RE: NWHA Membership

With the resurgence in hydropower opportunities in our region, we in the industry have the ability to access new resources and incentives to finance renewable waterpower projects. As climate change continues to dominate regional and national agendas, the question for Northwest hydropower operators is how their emission-free, renewable resource fits into the nationwide debate.

Annual Conference
NWHA in February 2016 experienced record participation at its annual conference. If you missed the conference, you can refer to the presentations posted on our website, including those from the Pumped Storage Workshop. The 2017 conference will be held at the Marriott Downtown Riverfront Hotel in Portland, Oregon, February 22-24, 2017. See the website for the agenda, sponsorship and exhibitor information (www.nwhydro.org).

Other Events
Technical Workshop: We hold a technical workshop each year in the spring. The April 7-8 technical workshop this year was held in Pasco, WA. A tour of the 5 MW Northern Wasco PUD hydro project and McNary Dam, operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers, occurred. Presentations from that event are available on the website. The 2017 event will be held near Puyallup, WA, April 6-7. A tour of the Electron plant will be included.

Small Hydro Workshop: The 2016 Small Hydro Workshop was held in the Grand Coulee Dam area in eastern Washington, September 21-22. The workshop concentrated on small hydro development (see presentations at our website) and tours of small hydro projects developed by the Columbia Basin Hydro Authority (the three irrigation districts in that region) and a tour of Grand Coulee, nearby.

Fall Regional Workshop: Each fall NWHA provides a potpourri of hydro topics at our Fall Regional Workshop. The next event will be held September 14-15, 2017, hosted by Puget Sound Energy in Bellevue, WA. A workshop on September 15th will be held at the PSE Auditorium. The National Hydropower Association (NHA) joins with us in this event to provide the national perspective. A tour on September 14th of Puget’s Snoqualmie Falls Project is scheduled.

Membership Benefits
With membership in NWHA, all of your staff can take advantage of the discounted prices for the events we have scheduled. These workshops will take place at various locations in the Northwest to make NWHA accessible to all our members. Workshops are provided at a minimal fee; the fee enables us to predict attendance and offer refreshments. We hope you and others in your organization can participate and we welcome your input on topics that would be of interest for future workshops, the annual conference or other events.

Annual Membership Meeting
All members are invited to the Annual Membership Meeting that occurs during our annual conference the third week of February each year. The next meeting takes place during our
2017 annual conference, at the luncheon on Wednesday, **February 22**\(^{th}\), at the Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

**NWHA Website**
In addition to the annual conference and workshops, NWHA continues to provide industry information at our website that we hope everyone in your company can utilize: [www.nwhydro.org](http://www.nwhydro.org). All of our workshops and agendas will be listed on our website calendar as details become available. In addition to notifying you of upcoming events, the website features background information on hydropower operations, laws and regulations and the presentations that are offered at our events. Please take the time to explore this resource which was recently updated to maximize use by mobile devices as well.

**Working Committees**
NWHA has a number of working committees, which are referenced at our website. If you have an interest in taking part in a committee, please contact me (jan@nwhydro.org) and I will put you in touch with committee leadership.

We also have working groups for specific programs: a Small Hydro Working Group, a Technical Seminar Work Group for operators, a Young Hydro Professionals Group (groups based in Portland, Seattle and Boise), the Women in Hydropower Professionals Group (based in Portland, Seattle and Spokane), and the Pumped Storage Committee. Our Awards Committee annually accepts nominations for the Pamela E. Klatt Award honoring someone who has made major contributions to the Northwest hydropower industry.

In addition, we recently established the Julie A. Keil Women in Hydro Scholarship Fund. If you or your company wish to donate to the fund, refer to the website for instructions.

As everyone in your entity is a member as the result of the entity’s membership, others in your group may join in any of our activities or committees.

**Board and Officers**
Our elected directors and officers are listed at the website, along with their contact information, so that you may contact them as well. The board election is held each February. Interested members may self-nominate by January 10, 2017, for the three-year director positions that will be on the February 2017 ballot.

**Your NWHA**
Finally, please know that we are interested in hearing from our membership, and from prospective members, about opportunities to provide better information and services to bring value to you through NWHA membership. We also welcome active participation from your staff in developing future workshop and conference topics. Being active in NWHA committees (or as a board member) is a great way to interact with other members who share your interest in the hydropower industry and can provide an opportunity to exercise those leadership skills! If you’re interested in getting more involved, please contact me. Please don’t hesitate to request more information about your NWHA membership.

Jan Lee, Executive Director
NORTHWEST HYDROELECTRIC ASSOCIATION