

IGWA Bulletin

IDAHO, 2008

One of the most common questions addressed to me is, “Why should I belong to the NGWA? What benefit is there for me and my employees?” My response is there are seven main reasons that I belong.

- **Advocacy** –The NGWA is our voice on legislative issues. The NGWA Fly-in gives us the ability to talk face to face with those who make policy. Our Standard Bearer network makes our voice heard year around and our NGWA Political Action Committee helps elect “pro-ground water” candidates.
- **Professional Development** – The NGWA Voluntary Certification Program promotes professionalism, shows pride in your work, and gives you a leg up over your competitors. We offer the McElhiney Lecture series and continuing education at our workshops, conferences and Expo.
- **Benefits** – Every Contractor and Supplier member receives a \$50,000 accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy at no extra cost. We also have other insurance and rental benefits.
- **Business Resource** - The NGWA provides the Water Well Journal, buyers guides, The Well Log newsletter, Members Connection resources on the NGWA Web site. We also have the drilling cost calculator, the pump cost calculator, safety fact sheets, industrial reports, promotional tools, and the list goes on.
- **Community** – The Affiliate States Program serves as a link between local grassroots and national ground water initiatives. The National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation provides scholarships, research, and educational activities.
- **Outreach** – Ground Water Awareness Week and the Wellowner.org and Ground Water Adventures.org Web sites reach millions of people nationwide with our message about ground water and wells. Not only that, NGWA has reached millions more people through our recruitment of promotional partners, which includes organizations such as the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Environmental Health Association, the National Association of Conservation Districts and Tractor Supply Company to name a few.
- **Networking** – The ability to talk with peers on issues, techniques, and products at Expo’s, committees and state shows far exceeds the cost of NGWA dues. This is the major benefit of belonging to any organization.

So please join the Idaho Ground Water Association, The National Ground Water Association so that you to may take advantage of their programs, but more importantly so that you may give back to the industry that is so dear to our hearts.

Scott Fowler
NGWA President



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A GROUND WATER CHALLENGE

Question: What's nine years old, has lots of friends, and has an important story to tell?

Answer: National Ground Water Awareness Week.

By the way, if you are not one of the friends, you should be. Read on.

NGWA started National Ground Water Awareness Week in 1999. The idea was to use one week during the year to rally around the ground water flag by (1) telling the public the importance of ground water; and (2) encouraging good stewardship of ground water and wells.

Today, Ground Water Awareness Week is bigger than ever. More than a dozen national organizations—from the American Farm Bureau Federation to the U.S. Geological Survey—actively promote Ground Water Awareness Week.

But our most powerful sales force for Ground Water Awareness Week are the 14,500 members of NGWA. If every NGWA member did just one thing to raise public awareness during the 2008 Ground Water Awareness Week, it would do more to advance the cause of ground water awareness than anything else we do.

The challenge: Commit to at least one activity to promote ground water awareness in your community or service area during the week of March 9-15. When Ground Water Awareness Week is over, tell us what you did and we will share your activity in the *Water Well Journal*®. You will get some well deserved recognition and share your good idea with your peers.

Are you up to the challenge?

For ideas, refer to the "Public Awareness Toolbox" all NGWA members received in the October issue of *Water Well Journal*.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Cliff Treyens, NGWA public awareness director, at 800 551.7379 (614 898.7791), ext. 554, or ctreyens@ngwa.org.

IGWA SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Attention College Students: be sure to visit our website (www.igwa.info) to download an application for the IGWA scholarship!!



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IGWA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Brett McCarty called the meeting of the Idaho Ground Water Association to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at the Double Tree Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho. Those present included: Brett McCarty, Roger Buchanan, Tom Richardson,

PRESENT

Rob Dawson, Gary Duspiva, Guy Weech, Fred Walker, Steve Graves, Lee Barron, Tonie Brand, Carl Davis, Chris Davis, Scott Fowler, Jake Losee, Lavell Losee, Bill Chesley, Nate Duman, Brett Uhlenkott, Tim Uhlenkott, Wes Uhlenkott, Kevin Koch, Ray Freeman, Chance Chandler, Devin Strong, Scott Braun, Alex Putzier, Robert Slane, Tim Harrison, Jim King, Matt Hiddleston, Ryan Fullerton, Brad Skinner, Earl Skinner, Dennis Phipps, Kevin Chastain, Justin Cleaver, Scott Couch, Lehi Couch, Arlo Lloyd, LeRoy Palmer, David Gibbons, Greg Nelson, Cleon Young, John Sexton, Dave Adamson, Jeremy Pennington, Mike Robinson, Stephen Lansberry, Scott Bishop, Chad Draper, Jon Kersten, SteveThompson, Steve Baker, Legrand Baker, Jake Denning, Daniel Denning, Kenny Vollmer, Gary Vollmer, Joey Vollmer, Jeff Ransom, David McLeran, Rich Scrivner, Jon Fife, Marie Teague, Josh Youngblood, Shane Stevens, Heidi Bishop, John Bishop, Matt Kominck, Gary Jones, Ken Smith, Casey Connell, Dave Crosby, Steve Asbury, Russell Glines, Marvin Haines, Robert Gestrin, Jim Daniel, Travis Campbell, Larry Tindle, Charlie Fox, John Courtney, Mike Courtney, Henry Baker, David Baker, Mitch McClannahan, Trentan Anderson, Sherman Couch, Ray Wilson, Alan Harber, Viki Harber, Kevin Skinner, Frank Skinner, Ed Holder, Chris Jones, Terry Edmondson Sr., Terry Edmondson Jr., Hugh Harden, Mike Michalak, Tony Hackett, Sam Kingrey, Kenneth Potter, Brian Pokorney, Blaine Boley, Jerry Nicholson, Ryan Lewis, Josh Crossman, Martin Wilson, Graig Egan, Dave Austin, Troy Chesley, David Chesley, Grant Nelson, Lloyd Hayden, Matt Stoffel, George Post, John Smith, Robert Smith, Mike Knie, Chad Knie, Gary Wilson, Joy Wilson, Steven Bishop, Ron Bishop, Nic Stevens, Ron Stevens, Tom Dufoe, Dennis Uria, Kenne Metzger, Randy Payne, John Sullivan, Tom Mays, Very Oyler, Gary Oyler, Jeff Sears, Dave Pomerantz, Dan Sells, Marcus Frandsen, Travis Frandsen, Jack Sowers, Ron Peterson and Roger Batt.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the IGWA Annual Business Meeting from February 1, 2007 had been mailed to the membership. Rob Dawson moved to approve the minutes from February 1, 2007 as printed and mailed. Seconded. Passed.

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED

Roger Batt presented the year-end financial report for the period October 1, 2006–September 30, 2007 showing a year-end net profit of \$2,127.92. Roger Buchanan moved to approve the year-end financial report for the period October 1, 2006–September 30, 2007 as presented. Seconded. Passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Roger Batt gave the Executive Director's Report on the following:

- Well Construction Rules Overview
- Accomplishments of IGWA in 2007

BOARD INTRODUCED

President McCarty introduced the IGWA Board of Directors to the membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws: Roger Buchanan, By-Laws Committee Chairman, reported that the proposed by-laws changes brought to the membership today had been read three (3) times by the IGWA Board of Directors. Buchanan read the by-laws changes to the IGWA Membership (listed in the IGWA Proceedings Book). Buchanan noted that the by-laws changes needed to be placed into the IGWA Newsletter, March 2008 Edition.

CEC: Tom Richardson, Continuing Education Committee Representative, stated that the purpose of the CEC is to review and score Continuing Education Credits for the Drilling Industry. Three (3) people are up for re-election on the CEC. All are willing to serve another term, but the Committee is also asking for new people to volunteer if anyone is interested.

Driller Certificate: Roger Batt gave an overview of the new Driller Certificates for Continuing Education Credits. The Certificate must have the following to be considered valid:

- Name of Driller at the top of the Certificate.
- Signature of the Executive Director at the bottom of the Certificate.
- Machined red number on Driller Certificate
- Course Outline and Date of Course
- Stamp of (0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, etc.) of credits next to each Course

Drillers are in charge of making sure they don't lose their Certificate, since this is the ONLY record they will have, to make a copy for re-issuance of their License.

There was no report from the Executive Committee.

Ethics: Tony Hackett, Ethics Committee Chairman, announced that the Ethics Committee would wait until they heard of any problems of an ethical nature before proceeding.

Legislative: Roger Batt, Legislative Committee, reported that the IGWA was working on two (2) pieces of legislation for the 2008 Session, which include:

- **Amending the Administrative Procedures Act** – Enhancing the Negotiated Rulemaking Process to make it more consistent, to provide for better consensus and better communication for all parties involved.
- **Fund Accountability** – Making the Idaho Department of Water Resources report on activities of funds generated by Driller License and Permit fees into the Water Administration Account. IGWA has been asking for this information for five (5) years and has not received any record of such activity.

Membership: Henry Baker, Membership Committee Chairman, noted a few comments that he has been hearing from members of the Industry including:

- IGWA is not a very charitable group
- IGWA is just a bunch of politicians

Baker stated that anyone can complain about something and asked for people in the room to come up with sound solutions to complaints they have.

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Nominating: Henry Baker, Nominating Committee Chairman, announced that the IGWA Board received no input from anyone new who was interested in serving on the board. Two (2) IGWA Board members have volunteered to be re-elected for another term including Tony Hackett and Rob Dawson. Baker asked for other nominations to the IGWA Board and received none.

Scholarship: Louise Duspiva, Scholarship Committee Chairman, announced that the IGWA Scholarship Committee was selling raffle tickets at \$1.00 each or six (6) for \$5.00 to help benefit the Scholarship Fund. Numerous items had been donated for the raffle including an Amish Quilt donated by Gary and Louise Duspiva. Proceeds go to deserving college students through the IGWA Scholarship Fund.

**BOARD NOMINEES
INTRODUCED**

President McCarty introduced Tony Hackett and Rob Dawson to the membership as IGWA potential directors to the IGWA Board. Tom Richardson moved to accept the new slate of officers as presented. Seconded. Passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President McCarty moved to go into Executive Session at 8:38 a.m. and asked that Agency personnel and state officials leave the meeting. McCarty noted that IDWR had sent the new Well Construction Rules Enforcement Policy to all licensed drillers. McCarty asked for a small show of hands who did not agree with the policy. Twenty-two (22) hands raised that did not agree with the policy.

Brett McCarty – We need enforcement in the state, but a standard policy that everyone can agree to. The Driller's Advisory Committee that Director Tuthill has setup will help resolve issues such as these.

MINIMUM WELL CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS DISCUSSED

Members of the Industry agreed that there are problems with Minimum Well Construction Standards and that IDWR has stepped up inspections, but they are not thorough inspections.

Steve Graves – Does IDWR still furnish a list of violations for us to publish in the newsletter?

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

ETHICS

My turn as the Ethics Committee Chairman came up last year, so I decided to buckle down and find out what it was all about. Ethics really is a funny thing. What's ethical and what's not, I think, can be a difference of opinion. Ethical to me is following the rules set forth and treating people the way I want to be treated. If you don't like the rules the way they are, you should get involved and try to change them. Don't just sit back and complain!

Hey, I have an idea! Wouldn't it be nice if everyone followed every rule and never got in trouble? Yeah, and every member of IGWA did everything by the book, too. If someone was falling off the path, a committee could show up, yank him back on track, and offer suggestions or ideas to get him back on the right road. Better yet, try to come up with volunteers to help get it done. Then when it's over, share the information with the association so we might prevent it from happening again.

I think the problem is this; some people are too proud or embarrassed to ask for help. So, when someone goes out on a limb to try and help, they stand the chance of being sued. Isn't it funny when a person has a problem and you try to help, you can actually be sued? It really isn't funny, being sued for pointing out that a person might not know exactly what they are doing. If they did, they wouldn't be in the situation at hand. Then there are the ones who really don't even care.

I guess what I'm trying to say is regardless of color, race, religion or whatever one believes in, there is a rule, law and even a common sense way of doing things. This also goes for the way you say things. Don't insult or threaten one's way of thinking. Some people feel that just because it is written, that it is the only way. Sometimes there are better ways. You may just have a good suggestion that the State might totally agree with.

If a rule exists and you don't agree with it, don't just do what you want regardless; protect yourself and your customer by discussing it first with IDWR. Get things down in writing and maybe even talk to members of the IGWA.

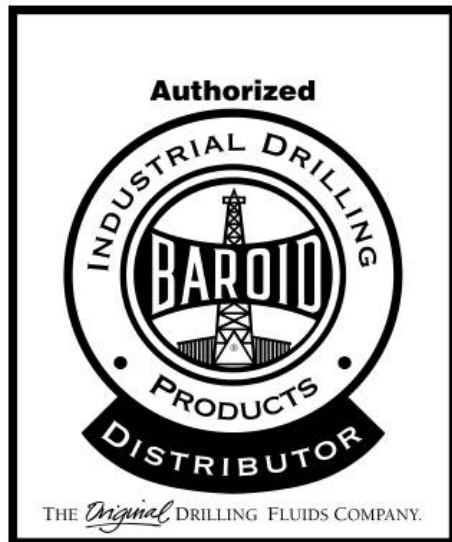
Hey, I just got another idea; what if we came up with an IGWA chat line on the Internet. There you could tell people your well or pump problems and maybe get advice from others. You wouldn't even have to tell others who you are. Heck, I like that idea; we could call it Drillers Gone Wild chat line or something to that nature.

Well, I need to finish this for now. So, for my final 67 words:

Be ETHICAL if that's possible, or at least do your best. If we all stay within the rules, we can pull together and help each other. If we don't, well there's not much we can do to help. We as an association stand a lot better chance being heard if we stay together as a team, follow rules, and remain ETHICAL.

*Tony Hackett
IGWA Director*

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