



The Water Spout

Upcoming Dates in 2018

- Texas Alliance for Water Conservation Water Congress, January 24, Civic Center, Lubbock Texas.
- Texas Ground Water Association Convention and Trade Show, January 24-26, San Marcos Convention Center.
- High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show, February 7, North Exhibit Hall A, Amarillo Civic Center.
- 4th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium, February 28, Amarillo Civic Center.

2017 Membership Banquet and Annual Meeting

Some 30 members and guests attended this year's Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show, November 29. The meeting was held at the Youngblood Cafe and featured a fajita bar, trimmings and dessert. Following a presentation by guest speaker, Kyle Ingham, of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, the annual business meeting was conducted by President Kenneth Ewings.

Following the approval of minutes of the 2016 meeting, the financial report was given along with a report on the Dick Laursen Scholarship status. Election of officers and board members resulted in the following:

President: Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation (Kenneth agreed to serve another term as president due to the resignation of Vice President John Taylor)

Vice President: Bobby De Leon, Jain Irrigation

Secretary-Treasurer: David Lott, Fresno Valves and Castings

West Region Representative: Mark McCormick

North Region Representative: Anthony Kingery

At-Large Representative: Paul Smith, T-L Irrigation

South Region Representative: Greg Sokora, NRCS (to fill one year vacancy left by David Lott)

Farris Hightower and Charles Hillyer volunteered for the Nominations Committee; Greg Sokora, Mark McCormick and Anthony Kingery for the Scholarship Committee; and Kenneth Ewings and Layne Hardesty for the Audit Committee.

Past President Albert Reyna thanked Kenneth for his service in 2017 and presented him with a President's plaque.

Happy New Year!

The Board of Directors of the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association wishes all it's members and readers the very best in 2018.

High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show 2018

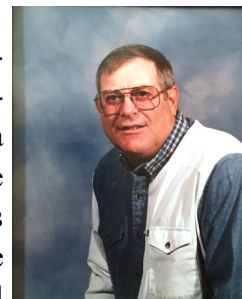
The High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show will be held Wednesday, February 7, 2018, in the North Exhibit Hall A at the Amarillo Civic Center. Several sponsors and exhibitors have already signed up. Charles Hillyer, Texas Agrilife Irrigation Specialist, has finalized the Conference Program covering timely irrigation topics presented by qualified speakers.

Make plans now to attend the sessions, earn CEUs and enjoy a catered lunch included in the registration fee. We look forward to seeing you in Amarillo at the 2018 HPIC. Exhibitor's information, booth layout and agreement forms are available on the website www.taia.org

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.

Thirty seven applications were received by the March 1 deadline for the 2017 Scholarship. They were reviewed by the Scholarship Committee; Greg Sokora, Mark McCormick and James Prochaska. Due to previous recipients dropping out or changing to a non-Texas University, the Board approved the naming of two recipients if there were two equally qualified applicants. The two recipients named were Macy Lange, Texas A&M and Holt Bivens, Texas Tech University, beginning Fall Semester, 2017. The 2017 winners join the current recipients: Kaylee Ites, Texas A&M University; and Emily Wade, Texas Tech University.



In Sympathy

TAIA extends its sympathy to the family of Bobby De Leon on the passing of Bobby's father, Ramon De Leon. He passed away at his home at the age of 82.

2017 Annual Membership Meeting



2017 Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show



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T A I A

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2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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At-Large: Paul Smith, T-L Irrigation

Vice-President: Bobby De Leon, Jain Irrigation

At-Large: Eddy Riggins, Equipment Supply Co.

Secretary/Treasurer: David Lott, Fresno Valves and Castings

Nominations Committee:

Farris Hightower, Lindsay

Immed. Past President: Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation

Charles Hillyer, Texas Agrilife

West Rep.: Mark McCormick, Agriculture Precision Supply

Scholarship Committee:

Greg Sokora, NRCS-USDA (Chair)

East Rep.: Roger Schulze, ATS Irrigation

Mark McCormick, Agriculture Precision Supply

Anthony Kingery, D&K Manufacturing

North Rep.: Anthony Kingery, D&K Manufacturing

Auditing Committee:

Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation,

South Rep.: Greg Sokora, NRCS-USDA

Layne Hardesty, Equipment Supply Co.

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Irrigation Association, www.irrigation.org
The Groundwater Foundation, www.groundwater.org
Texas Groundwater Association, www.tgwa.org
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