CONVENTION HEADS BACK TO CALIFORNIA
For the first time since 2000, CGA will be holding its annual Convention and Trade Show in California. Riverside will be hosting our 66th event on October 16 - 18. Make plans now to attend, and watch for registration announcements coming soon.

For the first time, three hotels will be available to members. The Mission Inn, the Hyatt Place, and the Riverside Marriott will house guests to the show.

As always, a variety of products will be on display at the newly renovated Convention Center. Already 77 booths have been sold. Seminars will again pack Thursday and Saturday, and cover a multitude of topics sure to peak any member’s interest.

Numerous fun events are in the planning stages including the traditional silent and live auctions with some promised surprises, golf (see column to right), on-floor drawings, and much more.

Make plans now to join us in Riverside, where October’s great weather will be a welcome finale to what promises to be a busy year!

CGA ANNOUNCES ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
CGA will hold its annual golf tournament at the Oak Quarry Golf Course (www.oakquarry.com) on October 16, 2014 when we all convene in Riverside for the 66th Convention and Trade Show. Rated by Golf Digest as one of the best places to play, Oak Quarry offers some unique challenges that were experienced by those of us who played at the last two Board Meetings.

This tournament has long been an opportunity for members to enjoy time together before they buckle down to the work of working a show. Last year at Lakeridge in Reno, prize money amounted to 27 percent of the total income. With more players and more sponsorships there will be more prize money available! Last year we had six hole sponsors, and this year we’re looking for 18!

Don’t miss this opportunity to engage in friendly camaraderie with competitors and clients alike. Call the CGA office to sign up early.
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**DATES TO REMEMBER 2014**

**WATER WELL CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP**
April 10  Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley
Scotts Valley, CA

**2014 CGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**
April 10-12  Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley
Scotts Valley, CA

Sep. 11-13  Hyatt Regency Valencia
Valencia, CA

**CGA 66th ANNUAL CONVENTION**
**& TRADE SHOW**
Oct. 16-18  Riverside Convention Center
Riverside, CA

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“Groundwater Reflections” is produced by John Hofer and Marilyn Stormentta with the California Groundwater Association.

Statements of fact and opinion are made on the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or the members of the California Groundwater Association.

Contact CGA at 707-578-4408; fax: 707-546-4906
email: cga@groundh2o.org;
CGA website: www.groundh2o.org
Greetings Everyone:
The New Year sure came fast! We hit the ground running with John Hofer serving as the new Executive Director, and a familiar face, Virginia Beebe back to assist. My Presidency is off to an exciting start. I would like to thank our immediate past President, Gary Mickelson, as well as the Executive Board for their direction and assistance in streamlining the transition.

This is a critical year not only for the CGA, but also for our industry as well. The CGA has many challenges to overcome, such as increasing the membership and a California convention. As for our industry, the most important issue our industry faces is the drought. In the short term the drought provides many more business opportunities for all of us. However, we must not be shortsighted, as the drought can be a double-edged sword. If we are not proactive when it comes to dealing with State and local agencies on drought policies, the long-term decisions made by our governing agencies may permanently damage our industry.

I am sure we have all heard rumblings of moratoriums being imposed throughout the State. Once new regulations are in place, it will change the direction of our industry not only in the short term, but it will set precedents and affect the future of our industry. This is why it is critical for all of us to be proactive and open the channels of communication with our legislatures and local permitting agencies. If we do not get involved, we as the professionals of our industry will not be included in the decision-making policies that will directly impact the future of our industry, and the protection of our groundwater.

I challenge everyone in our industry to get involved and to keep the CGA informed of any potential State or local policy changes. I know this may be a challenging year, but with your help, I believe we have a unique opportunity for many successes. I hope everyone has a safe and successful year.

Mike

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Change - most of us don’t welcome it or appreciate it when it happens, particularly if it means that we have to adjust! It’s far easier to accept change when it’s happening to somebody else and we don’t have to be directly involved.

Your association has recently undergone significant changes that some felt were long overdue, while others felt were not necessary at all. Nevertheless, it has happened, and the impact of a complete change in operations management will certainly affect all active members.

Change is also occurring throughout the State as our industry grapples with the impact of drought-related decisions. Now more than ever our association must anticipate problems and be prepared to respond accordingly. It is not in our best interest to blame everything on the regulators. In fact, we stand a better chance of creating cooperative solutions to groundwater problems if we are the ones approaching the regulators with science-based suggestions.

In order to respond quickly to the myriad of problems befalling our industry, communications within our association must be at a high level of efficiency. We can no longer afford to wait for the next Board Meeting to reach decisions. Rather, conference calls, emails, texting, and other such measures must be utilized, so that information can be passed quickly between members. Already we have made improvements to the office communication system allowing staff to access the office computers remotely, thereby facilitating rapid responses to questions from members.

Our association faces several major challenges this year, not the least of which is increasing revenues. This challenge is further compounded by the location of our annual convention and trade show in California.

Typically, conventions in our state are more expensive than those in Nevada. It is therefore incumbent on all members, as well as staff, to promote the show so that we can afford to respond proactively to those issues affecting our industry.

This is an exciting year for our association. It’s my wish that at the end of 2014, we can say that we weathered the changes, and that the results were positive. With all of us working together, I have no doubts that we will succeed.

John
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Moving forward, growing stronger & making a difference. That is the mindset needed to carry the CGA into 2014. Thinking the worst will only allow your own thoughts to help bring it about. “Doubt is the wrong use of imagination. It is anticipating the worst, not the best that can happen.”

I heard a story once that sums it all up pretty good. A salesman was lost (pre GPS) on a dark and lonely country road when he suddenly got a flat tire. Rainy like cats and dogs (unlike Ca. this year) he got out to fix it. To his surprise he could not find his lug wrench. He looked around and squinted through the rain to see the dim light of a farmhouse in the distance. Off through the down pour he walked. Surely the farmer would have a lug wrench he could borrow he thought. Of course it was late, the farmer would be asleep, probably not open the door and if he did would be fuming mad that he got awaken from his dry, warm bed. The salesman stumbled on. By now he was soaked to the bone and starting to get mad at the thought of the farmer having that kind of attitude with him. What gave him the right to refuse him the loan of a lug wrench? After all, I am the one stranded in the middle of nowhere and that farmer was a selfish S.O.B. he thought. The salesman finally reached the house and banged loudly on the door. A light went on inside and a voice called out, “who is it?” Mad as hell, the salesman yelled back, “you know darn well who it is. It’s me! And you can keep your stupid lug wrench. I wouldn’t borrow it now if it was the last one on earth!”

As we move into the future. Stay positive and together we can make great things happen!

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
Happy 2014 Everyone!

New times, New opportunities, New places!

This is CRAZY! It seems like only yesterday that my husband was chosen to go through the chairs. While taking notes at my first meeting as CGAA Secretary, I remember thinking, “I wonder what my term as CGAA President will be like.” I now wonder if there is any hope of measuring up to all of the wonderful and talented women who filled this role before me. I think “What do I do now?” YIKES! Time to examine my resources and set goals to best serve this wonderful organization and our industry. As your CGAA President, I hope to welcome and embrace the opportunities and challenges of the time with wisdom, strength and creativity.

Speaking of wisdom, strength, and creativity. I would like to thank Stephanie Mickelson for her many years of dedication and service to CGA and to our industry. I find a great deal of comfort in knowing that she will continue to be there, providing guidance and support as CGAA Past President. And, Vicky Hedman, CGAA Vice President, your light and zest for life is evident and contagious every time you enter a meeting room. I am truly blessed to have two such women as a foundation for the CGAA Executive Committee.

In order for me to best accomplish my goals, I feel that it is critical to fill the Executive Committee as allowed by the bylaws. I feel that the bylaws embody the wisdom of my predecessors, and as such, are an invaluable resource. At our January Board meeting, one of my first goals was to fill the three vacant positions: Treasurer, Secretary and Manufacturer/Supplier Division Representative. I am very excited to welcome Amanda Weimer, CGAA Treasurer, and Keri Greenwood, CGAA Secretary, to our team. These two ladies volunteered and were approved to fill the vacancies in the CGAA Executive Committee. These women need no introduction. They are no strangers to CGA and its many purposes. Both of these women bring to our team such a level of experience, insight, and talent that I see a true “Dream Team” in the making.

There remains one position left to be filled, CGAA Manufacturer/Supplier Representative. Please contact me if you are interested in this position or if you can recommend someone who may be interested in joining our team. I hope to fill this position at the April Board meeting.

I would like to congratulate 2013 Woman of the Year, Ronnie Jones of WWDR. You are an inspiration to all of us in the industry and a fabulous part of the CGA family. You truly Care for California’s groundwater resources, Give high quality service to members and the public, and Act in the best interest of the groundwater industry.

I am accepting nominations for the 2014 Woman of the Year, to be awarded at the CGA Convention in Riverside, CA. Please submit your written nomination (via hard copy or e-mail) to me no later than September 11, 2014. Nominations should include: submitter’s name, the nominee’s name and contact information, and a paragraph stating why they are deserving of the award. The Executive Committee will review and vote on the nominations. There are so many AMAZING women in our industry that deserve to be recognized!

Our January Board meeting demonstrated what we can accomplish as a group. Each committee proved extremely productive with its given tasks. Check out the committee minutes online to see how hard everyone worked and the challenges that they faced in committee.

The 2014 calendar of events include many new venues as well as a return to some old ones. Check your calendars and make your reservations early. I hope to see all of the familiar faces at our meetings as well as to welcome many new faces.

Familiar faces - I find comfort in knowing that I can count on the assistance of John Hofer, Executive Director; Virginia Beebe, Assistant Executive Director; and Marilyn Stornetta, Administrative Assistant. CGA is in good hands with these personnel resources and friends.

Given the changes that CGA is facing, I refuse to say if things will be better than times past. They will be different, as the circumstances are different. It is like comparing apples and oranges. I like apples, I also like oranges. Combine the two, add a few other ingredients, and you have a great salad. Add water in the form of ice and blend for a refreshing beverage. I am proud and excited to be a part of the mix!
It’s that time again and 2014 is a new year with lots of changes for us all. CGA is on a new path transitioning a new President (Congratulations, Mike Maggiora) and a new Executive Director in John Hofer (Past President and Technical Member). We are heading in the right direction!

On the insurance and safety side, we continue to monitor, support and assist members with marketing, claims, and safety issues. As CGA’s Insurance Broker, Wells Fargo Insurance can consult on issues, work with members on placing insurance programs, and counsel members on coverages needed based on insurance policy review. As an individual member’s broker, not only do you have access to individual services, markets that understand the industry, and competitive pricing (we know you all expect that); but an admin fee is paid to CGA as a percentage of total premium written (no additional cost to members and a revenue generator for California Groundwater Association.

Now for the coverage tip of the quarter! Employee Benefits Liability (EBL) which is not Employment Practices Liability which would be wrongful termination, discrimination or sexual harassment and that’s another article. EBL should be included on every member’s general liability policy that has any employees (that includes one or more). What the heck are we talking about? Yes, there is an increased exposure for mistakes with the advent of the Affordable Care Act. Employee Benefits Liability protects employers from claims resulting from errors and omissions (mistakes to you non-insurance geeks) in the administration of your employee benefits programs.

“So what can happen? We make sure everything is handled properly!” Well unfortunately there is Murphy’s Law (and I don’t brag about it). If anything can go wrong, it will! Here’s a good example of the reason to include this coverage. Bob comes to work November 1, 2013, is under the current 90 day waiting period for eligibility on your medical insurance, and February comes around and you have forgotten to add him to your plan. No big deal, just call and add him on right? Wrong. Bob was going to include dependents; his wife was pregnant and had her baby on February 2 (Happy Groundhog Day!). They have the baby in intensive care and are incurring huge medical bills. Will your insurance company add them and pick up the claim? NO, that is your responsibility and the mistake falls under and is covered by Employee Benefits Liability.

What’s the expense? A $1,000,000 limit per claim for fewer than 5 employees may be $150 premium annually. The cost for that mistake above was over $500,000. Check to see if this coverage is included or add it now! The lecture’s over! Call me with any questions. Thanks.
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CGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETS IN FAIRFIELD

Last month, the CGA Board of Directors convened in Fairfield for the first meeting of 2014. Among items discussed during the meeting, the Board approved the 2014 goals for the association as recommended by the Executive Committee:

- Successful and timely management transition
- Successful convention in California
- Rebuild reserves
- Maintain/grow memberships

Additionally, the Board approved hiring Pete Conaty as a legislative consultant to monitor potential legislation impacting the association, and to help to set up a Day at the Capital event.

Committee Reports

Executive: Mike Maggiora reported looking to reduce operating costs and improve efficiency.

Budget: Twyla Moline reported that the committee was recommending that fundraising accounts be included in the general operating budget as opposed to keeping them separate. Accounting can keep the separation of dollars for financial reporting. The board approved the proposal.

Caltrans: Larry Rottman requested that a member in the northern part of the state attend future Northern California Caltrans meetings. He will attend those in the south.

CGA Standards: Mike Meyer reported that the continued work on Bulletin 74 may be impacted by a white paper from NGWA. The update has basically been finished. The geothermal section may be fine tuned, but the water and monitoring well sections are completed. There is no schedule for issuance. He noted that the Fly Ash Standard is being worked on by Paul Funston and Jeremy Wire.

Convention: Ron Hedman reported that the Grand Sierra, Reno, NV, had provided a presentation to the committee for a possible 2015 convention site. Ron reported the committee is working on finding activities that will draw attendees to the 2014 show in Riverside. The committee plans to have several conference calls to continuing working on events.

Education: Tim Guishard reported that the workshop was successful. The Board approved a motion to seek legislation to create mandatory continuing education for C57 license holders/qualifier person (active and inactive) as a condition of retaining their license – and that CGA to be the issuing training provider for CEUs. Dave Landino will contact his local legislators to discuss.

Tim Guishard reported the need to upgrade the currently out dated projector. Twyla Moline stated that she and Scott will provide a new projector for the education committee.

Fundraising and Activity: Erik Lowe reported that over $13,000 was raised in 2013. The committee is looking for some different type of activities for the convention. The funds raised will go to the general fund as well as adding to scholarship fund. Erik reported that handwritten thank you notes were sent to all the donors and individuals that bought auction items in 2013.
Insurance: Bob Murphy reported that State Fund has reduced rates by approximately 7 percent, and created tiers in CA with credits available for safety and other areas. He projected an increase in administration fees to CGA in 2014 based on potential additional business. He reported that property and liability rates are flat to down by 10 percent on average for 2014, and he is working on looking at other markets. He discussed additional coverage needs such as errors and omissions liability in management of employee benefits, and potential data breeches for any members accepting credit cards. Kelly Doherty can help with the members to better understand the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Legislative: Tom Weimer, Jr. reported that the committee reviewed the procedures for screening bills. The committee will begin to review bills of importance to CGA after February 21, the final day to introduce legislation.

More Committee Reports

Membership: Casey Good reported that Kelly Doherty has prepared information about why someone needs to be a member of CGA. The second campaign is to support convention by adding notices to membership correspondence. CGA staff help needed by providing 2014 updated information to Kelly for the membership ambassador binders. Further CGA staff help is needed to determine the most cost effective reach potential members (e.g. CGA staff produce and mail versus outsourcing).

Nominating: Gary Mickelson reported that the committee working on guidelines to help select potential candidates.

Scholarship: Randy Delenikos said the committee is looking to upgrade scholarships. The committee would like to either increase the amount of the scholarship or give more scholarships. John Kratz stated he will write an updated letter opening up the Sheryl Kratz scholarship to both males and females.

Website: Erik Lowe reported that committee will be working with the CGA staff to update the website and improve user friendly functions. The first goal is to improve the member’s site allowing for easy communication between groups of members, such as branches or committees.
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CGA Welcomes New Members

Since January 1, CGA has added 18 new members, largely due to the efforts of the Membership Committee. CGA welcomes the following new members:

Richard Gargan, International Water Screens, Inc., Bakersfield, CA
Bob Marty, Advanced Geoenvironmental, Inc., Stockton, CA
Wayne Yada, Ingram Equipment Co., Inc., Visalia, CA
Ron Yontz, Chrisco Bits, Inc., Bakersfield, CA
Jim Hutmacher, MI SW ACO, Roundup, MT
Keith Collier, Legend Pump & Well Service, Inc., San Bernardino, CA
Olivia Jacobs, The Auger Group, Inc., Point Richmond, CA
David Schwedler, Dr. Well, Water Well Services, Fair Oaks, CA
Bob Young, Tabor Drilling, Sacramento, CA
Rod Bougeois, Rod Bougeois Pump Service, Anza, CA
Tom Miller, Precision Pump Systems, Valley Center, CA
Christy Awalt, N. Rex Awalt Corporation, San Miguel, CA
Jose Cruz, J C Well & Pump, Thermal, CA

Warren Farnam, Modoc County Environmental Health, Alturas, CA
Diana Jensen, City of Davis, Davis, CA
Roger Chancellor, Chancellor Drilling & Pump, Klamath Falls, OR
Rebecca Ng, Marin County Environmental Health Services, San Rafael, CA
James Baird, West County Water A1 Tanks, Occidental, CA

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

CGA Looks to Introduce Continuing Education Legislation

At their January meeting CGA's Board of Directors approved a motion to seek legislation requiring continuing education for C-57 contractors. Basically, the proposed legislation would apply to both active and inactive license holders as a condition of their license renewal, and that CGA would provide the training and issue the credit hours.

Dave Landino and Mike Maggiora visited with their local legislators in an attempt to generate support for a potential bill. Although support was forthcoming, it appears that any action won't occur until the next legislative session, since the last day to introduce bills is February 21.
New Sponsorship Opportunities

If you desire name recognition in your association, consider sponsoring one of CGA's many events. There are two more Board meeting luncheons in April and September, as well as the Trade Show lunch on the convention floor in October.

Additional opportunities include sponsoring golf holes at the annual tournament, donating money for the Grand Cash Prize drawing at the Trade Show, and donating items for the auctions at the Convention Banquet.

Call CGA for more information on existing sponsorships, or to suggest a new one. Once you become a sponsor, your name will be included on the CGA website, newsletter, and other recognition options.

Sacramento to Deal With State's Drought

With the State firmly entrenched in its third year of drought and Governor Jerry Brown declaring a drought emergency, the legislature will be considering a multitude of bills directed at responding to the crisis. CGA's Legislative Committee will be reviewing all of the bills pertaining to our industry, but every member has a responsibility to keep up on the legislative activity.

Members should take it upon themselves to keep informed on potential legislation impacting their own region. Once identified, it may be advisable to bring the issue to the attention of the local legislative office. This be accomplished by dropping in to the local office or by email messages. Either way, this communication helps develop a relationship with your local legislator.

CGA is considering organizing a Day at the Capitol, but for those who can't afford the time for a trip to Sacramento, just as much can be done at the local level. Remember, if we wait to bring a local issue to the attention of the association at the Board meeting, it may be too late. If you need help, call the CGA office.
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Brian Cecy - Cecy Insurance Services
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