



Region X VPP Conference History

The following pages list the history of the Region X VPP Conferences and Board of Directors. These pages are in chronological order, going back in time from present to 1994. **Updated on 1/17/2025**



2025

The **29th Annual Region X Conference**, AKA the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” will be held May 13-15, 2025 at the Holiday Inn Portland – Columbia Riverfront in Portland OR. Tuesday, May 13 will consist of full day and half day workshops, and the conference classes take place on May 14 and 15.

The Conference theme is “Beacon of Safety.” The Keynote address will be “It Won’t Happen To Me” by Russ and Laurel Youngstrom. The General Session on Thursday is “The Little Things Make All the Difference” presented by Dan Miller. The Region X SGE Workshop will be hosted by Cardinal IG, Hood River, the week of April 22-24, 2025.

The 2023/2024 Region X Board of Directors are:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Max VanValey	Milgard
Vice Chairperson	Saprena Lyons	Idaho Environmental Coalition
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE Power & Water
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CPCC
Director (Union Site)	Open	
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
1 st Director at Large	Curtis Reece	Idaho National Laboratory
2 nd Director at Large	Billy Brown	Hanford MIS
3 rd Director at Large	Dustin Caldwell	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.

Board Advisors	
OSHA: Peter Wilsey	DOSH: Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM	AKOSH: Christian Hendrickson
DOE: Stephanie Dovalina	

In addition to the board members and agency advisors, the 2025 conference planning committee also includes: Jeff Fry, Jared Davis, and Alesha Jorgensen.

The board positions up for election in 2025 included:

- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- 3rd Director at Large
- Treasurer

- Director from a Union site

2024



The **28th Annual Region X Conference**, AKA the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” was held May 14-16, 2024 at the Dena’ina Center in Anchorage AK. There were 228 attendees from 9 states! Tuesday, May 14 consisted of full day and half day workshops, and the conference classes took place on May 15 and 16. The Conference theme was “Climb to Safety Excellence.” The Keynote address was “Usability Mapping: Applying the Science of Safety” by Klaus Hofer, Pd.D. Chief Science Officer for Usability Mapping, Inc., Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The General Session on Thursday was “Great Leaders that Made VPP Happen,” presented by Paul Savage, MS,

SMS. There was an SGE Workshop immediately following the conference. hosted by ConocoPhillips Alaska on Friday May 17, through Sunday, May 19.

The 2023/2024 Region X Board of Directors are:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Max VanValey	Milgard
Vice Chairperson	Saprena Lyons	Idaho Environmental Coalition
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE Power & Water
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CPCC
Director (Union Site)	Billy Brown	Hanford MIS
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
1 st Director at Large	Curtis Reece	Idaho National Laboratory
2 nd Director at Large	Andy Foster	Central Plateau Cleanup Co.
3 rd Director at Large	Dustin Caldwell	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Andrew Martinson, CIH, CSP		DOSH: Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Christian Hendrickson
DOE: Michael McAnulty/Stephanie Dovalina		

In addition to the board members and agency advisors, the 2024 conference planning committee also includes: Dale Combs, Jared Davis, Alesha Jorgensen, Stephanie Dovalina, and Ashley Novak.

The board positions up for election in 2024 include:

- Chairperson
- 1st Director at Large
- 2nd Director at Large
- Labor Representative Non-Bargaining Unit



2023

The **27th Annual Region X Conference**, AKA the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” was held May 16-18, 2023 at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, WA. The Conference Theme was “Coming Together for Safety.” The keynote presentation was by James “Jimmy” Hart, President, Metal Trades Department of AFL-CIO. There were 375 attendees representing 64 companies. 215 attendees were first time attendees! There were 51 exhibitors and 27 sponsors helping this conference succeed.

Region X sponsored an SGE Workshop that was held at the Oregon OSHA Tigard Field Office Training Room on April 18-20, 2023.

The 2022/2023 Region X Board of Directors are:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Max VanValey	Carlisle WT
Vice Chairperson	Saprena Lyons	Idaho Environmental Coalition
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE River Road Generating Plant
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CPCC
Director (Union Site)	VACANT	
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
1 st Director at Large	Curtis Reece	Battelle Energy Alliance
2 nd Director at Large	Andy Foster	Hanford Mission Integration S.
3 rd Director at Large	Billy Brown	CPCC
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Andrew Martinson		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Christian Hendrickson
DOE: Mike McAnulty		

In addition to the board members and agency advisors, the 2023 conference planning committee also includes: Dale Combs, Jared Davis, and Alesha Jorgensen.

The board positions up for election in 2023 included:

- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- 3rd Director at Large
- Treasurer
- Hourly Director from a Union site



2022

The **26th Annual Region X Conference**, AKA the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” was held May 12-14, 2020 at the Boise Centre, in Boise ID with a Conference theme of “25 Years of Sustained Safety Excellence.”

Region X sponsored an SGE workshop scheduled prior to this conference on May 9, 10, and 11, 2020.

This first in-person conference since COVID restrictions were released, had 192 attendees representing 56 companies. 120 of the attendees were first-timers! There were 42 exhibitors and 18 sponsors, including 6 sponsors who were scheduled to sponsor the 2020 conference and transferred their sponsorship to 2022!

The 2021/2022 Region X Board of Directors are:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Max VanValey	Carlisle
Vice Chairperson	Saprena Lyons	Fluor Idaho
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE Power & Water
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CHPRC
Director (Union Site)	Rocky Simmons	MSA
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
1 st Director at Large	Curtis Reece	Battelle Energy Alliance
2 nd Director at Large	Michael Welch	Owens-Corning
3 rd Director at Large	Don Slaugh	MSA
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Andrw Martinson		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Christian Hendrickson
DOE: Carol Henning		

In addition to the board members and agency advisors, the 2022 conference planning committee also includes: Jonathan Hagen, Mike VanWyhe, Dale Combsand Mike Bessler.

The board positions up for election in 2022 included:

- Chairperson
- 1st Director at Large
- 2nd Director at Large
- Labor Representative Non-Bargaining Unit

2021

Continuing travel restrictions and Covid 19 issues resulted in postponement of the 2021 Region X conference by a quorum of the Region X Board of Directors on January 13, 2021.

The Board was able to hold a **virtual business meeting** on May 20, 2021, as required by the Region X by-laws as well as conducting several **virtual workshops** on May 20 and 21, 2021, to **maintain VPP momentum**. Additional nominations were requested to fill a vacancy in the 3rd Director at Large position due to retirement.

The **26th Annual Region X Conference**, AKA the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” was to be held in May 2021 Boise ID, **but was held virtually instead**.

The 2020/2021 Region X Board of Directors are:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Max VanValey	Carlisle
Vice Chairperson	Saprena Lyons	Fluor Idaho
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE Power & Water
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CHPRC
Director (Union Site)	Rocky Simmons	MSA
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
1 st Director at Large	Curtis Reece	Battelle Energy Alliance
2 nd Director at Large	Michael Welch	Owens-Corning
3 rd Director at Large	Don Slaugh	
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Justine Callahan		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Christian Hendrickson
DOE: Carol Henning		

In addition to the board members and agency advisors, the 2021 conference planning committee also included: Jonathan Hagen, Mike Bessler, and Mike VanWyhe.

The board positions up for election in 2021 included:

- Chairperson (due to change from Vice Chair)
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- 2nd Director-at-Large
- 3rd Director-at-Large

2020

Due to COVID-19 and the subsequent travel restrictions the 2020 conference was cancelled. The Boise Conference Plans were postponed for at least a year.

The **26th Annual Region X Conference**, AKA the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” was to be held May 12-14, 2020 at the Boise Centre, in Boise ID with a Conference theme of “25 Years of Sustained Safety Excellence” and an SGE workshop scheduled prior to this conference on May 9, 10, and 11, 2020. **Workshops and speakers were moved to the 2021 Conference.**

In accordance with Region X VPPPA By-Laws, a **virtual Teams business meeting** for the region was held, with a quorum, on September 30, 2020 at 10AM Pacific.

The 2019/2020 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Rocky Simmons	MSA
Vice Chairperson	Max VanValey	Carlisle
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE Power & Water
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CHPRC
Director (Union Site)	Edward Larson	Georgia-Pacific Toledo, LLC
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Saprena Lyons	Fluor Idaho
Director at Large	Curtis Reece	Battelle Energy Alliance
Director at Large	Cliff Butler	Sherwin-Williams, Purdy
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Justine Callahan		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Christian Hendrickson
DOE: Carol Henning		

In addition to the board members and agency advisors, the 2020 conference planning committee also included: Jonathan Hagen, Don Slaugh, Mike VanWyhe, and Mike Bessler.

The board positions up for election at the 2020 Conference included:

- Chairperson
- 1st Director at Large
- 2nd Director at Large
- Labor Representative Non-Bargaining Unit



2019

The **25th Annual Region X Conference**, AKA the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” was held May 14-16, 2019 at the Red Lion on the River at Jantzen Beach, in Portland Oregon. The Conference theme was “Sustaining Safety Excellence While Protecting People” The Keynote Speaker on Wednesday was “Just a Second ago” by Brad Livingston, followed by his daughter Kayla Rath on Thursday morning covering “The Ripple Effect.” The conference was supported by 264 attendees, representing 82 companies, 50 exhibitors, 25 sponsors, and 5 supporting government agencies! There was an SGE workshop prior to this conference with 10 attendees in training, held May 11, 12, and 13, 2019, and hosted by Sherwin-Williams’ Purdy Brush facility and Owens Corning’s, Linnton Asphalt Plant.

The 2018/2019 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Rocky Simmons	MSA
Vice Chairperson	Max VanValey	Carlisle
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE Power & Water
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CHPRC
Director (Union Site)	Edward Larson	Georgia-Pacific Toledo, LLC
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Saprena Lyons	Fluor Idaho
Director at Large	Curtis Reece	Battelle Energy Alliance
Director at Large	Cliff Butler	Sherwin-Williams, Purdy
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Derek Engard, CIH, CSP		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Christian Hendrickson
DOE: Carol Henning		

In addition to the board members and agency advisors, the 2019 conference planning committee also included: Jonathan Hagen, Brooke Carey, Jessica Ferrick, Mike VanWyhe, and Cynthia Shultz.

The board positions up for election at the 2019 Portland Conference include:

- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- 3rd Director at Large
- Treasurer
- Hourly Director from a Union site

Max Van Valey, Marjorie Brice, Cliff Butler, Jack Griffith, and Eddie Larson were all re-elected.

The bowling night event on Tuesday, May 14 was a huge success with over 60 in attendance!

2018



The **24th Annual Region X Conference**, AKA the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” was held May 1-3, 2018 at the Anchorage Dena’ina Center in Anchorage AK. The Conference theme was “Hooked on Safety!” The keynote Speaker was Brian Horner, who covered Active Shooter: Are we Prepared. The conference was supported by 207 attendees representing 74 companies, 40 exhibitors and 15 sponsors. An SGE workshop hosted by ConocoPhillips was held prior to the conference.

The 2017/2018 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Rocky Simmons	MSA
Vice Chairperson	Max VanValey	Carlisle
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE Power & Water
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CHPRC
Director (Union Site)	Elizabeth Norton	HAMTC Rep / WRPS
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Edward Larson	Georgia-Pacific Toledo, LLC
Director at Large	Cliff Butler	Sherwin-Williams, Purdy
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Derek Engard CIH, CSP		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Christian Hendrickson
DOE: Carol Henning		

In addition to the board members and agency advisors, the 2018 conference planning committee also included: Sharon Perkins, William D Turner, Saprena Lyons, Tracy Williamson, and Jerome Jackson.

The board positions up for election at the 2018 Anchorage Conference include:

- Chairperson
- 1st Director at Large
- 2nd Director at Large
- Labor Representative Non-Bargaining Unit

Liz Norton retired at the end of the conference and the board appointed Eddie Larson to complete her term.

2017



The **23rd Annual Region X Conference**, AKA the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” was held May 16-18, 2017 at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane WA. The Conference theme was “Blazing the Trail for Safety!” Matt Pomerinke was the keynote speaker. There were 261 attendees at the Conference, representing 82 organizations. Of the 261 attendees, 147 were first time attendees! 8 states were represented at the conference.

The 2016/2017 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Michelle Steeler/ Rocky Simmons	AECOM / MSA
Vice Chairperson	Rocky Simmons / Max VanValey	MSA / Carlisle
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE Power & Water
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CHPRC
Director (Union Site)	Elizabeth Norton	HAMTC Rep / WRPS
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Edward Larson	Georgia-Pacific Toledo, LLC
Director at Large	Max Van Valey / Cliff Butler	Carlisle / Sherwin-Williams
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Derek Engard		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Michael Bowles
DOE: Carol Henning		

In addition to the board members and agency advisors, the 2017 conference planning committee also included: William D Turner, and Saprena Lyons, Tracy Williamson, Cliff Butler, and Jerome Jackson.



In October 2016, Michelle Steeler had to resign due to a non-VPP direction taken



by the new ownership of her company. Rocky Simmons was appointed by the Board to complete the remainder of the Chair’s term. Max VanValey was appointed to complete the Vice Chair’s term. The Board then opened the Director-at-Large to qualified volunteers. Cliff Butler was approved by the board to fill the remainder of the term.

The board positions up for election at the 2017 Spokane Conference include:

- Vice Chairperson
- 3rd Director at Large
- Treasurer

- Secretary
- Hourly Director from Union Site

2016



The **22nd Annual Region X Conference** was again called the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” and was held May 17-19, 2016 at the Boise Centre and The Grove Hotel in Boise ID. The Conference theme was “Saddle Up for Safety.” Gene Balsmeier, Integrated Waste Treatment Project Deputy Project Manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project, a DOE Star site in Region X, was the Keynote Speaker. He talked about Balancing Workplace Choices and Leaving a Legacy. There were 240 attendees at the Conference, representing 80 organizations. Of the 240 attendees, 144 were first time attendees!

The 2015/2016 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Michelle Steeler	AECOM
Vice Chairperson	Rocky Simmons	MSA
Secretary	Marjorie Brice	GE Power & Water
Treasurer	Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / CHPRC
Director (Union Site)	Elizabeth Norton	HAMTC Rep / WRPS
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Edward Larson	Georgia-Pacific Toledo, LLC
Director at Large	Max Van Valey	Oldcastle Precast
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Jacob Ewer		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Michael Bowles
DOE: Carol Henning		

Bonnie Anderson resigned as Chair upon her retirement. The board selected Michelle Steeler to take the interim chair position until the 2016 elections. Rocky Simmons agreed to step into the Vice Chair position on 10/19/2015, leaving the Secretary position open. Marjorie Brice was appointed to complete the term.

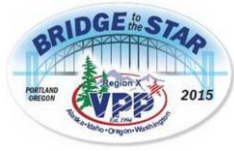


In addition to the board members, the 2016 conference planning committee also included: William D Turner, and Saprena Lyons. Newly appointed to the planning committee were Tracy Williamson, Cliff Butler, and Jerome Jackson.

The board positions up for election at the 2016 Boise Conference were:

- Chairperson
- 1st Director at Large
- 2nd Director at Large
- Labor Representative Non-Bargaining Unit

2015



The **21st Annual Region X Conference** was again the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit,**” and was held May 13-14, 2015 at the Red Lion on the River-Jantzen Beach, in Portland OR. The Conference theme was “Bridge to the Star.” Keni Thomas (of Blackhawk Down fame) was the keynote speaker, and there were 255 attendees, including 193 first time attendees!

For the 2015 VPPPA Conference, Region X hosted our second SGE (Special Government Employee) Workshop, which was held at the Conference Hotel on May 9-11, 2015 for 10 new Region X SGEs.

The 2014/2015 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Bonnie Anderson	CH2M –WG Idaho, LLC
Vice Chairperson	Michelle Steeler	URS Corporation
Secretary	Rocky Simmons	MSA
Treasurer	Don King / Jack Griffith	HAMTC Rep / WRPS HAMTC Rep / CHPRC
Director (Union Site)	Elizabeth Norton	HAMTC Rep / WRPS
Director (Non-Union)	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jack Griffith / Edward Larson	HAMTC Rep / CHPRC Georgia-Pacific Toledo, LLC
Director at Large	Max Van Valey	Oldcastle Precast
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Jacob Ewer		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Dave Guinn
DOE: Carol Henning		

Don King resigned as Director at Large to take on the position of Treasurer, then had to resign in September. On 6/10/2014, Tim Taylor resigned as Director at Large to take over the open position of Director-Non Union Site. On 10/21/14, Jack Griffith resigned as Director at Large and was approved to serve the remainder of the Treasurer’s term, and Edward Larson was approved by the board to serve the remainder of the Director at Large term.

The board positions up for election at the 2015 Portland Conference include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Vice Chairperson | Secretary |
| 3 rd Director at Large | Hourly Director from Union Site |
| Treasurer | |

2014



The **20th Annual Region X Conference** was called the “**Northwest Safety & Health Summit**,” and was held on May 13-15, 2014 at the Dena’ina Center and Anchorage Marriott in Anchorage AK. The Conference theme was “SOAR Into Safety”. There were 205 attendees representing 67 companies. The Keynote was “Controlling Risk in a Dangerous World – The Leader’s Role” presented by former Astronaut Jim Weatherbee.

The 2013/2014 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Bonnie Anderson	CH2M –WG Idaho, LLC
Vice Chairperson	Michelle Steeler	URS Corporation
Secretary	Rocky Simmons	MSA
Treasurer	Terry Schuebert	Idaho National Laboratory
Director (Union Site)	Elizabeth Norton	WA River Protection Solutions
Director (Non-Union)	Brian Stevens	Endicott BP Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Tim Taylor	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Don A. King	Washington Closure Hanford
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Jacob Ewer		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Dave Guinn
DOE: Carol Henning		



Terry Schuebert resigned from the board in late 2013. The position was covered through the Conference by Bonnie Anderson with help from the Board. The board positions up for election at the 2014 Alaska Conference included:

- Chairperson
- 1st Director at Large
- 2nd Director at Large
- Labor Representative Non-Bargaining Unit

2013



The **19th Annual Region X Conference** was held on May 14-16, 2013 at the Davenport Hotel & Tower in Spokane WA. The Conference theme was “Mining VPP Stars”. There were 250 attendees representing 85 companies (109 sites). 74 were first time attendees. The Keynote was “Keep Safe, Keep Healthy, Keep Laughing,” and speaker Leigh Anne Jasheway had the whole audience at the Bing Crosby Theater cracking up!

The 2012/2013 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Bonnie Anderson	CH2M –WG Idaho, LLC
Vice Chairperson	Ella Iott	Clearwater Paper Corporation
Secretary	Michelle Steeler	URS Corporation
Treasurer	Terry Schuebert	Idaho National Laboratory
Director (Union Site)	Jim Chonzena / Elizabeth Norton	Weyerhaeuser / Washington River Protection Solutions
Director (Non-Union)	Brian Stevens	Endicott BP Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jack Griffith	CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation
Director at Large	Don A. King	Washington Closure Hanford
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Jacob Ewer		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Bill Nickerson
DOE: Carol Henning		

Jim Chonzena retired from the board in early 2013, and Liz Norton was appointed by the board to fill the remainder of Jim’s term.

2012



The **18th Annual Region X Conference** was held on May 15-17, 2012 at the Boise Centre on the Grove, in Boise ID. The Conference theme was “Gems of the Northwest”. There were 328 attendees representing 81 companies.

The Keynote speaker was Jeff "Odie" Espenship who presented "Getting Back to Basics is Vital to Superior Performance — It's the Little Things that Matter". The former U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, author, and renowned speaker motivated audience members to rethink and refocus their work behavior. Attendees reported that “this was the best conference yet!”



The 2011/2012 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Bonnie Anderson	CH2M –WG Idaho, LLC
Vice Chairperson	Ella Iott	Clearwater Paper Products
Secretary	Michelle Steeler	URS Corporation
Treasurer	Terry Schuebert	Idaho National Laboratory
Director (Union Site)	Jim Chonzena	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Kemmer Sorrel	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Director at Large	Jack Griffith	CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation
Director at Large	Chris Thursby	CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Steve Gossman		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Bill Nickerson



2011/2012 Region X Conference Planning Committee

at the

18th Annual Region X Conference held on May 15-17, 2012

at the

Boise Centre on the Grove, in Boise ID

2011



The **17th Annual Region X Conference** was held on May 17-19, 2011 at the Red Lion on the River-Jantzen Beach, in Portland OR. The Conference theme was “VPP-Coming Up Roses”. There were 328 attendees representing 88 companies or organizations! The keynote speaker was Dan Clark.

For the 2011 VPPPA Conference, Region X hosted our first SGE (Special Government Employee) Workshop, which was held at the Conference Hotel on May 14-16, 2011.

The 2010/2011 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Bonnie Anderson	CH2M –WG Idaho, LLC
Vice Chairperson	Ella Iott	Clearwater Paper Products
Secretary	Michelle Steeler	URS
Treasurer	Terry Schuebert	INL
Director (Union Site)	Jim Chonzena	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Kemmer Sorrel	ConocoPhillips Alaska
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska
Director at Large	Bill Rippon	Georgia-Pacific
Director at Large	Chris Thursby	CH2M Hill
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Steve Gossman		DOSH: John Geppert/Darren James
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Bill Nickerson

2010



The **16th Annual Region X Conference** was held on May 11-13, 2010, at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel in Anchorage, AK. The Conference theme was “VPP ... North to Alaska!” and there were 274 attendees. Bruce Wilkinson was the keynote speaker.

The 2009/2010 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Bonnie Anderson	CH2M –WG Idaho, LLC
Vice Chairperson	Ella Iott	Clearwater Paper Products
Secretary	Michelle Steeler	URS
Treasurer	Chris Adolfson / Terry Schuebert	INL / INL
Director (Union Site)	Jim Chonzena	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Mike Morrow / Kemmer Sorrel	Monsanto / ConocoPhillips Alaska
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska
Director at Large	Bill Rippon	Georgia-Pacific
Director at Large	Chris Thursby	CH2M Hill
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Steve Gossman		DOSH: John Geppert
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Bill Nickerson

In July of 2010, Chris Adolfson ran for the National Board and Mike Morrow stepped down as Director from a site without a Collective Bargaining agent. The BOD appointed Terry Schuebert, INL to fill the remainder of Chris’ term as Treasurer, and Kemmer Sorrell to fill the remainder of Mike’s term.

2009



The 15th Annual VPPA Region X Conference was held May 19-21, 2009, at the Davenport Hotel & Tower in Spokane WA. The keynote speaker was Vince Lombardi Jr. The Conference theme was “The Tradition of Excellence”, and there were 288 attendees.



The 2008/2009 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Bonnie Anderson	CH2M –WG Idaho, LLC
Vice Chairperson	Rich Gibson	Rohm & Haas
Secretary	Maggie Duff	Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
Treasurer	Chris Adolfson	INL
Director (Union Site)	Jim Chonzena	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Mike Morrow	Monsanto
Director at Large	Jeff Carlson	ConocoPhillips Alaska
Director at Large	Ella Iott	Potlatch Forest Products
Director at Large	Bill Rippon	Georgia-Pacific
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dave Baker		DOSH: Tom Norris
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Ann McCarthy



2008



The **14th Annual VPPA Region X Conference** was held May 13- 15, 2008 at the Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley ID. The Conference theme was “Stars of the West”, and there were 293 attendees.

The 2007/2008 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Chris Thursby	Flour Federal Services
Vice Chairperson	Rich Gibson	Rohm-Haas
Secretary	Maggie Duff	Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
Treasurer	Chris Adolfson	INL
Director (Union Site)	Jim Chonzena	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Bonnie Anderson	CWI
Director at Large	Rick Blackmarr	Masterbrand Cabinets
Director at Large	Jack Griffith	Fluor Hanford
Director at Large	Bill Rippon	Georgia-Pacific
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dave Baker		WISHA became DOSH: Ken Werenko
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Krystyna Markiewicz

2007



The **13th Annual VPPA Region X Conference** was held May 22-24, 2007 at the Downtown Hilton in Portland OR. The Conference theme was “The Trail to Excellence”, there were 361 attendees.

The 2006/2007 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Brent Jensen	Potlatch
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Secretary	Maggie Duff	Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
Treasurer	Chris Adolfson	INL
Director (Union Site)	Jim Chonzena	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Bonnie Anderson	CWI
Director at Large	Rich Gibson	Rohm & Haas
Director at Large	Jack Griffith	Fluor Hanford
Director at Large	Bill Rippon	Georgia-Pacific
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dave Baker		WISHA: Ken Werenko
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Krystyna Markiewicz

Also in November of 2007, for the first time, Region X held a second VPP Application Workshop[®]. The workshop was held in Roseburg OR, and was attended by 30 persons representing 19 companies from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

2006



The **12th Annual VPPPA Region X Conference** was held May 23-25, 2006 at the Davenport in Spokane WA. The Conference theme was “Return to the Beginning”, and there were 285 attendees.

The 2005/2006 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Brent Jensen	Potlatch
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Secretary	Chris Adolfson	INL
Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch Consumer Products
Director (Union Site)	Jim Chonzena	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Bonnie Anderson	CWI
Director at Large	Rich Gibson	Rohm & Haas
Director at Large	Jack Griffith	Fluor Hanford
Director at Large	Bill Rippon	Georgia-Pacific
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dave Baker		WISHA: Ken Werenko
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Krystyna Markiewicz

2005



The **11th Annual VPPPA Region X Conference** was held May 3-5, 2005 at the Doubletree Riverside in Boise ID. The Conference theme was “Discover the Star”, and there were 249 attendees.

The 2004/2005 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Chris Thursby	Monsanto
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Secretary	Chris Adolfson	INL
Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch Consumer Products
Director (Union Site)	Gale Ahrens	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Bonnie Anderson	CWI
Director at Large	Brent Jensen	Potlatch
Director at Large	Jack Griffith	Fluor Hanford
Director at Large	Bill Rippon	Georgia-Pacific
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dave Baker		WISHA: Ken Werenko
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Krystyna Markiewicz

2004



The **10th Annual VPPA Region X Conference** was held May 18 - 20 2004 at the Marriott in Portland OR. The Conference theme was “Celebrating a Decade of Excellence” and there were 303 attendees.

The 2003/2004 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Chris Thursby	Monsanto
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Secretary	Chris Adolfson	INEEL
Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch
Director (Union Site)	Gale Ahrens	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Bonnie Anderson	INEEL
Director at Large	Bill Rippon	Georgia Pacific
Director at Large	Jack Griffith	Fluor Hanford
Director at Large	Brent Jensen	Potlatch
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dave Mahlum		WISHA: Ken Werenko
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Krystyna Markiewicz

2003

The **9th Annual VPPA Region X Conference** was held May 6-8, 2003 at the Red Lion in Pasco WA. The Conference theme was “Share the Energy”, and there were 331 attendees.

The Secretary/Treasurer position was split to form two positions in 2003, and Board Advisors were added to the Bylaws.

The 2002/2003 Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Gary McDonough	Georgia-Pacific
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Secretary	Chris Adolfson	INEEL
Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch
Director (Union Site)	Gale Ahrens	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	David Shelton	Rohm & Haas
Director at Large	Chris Thursby	Monsanto
Director at Large	Clegg Meadows	Potlatch
Director at Large	Brent Jensen	Potlatch
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dave Mahlum		WISHA: Ken Werenko
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman, CSHM		AKOSH: Krystyna Markiewicz

2002

The **8th Annual VPPA Region X Conference** was held April 23 - 25, 2002 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene ID. The Conference theme was "Best in the West", with 228 attendees.

The 2001/2002 Region X Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Gary McDonough	Georgia Pacific
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Secretary-Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch
Director (Union Site)	Gale Ahrens	Weyerhaeuser
Director (Non-Union)	Dave Shelton	Rohm & Haas
Director at Large	Clegg Meadows	Potlatch
Director at Large	Lynda Stoneberg	WISHA
Director at Large	Chris Thursby	Monsanto

Board Advisors	
OSHA: Dan Hoeschen	WISHA: Mel James, Ken Werenko
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman	AKOSH: Krystyna Markiewicz

2001

The **7th Annual VPPA Region X Conference** was held May 8 - 10, 2001 at Sun River Resort in Sun River OR. The Conference theme was "Valuing Peak Performance." There were 174 attendees.

The 2000/2001 Region X Chapter Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Mike Shuey	Potlatch
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Secretary-Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch
Director (Union Site)	Dennis Hernandez	JR Simplot
Director (Non-Union)	Jeanne Larson	Northwest Alloys
Director at Large	Terry Lish	JR Simplot
Director at Large	Gary McDonough	Georgia-Pacific
Director at Large	Lynda Stoneberg	WISHA

Board Advisors	
OSHA: Dan Hoeschen	WISHA: Mel James, Ken Werenko
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman	AKOSH: Krystyna Markiewicz

2000

The **6th Annual VPPPA Region X Conference** was held May 9- 11, 2000 in Doubletree in Seattle WA. The Conference theme was “VPP Reigns in Region X.” There were 187 attendees.

The 1999/2000 Region X Chapter Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Mike Shuey	Potlatch Corporation
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Secretary-Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch Corporation
Director (Union Site)	Dennis Hernandez	JR Simplot
Director (Non-Union)	Elizabeth Allen	BP Alaska
Director at Large	Terry Lish	JR Simplot
Director at Large	Dave Matyus	Solutia
Director at Large	Lynda Stoneberg	WISHA
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dan Hoeschen	WISHA: Mel James, Ken Werenko	
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman	AKOSH: Krystyna Markiewicz	

1999

The **5th Annual VPPPA Region X Conference** was held April 27 - 29, 1999 in Coeur d’Alene Resort in Coeur d’Alene ID. The Conference theme was “Above and Beyond”, and there were 235 attendees.

In 1999, Boyd Schvanefeldt stepped down from the Board and was replaced by Dave Matyus. The 1998/1999 Region X Chapter Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Vice Chairperson	Mike Shuey	Potlatch Corporation
Secretary-Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch Corporation
Director (Union Site)	Dennis Hernandez	JR Simplot
Director (Non-Union)	Elizabeth Allen	BP Alaska
Director at Large	Terry Lish	JR Simplot
Director at Large	Boyd Schvanefeldt Dave Matyus	Kerr McGee Solutia
Director at Large	Lynda Stoneberg	WISHA
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dan Hoeschen	WISHA: Mel James, Ken Werenko	
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman		

1998

The **4th Annual VPPPA Region X Conference** was held May 19 - 21, 1998 at the Jantzen Beach Doubletree in Portland OR. The Conference theme was “Journey to Excellence” and there were 182 attendees.

The 1997/1998 Region X Chapter Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Vice Chairperson	Stephen Brown	Potlatch Corporation
Secretary-Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch Corporation
Director (Union Site)	Vince Diaz	Pioneer Chemical
Director (Non-Union)	Elizabeth Allen	BP Alaska
Director at Large	Terry Lish	Simplot
Director at Large	Boyd Schvanefeldt	Kerr-McGee
Director at Large	Lynda Stoneberg	WISHA
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dan Hoeschen	WISHA: Mel James, Ken Werenko	
OR-OSHA: Mark E. Hurliman		

1997

The **3rd Annual VPPPA Region X Conference** was held May 13 - 15, 1997 in Tumwater WA. The Conference theme was “Region X is Buzzin”. The Region began hosting the VPP Application Workshop[®] at all future conferences in 1997.

In 1997, the positions of Vice Chair, Director from a Site with a Collective Bargaining Agent, Director from a Site without a Collective Bargaining Agent and another Director at Large position were added to the Region X Board of Directors. Not all were filled that first year.

The 1996/1997 Region X Chapter Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Boyd Schvanefeldt	Kerr McGee
Vice Chairperson	Paul Hooper	Agrium
Secretary-Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch Corporation
Director (Union Site)	Vince Diaz	Pioneer Chemical
Director at Large	Terry Lish	JR Simplot
Director at Large	Lynda Stoneberg	WISHA
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dan Hoeschen	WISHA: Mel James, Ken Werenko	
OR-OSHA: Phyllis Straight-Millan		

1996

The **2nd VPP Conference** was actually the first Region X VPPPA Conference held by the newly formalized Chapter, and was held in Tumwater, Washington at the Labor and Industries building, May, 8-10, 1996. The conference had 99 attendees and 4 vendors.

The 1995/1996 Region X Chapter Board of Directors were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Boyd Schvaneveldt	Kerr, McGee
Secretary-Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch Corporation
Director at Large	Conrad Watkins	Monsanto
Director at Large	Paul Hooper	Nu West
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dan Hoeschen	WISHA: Mel James, Ken Werenko	
OR-OSHA: Phyllis Straight-Millan		

1995

There was no VPP Conference held in Region X in 1995.

1994

The **1st VPP Conference** in Region X was held in Spokane, Washington in the winter of 1994 at the Double Tree Inn. Dan Hoeschen, the OSHA Region X VPP Manager, set up the conference. The conference lasted one day and had about 37 attendees.

At that time there were only three VPP sites in Region X and a Region X Chapter of the VPPPA had not yet been established. Region X became a formal chapter of Voluntary Protection Program Participant's Association (VPPPA) on March 6, 1996.

The first Region X Chapter Board of Directors (1994/1995) were:

Board Position	Person	Company
Chairperson	Boyd Schvaneveldt	Kerr, McGee
Secretary-Treasurer	Kent Lang	Potlatch Corporation
Director at Large	Conrad Watkins	Monsanto
Director at Large	Paul Hooper	Nu West
Board Advisors		
OSHA: Dan Hoeschen	WISHA: Mel James, Ken Werenko	