



# The Water Spout

## Upcoming Dates in 2015

- Texas Ground Water Association Annual Meeting, Feb. 15-18, San Marcos, TX
- Reduce and Reuse – Making Water Conservation Work, March 4, Houston, TX
- Texas Water 2015, April 14-17, Corpus Christi, TX
- Texas Water Conservation Association Annual Convention, March 4-6, Austin, TX
- IA Irrigation Show and Education Conference, November 9-13, Long Beach, CA
- Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show, December 1-3, Amarillo, TX

## Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet Held in Connection with Farm and Ranch Show in Amarillo

The 2014 TAIA Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet was held at Hoffbrau Steaks in Amarillo, December 3. Some 40 members and guests enjoyed a social hour and dining with a choice of three entrees at the restaurant. Guest speaker, Dr. David Brauer, Manager of the Ogallala Aquifer Program and Research Leader of the Soil and Water Management Research Unit at Bushland, addressed the group on *“Thoughts on the Future of Texas High Plains Irrigated Agriculture”*.

Elections for officers and board members were held and resulted in the following for 2015:

President: Mark Stutler

Vice President: Albert Reyna

Secretary-Treasurer: Kenneth Ewings

West Region Representative: John Taylor

South Region Representative: David Lott

East Region Representative: James Prochaska

At-Large Representative: Bobby DeLeon

Nominations Committee: Layne Hardesty, Edie Bartos, Steve Driewer.

Scholarship Committee: Farris Hightower, Kenneth Ewings, Steve Driewer.

Outgoing President Andy Brumley was presented a plaque in appreciation of his service to TAIA.

(See photos on page 2)

Efficient irrigation systems and water management practices can help maintain farm profitability in an era of increasingly limited and more costly water supplies—USDA.

## Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the 2015 Scholarship are now being received. The previous scholarship committee recommended a slight change in the application procedures for 2015 which was approved by the Board of Directors in December 2014. The required essay submitted with the application now is a maximum of 500 words. Application deadline is March 1, 2015, with the winner to be announced by May 1.

The number of applicants is down compared to previous years. This year's winner will join our current recipients: Shelby Redgate, Luke Stutler and Aspyn Martin.

### In Memory

Long-time TAIA member Cleon Namken of Lubbock passed away Jan 21. He was born Jan 15, 1956. He graduated from Texas Tech in Ag Engineering and was the Texas NRCS State Irrigation Engineer. Cleon was a member of the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. His survivors include his wife, Margaret, a daughter, four grandchildren, two sisters and two brothers.

TAIA Board of Directors and its members express their sympathy and condolences to the family of Cleon.

*A glimpse of Cleon's contributions is provided by this excerpt from the NRCS Website:*

"Cleon Namken will be remembered for his contributions to conservation and production in advanced irrigation engineering and design and his dedication to the engineering profession," said John Mueller, NRCS State Conservation Engineer. "His commitment to the discipline of agricultural engineers covered 32 years."

Namken started his career with the Soil Conservation Service, now known as the NRCS, in 1983. He was selected as an irrigation engineer in 1998, working in the Ogallala Aquifer regions of Texas and Oklahoma. He assumed the position of NRCS state irrigation engineer in 2000, serving Texas on all irrigation related issues primarily on improving irrigation system efficiencies and improving water management.



## 2014 Annual Meeting and Banquet



### Letter from the President

As 2015 is well under way, I first want to thank you for allowing me to serve as the TAIA president. I am truly honored to have the opportunity to lead an association filled with strong, dedicated members. This year, TAIA celebrates 24 years of promoting improved agricultural irrigation. Some of our members have been involved in the industry a lot longer than this Association. I believe our industry and our Association are blessed with forward-thinking, talented people. This year will have its challenges but also many new opportunities for our industry to grow and prosper. I would like to thank our Board of Directors, members, committee members and volunteers who generously donate their time. All of you continue to demonstrate your passion for our industry's goals and success. That success hinges on all of us working toward water conservation, promoting efficient irrigation, improved profitability in irrigated agriculture and long-term sustainability of water resources for future generations.

In 1746 Benjamin Franklin stated, "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." Over the past several years we have all gained a new appreciation for what water is worth. TAIA brings members from the irrigation industry, research, education and production agriculture who work hard to understand and increase others' awareness of the worth of water. We all recognize the importance of, and place a strong emphasis on, education for everyone associated with the manufacturing, distribution, installation and management of agricultural irrigation equipment. I encourage all of us to do our part in keeping the well from going dry.

On behalf of you, the members, I thank past-president Andy Brumley for his leadership and contribution to the Association over the last several years. Also, thanks to Wyatt Bosse and Ronnie Dubois for their service. Please join me in welcoming Bobby De Leon, David Lott and John Taylor as new members to the Board of Directors. Thanks to those members who volunteer to serve on our scholarship, nominations and audit committees. Finally, I express my thanks to Dana Porter with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and all of the featured speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and attendees for their part in making the 2015 High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show a success.

Mark Stutler, SWISH, Inc.

### Check out the TAIA Website: [www.taia.org](http://www.taia.org)

As noted in the last Newsletter the **Ag Links** have been updated, giving you direct access to sites such as the Irrigation Association, Texas Water Smart, Texas Agrilife, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Corn Producers, Plains Cotton Growers, Go Texas and many more. You will find a copy of this Newsletter there as well along with previous editions.

The 2015 Membership Directory should be available about mid-March. Please make sure your dues are current to be included. If you are aware of any changes that need to be made prior to that date please let Kern know at [taia@taia.org](mailto:taia@taia.org) or phone 806 786-5644.

### Thanks to our sponsors of this year's High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show:

**Equipment Supply Company**

**Irrigation Components International**

**Jain Irrigation**

**Lindsay Corporation**

**Netafim**

**Reinke Manufacturing**

**Valley Irrigation**





## High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show



The 2015 High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show was held January 15 at the Amarillo Civic Center. Attendance was 100 people including program speakers, registered attendees and 22 exhibitors.





# High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show

Amarillo Civic Center January 15, 2015



WWW.TAIA.ORG



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#### 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Mark Stutler, SWISH, Inc.

**At-Large:** Steven Driewer, McCrometer Great Plains

**Vice-President:** Albert Reyna, Kroy Industries

**At-Large:** Bobby DeLeon, Jain Irrigation

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation

**Nominations Committee:**

Layne Hardesty, Equipment Supply, Co. Inc. (Chair)

**Immed. Past President:** Andy Brumley, Waggoner & Son Electric

Edie Bartos, Aluminum Metal Products, Inc.

Steven Driewer, McCrometer Great Plains

**West Rep.:** John Taylor, Equipment Supply Co.

**Scholarship Committee:**

Farris Hightower, Lindsay Corporation, (Chair)

**East Rep.:** James Prochaska, JNM Technologies

Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation

Steven Driewer, McCrometer Great Plains

**North Rep.:** Marty Hughes, Irrigation Components International, Inc.

**Auditing Committee:**

Farris Hightower, Lindsay Corporation, (Chair)

**South Rep.:** David Lott, Fresno Valves & Casting, Inc.

Clint Babcock, Lindsay Corporation

Marty Hughes, Irrigation Components International, Inc.

#### Affiliate Members of:

Texas Agriculture Council, [www.texas.coop](http://www.texas.coop)  
Irrigation Association, [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org)  
The Groundwater Foundation, [www.groundwater.org](http://www.groundwater.org)  
Texas Groundwater Association, [www.tgwa.org](http://www.tgwa.org)  
Texas Water Conservation Association, [www.twca.org](http://www.twca.org)