

**SAVE Cascadia Chapter 2014/2015 Board Year: January 14, 2014**  
**Board and Chapter Meeting**

<b>Date:</b>	January 14, 2015	
<b>Location:</b>	Cheers Restaurant, 5805 Lacey Boulevard SE, Lacey, WA 98503	
<b>Board Meeting Attendees:</b>	Steve Thompson (Board VP)	Boeing
	John Langer (Board Treasurer)	John Langer Consulting
	Teresa Platin (Board Secretary)	Consultant
	Mark Gabel (Board Member)	WSDOT
	Thomasa Hume	WSDOT
	Anna Bremmer	Bremmer Consulting, LLC
	Dave Hamilton	RSRI
<b>Additional Attendees for Chapter Meeting</b>	Brad Sayre	Consultant
	Andrea Ball	Consultant
	Hank Ball	Retired
	Laurie Dennis	RHA
	Chuck Wickham	WSDOT

**Board Meeting Discussion (5:30 – 6:00 pm)**

Website

Teresa noted that the web designers (Trina and Leighton Smith) have done a nice job revamping our SAVE Cascadia Website, and it has been up and running for a couple of months. The site address is "[Seattleve.net](http://Seattleve.net)", and it is now the only website for our Chapter. One of the Board members suggested sending a note out to our membership encouraging them to check it out. Teresa has done this in the past, and will do it again on upcoming meeting announcements.

Board Positions

There was a discussion about the current Board positions and the need to verify that Past-President is not a Board Position. Past-President Rahul has not been listed as part of the Board since the elections in October 2014. There is also a question about Steven Paget's term and a request for verification that it truly expired. If there are any errors, we need to discuss and correct. *It is unclear who took this action item on, but Teresa will check back with the Board to see who is handling.*

Upcoming Meetings

Steven Thompson offered to cover the February Meeting, with John Langer shifting to March, and Teresa Platin shifting to responsibility for a later date (if needed). The remaining Chapter Meeting program responsibilities now are as follows:

- February 11 – Steven Thompson. Topic = Tips and Principles for Effective Teaching
- March 11 – John Langer. Possible Topic = Lessons Learned from Sno Co Courthouse VE

- April 8 – Michael Schneider
- May 13 – Blane Long
- June 10 - (TBD) – perhaps Don Owings? Meeting will be in conjunction with SAVE Annual Conference in San Diego.

We discussed meeting locations, and Teresa offered to look into alternatives southeast of Seattle (perhaps South Center, Renton, Tukwila, or Kent) or on the East Side (Bellevue, Newcastle). Mama Sortini's in Kent? The room should be free of charge.

We also discussed having one of the spring meetings in Portland, Oregon. We agreed that we should “put out a feeler” to see if people are interested in attending a meeting there. If we can't draw a critical mass, then it would not be worth it to hold the meeting there, since so many of the Board members would be travelling to participate.

#### Treasurer's Report

As of September 21, 2014, the SAVE Cascadia Chapter no longer has a separate treasury account. This is because of our vote to become a “division” of SAVE, International, rather than a free-standing Chapter (tax-law changes). We are still considered a Chapter, but by law, we're a division of SAVE, International.

The Board now authorizes expenditures, and SAVE, International pays them. The turn-around time has been quick.

The Cascadia Chapter treasury balance is \$6304.81 as of the January Meeting.

#### Capital Expenditure Discussion

Steven Thompson proposed that the Chapter consider purchasing some AV equipment so that we are always prepared for our Chapter Meeting presentations, regardless of the venue. He provided some preliminary estimates based on limited research, noting that he would collect some more information and get back to the Board. For the purposes of discussion, he noted the following equipment costs from Fry's Electronics:

- Notebook (personal computer) - \$250
- Webcam w/built in microphone - \$29
- Mini projector - \$300

It was estimated that we'd have to spend about \$20 per venue for internet, but then could Skype for free. We could also post the presentations ahead of time on our website. This equipment, internet, and back-up access to presentations would allow us to potentially increase the meeting participation by offering virtual attendance.

John Langer moved that Steven investigate the AV options further, and Teresa Platin seconded the motion.

Anna Bremmer offered to write up a brief policy on the use and storage of the AV equipment.

## Chapter Meeting (6:20 – 7:00 pm)

### Introductions and Opening Conversation

After self-introductions around the room, we opened the meeting with a conversation about WSDOT funding and life-cycle costs.

### Value Proposition

Steve Thompson lead a discussion considering the question “How do we make sure this is such a great, VALUABLE, meeting that everybody wants to come?” (or “What should the Cascadia Chapter offer members, and why do we or anyone want to be a member?”) The Board has been discussing this topic for several months and has shared some questions amongst themselves as discussion starters. We were particularly glad to have guests at the meeting that could provide new thoughts and insights.

Bullet summary of discussion points:

- Boeing expects professional societies to set the standards high for Boeing to measure itself against.
- Chapter provides networking opportunities and chances to find people that would be good addition to VE teams.
- CVS<sup>R</sup>-Life distinction may be eliminated. If so, CVS<sup>R</sup>'s will need to continue gaining certification points.
- Our local Chapter website could be a good spot to list names of people who want to work on projects as either the certified facilitator or as a subject matter expert.
- Better use of LinkedIn to connect with Cascadia Chapter Members and the VE profession in general. It was noted that there IS a VE group on LinkedIn, but it's not necessarily SAVE. We need to be careful to uphold the standards. Teresa will talk to Karen Smith at SAVE International to see if there is an official LinkedIn SAVE group
- Recent survey of several “successful” Chapters by our Secretary found that they were experiencing a similar # of meeting participants and were also interested in ways to strengthen their Chapters. Field Trips/Learning Opportunities seemed to have the biggest draw. Especially when tied closely to VE topics.
- Past cross-professional society events such as with PMI, AACE, etc. have been successful and should be explored further. They present, we present – two topics in one meeting. Gets people exposed to VE.
- Our group should appeal to those involved in Lean, PmbOK, and other value improvement fields. How can we cross-pollinate? PMI offers a PM course that THEY put together ... what can we learn there? Could we put something together that would get people to CVS that is tied with our meetings?

**Presentation (7:05 pm start)**

**Mark Gabel** (Support Systems Engineer at WSDOT) and **Thomas Hume** (Design Analysis Engineer at WSDOT) conducted a presentation titled **“Value Engineering – One Way to Accomplish Practical Design”**.

A brief video and their PowerPoint presentation is included on the SAVE Cascadia Website ([Seattleve.net](http://Seattleve.net)) along with these meeting notes.