are currently considered by the board. If you have other topic(s) in mind, please specify. For your information, a list of all past Spring Seminar topics is provided on our website <http://www.seattlegeotech.org/>

- A. Tunneling
- B. Dams/Levees
- C. Risk Assessment
- D. Horizontal Directional Drilling/Trenchless Technologies
- E. In-situ Testing
- F. Other (please specify)

Question #2: Reevaluation of the Dinner Meeting Fee in Seattle

We currently alternate the dinner meetings between the McCormick and Schmick's (M&S) in Seattle and the Red Lion in Bellevue. The group has been facing mounting losses from dinner meetings held at the M&S for the past few years. For each dinner meeting held at the M&S, the ASCE SSGG pays about \$50/person, whereas we charge our members \$35/person. In the past, the \$15/person loss was subsidized by profit from other events such as the Spring Seminar or short courses. However, most recently, the accumulated losses from dinner meetings have exceeded the yearly profit made during other events, and we had to tap into our savings from previous years to cover our losses, which is not a sustainable solution. On the other hand, our current contract with the Red Lion in Bellevue does not produce any losses with the \$35/person charge.

It is worth noting that finding a venue in Seattle of equal quality to the M&S and that charges \$35/person has not been an easy task. If you know of an appropriate venue for our dinner meetings in the Seattle area please include its name in your response. Note that the \$15 dinner fee for students and non-reimbursed public agency employees will not be impacted by any increase in dinner cost.

Please let us know which of the following three options being considered by the board works best for you:

- A. Raise the dinner fee in Seattle to \$50/person and keep alternating the dinner meetings between the M&S in Seattle and the Red Lion in Bellevue (Increasing cost is not an issue for myself or my employer)
- B. Move all the dinner meetings to Bellevue and maintain the dinner fee at \$35/person (Increasing the cost will limit my capability to attend meetings)
- C. Find an alternative venue in Seattle that charges \$35/person, and keep alternating dinner meetings between Seattle and Bellevue (A venue of lower quality than the M&S in Seattle is not an issue)

Thank you for your participation.

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