

# Groundwater Reflections

Volume 34, Issue 3, Fall 2015



## CONVENTION PREPARATION IN FINAL STAGES

The CGA staff is working feverishly to prepare for the annual convention and trade show next month. The 67<sup>th</sup> show will convene October 15 through 17 at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada. The GSR has been newly remodeled and promises to be a great host for our show. Highlights include exhibits, seminars, golf, bowling, Texas Hold ‘Em, Blackjack, and Whisky Tasting, and are designed to appeal to everyone.

## EXHIBITS

The Trade Show floor will be open for a Meet and Greet on Thursday evening, and for all day on Friday. Over 70 booths will display a vast array of products for contractors and technical members alike. While the showroom floor is open, a series of Product Spotlights will be presented highlighting a variety of topics. Pete Conaty, CGA’s legislative advocate, will be on the floor at the CGA booth to answer questions about this year’s legislation. Eric Senter of DWR will also be in the CGA booth explaining the progress in converting to the new on-line well completion process.

## EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

A full slate of informative sessions will be presented on each day of the convention. Thursday will feature courses designed for both drillers and pump contractors. Also a seminar on required updates will be presented for Nevada drillers. A series of

Product Spotlights will be presented in the Demo Area on the Trade Show floor on Friday. Saturday’s program begins with the popular NGWA McEllhiney lecture on drilling fluids, and continues with seminars concerning drilling and pump topics, and water treatment issues.

*Continued on Page 7*

## CARB Officials Meet With CGA

Assemblyman Tom Lackey’s office arranged a meeting with CGA and California Air Resources Board (CARB) officials on August 19. Larry Rottman, Mike Maggiora, and John Hofer met with six members of CARB and Assemblyman Lackey in the Assemblyman’s office to discuss our concerns with the proposed implementation of regulations effecting the operation of our drill rigs and all other off-road engines. The proposed rules require that Tier 4 engines be utilized in drilling operations by January 1, 2017.

CARB informed us that they had realized that the new rules were difficult for our industry because of the regenerating process, and wanted to understand what the specific problems were. We explained the complications in both the drilling and testing of water wells. CARB indicated that they would be reviewing the proposed rules early next year, and that CGA would be part of the public process. Furthermore, they wanted to meet with Larry on one of his drill sites to observe the procedures for themselves. CGA will keep everyone updated on the progress.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER – 2015

### CGA 67<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

Oct. 15-17

Grand Sierra Resort and Casino  
Reno, NV

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"Groundwater Reflections" is produced by John Hofer of the California Groundwater Association.

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## CGA President's Message

By Michael F. Maggiora

As summer winds down and we head into the fall, I'm sure we are all looking forward to just a small break from our workload. What a perfect time to come to the CGA annual convention, which will be held October 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada.

By coming to the convention, you will be supporting your industry, which now more than ever needs support. Upcoming new CARB regulations, drought and legislative issues that will affect our industry need to be monitored and dealt with. In order for the CGA, to function and respond to such issues, we need your support. So come to the convention, support your livelihood, learn about upcoming issues, take advantage of educational seminars, network, and take the time to visit with our exhibitors. There will even be time for some fun.

Come join us for the bowling, golf, poker and blackjack tournaments. Relax and join us at the whisky tasting seminar. Visit with the exhibitors to learn about new products and technological developments. Take advantage of yet another excellent slate of educational seminars. Join us at the banquet to learn about water law and drought related issues from our keynote speaker, Jessie Richardson, who is with the Water Systems Council. Listening to Mr. Richardson, alone will be worth the trip to Reno.

Once again, please take the time to attend the convention, support your industry, and show your appreciation to those members who volunteer many countless hours so that we can have such a wonderful convention.

See you there.

Mike

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## CGA Mission

Caring for California's groundwater resources  
Giving high quality service to members and the public  
Acting in the best interest of the groundwater industry

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## CGA History The Start of the Scholarship Program

Editor's Note – After the publication of the Spring Reflections, I received an email from Robert Meredith thanking us for our efforts, and mentioning his involvement with the beginnings of CGA's scholarship program.

*Thank you very much for emailing the newsletter this afternoon. As always it is a first class professional publication that is meant to advertise, communicate, and educate as it should.*

*I was so very proud to read the article concerning the scholarship program and the deserving students that received the awards. The scholarship program holds a special place in my heart.*

*Back in 1989/1990 I was President of the Supplier Division and attend all of the board meetings. At one meeting in Sacramento it was reported that the Scholarship fund had \$200+ dollars in the treasury. There was a motion to disband the program and use the money for an on-floor reception at the upcoming Convention. I was in strong disagreement with that motion and thankfully the motion was defeated.*

*Continued on Page 10*

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## CGA Executive Director's Message

By John Hofer

Next month CGA will hold its 67<sup>th</sup> annual convention and trade show at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada. It's traditional in this September issue for the Executive Director to urge the membership to attend. A great lineup of educational sessions, a trade show floor packed with diverse exhibitors with new products, and a series of fun events, make this year's show a must attend event!

This year, however, the reasons to attend are even more compelling. CGA derives its revenue primarily from membership dues and the convention. Since 2008, a combination of outside influences – recession followed by extreme drought – has impacted your association negatively. Obviously, the four-year recession caused membership to drop and attendance at the convention to fall. But counterintuitively, the economic recovery and the current four-year drought have not signaled a recovery for CGA.

Our members seem to be too busy, dealing with recouping losses sustained during the recession and the vast business opportunities brought on by the drought, to worry about association matters. The irony is that there is no more important time for CGA to be strong. Increased public scrutiny of our industry demands that we maintain a dynamic association.

In order for CGA to increase its stature, we must grow our membership and increase attendance at our convention. So when you are asking yourself whether you can afford the time to attend the show next month, ask yourself if you can afford not to. Without convention revenue, CGA will not be able to fight for your interests in our rapidly changing industry.

So as in years' past, I urge you to attend your convention, but for more reasons than normal.

John



## CGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS IN VALENCIA

Last month, the CGA Board of Directors convened in Valencia for the third meeting of 2015. The Board discussed the status of negotiations with CARB on the emissions regulation set to take effect in 2017. Larry Rottman thought that CARB was ignoring us, but John Hofer reported that Assemblyman Tom Lackey's office had contacted him regarding a meeting they will set up in the near future with CARB. They will want CGA's participation. Hofer urged members to contact their local legislators to try and get support for our issue.

The Board discussed the possibility of moving the CGA office to Sacramento. Wherever the office is located, staff should be consolidated in one location. The consensus opinion was that CGA needs full-time office staff, but not necessarily a full-time executive director. A majority of members present felt that Sacramento was a good location for the office, but that it may not be financially feasible this year.

### Committee Reports

**Executive:** Mike Maggiora reported that the committee is continuing to work on financial and administrative issues. They will discuss the potential office move and decide if it is feasible this year.

**Budget:** Mike Meyer reported that the committee reviewed the second quarter financial reports. Recommended consolidating bank accounts for ease in moving money from different accounts. Many entries are still listed in the wrong categories. Dan Meyer will come to the office to help straighten the accounts out.

**Bylaws:** Bob Murphy noted in response to a question from the Budget Committee that a budget can be presented and approved at the General Membership meeting rather than a Board meeting.

**CGA Standards:** Dave Fulton reported that the committee is requesting that a letter be sent from the CGA office to John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources to request adoption of the Bulletin 74 revisions, rather than issuing specific amendments. Dave will discuss with Jeremy Wire, and the CGA office will send it out.

*Continued on Page 19*

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## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Pete Conaty & Phil Nails  
Legislative Advocates

The first half of the 2015-2016 Legislative Session will gavel to a close on September 11<sup>th</sup> although the Special Sessions on Healthcare and Transportation will continue to be alive. In our next report, we will provide the final results of legislative action this year on those bills that CGA thought could have the greatest impact on the well drilling industry here in California, with a special emphasis on any changes made to last year's bills that dealt with the state regulation of groundwater. In this report, we wanted to bring you up to date on the many activities that the various state and local entities are engaged which may affect you and your customers. Since we last wrote to the CGA membership, recent events in California continue to dominate news articles related to the drought. The stories below tell how complex these issues have become.

### **California Water Use Drops 31.3 percent, Exceeds 25 Percent Mandate. August 27, 2015**

Despite continued hot conditions, Californians surpassed June's conservation rate and reduced water use by 31.3 percent during July, exceeding Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s 25 percent mandate for a second consecutive month since the new emergency conservation regulation took effect. For June and July, the cumulative statewide savings was 29.5 percent. Saving water in the hot summer months is critical to meeting the State's overall 25 percent savings goal, as the summer is when the greatest amount of water is traditionally used. State officials urged residential water users to keep up their efforts to conserve. July's water savings moved the State 228,940 acre-feet (74.6 billion gallons) closer to the goal of saving 1.2 million acre-feet by February 2016, as called for by the Governor in his April 1 Executive Order.

### **Drought's Economic Toll to California Estimated at \$2.7 Billion in 2015. August 17, 2015**

The UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences released a report indicating that California's ongoing drought will impact the state's agricultural economy this year by \$2.7 billion and eliminate more than 21,000 jobs. The report, compiled with the assistance from the Department of Water Resources, explains that the use of groundwater is largely mitigating the impact of the drought to agriculture by offsetting the loss of surface water. Another report, funded by Wells Fargo Foundation, and

completed by Fresno State researchers, concluded farm losses due to the drought would \$3.3 billion.

### **NASA Report: Drought Causing Valley Land to Sink. August 19, 2015**

The Department of Water Resources released a NASA satellite data report showing land in the San Joaquin Valley is sinking faster than ever before, nearly two inches per month in some locations. Sinking land, known as subsidence, has occurred for decades in California because of excessive groundwater pumping during drought conditions, but the new NASA data shows the sinking is happening faster, putting infrastructure at risk.

### **DWR Releases Draft List of Critically Overdrafted Groundwater Basins, Schedules Public Meetings. August 19, 2015**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released its draft list of Critically Overdrafted Groundwater Basins. The draft list identifies 21 groundwater basins and subbasins that have been overdrafted due to excessive groundwater pumping. DWR will open a 30 day comment period and hold two public meetings to discuss its draft list, the process used to make its findings, and solicit public comment.

### **New Site Provides Data on Household Water Shortages. August 21, 2015**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR), in partnership with key state agencies, developed a new system that improves and streamlines data collection and reporting for household water shortages for California water systems with fewer than 15 household connections.

### **Continuing Drought Would Hit Rural Areas the Hardest. August 20, 2015**

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) has released a new report that indicates California's greatest vulnerabilities are in low income rural communities where wells are running dry and in California's wetlands, rivers and forests, where the state's iconic biodiversity is under extreme threat. PPIC also indicates that two to three more years of drought will increase challenges in all areas and require continued and increasingly difficult adaptations.

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## CONVENTION PREPARATIONS

*Continued from Page 1*

### ANNUAL BANQUET

The annual banquet on Friday evening promises to be entertaining with the addition of an address by Jesse Richardson of the Water Systems Council. Always engaging, Jesse will update us on some of the legal wranglings that affect our industry constantly.

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A revamped General Membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday at noon. In an effort to increase needed attendance, this year's format will be different in that it will include lunch and a legislative update from our legislative advocate.

### CGAA LUNCHEON

On Saturday at noon, the CGAA will have its annual luncheon. Immediately following, attendees will be treated to a program on "Essential Oils".

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

The CGA Annual Golf Tournament will return on Thursday to LakeRidge Golf Course, perpetually "Reno's Best". For those who have played there previously, conversation will probably center around No. 15, the "island hole". For those who haven't played, get ready for a tough but fair challenge.

### BOWLING TOURNAMENT

For the first time in years, Bowling returns to the CGA Convention. Immediately following the Meet & Greet on the Trade Show floor on Thursday, proceed one floor up to the Grand Sierra Bowling Center for an evening of food, drinks, and laughs. Whether you bowl or not, enjoy a "kick back" event.

### GAMING

Once again CGA will have two gaming venues to choose from. A Texas Hold 'Em Tournament will be held on Friday following the Banquet. The Blackjack Tournament will be held as the last event on Saturday.

## WHISKY TASTING

On Saturday afternoon, Paul Bissett will provide a class on whisky tasting. He will give a background on the whisky industry and attendees will be able to taste three different products.

## CGA Welcomes New Members

Since the last issue, CGA has added **14** new or returning members:

**Taylor Hanning**, Well Informed, Hanford, CA

**David Bane**, Chico, CA

**Victor Johnson**, Vallejo, CA

**Linda Scroggs**, Quincy Engineering, Roseville, CA

**Activated Solutions, LLC**, Las Vegas, NV

**H & H Supply, Inc.**, Woodland, CA

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**Insurance Corner**  
By Bob Murphy, CIC

The leaves are turning, fall is in the air; but let's avoid slips and fall. Your Insurance & Safety Committee has invested in another member benefit for all paid members as of the upcoming convention in Reno. Each member company will receive a copy of "Safety Meetings for the Groundwater Industry" as published by NGWA. The cost comes from our Clint Burden Safety account. A donation to provide safety tools to our members in memory of a past member. That's a savings of a minimum of \$40 if you were an NGWA member. Don't worry; if you forget to pick one up or cannot attend your convention, we will get a copy to you!

So, what the heck are we talking about? As you know we (and every other organization you know) harp on safe practices. They are critical in controlling overhead; but more important, protecting personnel, equipment and customers. You all have tailgate topics that your Insurance Committee put together based on CGA member claims; but now you will have 52 different groundwater industry-related topics to discuss (yea, that's one a week).

It's easy to document the training with two-part signoff format so you know who attended and can retain with your IIPP (that would be Injury and Illness Prevention Program in case you forgot). It's another way to keep your human capital (the employees who are getting it done in the field) up to date with knowledge they need to stay safe on the job.

Subjects range from proper blocking of drill rigs and pump servicing equipment to eye protection, hand protection and protection from falling objects. Speaking of fall, yes, there are topics on ladder safety and slips and fall in and around the job site.

Finally, check out the apps that are available. Wells Fargo Insurance Safety Inspections Tool on CyberSure and the OSHA Heat Safety Tool under their heat illness webpage. It's even available on your smart phone or iPad so you don't even need a clipboard or pen. Have a great Fall (not the Humpty Dumpty kind); and see you all at the convention next month!

Bob



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## Members Stepping Up Sponsorships Flow In

Realizing the need to support their association, CGA members representing all three divisions have very generously chosen to augment increasing costs at this year's convention with numerous sponsorships. At the time of publication, the following sponsors are recognized:

### BOD and Committee Meeting Sponsor:

Over 170 member donations from all divisions

### Golf:

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### Bowling:

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### Trade Show Lunch:

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### Texas Hold 'Em:

Pentair	Preferred Pump
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### CGAA Luncheon:

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### General Membership Lunch:

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Landino Drilling	

### Whisky Tasting:

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Wells Fargo Insurance	

### Blackjack:

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There is still time to get your name in **LIGHTS!** Contact the CGA office for details on how to support your association.

## SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY

*Continued from Page 3*

*Later that evening at a cocktail party in then President Larry Rottman's suite, Larry chatted with me and stated that if I was so strong on the proposition of a Scholarship Program then I should do something about it. Little did I know that his words that evening would lead to such a successful and worthwhile program.*

*I formed a Scholarship Committee with the blessing of the BOD and began the arduous work of writing the first guidelines of the program (with help of a mentor) and formulating a fund raising campaign. With only \$200 dollars in the kitty, we had a lot of work to do. The guidelines were first drafted on a paper place mat at a Stuart Anderson's steak house in San Bernardino. A few years ago I sent that place mat to Mike Mortenson for the archives. I do hope that he did not discard that piece of CGA history. (It even holds the stain of after dinner coffee on one corner)*

*We called upon the membership to submit recipes for a cookbook. The response was tremendous. We published the little guide to caloric overindulgence and sold it at the 1990 convention. We raised over \$600 with the small "Granny's Kitchen" cookbook. We also had a promotion campaign at the convention that brought in donations of over \$1000. We were on a high as never before. Everything revolved around "donations" for the next year and the money flowed into the office.*

*I have accomplished a few things in my life, but none that I am more proud of than the resurrection CGA Scholarship Program. I am proud of the program and of the CGA. Our organization presented opportunity to me in many ways, and I am more than grateful to have been a small part of the success and the futures of many young people through the CGA Scholarship Program.*

*Bob Meredith, Grants Pass, OR*

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## Employee Benefits

By Kelly Doherty

### Top 8 Things Small Employers Should Consider Prior to Switching to an ACA Plan

Starting with October 1, 2015 renewals, employers offering small group, Grandmothered health plans will begin making the transition to ACA-compliant medical coverage. This means that employers who ‘early renewed’ their health plan in October, November or December of 2013 in order to keep their existing benefits will be no longer be able to continue on their non-ACA health plans. In preparation for this transition, we have created a summary of the most important issues to consider prior to your renewal.

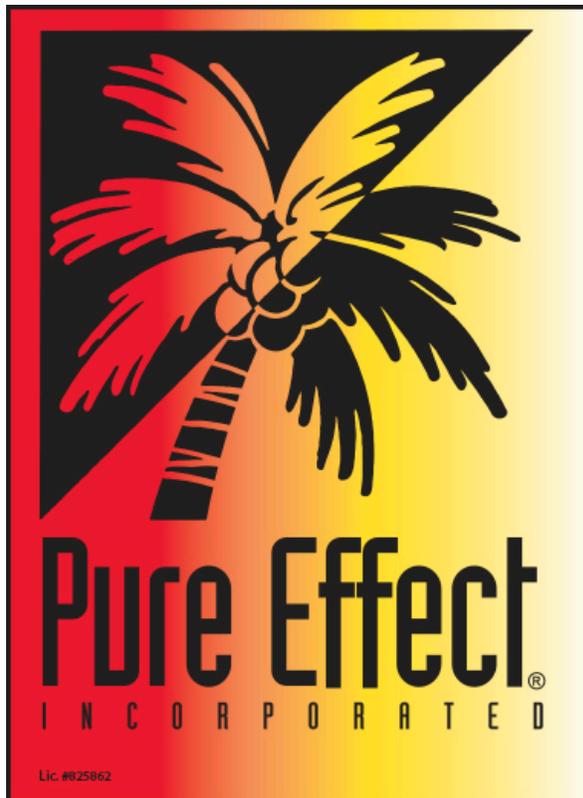
**#1** ACA compatible plans are different in several aspects. The major changes include the plans being standardized to include new essential benefits, organized into metallic tiers based on the level of coverage provided and priced based on the number and ages of each family member enrolling.

**#2** Don’t wait until the last minute. Based on the plan and benefit changes in the market, you should start early to familiarize yourself with the needs of your workforce so you can narrow down the options and make an informed benefits decision.

**#3** Some ACA plans use limited networks and new drug formularies. To see how these changes may impact you, put together a list of your employees’ current providers, facilities and medications so you can choose options that will minimize disruptions to their medical care.

**#4** Partner with your CGA Benefits Consultant. Leverage their industry expertise when researching the market, conducting employee meetings and facilitating the future day to day administration of your health plan.

*Continued on Page 15*



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Continued from Page 6

### **Climate Change Impacts on California Water Detailed by DWR. August 21, 2015**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a new report that outlines the hydrologic changes expected to result from climate change. The report also indicates that climate change will bring rising seas, longer droughts, less snowpack and higher temperatures to California and elsewhere, which will require water managers to develop new scientific based strategies to adapt. These findings were presented at the California Climate Change Symposium 2015 held at the Sacramento Convention Center on August 24

### **Recommendations to Lessen the Burden of the California Drought on Low-Income Communities. August 19, 2015**

On August 19, the Center for American Progress (CAP) released a new report that explores the connection of climate change and in equality in the context of the California drought, highlighting the unique and disproportionate challenges faced by California's low - income communities. This report also offers recommendations on how policymakers can lessen the burden the drought has placed on low income people living in tribal, rural, and farming communities.

### **California State Climatologist: Do Not Count on El Niño to End Drought.**

State Climatologist Michael Anderson noted that California cannot count on potential El Niño conditions to halt or reverse drought conditions. "Historical weather data shows us that at best, there is a 50/50 chance of having a wetter winter. Unfortunately, due to shifting climate patterns, we cannot even be that sure," he said.

### **SaveWater.CA.Gov Launched to Help Communities Identify Water Waste.**

To help Californians save more water this summer, the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Technology and Save Our Water announced the launch of [SaveWater.CA.Gov](http://SaveWater.CA.Gov). The new mobile-optimized website will allow residents to report suspected leaks and water waste anywhere in the state from their smartphones, tablets and computers. This program has also has released a new Public Service Announcement featuring San Francisco Giants star Sergio Romo in partnership with the Bay Area Council. The PSA, filmed at the Giants' garden in AT&T Park, urges Californians to step up and make even more cuts in their water use.

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## Words from the Store

By Steve Strong  
M/S Division President

### Common Sense (That's Not So Common)

When I was a young man, I read the book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie. I liked it so much I read it a second time. And a year later, I figured I still had a lot to learn, so I read it a third time. It was written in 1936, and Dale Carnegie was dead before I was born, but the gems of business wisdom from that book are timeless.

Everyone in business is essentially a salesman. This is a reality. But sometimes we forget that as we deal with stress and deadlines of the various contracting jobs we're dealing with. It's great to focus on the quality of your drilled well, and the proper sizing and placement of the pump in that well, but your customer is going to already assume you're a professional and will do a good job. They expect no less from you. How you sell yourself to them (through your demeanor and actions) will go a long way toward bringing you more business, and making you a financial success.

### The Sweetest Sound to Anyone is the Sound of Their Own Name

Work their name into your conversation. In the south, well-mannered people use "Sir" and "Mister" and "Miss". People like this without even realizing why they do. Try to look people in the eye and address them by their name. "I look forward to doing this job for you Mr. Dalton, and I know you'll be happy with my work."

The more you can remember someone's name, the more they will like you. When you hear someone's name, try to make a mental connection – even if it's a bit odd – and you'll end up remembering the name better. For instance, if you meet a man named Kirk Dalton, you may shake his hand and say to yourself, "He's Captain Kirk of the USS Dalton gang!" As crazy as that is, when you see him next time, you'll be much more likely to bring "Kirk Dalton" to your recall.

### The Art of Listening

One simple key to great communication is to allow the other person to talk about their life and their kids without you inserting stories about how cute your own kids are.

If you can resist the urge to talk about yourself and your family, and you can draw out from others stories about their children, and their business, you will be a better listener. Like I tell my wife, the key to being the favorite uncle at family gatherings is to ask everyone about their family, and show sincere interest in what their kids are doing. There will be plenty of time to share your own family stories later.

In business, this takes the form of listening to the customer tell his whole story about the work he's trying to get done. It will probably mean that you'll need to be patient if your customer wants to vent about his situation. In the end, you'll come off as a problem solver and a partner in his water well solution, if you can sincerely listen and really hear him out.

### Remember, Everyone Sees Themselves as Completely Rational

Do you think Al Capone thought of himself as a vicious criminal? No, he thought of himself as a businessman, a father and a bit of a Robin Hood character. Even though he left a trail of death before his imprisonment, he would smile and tell people that he was "just a businessman, giving the public what they wanted."

As it was with Capone, so it is with every person you will encounter in the business world. In your customer's eyes, the world revolves around themselves. They will know you're tired and probably over-worked, but the only thing they will hear you say is when their particular problem will be fixed.

Try to remember this when you find yourself losing patience with high-maintenance customers. From their vantage point, it's the rest of us who are crazy, and they're sanely trying to get their problem solved. So listen to your customer. Let them vent without interrupting or correcting. In the end, they'll come away with a better opinion of you, and you just may come away with new business.

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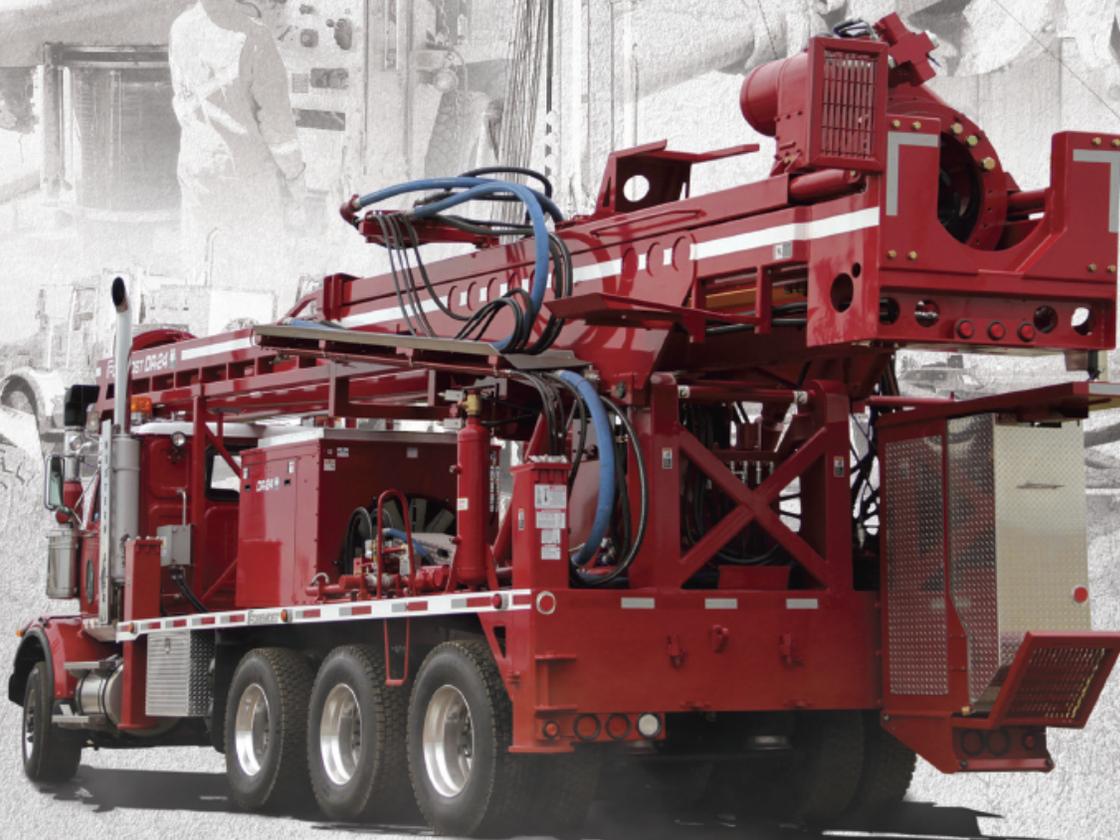
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# EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

*Continued from Page 11*

**#5** Look into the availability of tax credits and individual subsidies. For qualified small employers, the small business Health Care Tax Credits available through Covered California's SHOP program may provide some relief from higher ACA premiums. In addition, purchasing your group coverage through the SHOP could help your employees' dependents remain eligible for Federal subsidies under the individual mandate.

**#6** Help your employees be prepared for higher medical care costs. Encourage use of Urgent Care facilities in lieu of the Emergency Room and taking advantage of the new, zero cost preventive services to catch medical issues when they are more easily treatable.

**#7** Help protect your employees from large claims. Supplemental benefits such as a Hospital Confinement and Accident plans are a cost effective means of bridging the benefit gaps and reducing financial exposure to major medical claims due to injury or illness. There are also tax advantages when establishing Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) to pay for eligible IRS 502 expenses.

**#8** Remember, maintaining a group plan under the ACA still provides real value. Health Insurance continues to be a critical piece of an employee compensation package

and through group programs such as the California Builders Exchanges, your employees have access to plans, rates and tax advantages they could not get on their own.

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**Kelly Doherty, Benefits Consultant**

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EWCO W440 Triplex: Det. w/5 Speed Transmission.\$48K  
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## CGA Board Meeting

*Continued from Page 4*

**Convention:** Ron Hedman reported that the convention planning is on schedule. A flyer prepared by Randy Delenikos outlining the highlights of the convention will be sent to all of the exhibitors to be handed out to their contacts. The hope is to attract more attendees. Dave Fulton and Steve Greenwood suggested that a discount for employees be instituted. Since registration materials have been published, the idea was tabled until next year.

**Education:** Tim Guishard reported that a full slate of seminars has been finalized for the convention. He also noted that the proposed training of CalTrans drillers has been cancelled because our cost was too high.

**Fundraising and Activity:** Erik Lowe reported that the gaming events at the convention will cost CGA more than normal. Staff will see about getting sponsorships for all events to help defray higher costs. Auction items are beginning to trickle in.

**Insurance:** The committee noted that workers comp reform has resulted in lower medical costs. Committee requested that a safety handbook, available from NGWA, be purchased out of the Clint Burden fund. These manuals will be handed out at the convention. Staff will handle logistics. Employee benefits program is continuing to grow. Kelly Doherty suggested that she can assist with the open enrollment period, but that this must be done 60 days prior to the deadline.

**Legislative:** Tom Weimer, Jr. reported that there is much happening this year. All agreed that the Bulletin 74 revisions was the most pressing issue. Committee urged members to email their legislators requesting adoption. There was confusion regarding the well log confidentiality bill. The committee was apparently not aware that the Board had voted to maintain neutrality on this issue early last year. The Board discussed the need for continuing education, and that our future as an association depended on it.

**Membership:** Casey Good reported that the committee wants to try to increase membership initially by contacting former members who have let their memberships lapse. They requested a list of former members during the period of 2010 to 2014. Staff will get that list put together. Committee wants to produce an association flyer outlining the benefits of CGA. An annual dues increase was recommended from \$375 to \$425. Staff will send an email notice before September 17 so that it can be voted on at the General Membership meeting.

**Scholarship:** Randy Delenikos reported that the committee wants to consolidate the scholarship accounts to a general memorial scholarship fund, rather than having numerous funds in individual's name. The Clint Burden and Sheryl Kratz accounts will remain separate because they are funded differently. Randy requested some time at the Banquet to honor Wes Heitman.

**Website:** Erik Lowe reported that the committee is requesting quarterly reports on changes needed on the website. They will create a list of proposed updates.



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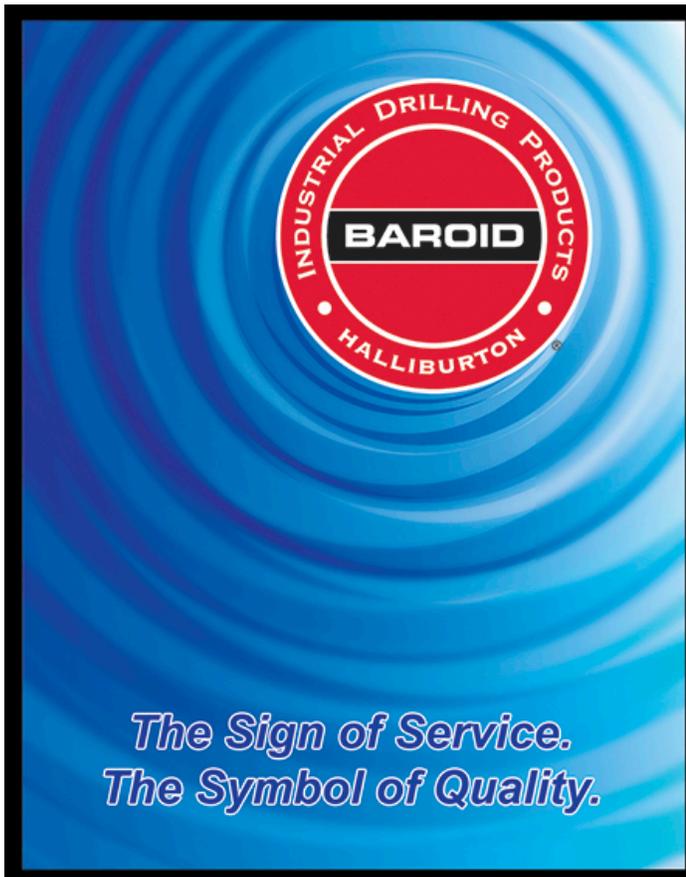
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