



# The Water Spout

## Upcoming Dates in 2016, 2017

- Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show, November 29-December 1, Amarillo, TX
- IA Irrigation Show and Education Conference, December 5-9, Las Vegas, NV.
- High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show, February 15, 2017, Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo, TX
- Water for Texas Conference, January 23-25, 2017.

## Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association Celebrates 25 Years with Silver Anniversary Membership Banquet and Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg

Some 30 TAIA members and guests gathered at the Inn on Barons Creek in Fredericksburg October 3, to celebrate 25 years of history and service to the agricultural irrigation industry in Texas and neighboring states and enjoy a German buffet meal.

Featured speaker for the evening was John Farner of the Irrigation Association, who briefly reviewed the positions of then presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. He also presented recent goals and initiatives of the IA and introduced a new magazine, *Irrigation Today*.

President Albert Reyna called the meeting to order, minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved along with the financial statement. Election of officers and board members for 2017 was held with the following results:

President; Kenneth Ewings. Senninger Irrigation

Vice-President; John Taylor, Equipment Supply

Secretary-Treasurer; Bobby De Leon, Jain Irrigation

East Representative; Roger Schulze, ATS Irrigation

South Representative; David Lott, Fresno Valves and Casting

At-Large; Eddy Riggins, Equipment Supply

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## **Save the Date**

**February 15, 2017**

**High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show**

**Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo, TX**

*(Silver Anniversary, continued)*

Volunteers for the 2017 Scholarship Committee include Mark McCormick, Greg Sokora and James Prochaska. Volunteers are still needed for the Nominations Committee and Audit Committee. Please contact Kenneth Ewings, President, or Kern Stutler, Executive Secretary, if interested in serving on these committees.

A special thank you goes to the Silver Committee for their work in planning and overseeing the celebration: Edie Bartos Canale, Aluminum Products; Bobby De Leon, Jain Irrigation; and Mark Stutler, SWISH. Thanks also to those who donated door prizes for the event: Jain Irrigation, Aluminum Metals, Valley Irrigation, and ABM Irrigation. Special recognition goes to the corporate sponsors for the meeting: Aluminum Metals and Jain Irrigation. All of these individuals and corporations contributed to the success of the 25th Anniversary.

Prior to the annual meeting Monday evening, members and guests were treated to a private tour of the National Museum of the Pacific War, arranged by the Fredericksburg Convention and Tourist Bureau.

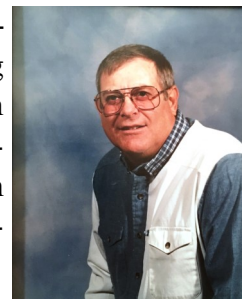
This was a rare opportunity to appreciate a local museum of national quality. Tuesday morning some members took advantage of an invitation to tour the Wildseed Farm, escorted by owner John Thomas.

For those who missed the celebration, the program brochure and a slide show shown during the evening can be seen on the TAIA Website.



### Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship

The Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship was created in honor of Dick Laursen, a life-long irrigation specialist. Dick was born in 1942 into a Nebraska ranching/farming family. He began his career as a purchasing agent for a pivot manufacturer; then moved on to Rainbird Ag before partnering to open SWISH Inc., an irrigation company. With his partners, Dick spent the rest of his life building SWISH, until his death in 1998. He was one of the founding members of TAIA. The scholarship was established in 2002 to assist a student pursuing ag related majors in each of the years since.



Applications for the 2017 scholarship are now available on the TAIA Website. The deadline for submitting applications is March 1, 2017. Members are encouraged to help publicize this scholarship opportunity. Applicants do not have to be Texas residents, but must attend a Texas college or university. The 2017 winner will be joining the current recipients: Luke Stutler, Texas Tech University; Kaylee Ites, Texas A&M University; and Emily Wade, Texas Tech University.

TAIA member and Education Advisor, Dana Porter was recently named Engineer of the Year by the Professional Engineers Institute. She was honored during the international meeting of the ASABE in Orlando, Fla. She also received the group's President's Citation.

**Congratulations, Dana, from the TAIA Board of Directors and your fellow TAIA members!**



# Silver Anniversary Pictures



WWW.TAIA.ORG



T A I A

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#### 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Albert Reyna, Kroy Industries

**At-Large:** Greg Sokora, NRCS-USDA

**Vice-President:** Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation

**At-Large:** Bobby De Leon, Jain Irrigation

**Secretary/Treasurer:** John Taylor, Equipment Supply Co.

**Nominations Committee:**

Bobby De Leon, Jain Irrigation (Chair)

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

Matt Laursen, SWISH, Inc.

**West Rep.:** Mark McDonald, Agriculture Precision Supply

**Scholarship Committee:**

Eddy Riggins, Equipment Supply Co., (Chair)

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

Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation

Bobby De Leon, Jain Irrigation

**North Rep.:** Anthony Kingery, D&K Manufacturing

**Auditing Committee:**

Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation, (Chair)

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

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#### 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)