



EPP Section October 2008 to October 2009 Annual Report

To: Doug Kleine, ACR Executive Director
Michael Aloï, ACR Board President
Cindy Cook, ACR Board Vice President

From: Carolyn Penny, EPP Co-Chair 2007-2009
Harry Manasewich, EPP Co-Chair 2008-2010
John Jostes, EPP Co-Chair 2009-2011

Date: October 30, 2009

On behalf of the EPP Section, we are pleased to send our annual report of accomplishments for the year from October 1, 2008 to October 1, 2009.

- During a year of significant national and international economic upheaval, professional organization membership can reasonably be expected to decrease. Section membership was 301 as of September, 2008 and 256 as of September, 2009, a decrease of 15 percent. ACR's overall membership decrease for the same period was a significantly greater percentage. The EPP Section is pleased to assist with connection of its membership to the larger ACR organization.
- The EPP Leadership Council reconfigured its committee structure to better serve its members, created an Action Plan for 2009 for the Council and each committee, and modified its budget to ensure that adequate financial resources would be available to carry out the Plan.
- The 14 members of the EPP Leadership Council (LC) held 12 meetings to address section issues. Of those 12 meetings, 11 were by conference call and 1 was in person at the section conference in Denver. The EPP LC ends the year with the following committees: Diversity and Leadership, Ethics, Communication and Outreach, Website, ACR Section Relations (Ad Hoc), Professional Development, and 2010 Conference.
- The EPP Section Conference, "Managing Climate Change Through Collaborative Governance," was held at the University of Denver June 11-13, 2009. This conference was co-sponsored by the University of Denver Conflict Resolution Institute. Projected to result in a positive margin of approximately \$4000, the conference was attended by 96 registrants, 16 volunteers, and 31 non-registered speakers. The section thus continues a history of successful section conferences. Once again, a strong conference partner was vital to success.

- EPP 2010 and 2011 Conference planning have begun. The 2010 EPP Section Conference co-chairs are Carolyn Penny and Dan Adams. The 2010 conference will be held May 24, 2010 in Tucson, the day before the US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) Conference.
- The EPP Section held a mentoring workshop the day before its 2009 section conference began. This workshop was focused on diversity and leadership, led by Laurie Hunt and Carolyn Smiley-Marquez, and attended by 32 participants. The EPP Diversity and Leadership Committee is currently planning its activities for the upcoming year.
- The EPP held Leadership Council elections during the summer of 2009. In its usual rotation, the election resulted in an incoming Co-Chair (John Jostes) and 4 At-Large LC members (Turner Odell, Suzanne Schwartz, Kevin Bryan, and Jen Peyser). LC members Michael Elliott, Ramona Buck, and Marci DuPraw rotated off the LC after exemplary leadership service.
- During the course of the year, the EPP section unveiled a new *interactive* combination website-blogsite with a new address www.acrepp.org, new material, and new formatting. It was designed to be easily administered and does not require special programming knowledge to do so. Due to the importance of a website presence, the LC created a new committee, the Website Committee, chaired by Brad Spangler.
- The EPP Section produced three newsletters (fall 2008, spring 2009, and summer 2009), newsletters which describe section events as well as EPP projects and practices. All newsletters are available at the section website, www.acrepp.org.
- Starting with January of 2009, the co-chairs instituted the practice of a personalized email to welcome new section members each time ACR sent a spreadsheet listing the new members.
- After over a year of effort, section collaboration with ACR resulted in ACR Board adoption of language for the Sharon Pickett award. The EPP section will continue to play a significant role in outreach regarding the award and recommendation of the recipient.
- After five years of concerted and collaborative effort, the Ethics Committee submitted its recommendations to the EPP LC for review and discussion. These recommendations are currently under EPP LC review.
- The EPP Section held two section meetings, one during the ACR Conference and one during the Section Conference. At each of these meetings, section members and potential section members learned about and discussed section updates and initiatives.

In addition to these specific accomplishments, the EPP Section participated on ACR LC conference calls and various ACR committees, including the Section Relations Committee. The EPP Section reviewed proposals for the ACR conference.

The EPP Section is proud of its history of active, significant, and effective involvement. We do our section work in the same spirit of collaboration on which we advise others – that is one of our greatest accomplishments and a great source of fun.