

The Advocate

Letter From The President Richard Petersen

I was reminded that it is now my turn to write the President's thoughts for the newsletter. Many of you may remember my last couple of rounds in this panic. I am going to attempt to do better! It gets harder to say what you think the older you get and to go along with that you are less likely to be politically correct. However, here it goes and I'm super glad to be here.

It has been great to watch our industry change in the last few years, all the new faces and finally being able to charge enough to eat. It's a lot different from the prices my grandfather charged or my father or even myself 5-10 years ago. It has opened the door to young people and revived our industry. There are a few things I hope will never change. When my grandfather arrived on a job, he found people needing water to make their lives better. Sometimes it was necessary for their survival. After he finished and left, the customers had the means to not only survive but thrive in their lives. I believe my father and I have continued that tradition along with all of you. And now maybe our industry, along with all of us, can thrive and the younger generations will see the potential and continue to join our numbers.

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Mark Your Calendar

- June 6-8, 2024 Moab PED & Summer Retreat
- Dec 10-12, 2024 NGWA Groundwater Week
- Jan 8-10, 2025 UGWA Annual Conference & Expo

The conferences were all great this year and it was great to see everyone that was able to attend. Please try to support these conferences and associations, we all receive a lot back from them in knowledge, scholarships, friendships, and support. It is true that everyone counts, and together, we truly can make a difference.

Please be safe out there and continue doing things right. Be Positive and Thrive!! Have a great 2024!!

Best regards,

Richard Petersen, lastdropdrilling@yahoo.com

President UGWA



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 - C. TECHNICAL:** Any hydrologist, geologist, or engineer involved in teaching, research, consulting and or government services associated with the ground water industry.
 - D. ASSOCIATE:** Any person engaged in the support of the UGWA who does not accurately fit in any of the above.
-

2024 UGWA Conference Recap

Mesquite, NV—January 3-5, 2024

Thanks to everyone that attended and participated in our recent conference in Mesquite January 3rd-5th. This year we had 114 attendees and 28 booths with over 70 representatives from our vendors. It was a well-attended conference and it was great to have everyone back together as we continue to navigate the limitations with the pandemic.

We had another great turnout at the golf tournament. Thanks to Steve Price/Delco Western for their continued support. We had over 40 participants yet again. The foursome of Ryan Cross/Danny Jean/Conrad Miller/Al Winters won the overall tournament. Vicki Stine and Tom Tomkins won the two longest putt holes and Mike Rice and Gavin Holland the closest to the pin holes.

In the afternoon on Wednesday we provided a refresher Mud School short course for those that registered. There were 23 attendees that reviewed water well drilling fluid properties, completion and development of water wells. Thanks to Baroid for putting on the class. We plan to continue to do the mud school for those that need an update or refresher on mud handling.

As in past years, thanks to Dave Worwood/4-D and Charlie Fox/Franklin Electric for putting on the skeet shoot event too. This event was well attended with over 40 participants as well. Jaden Johnson won first place, Jim Wankier took second and Robert Armstrong took third place. They won \$100, \$50 and \$25 respectively.

Later in the day on Thursday we kicked off the presentations with a review of Jeff Davis speaking about the benefits available through NGWA and his role as a board member. Unfortunately Jim Goddard was unable to attend this conference but his training will be available in the summer both at the Water Rights offices and at our Moab Conference. The initial presentation was followed by Charlie Fox with Franklin Electric who presented on Encapsulated Submersible Motors followed by McLain Pray from DGI Geoscience speaking about borehole geophysics for groundwater. The presentations went well and had great participation from all of the attendees and we appreciate the new information provided.

Thursday night, Jeremy Anzalone again played auctioneer and did a great job for our fundraising efforts. We raised a total of \$17,247 for the scholarship fund. We also raised another \$681 for the crisis fund from the quilt tickets and cash donations. We depend heavily on the generosity and participation of attendees at these events and we are able to do so much good with the money that is raised. Thank you to everyone.

Friday started with a class on Groundwater/Surface water interactions from Samuel Colin Robinson with Guide Water. Then we had a presentation from Gavin Holland and Moab Bit and Tool on selecting the correct bits for different drilling methods and formations. We moved forward with a 2 hour panel discussion that touched on topics such as engaging younger workers, developing staff, navigating volatile costs and political impacts (election year) among other topics. After this discussion, the member meeting and voting was held before we had lunch and everyone headed home. All of the presentations were great and are greatly appreciated.

We also had our general membership meeting and board elections. The new President Elect is Aaron Alton with Grimshaw Drilling. Dee Evans stepped down and was replaced with Mike Anzalone. Ty Allen stepped down and was replaced by TJ Walsh from Western Hydro. Jeffery Dunn stepped down and was replaced by Neil Burke with LRE Water. All other board members remained the same.

The conference is only possible due to all of the support from Colette Lynch and our other volunteers Carmella Worwood and Rachael Ritter as well as our sponsors.

Thanks to our Platinum Sponsors 2M, Mitchel Lewis and Staver, Western Hydro, Delco Western, Franklin Electric and 4D. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and support.

We look forward to the Moab Retreat June 6th-8th. More information to follow for that. The registration for next year has also been opened for our annual conference back in Mesquite January 8th – 10th. We look forward to seeing you all then. Thanks again for everyone's participation and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Mark Chandler



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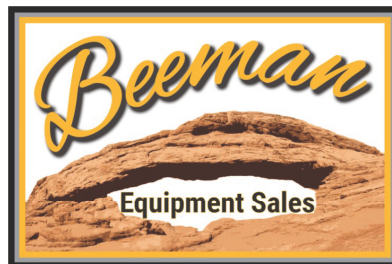
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