

## Education Committee

Jenelle Hopkins and Diane dePolo – co-chairman  
Debbie Hinman, Jim O'Donnell, John Perry, Jim Reagan, Ken Smith, Cathy Snelson

Committee met once and discussed a variety of topics.

What should our target audiences be? Traditionally we have concentrated our efforts on the schools. We will continue to target schools and we would like to expand our outreach efforts to include service clubs, business and industry, engineering and construction, public safety, and emergency managers. We hope to generate enough interest within these other groups and expand our committee.

We need a theme for Earthquake Awareness Week 2003. We will entertain any and all ideas.  
Previous themes:

1997 - GET EARTHQUAKE SAFE  
1998 - WHEN AND EARTHQUAKE STRIKES – DO YOU KNOW A SAFE SPOT?  
1999 - GET YOU KIT TOGETHER  
2000 - SECURE YOUR FUTURE – SHAKE DON'T BREAK  
2001 - HUNT YOUR HAZARDS  
2002 - MAKE A PLAN  
2003 - ??????

Ideas - "X" MARKS THE SPOT  
NOT IN MY BACKYARD  
EARTHQUAKES – MOTHER NATURE'S TERRORISTS

We discussed the best way to get the information to the schools. Jenelle reported that Clark County School District is attempting to go "paperless". The best way to get information to the teachers would be by e-mail. Since the Clark County School District is by far the largest we are going to attempt to do the rest of the state the same way and put a concerted effort into generating an e-mail list of teachers in the state. At a minimum we will be e-mailing information to the district offices and asking them to forward it to their teachers.

John Perry suggested that we develop an earthquake champion in each school district and send that person back to training on the earthquake classroom materials. John said he would be willing to help by working with people in Region IX to get this done. Jenelle was going to announce this at a meeting yesterday to see if she could get any "volunteers" from Clark County.

Jim O'Donnell has been working with Las Vegas Academy. The school building was built in the 1930's and is in downtown Las Vegas. Jim relayed that teachers at the school have never done a drill and wanted more information on what their school should do. The Education Committee put together an idea for a "project". We would develop a scenario, and work with the school to make a plan and run it through an exercise. We will try to engage the school district, local engineers, public safety, fire, emergency management, and the media. The project would culminate with the

school doing a drill during Earthquake Awareness Week 2003. We will try to find a school in the north and possibly one in a rural county and do the same thing. Do we have any volunteers who would be willing to help on these projects.

#### K-12 Seismic Network in Nevada

The Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (Wayne Carlson, Director) has funded nineteen 3-component real-time seismograph stations for rural Nevada counties. The systems will be installed with real-time network operation software so that rural schools will not only transmit real-time data to a central location but also receive real-time live data feeds from other K-12 recorders and seismograph stations in Nevada, California and around the world. Because the data is transmitted in real-time via Internet protocols it will be available to the University of Nevada, Reno real-time seismic network operations. The data received from the school sites can contribute to regional earthquake monitoring and fundamental earthquake research. The software component of the system is more than a display; it allows students and researchers to interact with the same data set and use the same software tools. Many rural Nevada schools are in areas with poor UNRSL network coverage so these stations will be instrumental in controlling earthquake locations and monitoring local seismicity in unmonitored regions. These stations will work in conjunction with the three K-12 seismograph sites that have been funded by the Department of Energy and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for Las Vegas valley high schools (Cathy Snelson, PI). Graduate student programs are being developed in conjunction with the project that will be geared toward K-12 curriculum development.

Deployment of the instruments could be expedited with additional funds for installation and site visits to the schools to provide basic training in the use of the network software and operation of the instrumentation. It would be particularly useful to secure funding to conduct formal workshops on earthquake seismology and the Internet communications and data acquisition technologies applied to record and transmit real-time time-series data. Attempts to organize a workshop in Reno for the end of the summer met with difficulties in contacting would be participants. Another potential need may be to provide computer support in terms of PC Internet communications related to pulling data from the data acquisition systems at the schools and transmitting data to the classrooms. Some rural Nevada schools may not have the resources to dedicate to establishing these Internet connections and dealing with local firewalls.

Schools are currently being contacted and installation and Internet communication issues are being addressed. This project has the potential of becoming a nationally recognized program in earth science education.