FOUNTAINHEAD

2nd Quarter 2021

Convention Preview

The Latest on the TGWA Annual Convention Happening August 1-4, 2021 in San Marcos

By ADELINE FOX, TGWA



The TGWA Annual Convention will take place on August 1-4, 2021 at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa in San Marcos, Texas. Because many events are being pushed to the fall, set up will be on Sunday and the convention will be on Monday-Wednesday. You can expect the same schedule that TGWA normally offers including a trade show, continuing education classes, scholarship foundation auction, and the awards luncheon. (See the detailed schedule on page 5). We are looking forward to seeing all our exhibitors and

regular attendees. Please support the association by joining us this summer!

We will have a few key differences this year both in our social events and business meetings. An explanation of why these changes are happening in 2021 can be found on page 3 and in Sarah Kirkle's article on page 12. The alternative social event will include a family-friendly bingo night and a cornhole tournament. All parts of the social event will take place at the hotel venue to eliminate a need for transportation.

See Convention, page 4

TGWA Bylaws Update

By SARAH KIRKLE, TGWA



Last year, TGWA staff reported to the TGWA Boards of Directors that the lack of proper overarching governing board bylaws presented significant organizational, insurance, and legal risks to the Association. In response, the Division presidents created a Bylaws Committee, chaired by Bob Hill, to propose new bylaws and a new TGWA Board structure that would ensure compliance with the Association's Articles of Incorporation and insurance policies. Committee members are listed on p. 12. The TGWA Division Boards adopted the Bylaws Committee's recommendations at their March 9th meeting.

See Bylaws, pages 12



From the top of the rig

Perspectives of Division Presidents







Rusty Tarver Ground Water Science Tarver Geologic Services

Revision of Bylaws



All Things Must End

As I sit here writing my last President's letter, I can't believe how fast my term has come and gone. (And I even got an extra six months). Life is a vapor; such a true statement. Seems like vesterday when I was thinking how I was going to get through my acceptance speech. I made it through, but all things must come to an end. It has been an honor to serve as President, and I thank each of you for allowing me to have this opportunity.

I want to thank our staff for all their hard work and all the help and encouragement each of you have given me along the way. I'm going to miss working with each of you as closely as we do now. You ladies are the best!!! Each of you worked so hard through this pandemic to keep things running as smoothly as possible and cutting costs where possible to preserve our cash flow. Your dedication to this association is noticed and very appreciated. Without your hard work we might not have been able to have a convention this year. Our convention will be August 1-4. I hope each of you will make every effort to attend. We realize this is a little out of the ordinary as so many things had to be rearranged

Not Goodbye; See You Later

Andrew Bettle

The past year and half on the board have been nothing short of fulfilling. When I joined the board in 2017, I was not clear what my contributions would be to the organization other than as a loud mouth. I had no previous board experience and the nexus between governing an organization and directly affecting change in the water well community from the manufacturing side was not crystal clear. I went in with the intention to not only "make a difference" but to become a better organizational member by giving in any and every way I could, all while further advancing the mission of a wonderful organization. Through guidance and others' experiences and leadership, I was able to understand a well driller's needs. All parts of this organization are mutually valuable and must all work together in a balanced and intentional way to accomplish longevity.

As I self-reflect on the past crazy 2020-2021, what has become tremendously clear is that the spirit and practice of this group of people is something that I believe collectively improves the well drillers of Texas. It is not merely the giving of financial resources,

I sound like a broken record but please bear with me as I again encourage GWS Division attendance and participation for the TGWA at the 2021 Convention. As stated in the last Fountainhead, the next GWS Divisional membership meeting is scheduled at the TGWA Annual Convention on August 3 at 8am. We will have a discussion of the proposed TGWA Bylaws and hopefully a productive discussion on how the GWS Division might be organized under the proposed bylaws if passed at the Convention.

Unfortunately, the Convention schedule prevented us from having the geoscience seminar this year. We apologize to those presenters and members that had planned to attend. However, as things return to 'normal' and the scheduling of the Convention and space allows... we do plan to resume the geoscience seminar in 2022.

Finally, I wish to express the appreciation I have for the GWS Division membership, Board of Directors, Vice President Kelley Vickers, and Secretary Mike Miller. I have been fortunate to receive input and discussion from everyone regarding the proposed bylaws and the GWS Division's

Please see Bettle, page 7

Please see Tarver, page 7

Please see Lowe, page 7

Update on Raffle & Social Events

We have received many questions about the status of the gun raffle as well as the golf and bowling tournaments. Here is the latest update:

Gun raffle. Currently, there is a limited supply of guns available through our normal vendor. We are trying to ensure that we have an adequate supply for the 2022 Annual Convention which will take place in January. In addition, state law prohibits two raffles taking place at the same time. Therefore, we will have gun raffle tickets for sale during the August convention to be raffled at the January 2022 convention. Instead, the Association is planning prize drawings during the luncheon so make sure you sign up ahead for a chance to win!

Golf/Bowling. Because the convention was moved three times, the committee waited to plan a social event. August will be very hot for a golf tournament and the convention now falls on a Sunday-Wednesday. The golf tournament would have to be on the weekend, which presents additional challenges. The committee plans to forgo the golf tournament for 2021. Additionally, the bowling alley will be in the middle of tournament season in August. For this reason, bowling will also be removed from our program this year.

Instead, the committee is planning to host a family-friendly bingo night and concurrent cornhole tournament at the hotel venue. Doing this eliminates a need for transportation, keeps the costs lower, and provides a new/fun event for attendees to enjoy. We are looking forward to this fun event where we can reconnect with friends!

Be on the lookout for potential sponsorship opportunities for the new social event. We will have more information on our convention web page at www.tgwa.org/annual-convention.



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REGISTRATION INFO

Registration for attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors can all be found at

www.tgwa.org/annual-convention

Note: If you registered in 2020, your registration will be carried over to the 2021 convention.

VENUE & HOTEL ROOMS

The 2021 TGWA Annual Convention will be at Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa in San Marcos at 1001 E McCarty Ln, San Marcos, TX 78666. Hotel rooms can be booked by calling (512) 392-6450 or reserving it online.

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EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

Noon - 5pm Exhibit Setup

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021

8- 2pm Exhibit Setup
3 - 6pm Exhibits Open
(Meet & Greet with Exhibitors)

*TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021

8:30 - 11am Exhibits Open 1:30 - 3:30pm Exhibits Open After 4pm Tear Down

* Entrance to the exhibits will be FREE on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 to encourage attendance.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

Noon-5PM **Exhibit Set-Up**

Room

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021

8am-2PM **Exhibit Set-Up**

Room TBA

10-11AM **TGWA Membership Meeting**

(Vote on adoption of bylaws)

Room TBA

Water Well Drillers/Pump Installer 11AM - Noon

Statutes and Rules (Course #23726)

Adam Foster, Texas Department of

Licensing & Regulation

Room TBA

Concurrent CE Classes

1PM-2PM

*Hour 1 - Mud & Gravel Pack (Course #24251)

George Dugan, CETCO **Room TBA**

*Must take both hours if you take the first hour.

Solar Water Systems -Solutions off the Grid (Course #22891)

Darol Hayes, Franklin

Electric **Room TBA**

2PM-3PM

*Hour 2 - Mud & Gravel Pack (Course #24251)

George Dugan, CETCO Room TBA

Water Well Drillers & GCDs (Course #23176) Amy Bush, RMBJ Geo, Inc.

Room TBA

3PM-6PM **Meet and Greet With Exhibitors**

(1 hour of C.E. Credit pending approval)

Room TBA

TGWA Scholarship Foundation Auction 6PM

Room TBA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021

8AM-9AM **Concurrent Division Meetings**

> (Election of board members) C&D Division Meeting - Room TBA

M&S Division Meeting - Room TBA GWS Division Meeting - Room TBA

Exhibits Open - (1 hour of C.E. Credit) 9AM-11AM

Room TBA

TGWA Registration 9AM-5PM

Room TBA

Concurrent Sessions

11am-Noon

Water Well Rehab-Chemicals &

Applications (Course #24204) Jerry Hatley,

Cotey Chemical Room TBA

*Insurance 101 Question & Answer Session

Tracie Garner Davis, Insurica

Room TBA

*NOT an accredited CE Class.

Tuesday continued

12:15 -1:30PM **Awards Luncheon**

Room TBA

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Exhibits Open - (1 hour of C.E. Credit) 1:30PM-3:30PM

Room TBA

Tom Drew & Bob Hill, Grundfos

Room TBA

4:30PM-5:30PM Water Well Drillers/Pump Installer

Statutes and Rules (Course #23726)

Adam Foster, Texas Department of

Licensing & Regulation

Room

5:30PM TGWA Board of Directors Meeting

(Election of officers)

Room TBA

6:30PM **Bingo and Cornhole Tournament**

Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021

8AM-9AM Water Well Drillers/Pump Installer

Statutes and Rules (Course #23726)

Adam Foster, Texas Department of

Licensing & Regulation

Room TBA

9AM-10AM **Groundwater Management in Texas**

Overview of State Law (Course #22964)

Gary Westbrook & Bobby Bazan, Post Oak

Savannah GCD **Room TBA**

TGWA Scholarship Foundation Meeting 9:30AM-11AM

Room TBA

10AM-11AM **TXDOT Load Securement (Course #22838)**

Corporal Freddy Duran, TXDOT

Room TBA

11AM- Noon **Drill Rig Safety & Maintenance (Course**

#23179)

Todd Armstrong, GEFCO

Room TBA

WOMEN'S DIVISION PROGRAM -

More information will be available on-site.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021

8:30AM-10:30AM Women's Division Breakfast

Room TBA



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Lowe, continued from page 2

just to have our convention this year. The plan is to get back on schedule in January 2022 and with your help and support we can do it. We decided not to have the gun raffle at this convention for several reasons noted on page 3, but we plan to resume the raffle in January 2022. We had to make some tough decisions for everything to work and all we're asking is that you support those decisions as we navigate through what is hopefully the end of this pandemic.

We will be so much stronger when all of this is over and one day we'll look back and say "I'm not sure how we did it, but man we aced that!!!" I'm looking so forward to seeing each of you in August. The board met in June to have our first in person board meeting since January 2020. Until we see you in August, be safe out there, be kind and God bless each of you.

Terry Lowe

Sincerely,

Tarver, continued from page 2

role in the TGWA. Serving on the Bylaws Committee and the Finance Committee has given me a great opportunity and experience working with other divisional officers and board members. Kelley and Mike deserve some extra recognition for their work on the Bylaws Committee and for keeping me focused on the work being done. A heartfelt thank you also goes to all the TGWA staff for their hard work and especially for their patience dealing with my questions and comments through my term. It has been a pleasure to serve the GWS Division, and I have really enjoyed the opportunity to work

Bettle, continued from page 2

but giving of one's expertise, passion, talent, and one of a kind stories of how water wells are dug in Texas. So, in other words, all of us are attached to wells in this business. We all come from varying walks of life, which contributes to the uniqueness of how we view the world and how and why we choose to make an impact on this industry. I firmly believe that deep down, we all want to make the world a little better one water well at a time.

As I move forward, I hope to continue serving the board in whatever capacity they need me. Thank you, for allowing me this awesome opportunity!

Anshew Betts

Sincerely,

with everyone - including getting to work with other Division officers and board members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as GWS Division President and I look forward to continued involvement with the GWS Division and TGWA into the future.

Moh Tom

Sincerely,

Legislative Update

By SARAH KIRKLE, TGWA

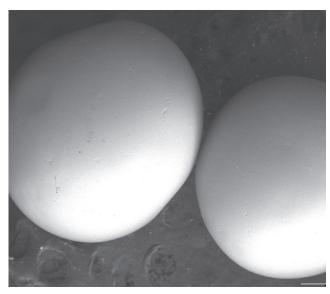
After a fast and furious 140 days, the 87th Legislature has adjourned sine die. Legislators filed 7,327 bills, fewer than in the 86th session, but still a high number given expected constraints due to COVID-19. Only 1,175 of those bills passed both chambers by sine die, providing for a relatively low 16 percent bill passage rate (the Legislature passed between 19-22 percent the last three sessions). While the session was expected to focus on the budget, redistricting, and pandemic response, legislative discussions took a sharp right turn after Winter Storm Uri. Discussions around the near failure of the state's electric grid largely dominated the legislative docket, followed by various social issues, such as constitutional carry and elections.

TGWA staff tracked about 50 bills that could impact groundwater policy or other licensing/regulatory matters, five of which passed the Legislature. None of these bills has a significant impact on the operations of water well drillers or pump installers. This session marks the first session in many years where no key groundwater-specific bills passed the Legislature. If anyone has questions about a bill TGWA tracked or other policy questions, please feel free to reach out to Sarah Kirkle.



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Bylaws, continued from cover page

Highlights of the Proposed Bylaws, Including the TGWA

Board. The proposed bylaws combine concepts from current TGWA operations, the TGWA division bylaws, NGWA bylaws, and other sample association bylaws, and will simplify the governance of TGWA and give the board more flexibility in how it operates. The proposed bylaws provide for a large board, consistent with our current board structure, with a strong executive committee, providing broad opportunity for involvement of all divisions. Divisions will still be active and will elect a chair and vice-chair to manage division affairs, meeting as needed to discuss division-specific topics.

Next Steps. Members of the Association must vote to approve the proposed bylaws at the Annual Convention for the bylaws to go into effect. Once adopted, the divisions will elect board members, and then the board will meet to elect officers.

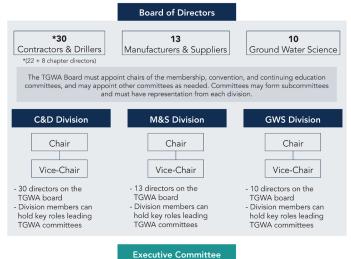
Thank you TGWA Bylaws Committee Members

Robert Hill, Chair
Pete Brien
Don Childers
Ken Grant
Judy Burkett
Jim Hopkins
Terry Lowe
Don McElroy
William McPike
Mike Melancon
Mike Miller
Van Schmuck
Rusty Tarver
Kelley Vickers

The vote on the proposed bylaws will take place on Monday, August 2 at 10-11am during the Annual Convention.

Draft Board Structure

Texas Ground Water Association | Board & Division Structure
TGWA Board of Directors - 53-54 total members



Visit <u>tgwa.</u> <u>org/bylaws</u> to see more details.

TGWA Executive Committee is elected from among the board members.

The President-elect automatically becomes President automatically becomes the Past President-Elect President-Elect President-Creating a three-year presidential tree.

1- C&D Rep.

1- M&S Rep.

1- GWS Rep.

This division is an integral component of TGWA and works to support the Association and groundwater industry.

Frequently Asked Questions: How will the proposed board differ from the current board?

The proposed board includes the same number of positions from each division as the division boards have now. In many ways, the proposed board simply consolidates all three division boards, which ensures the same opportunities for board membership as exists now.

How will changes impact the divisions?

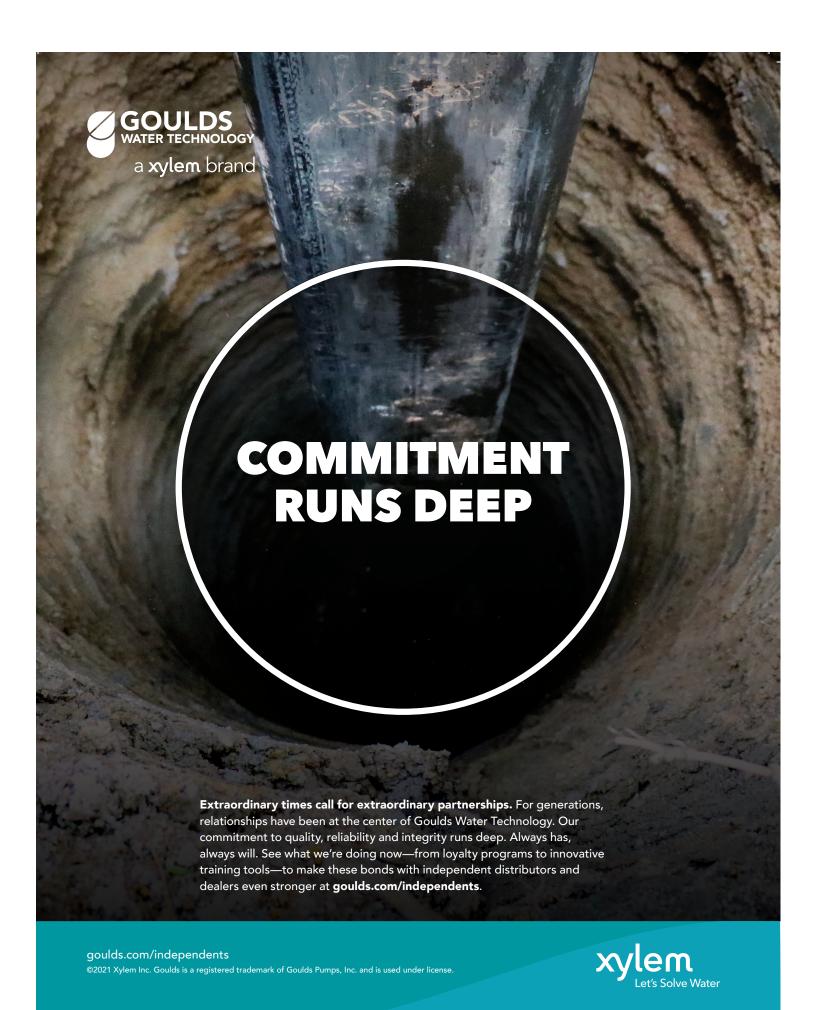
Divisions will be led by a chair and vice-chair and other leadership positions as the division sees fit. Each division will elect representatives to the TGWA board. Divisions will still meet, provide updates, and discuss issues specific to their division membership.

How can I participate in TGWA?

Members of TGWA can participate by serving on a committee or running for a leadership position in a committee, division, or the association board. All of the same responsibilities and activities that TGWA engages in now will continue. TGWA welcomes active, motivated members to engage with TGWA to keep the association going strong.

Why does TGWA have to amend its bylaws?

Currently, TGWA has three separate boards of directors rather than one comprehensive board charged with managing the business affairs of the association, such as the annual budget, financial review, contractual obligations, and the convention. Board actions could be conflicting and might not be covered by the Association's insurance policies, putting board members at risk. This effort merely aligns board decisions with legal and insurance requirements, while leaving the greatest amount of flexibility for the divisions to be active and continue discussing matters unique to each membership group.



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CE Class Update

By ADELINE FOX, TGWA

TGWA hosted 10 in-person classes stretching from Tyler to Odessa. We also hosted two virtual Zoom classes that were well attended. Thank you to all sponsors and attendees for making the events happen. We have not yet scheduled a virtual Zoom class before the convention. If you are in need of continuing education classes before August 1, we recommend taking them on the NGWA University platform. The link for this online course platform and all other CE information can be found at www.tgwa.org/ceclasses

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