It’s been a long a time since I was the man in the hot seat and had I not forgot about having to write this article, I might have rethought being president. I’m really not a writer. When it comes down to it I tend to draw a blank, although I do enjoy discussing our industry with all of you face to face. On the worst side of it, I write something that I don’t mean and it is taken out of context and used against me. It seems like during my last term as president, I spent half the time digging my foot out of my mouth for a misdescribed job, and alienated some of my best friends. But here we go; two more years of writing and hoping to stay friends with everyone.

It has been a rough haul for us this last while. The industry and the economy have affected our livelihood drastically; to the point that some of us have lost help, friends, and associates to these hard times. It has affected all; however, I believe that we must move forward with a positive attitude, and hope and work for the best. It is the only way to live.

The conference this year was full, and to all of you who came and participated, thank you. We express appreciation to all those who worked hard to make it such a success. We can all be proud. The golfers had a lot of fun the day before and said there was plenty of room for more next year. If you didn’t make it, and know Ron Peterson, you really missed out! This was an opportunity like no other. To have one of our own honored by the National Ground Water Association. He is a great asset to the industry, and especially to us. Great job Ron, you earned it.

Some of us are getting ready to go to Laughlin, to attend the Mountain States Convention. I know this will most likely not arrive in time for me to convince you all to come, but it is a great convention and has many opportunities for
networking, and I hope I will still see many of you there. The next event scheduled for all of us as an association is the Moab Summer Retreat June 12th and 13th. It is enjoyable with a chance to learn. I encourage all to take a break and attend; bring your family; run the river with everyone. Look on the webpage to find all the details. Over the last few years, it has been beautiful weather and has been a lot of fun for those who have attended. And it is a great opportunity to get out of the cold, or if not cold, get out of town.

There are many things I would like to accomplish as president. I don’t know if many of you are aware, but there has been much debate on the board lately. This is always an important element in governing bodies, and though I agree on open debate, I believe at a certain point it can become destructive. I hope I can help us all unite and become stronger while still maintaining an open discussion.

With the previous ideas in mind, we are expanding our board meetings to include you, our members. Our minutes will be posted on the website, for you to read, AND COMMENT ON. If your comments are in time for the next meeting, they will be reviewed and discussed. I also would like to see your comments become a permanent item on the agenda of our meetings. I hope that by having further access to us, as a board, and our discussions, that you will sign in, and make your voices heard. Jim Goddard has brought to us several items that will change the rules in our industry as we now know them. This is not to say they will be good or bad, but it is to say, now is the time to speak and be heard, both in agreement and in disagreement. The saddest part of our republic, is that we rarely hear from those who agree, which leaves a gaping hole for those who are in disagreement to make rules that, in turn, we all must follow. I believe this because many who disagree, speak and change the original idea without input from those who agree with the original idea. I think as a board, as an association, and as an industry, we have worked hard and paid a high price for the opportunity to be thought of as more a bunch of well-diggers.

This is the time to have your voice heard, so please join with me and participate. Don’t just believe you agree with me or someone else on the board, and say nothing. Your voice counts. It is no more evident than when we go as individuals to meet with our legislators every year. One of the first questions asked is, “How many are in your association?” “Who all do you represent?” “How does it benefit our society?” “Why should I listen to you?” Don’t just think you are heard; be sure of it. Make it happen. Colette has spent a great amount of time updating our website and, if need be, we will have her do as much as needed to make it as simple as possible for you to contact us. None of you have an excuse greater than mine. Dewey and I were the only members who voted to hold out for a paper newsletter in hand. All the rest of you were computer friendly. Now we have lost our dear friend Dewey, and I am it. I am having to learn to convert. So speak up!

Richard Petersen — UGWA President
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Congratulations and thank you to all attendees of the 2015 UGWA Convention in Mesquite. We had 124 registered attendees this year. We had 27 displaying suppliers and vendors. What an exceptional turnout! We are looking forward to an even better convention in 2016.

On behalf of UGWA, I want to extend a huge thank you to all the displaying suppliers and vendors that support our convention and association. You folks are the reason that we have had such great and growing attendance. You bring so much new product information, have great displays and equipment demonstrations; we can’t help but want you back every year. Thank you to our many long standing exhibitors, and also to the new supporters that joined us for the first time. This year we made big changes to our layout to allow more space for vendors. We think it was a success – let us know with your feedback.

This year we offered 6 continuing education presentations. Congratulations to Ron Peterson of Baroid, a Utahn and longtime attendee and supporter of UGWA on being named NGWA’s 2015 McElhinney speaker. Ron’s informative talk was entitled “Drilling Fluids: A Common Sense Approach.” We wish Ron safe travels and a successful year on his whirlwind McElhinney tour across the entire US. Other topics included designing efficient and long lasting wells (Charlie Hoherd, Roscoe Moss), borehole geophysics and hydrophysics (Steve Truesdale, RAS), drill bits and refurbishment (Dave Baker, Western Bit Rebuilders), DOT Safety and inspection protocols (Trooper Bruce Fox/Utah Highway Patrol), and updates on Utah’s well drilling rules (Jim Goddard/Water Rights). Jeremy Anzalone ran the auction which raised $10,326.40 (after expenses) for our college scholarship fund. We also raised $606.61 (after expenses) for our crisis fund.

Next year’s convention will be in Mesquite on January 13-15, 2016. Mark your calendars and we’ll see you there. In the meantime please provide us any feedback, comments, or suggestions for this or next year’s convention. I really enjoy serving UGWA and helping run the convention. But don’t be fooled, the convention requires a Team effort to be successful. Our executive director Colette Read did a great job on the planning, logistics, registrations; basically everything needed to make it happen. Thank you also to Jason Lamb, Richard Petersen, the presenters, UGWA Board members, and everyone there for making it so much fun.

Chris Mikell, PG  
VP, Conventions  
cmikell@bowencollins.com
Please join us for this year's Moab Professional Education Day & Summer Retreat. We will be offering 6 hours of CEUs, combined with a fun family get away. This will be a great way to get to know and reconnect with others in our industry while enjoying some family fun in sunny Moab. We can't think of a better way to kick off the summer. You won't want to miss this one!

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TRIBUTE TO DEWEY PETERSEN
KYLE WIDDISON — UGWA PRESIDENT-ELECT

I met Dewey Petersen in about 1965, I was about 10 years old. My dad owned about 3 acres next to Dewey’s shop and yard in West Bountiful. We had a small barn, milking stalls and a pasture for a few cows. My father decided to build a new home on this site and so he, my brothers and I were elected to be the labor for this building project. As a young boy I was fascinated by the trucks and equipment I saw going past our place daily. I remember thinking... that was something I would like to do. I have been told that I was the annoying neighbor kid who was always hanging around and that Dewey may have hired me just to shut me up.

I recall the day he agreed to hire me and asked me how much I wanted to be paid. I said “I don’t care,” Dewey’s response was “How about five dollars a day?” “Fine with me,” I said, as I trotted home to tell dad. Well my dad thought for a minute and told me that I could go to work for Dewey but to go back tell him that I would work for $3.00 a day. That was at the first part of June in 1967. I had not yet turned 12 and as time would show, what an adventure I was about embark on.

It was only years later that I came to understand that Dewey and my father were actually conspiring together in an effort to teach me some of those valuable life lessons. I never knew but these two would talk over the fence between them about what lessons I needed and how best to get the point across to me.

Dewey was in business with his four brothers. Dewey was the oldest, and therefore, the leader of this family business. His father, J. Hy Peterson, was retired by the time I came to know them all, but also ran a drilling business. He lived close by and would visit Dewey’s shop often. Hy had cataract surgery by that time and wore those “coke bottle” glasses. He drove an old red Chevy pickup quite slowly all over Bountiful. He was well known and people would give him a wide berth as he very slowly drove around town. His hearing was also failing and so he would always rev the engine to the red line in order to know it had started. It was quite a show. He would occasionally bump into other cars when he parked at Lee’s Café or at the bowling alley for a meal. Everyone was always kind and patient with him when these mishaps would happen and usually needed to go see him at home as these accidents would usually be of the hit and run type. Dewey would always shake his head when he would hear one of these stories and I was fortunate to be a witness to all of the drama. It was a very fun time for me and there was always a humorous story of the day.

J. Hy was the first driller in Utah to agree to be licensed when all that started and so he took and passed the test and held License #1. This number was passed on to Gary, Dewey’s brother, when he broke from the company and started his own drilling business. Farrell and Gus, the other two brothers, eventually found other interests outside the drilling industry and that left Dewey with the business to himself. I have many stories of practical jokes that I could relate but will just mention a few. Like the time one employee left his lunch

(Continued on page 8)
TRIBUTE TO DEWEY PETERSEN
(CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 7)

box in the shop and so Dewey not wanting it to go to waste, ate the lunch and then proceeded to weld the lunch box closed to hide the evidence. He may have, at times, accidently left a 20” bit right behind someone’s pickup, leaving them trapped when they got to the yard, and of course, it happened to be the same day the keys to the winch truck strangely became lost. Dewey loved to paint anything and everything. It seemed that his favorite color was a silver paint. You had to be careful not to leave any personal stuff laying around the shop because it was likely to end up silver colored. It did not matter what it was, it would end up painted. It could be food, clothing, tools, or even your dog, it would all end up silver.

I worked for Dewey from 1967 until 1979, when I went on my own. We have always stayed friends. We were always fierce competitors yet through all this, there was never a cross word spoken. I am sure that we annoyed each other at times, when one of us got a job that the other really wanted. However we always were kind to each other. I saw Dewey on a pre-bid walk through on November 13th. We talked and he told me that he was not feeling very well. His back hurt and that he had recently had a little trouble down in St. George. He had run down there in his transport to haul his 60-L back here for a job. He had some trouble loading the rig as his back was really giving him trouble. He told me he had kinda “run out of steam” and ended up having to stay the night there but was able to make it home the next day. We did not talk long, as he said he needed to get home, as he was still hurting.

On December 10th, I got a call that he was in the hospital and so Cathy and I ran to the hospital that night, it was Wednesday. As we entered the room, Dewey was there as well as Pat. He was awake and as you all know Dewey is not really a “touchy-feely” sort of guy. He grasped my hand and held it for most of the time we were there. As we talked and laughed, I thought to ask him if he would like a priesthood blessing and in a classic response from him said “yes, if you think you have time.” The blessing was given and the four of us shared a very quite tender time together. On Friday Dec 12th, Cathy and I returned to the hospital but at this point Dewey was in a coma. The cancer was so aggressive that he really went downhill in those last few days. Dewey passed away on Saturday Dec 13th at about 4pm.

Dewey did not tell anyone that he had cancer. I believe he knew all along. He went out of this world in the way he chose to. He was like one of the old cowboys, “he died with his boots on.” I was lucky to have known him.

Kyle Widdison — UGWA President-Elect
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Colette Read at 801.541.7259, colette@utahgroundwater.org or www.utahgroundwater.org
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