

# Report on the ASME District E Leadership Meeting in Dallas, May 3-4, 2008 to the Executive Committee of the Northern New Mexico section of ASME

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The ASME District E Leadership Meeting was held in Dallas, May 3-4, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was ostensibly to share so-called 'best-practices' amongst the leaders of the various sections falling under District E. There was a good mix of old leaders and new. There seems to have been a drastic change in the functioning of ASME over the years 2004-2006, largely related to finances. Otherwise, an over-riding issue with most sections seemed to be sagging attendances at their ASME sponsored events. Other issues included reinstating honors and awards and such, similar to the ones being considered in the NNM section. Here below is an overview of some of the things that were discussed.

## District E Overview; John Hawkins

Sale of codes and standards went down leading to fall in revenues. For example, a pressure vessel company used to buy 12 to 15 at \$3000 a pop. But now, just one program for \$10K from a private company COMPRESS that pays ASME some royalty.

Ensuing panic. Had to dip into reserves. NY Section got incentives to cut budget like if you can cut the budget of District E by \$100K, you get a big bonus. This happened over a couple of years starting 2004.

Distinguished Lecturership Program (DLP) seems to be a casualty of such cu largely an issue of Sam Current President wants to turn the organization around.

## A. Merit Based Funding

Elliot Short Dp. Dist. Leader Keep track of sections that are in Texas, OK, AR, ME with Raytheon in Shvreport

\$5 per person. Could be inactive. Just needed to put in paperwork.

Then it changed to MBF.

Needs budget report and activity report between July 1 and Oct. 1

suggestion: Should be based on upcoming year's activities as opposed to purely rewarding previous year's accomplishment.

New Orleans section was severely damaged. Couple of years less active than their historical levels. Funding decreased. But was actually kickstarted and increased

For this program, \$350K this year compared to \$230K last year:

In order to ingratiate LANL, could issue an Industry Award to LANL and/or Research park. These things contribute to the merit score

## B. Best Practises

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Most participants seemed to be down on the low turnouts at their events.

I talked about the Discover E and described it as a success.

Talked about the advantage of using existing infrastructure rather than building from scratch wrt LAESF etc...

Said there were anywhere between 30 and 60 attendees at lunch talks. Was I way off? Noted that we were in a good position in terms of no traffic problems and attendees being LANL employees. LANL has a wide spread of technical expertise in areas of interest to ASME.

People combine meetings with other organizations.

Wind farm tour was popular. Lots of people.

long discussion about reaching people without email. Is this an issue for us?

Warnings about alcohol???

## C. Professional Development

Most states require continuing ed. for retaining professional license. This includes ethics. Local ethics trainings and requirements can be used for these. Equipment shows.

Lots of these are designed to be local draws. Conducting classes with registration fees to raise money is very common. including GD&T classes.

ASME has a two pronged structure. There is the geographical hierarchy national district section. But there is a second line which is in terms of industry interests. These are called divisions. By far the main division seems to be Oil & Gas. Perhaps also automotive?

So, the activities of the petroleum institute are well organized and grass roots. They go after new graduates and actively and aggressively recruit. In fact one of the early career engineers enthusiastically described how the petroleum institute found her and made it attractive for her to join... etc... Given anthropogenic effects on climate I asked about if the oil and gas industry had undue

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influence on ASME policy positions. Discomfort was apparent...

#### **D. Honors & Awards**

<http://web.archive.org/web/20040912024207/regions.asme.org/regionx/xhonors.htm> is a good resource for the section honors and awards committee. Reason for having to go to this website is because these awards

have been scrapped for a few years now. There is talk of reinstating similar awards.

There is an option for a custodial account on the ASME website. This may be useful if leadership changes geographical locations, but this might not be an issue with NNM section (Los Alamos). In the former case, there are cases when sections have gone inactive with bank balances that go unclaimed.

DLP has apparently been authorized but they have not gotten organized.