



The Water Spout

T A I A

UPCOMING DATES

- Nov. 27-29- Amarillo Farm Show
- Dec. 4-7 NGWA, Orlando
- Dec. 4-5 TPPA, College Station
- Dec. 9-11—IA Show, San Diego
- Jan. 8-11 Belt-wide, Nashville
- Jan. 15 TAIA Annual Mtg. Amarillo
- Jan. 16 HPIC, Amarillo
- Jan. 22-25 TGWA, Lubbock
- Jan. 31-Feb. 2 Farm & Ranch Classic, Lubbock

T A I A H A P P E N I N G S

TAIA will be participating in two upcoming irrigation conferences. The first, the High Plains Irrigation Conference will be held at the Civic Center in Amarillo on January 16. This is the same conference as last year except we will be in a smaller exhibit hall, so the space won't seem as vast. The room will allow for 24 exhibitors. Leon New with A&M Extension is lining up some interesting speakers. There is more information on page two.

The annual meeting will be held the night preceding the conference on Jan. 15 at the Country Barn in Amarillo. There will be a cash bar beginning at 6 p.m. and a dinner of rib eye will be served at 6:45. Please plan on attending. Guests are welcome at a charge of \$25 per person. Invitations will be sent out in December.

The second conference is the South Texas Irrigation Conference. It will be held in Uvalde at the Extension Center on Feb. 19. Dr. Giovanni Piccini is organizing the event and it will be similar to the one in Amarillo. The location will hold about 100-125 people and about 10 exhibitors. Speakers and floor plans are in the works.

TAIA is offering sponsorships and exhibitor spots at both conferences. If you choose to be one of the event sponsors for \$1000, that fee covers HPIC and STIC. Two for the price of one. Exhibitors must be members to rent a booth.

Also, the scholarship committee has been busy finalizing details regarding the Dick Laursen scholarship fund. It will be awarded again for the fall 2008 semester. Details will be posted on the Web site as they are ironed out. Please consider a donation—all scholarships will be awarded to agriculture-based majors.

L E G I S L A T I V E N E W S

The Farm Bill is making its way through Congress. TAIA is monitoring its progress and information regarding the conservation title will be forwarded to each of you.

The Irrigation Association is also monitoring the Farm Bill and has worked hard to get a better EQIP program. If something needs to have a voice from our members, please contact your member of

Congress or Senators. Remember, "politics are local" and your voice counts when you choose to let them know. There are links to your representatives at www.taia.org.

This issue is sponsored by Nelson Irrigation and Pierce Corporation. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2008 Board

The board nominations committee is working on the 2008 board, to be elected in January at the annual meeting. Treasurer is a three-year term (proceeds from Treasurer to VP to Pres.), regional representatives and at-large are two-year terms and nominations committee and scholarship committee are one-year terms.

It is important to have a board representative of the industry—manufacturers, dealers, pivot, drip, etc. The board meets four times per year in various locations throughout the state.

This is a good way to meet members of the organization and to serve a cause you believe in.

The following will be replaced in 2008: Secretary/Treasurer, West and North representatives and East representative (one year only; is a replacement for vacancy). Please let one of the nominations committee members (listed on back page) know if you are interested in serving.

Dues Notices

Dues notices for 2008 will be sent out in December. You will also receive a TAIA repositionable window sticker for your business.

The membership manual was possible this year with the increase in dues. Next year we would like to include a section in the back with companies listed by specialty. Make sure to check the applicable listings for your company on the dues notice.

This is also a good time to make donations to the Dick Laursen scholarship, which will resume awarding in 2008.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, FARRIS HIGHTOWER

As we finish another busy irrigation season, thoughts are turning to preparations for the new season. This will be a busy time for TAIA as we are planning two irrigation conferences, one in Amarillo (Jan. 16) and one in Uvalde (Feb. 19). The conferences will be a great opportunity to catch up on your CEU credits (6 will be offered).

We will also be supporting Dana Porter with A&M Extension in her endeavor to educate producers and extension personnel across the state.

With the improvement in grain prices and stability in most other commodities, I expect another good year for the agricultural irrigation industry.

TAIA is monitoring the progress of the new Farm Bill as it makes its way thru Congress. Information will be forwarded to each of you as it becomes available.

I want to wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season!

HIGH PLAINS IRRIGATION & SOUTH TX IRRIGATION CONFERENCES

Planning for the HPIC and STIC are underway. The HPIC will be held Jan. 16 in Amarillo at the Civic Center. The event will be held in the North exhibit hall, which is smaller than the South, used last year. There is room for 24 exhibitors. Booths (10x10) will be \$175 each and sponsorships will be \$200 and \$350. The event sponsorships are \$1000 which covers

sponsorship for **both** conferences.

Tentative subjects to be covered at the HPIC are pump efficiency & economics, water management, matching irrigation water to crop needs, bio-fuel and a growers panel.

The STIC will be held Feb. 19 at the Extension Center in Uvalde. This event can accommodate 10 exhibitors and 100 attendees. Booths and sponsor-

ships will be the same price. The agenda is in the works.

Information and specific details will be added to the web soon. Let Melissa Pierce (melissataia@hotmail.com) know if you are interested in a booth or sponsorship.

Board Meeting Minutes, October 19, 2007, 10 a.m.
TBWEF Offices, Abilene

Present: Farris Hightower, Eric McElroy, Guy Brooke, Bobby DeLeon, Dana Porter, Tracy Cobb, Edwin Smith, Matt Laursen, Melissa Pierce

Treasurer's Report

Yearly Audit / Review: It was decided it will be too cost prohibitive (\$1,200-2000) to get an audit of the books; instead three local TAIA members will review the treasury books. Farris will check with a CPA on accounting questions: tax-exempt status, scholarship donations as tax-deductible, annual tax filing.

Melissa will look into moving finances to a bank with more benefits. Wayne motioned to evaluate the banking situation and move if necessary, Bobby seconded, all approved.

Financial Report: There were no questions.

Old Business

Minutes from previous meeting: There were no changes to the minutes as read.

High Plains Irrigation Conference (HPIC) 1/16/08 in Amarillo: The board voted to increase booth fees to \$175 due to increases in food. Sponsorships will remain the same at \$200 and \$350. The \$1000 event sponsorships will get sponsorship at both conferences. The attendee price will remain \$15 per person. Wayne moved to accept the changes, Matt seconded, all approved.

South Texas Irrigation Conference (STIC) 2/19/08 in Uvalde: The board would like to see an emphasis on scheduling and economics.

Statewide Irrigation Training Curriculum: Dana is compiling the information for the six workshops to be held in Amarillo, Vernon, Weslaco, Uvalde, Wharton and Lubbock, beginning with Lubbock at the Southwest Farm & Ranch Classic on 2/1/08. She will be calling upon TAIA members to speak at these events.

New Business

Corporate Sponsors: Melissa is gathering information.

Memo of Understanding - TTIA: The board decided against entering into an agreement with TTIA.

Scholarship Committee update: The committee recommended the following requirements to the scholarship:

- O Ag major - if change to a non-ag major, scholarship forfeits
- O Attend a Texas university/college
- O Full-time student (12+ hours)
- O Maintain 2.5 GPA, report GPA at end of each semester
- O 1000 minimum word essay with application
- O Not required to be a Texas resident
- O \$500 per semester / \$4000 total maximum / 4 years maximum

Funds sent to attending school first semester, from then on GPA & enrollment must be verified by committee. Guy motioned to accept the recommendations of the scholarship committee, Bobby seconded, all accepted. The scholarship will be posted online at TAIA's Web site, several scholarship-specific sites and e-mailed to each region. Those who donate to the Dick Laursen Scholarship Fund will be recognized at the annual meeting. Board is working on obtaining tax-deductible forms for donations.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be held Tuesday, January 15 in Amarillo at the Country Barn.

Procedures: The board members will be notified of an upcoming meeting as soon as a date is decided. Board members need to RSVP three weeks prior, if possible. Nominations for the 2008 board are due to the current board no later than December 15.

Other Business

Next board meeting: There will be a brief (~30 minutes) board meeting with incoming and outgoing board members on January 16, following the conference.

Other comments: The IA will keep us informed of developments as the Farm Bill goes to the conference committee. The current EQIP proposals include provisions that will direct EQIP funds to water quantity and quality issues in the event of a drought in an area. As the IA sends us information, the TAIA will forward the information to its members for their action with their Representatives and our Senators.

Adjourn: Matt motioned to adjourn, Bobby seconded, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at noon.

WWW.TAIA.ORG



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2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Farris Hightower, Lindsay Corporation

Vice-President: Matt Laursen, SWISH

Secretary/Treasurer: Tracy Cobb, Cobb Sales

Immed. Past President: Wayne Winget, Winget Pump

West Rep.: John Jeschke, Veribest Irrigation

East Rep.: Vacant

North Rep.: Guy Brooke, Brooke Pipe & Supply

South Rep.: Danny Sosebee, Netafim USA

At-Large: Eric McElroy, Irrigation Pumps & Power

At-Large: Jason Hester, Peerless Equipment

Nominations Committee:

Brian Frerich (chair), Eco-Drip Irrigation

Edwin Smith, Senninger Irrigation

Bobby DeLeon, T-Systems International

Scholarship Committee:

Matt Laursen (chair), SWISH

Roger Schulze, ATS Irrigation

Steven Driewer, Great Plains Meter

Mike Buxkemper, Watermaster Irrigation Supply