

Groundwater Reflections

Volume 34, Issue 4, Winter 2015



CGA CONVENTION CALLED "BEST IN YEARS"

CGA's 67th Convention and Trade Show at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino was, by most accounts, a success. Not only were attendance numbers up over 27 percent from 2015, but the number of booths was as high as any time since 2009. Perhaps more importantly, 15 percent of the exhibitors were new members.



Over 180 attendees participated in ten seminars. New events, Bowling and Whisky Tasting, were extremely successful. Traditional



events, such as the Trade Show Lunch, Banquet, as well as Texas Hold'Em and Blackjack, were well-attended and enjoyed. Even the streamlined General Membership Meeting was attended by enough to provide a quorum, although a sponsored bag lunch may have influenced some to attend!



One member commented that "that CGA feeling is back", while another said that this year's show was "more fun and relaxed than it had been in a while". Those of us

who have been around CGA for a while understand that the success of our organization is dependent on the camaraderie that is developed by its members. For that reason, above all others, 2015 can be considered a rousing success.

(See More Pictures on Pages 16 & 18)

Tournament Winners

Golf

- 1st Place:
Dale Christiansen, Taylor Hanning, Norm Howard, and Pete Albanese
- 2nd Place:
Jay Cole, Josh Henry, Kim Jensen, and Ed Mounger
- Closest to the Hole-Men:
Dennis Quindt
- Closest to the Hole-Women:
Christine Finney
- Longest Drive-Men:
Adam Stewart
- Longest Drive-Women:
Christine Finney

Bowling

- 1st Place – Mark Maggiora
- 2nd Place – Miles Credeur
- 3rd Place – Keil Albert
- 4th Place – Michelene Powers

Texas Hold 'Em

- 1st Place – Dan Jensen
- 2nd Place – Dennis Quindt
- 3rd Place – Jovan Ljuba

Blackjack

- 1st Place – Adam Horner
- 2nd Place – Jim Haley
- 3rd Place – Bob Murphy
- 4th Place – Joanne Maggiora
- 5th Place – Dave Maggiora

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DATES TO REMEMBER – 2016

FEBRUARY 11 - DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Hilton Sacramento - Arden West, Sacramento, CA

FEBRUARY 12-13 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Hilton Sacramento - Arden West, Sacramento, CA

APRIL 7 - WATER WELL CONSTR. WORKSHOP

Piccadilly Inn Shaw, Fresno, CA

APRIL 8-9 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Piccadilly Inn Shaw, Fresno, CA

SEPTEMBER 8 - WATER WELL CONSTR WORKSHOP

TBD

SEPTEMBER 9-10 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

TBD

OCTOBER 20-22 - CGA 68th ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

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

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CGA website: www.groundh2o.org



**CGA President's
Message**
By Michael F. Maggiora

It seems like only yesterday that I was asked to go through the chairs, and now my term as CGA president is coming to an end. Was it easy? To that I have to say no. At times, it was downright challenging, however, some of the best things in life do not come easy. Was it worth it? To that I have to say yes. In our own businesses, we tend to get comfortable with the way we run our day-to-day operations, or just do it the same way it has always been done. Sometimes we get so busy, and entrenched in the way we run our business that we miss potential opportunities. Going through the CGA chairs allowed me to grow, think out of the box and realize there are many ways to tackle problems that I was reluctant to try or just did not think about. What better opportunity is there to tackle industry issues and gain from the vast knowledge of experience that our members possess than going through the CGA chairs? For that, I will always be thankful.

I want to thank all of those who helped guide me through the chairs and all of those who continue to be active within the CGA. I also want to thank the committee chairs, and committee members, as without all of you, we could not function as an organization. I also want to thank John Hofer, our Executive Director, as well as the office staff of Renee Hofer and Beverly Haley. There is still a lot of work to be done, but the CGA appears to be headed in the right direction growing and stabilizing financially.

We all have a common bond in that we rely on groundwater for our livelihoods. What sets us apart is that we also have a common goal of protecting our livelihood by being involved and caring for what is happening within our industry.

The challenges facing our industry will always be there. The issues may change slightly over time, but with groundwater, there will always be a need for CGA members to monitor and set standards for the future. I applaud those of you that see the need for and continue to participate and support the CGA.

Again, I thank all of you. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Mike



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- 1978 Portadrill TKT Prospector: Det Eng, A/C+MP. \$149K
- 1976 GD 2000: 2-5x10 Pumps, 2,000' Pipe\$275K
- 1975 Gardner Denver 2000: (New Derrick)\$235K
- 1973 GD 14W: Air/Mud, 10" Rotary. Table.....\$125K
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- 2006 Pulstar P7000: Ford F-550, Excellent Cond.....\$76K

MUD PUMPS

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- National 8-P-80 Triplex: Cat, Skid Mounted.....\$115K
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- Skytop Brewster B-750: Cat, Skid Mounted.....\$35K
- EWCO W440 Triplex: Det. w/5 Speed Transmission.\$48K
- Continental Emsco D-1000, 8-1/4" X 18"\$16K
- GD FF-FXF 4-1/2" x 5": Detroit 3 Cycle.....\$11K
- GD FY-FXD 7-1/2" x 10", Bare Pump\$16K

MUD PIT

- 2006 Mud Puppy: 750 Gal. Tank, Excellent Cond.....\$35K
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- 475 BBL Mud Pit, Cent. Pumps & Shakers\$48K
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- (3) Sullair 1350x350, CAT C-16 Skid Mntd., 3,000 Hr.\$65K
- (4) Quincy 1100 x 200: Det. 60, Skid Mounted.....\$12K
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CGA Executive Director's Message

By John Hofer

In my message in last September's issue, I urged members to attend CGA's 67th annual convention and trade show. I commented that it was doubly important to attend this year because of the need to maximize our revenue stream. In this issue, I am extremely proud to report that the show was a indeed a success! Total attendance and booth sales represented the most since 2009.

Most importantly, CGA members stepped up to support their association. Many new faces, as well as members who had not attended the show in years, were seen walking the trade show floor. Many of the attendees took advantage of the available educational opportunities.

Apparently everyone also had a lot fun. The annual golf tournament attracted more golfers than in years, the

bowling event was enthusiastically received, the gaming events provided plenty of excitement (along with visual stimulation in the case of blackjack), and the whisky tasting seminar debuted to a packed house.

CGA members certainly deserve credit for turning our association around in 2015, but also understand that 2016 promises to be a challenging year. CGA will be continuing efforts to introduce legislation to update Bulletin 74 and implement Continuing Education Units as a condition of holding a C-57 contractor's license. These activities, along with developing contacts within the legislature, will require a strong presence from CGA. Our annual Day at the Capitol will be held in Sacramento on February 11, and that will be our initial opportunity of 2016 to present a united force.

So as we enter into the holiday season, take a moment to pat yourselves on the back. CGA stood tall in 2015! But also remember that we still have a lot of work to do in 2016 and beyond.

John



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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Pete Conaty
Legislative Advocate

The Legislature is in recess until January 4, when it reconvenes for the second year of the 2015-16 Legislative Session. Some legislation from 2015 is still in play (known as “2 year” bills) and they must be heard and voted on prior to January 31 or they are dead.

New legislation for 2016 can also be introduced. The deadline for new bill introduction is February 19. Since this is the second year of a two year session, these new bills must be passed by the Legislature and sent to the Governor by August 31 or they are dead.

All of this will play out looking forward to the 2016 elections. In addition to the presidential primary and election, all 80 Assemblymembers and half of State Senators (20) will be running for election. These often contentious races can distract legislators and sometimes this dynamic can play itself out in the legislative arena.

DROUGHT

With California at the end of its fourth year of a severe, hot drought, the Governor’s Drought Task Force continues to monitor and identify communities and local water systems in danger of running out of water. Over the summer, a cross-agency team, led by the Department of Water Resources 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.

GROUNDWATER

Groundwater will continue to be a hot topic and a major source of legislation in 2016. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is discussing the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. On November 12, they discussed implementation of SB 13, which added clarifications and requirements to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SB 13 will become affective starting January 2016. These discussions are covering the responsibilities for the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA), process of notification of DWR and GSA formation, and address issues related to boundaries and services area conflicts.

CGA CONVENTION

I attended the CGA convention in October. In addition to giving a legislative update and attending the trade show, I was also able to interact with CGA members and learn more about the industry as well as receive feedback from the field. We also discussed legislation the CGA would like to have introduced in 2016.

TERM LIMITS

Many of the legislators who came in last year, as well as the legislators who will be elected in 2016, will be around for a long time. The last of the Assemblymembers who were elected under the 6 year term limits and the Senators who were elected under the 8 year term limits will be gone after 2016. It is said that these longer terms will lead to more stability in the Legislature. It also shows the importance of working to develop relationships with your local legislator.

NEW LEGISLATIVE LEADERS ELECTED:

2015 brought about changes in the leadership of the Senate and Assembly. The parties tend to choose legislators who still have time remaining on their terms in office so as to provide for more continuity in leadership. Senator Kevin DeLeon (D-Los Angeles), the Senate President Pro-Tem assumed control at the beginning of 2015 and he will continue as the leader of the Senate.

Speaker of the Assembly: The State Assembly has elected a new Speaker. Assemblyman Anthony Rendon (D-Long Beach) will assume the duties of Speaker in January 2016. Prior to serving in the Assembly, Rendon was an educator, non-profit executive director, and environmental activist. Rendon replaces Assemblywoman Toni Atkins.

Assembly GOP Leader: The Assembly Republican Caucus elected Assemblyman Chad Mayes (R-Yucca Valley) to be the Minority Leader of the Assembly. Mayes served on the Yucca Valley Town Council as a member and also as Mayor. Mayes replaces Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen.

Continued on Page 13

CGA Welcomes New Members

Since the last issue, CGA has added **12** new or returning members:

Guillermo Recinos-Melendez, Franklin Electric, Newport, OR

Linda Scroggs, Roseville, CA

Branden Varner, Weeks Drilling & Pump Co., Sebastopol, CA

Chris Duncan, El Cajon, CA

A & M Well Drilling, Inc., Hornbrook, CA

Anabol Naturals, Santa Cruz, CA

Baker Water Systems Division, Evansville, WI

Hydro-Tech & Associates, Madera, CA

Lorentz US Corp., Slaton, TX

Rays Well Testing Service, Sparks, NV

Scott Belknap Well Drilling, Dinuba, CA

Water Well Location, Morgan Hill, CA

When you meet any of these folks, please extend some CGA hospitality!

DAY AT THE CAPITOL

This year's Day at the Capitol is scheduled for February 11, 2016. This is an opportunity for members to interact



with their legislative representatives and discuss issues of prime importance to CGA. Of particular importance is proposed legislation

to update Bulletin 74, and to require continuing education for C-57 contractors as a condition of license renewal.



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MEDICAL REPORT

CGA has learned that our webmaster, Liz Robertson, has been laid up with a serious infection that required hospitalization and a lengthy stay in rehab. The CGA family wishes her a speedy recovery.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewals for 2016 have been mailed out. Remember that the business-level dues reflect the increase approved at the General Membership meeting in October. Support your association by paying early.

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Insurance Corner

By Bob Murphy, CIC

Coverage Recommendations

We harp on the need to carry the right coverage in your insurance program to protect your rear ends. We don't want claimants to take a bite out of your assets or reduce your bottom line. I joined CGA at the request of the CGA attorney at the time, Dick Hendry. The reason was to put together the minimum coverages needed to protect our members. Twenty five years later, we are still recommending those minimum coverages and more to protect our members rear ends. What are those key coverages and the new coverages and technological advances in coverage and claims (unfortunately)? Let's talk (or read on).

There were no employment practices claims to speak of 25 years ago. Now wrongful termination (you didn't fire me right!), discrimination (why did Bozo get promoted and not me?), sexual harassment (no need to explain except PC is the norm now), and the like (everything else you can think of), generate claims or allegations that require you to defend yourselves. The cost of defense can be upwards of \$100,000 while the average awards are around \$75,000. Even in a good year, no one wants a \$175,000 hit (more like a punch) to their bottom line. What next?

Well, in 1990 the Internet was 6 years young (hard to believe no iPhones) and no identity theft other than fake IDs. Now we are surrounded by cybercrime from hackers, low lives, and international professionals to name a few. No one, yes I mean no one, is exempt from

data breach, cyber liability, hacking, or whatever you want to call it. I reviewed a checklist and risk analysis from ten years ago and there was no mention of this exposure to major loss. Small businesses are big targets. The average claim in 2013 (the insurance industry's latest results - don't you wish you could delay your taxes for a couple of years?) was \$113,000 for data breach/cyber liability claims. Sound familiar? Even in a good year....ow! What next?

That's not the drill rig or the Smeal, it's an earthquake! Oh, we never have shakers here. Evidently, we've forgotten history. New Madrid Fault line covers Missouri all the way from Illinois to Mississippi (six times larger than the San Andreas and no movie yet). Anyway, unless you're moving East, let's limit our discussion to California (kinda like the "c" in CGA). None of us are exempt from a major shaker! The only difference in this State is how much it costs. Here in Santa Cruz (or the entire coast) we are in zone 1 (pay through the nose but earthquakes will happen). The partial good news is with a CGA preferred carrier, you have earthquake coverage on your contractors equipment; but only if you insure it properly. That's where your CGA broker comes in. We've been supporting CGA for the last 25 years, volunteering to assist our members in making sure they have the right coverage or the knowledge to make an informed decision on what coverage they want. Oh no! There's more

Actually there's lots more, but Groundwater Reflections is not devoted to insurance alone. Aren't you all lucky. Call me and we can discuss down-the-hole coverage, replacement cost vs actual cash value, auto vs mobile equipment, etc. etc..... Hope you had a great Thanksgiving, have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

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BOD and Committee Meeting Sponsors:

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ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

Awards for 2015 were presented at the annual awards banquet during the convention and trade show last October. These awards honor deserving individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to CGA and the groundwater industry.

Contractor of the Year – J.D. Doshier Award



The Contractor of the Year was presented to Gary Mickelson by long-time friends Bob Murphy and John Hofer. Gary, a partner in Jerry & Don's Yager Pump & Well Service, is a water treatment specialist. He is a CGA past-president and has been heavily involved in the association for

over 15 years.

Mfg./Supplier of the Year – Harry Bingham Award

Tim Guishard presented this year's Harry Bingham award to Dave Hanson of Design Water Technologies. Dave has been an integral part of CGA's educational activities for many years as an instructor at both regional workshops and seminar programs at the annual convention. Although he was unable to attend, his award was well-received by those in attendance.



Woman of the Year

The 2015 Woman of the Year was presented by Renee Hofer, not to an individual, but to all CGA women. In the absence of a single award winner, she urged the attendees to honor all of the women who tirelessly support the groundwater industry. A standing ovation from all the men in the room followed her remarks.



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JANUARY BOARD MEETING RESERVATION DEADLINE

The initial CGA events of 2016, the Day at the Capitol and the Board of Directors Meeting, take place in Sacramento on February 11 through 13. Accommodations have been arranged at the Hilton Sacramento – Arden West, 2200 Harvard Street, Sacramento. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (800) 344-4321. The deadline for the room block is January 20, 2016.

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Employee Benefits
By Kelly Doherty



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- Health Insurance for Individuals, Families and Seniors
- VPI Pet Insurance
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- MetLife Home & Auto Insurance
- Working Advantage—FREE Employee Perks Program
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Need More Information?

Please Contact Our Benefits Consultants:

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Brian@cecyinsurance.com

Or Visit Our Website:
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Senate GOP Leader: The State Senate Republican Caucus elected Senator Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield) to be the Minority Leader of the Senate. Fuller previously served in the Assembly and served as the Superintendent for the largest K-8 school district in the state. Fuller replaces Senator Bob Huff.

BULLETIN 74 / CEU'S LEGISLATION

We will be attempting to introduce legislation to update Bulletin 74 and implement Continuing Education Units (CEU's) as a condition of holding a C-57 contractor's license. So far, it looks like the Texas CEU program will be the best model to follow.

CGA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

CGA's Day at the Capitol (DAC) event will be February 11, 2016. One of the best ways to begin to develop and continue relationships with legislators is to attend the CGA DAC. A large attendance shows that the

Association is a force to be reckoned with and has important concerns and contributions to make to public policy formulation. Many CGA member companies also bring their employees to the event. The more people that attend will help us cover more offices.

Attendance is key if the CGA will be sponsoring legislation in 2016! The Legislature will only take legislation as seriously as the proponents take it.



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Words from the Store

By Steve Strong
M/S Division President

A Timeless Gem from Ben Franklin

In June 1776, Thomas Jefferson had just completed the first draft of the Declaration of Independence and presented it to the Continental Congress, where the verbiage was debated and amended. As he watched, the committee argued, compromised and struck out over 500 words and phrases from his work, to arrive at the version we see in our history books today.

Jefferson was proud of his original work, and was upset by the changes. So, to make him feel better, Benjamin Franklin told him this story:

When Franklin was starting his business as a young printer, a friend of his, a hat maker, was opening up a shop and planned to adorn his new enterprise with a sign bearing the words:

*John Thompson, hatter, makes
and sells hats for ready money*



Thompson showed the sign to a group of friends and asked them what they thought. The first remarked that the words "makes and sells hats" made the word "hatter" redundant. The second pointed out that "makes" could also be scratched as few customers would care who made them. The third observed that it was not the custom locally to sell on credit, rendering the words "for ready money" unnecessary.

These changes left a sign reading: "John Thompson sells hats." Then the fourth friend said, "But no one would expect you to give them away, so what is the point of 'sells'?" Finally, someone pointed out that, given the painted picture of a hat, even the word "hats" was unnecessary. So the final sign bore only the words "John Thompson" and the picture of a hat.

John Thompson



This story made Jefferson feel a lot better, and in the end the amendments (about 500 of his words were cut or changed) probably improved what he had written ('*We hold these truths to be self-evident*' replaced Jefferson's original '*We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable*,' for example), the result being the Declaration of Independence, one of the most famous testaments to democracy in history.

When I was young, my mom told me "Too many cooks spoil the broth." But the moral to Benjamin Franklin's story is that having other viewpoints and input on a project can actually be helpful. Jefferson's words were good, but the additional input made it memorable.

We can remember this in our business and sales settings. We don't have to go it alone. We have a large number of people working with us, and for us, who have our best interests in mind. Let's resolve to get input from those we work with more often.

Like Thomas Jefferson found out, sometimes the revisions can often make something better than the original.



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Lunch was popular!



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ANNUAL BANQUET



Jesse Richardson fired up the crowd

Drew Quindt provided the tunes



The Silent Auction was a big success



NGWA incoming President Jeff Williams



The Blackjack winners



One of the well-attended seminars

CGA MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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