



## International Association of Hydrogeologists

### 2011 REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICA

During 2011 I was able to meet twice with the Executive Committee of the U.S. National Chapter—once at the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Ground Water Summit Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, and once at the Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. IAH had an exhibit booth at this meeting, and several members of the USNC assisted John Chilton in staffing the booth.

The Canadian National Chapter is making good progress in planning and organizing the 2012 IAH Congress in Niagara Falls, and the USNC is providing some supporting activities. Preliminary numbers on abstract submissions and early registrations indicate that this will be a highly successful and well attended Congress.

Maintaining and growing membership numbers in both the US and Canada chapters remain major issues.

As a follow-up to the 2010 “Forward Look” meeting and discussions, I collaborated with Antonio Chambel (IAH Vice President for Finance and Membership) to create an Issue Paper about the future of the annual IAH Congress, and how to improve its overall quality. The challenge is to recommend approaches to improving the overall technical and logistical quality of Congresses without adversely affecting the traditional “feel and camaraderie” of the Congress nor the participation of members from low-income countries. The Issue Paper was submitted to Council for their consideration.

There was no IAH Congress held during 2011, so the IAH Council and Executive met during the “International Conference on Groundwater: Our Source of Security in an Uncertain Future” held in Pretoria, South Africa, during Sept. 19-21. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this meeting, where the Issue Paper was discussed.

I represented IAH/USNC at the American Geological Institute’s Leadership Forum 2011: Importance of the Geosciences, which was held on September 19, 2011. Among the goals were (1) encouraging students to consider a career in geosciences by elucidating what value we place on geosciences as individuals and why we chose to go into geosciences; and (2) developing approaches to communicate the value of geosciences to government officials and to the public.

Leonard F. Konikow