

Vol. 4, no. 3 (Winter 2005-2006)

CHAPTERS' CORNER

Notes from the Chapter Activities Session at World Future 2005: Foresight, Innovation and Strategy

This issue's column presents the ideas that were exchanged among presidents and other representatives of various chapters at the chapter activities session in Chicago – the event that inspired “Chapters' Corner” – as summarized by session chairperson Ken Harris.

Things Chapters Can Do to Assure Success

1. Get support from their governments in the form of subsidies or payment for work on projects of interest to their governments.
2. Get corporate sponsorship (e.g., Korea chapter has received support from Samsung; Northern California, intends to get support from Google).
3. Build membership, as the Hong Kong chapter has done, by giving free memberships to high school students and then retain them as paying members after graduation.
4. Build high school futurist clubs and encourage the members to start college chapters after they graduate as Timetrackers in Northern California has done.
5. If you are forming youth chapters, use Christy Dugger's booklet “Starting a Futurist Club.” Christy's email is dugger1892@yahoo.com.
6. Undertake programming with alternative media such as independent TV channels, cable TV, Internet, satellite radio and podcasting. Podcasts are created with an RSS feed and can be played on different types of electronic devices such as computers, IPODs and MP3 players. Podcasts could be considered an audio version of blogging.
7. Have programs featuring Washington-based professional futurist David Pearce Snyder as speaker. His email is david@the-futurist.com. He will speak for free to WFS chapters if appearances at their meetings can be worked into his extensive travel schedule, which is known well in advance. (Note: Although he would waive his normal speaking fee, he would appreciate some reimbursement for expenses.)

8. Take advantage of E-Learning programs on futures subjects.
9. Use chapter activities sessions at the annual WFS conference to exchange chapter success stories. In between conferences, post chapter success stories on the Future Times section of the WFS website and/or send them to the Washington chapter newsletter **FUTUREtakes** (futuretakes@cs.com).
10. Have a website that tells all about your chapter and link it to the WFS website.
11. Videotape or audiotape your own programs and make the tapes available to chapter members unable to attend the programs.

Things the World Future Society Can Do for Chapter Success

1. Introduce country-adjusted membership dues to make Society membership more affordable for people in poorer countries. Adjustments could be on a purchasing power basis. Dues equivalent to two hours average wages in a country were suggested.
2. Provide, possibly in conjunction with larger chapters, video or audio taped programs to smaller chapters. NBC Universal taped the 2005 opening plenary session. The WFS is having discussions with NBC in hopes of getting use of the tape.
3. Make copies of the 2005 and/or recent past conference volumes available to chapters to give out as an incentive for joining.
4. Enlist Society members fluent in languages other than English to translate Society publications into those languages.

Your chapter has its own success story and winning ideas to share with other chapters! Let's continue this exchange of ideas that can benefit all WFS chapters. Send your "words of wisdom" to chapterscorner@futuretakes.org for publication in this column.