



# **International Association of Hydrogeologists**

## **July 2014 to June 2015 Report of the Vice President, North America**

During the 2014-2015 academic year, work in the North American region of IAH moved forward, with several activities and new initiatives planned for the next year. I participated in the IAH Council meeting in September 2014 in Marrakech, Morocco and was able to meet with Bruce Misstear, IAH Vice President for Finance and Membership, in Dublin and Bray, Ireland and briefly with the IAH Executive Manager, John Chilton in England in April-May 2015.

The Executive Board of the U.S. National Chapter (USNC) of IAH meets every two months by tele-conference and face-to-face twice a year at the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Groundwater Summit in the spring of each year, and at the Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual meeting. I participated in all Board Meetings this last year. The USNC has been a co-sponsor of the Groundwater Summit for several years, including the 2014 summit in Denver, Colorado, and 2015 conference in San Antonio Texas. I distributed brochures sent to me by the IAH organizers for the 2015 IAH Congress in Rome to the 2014 NGWA Summit participants. Grant Ferguson, president of the Canadian National Chapter of IAH (IAH-CNC), also attended the 2014 Summit and we met briefly.

The USNC and the Canadian National Chapter jointly sponsored a very successful and well-attended Pardee Session at the 2014 GSA Annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada. Brochures for the Rome IAH Congress were distributed at GSA and other professional meetings. Informal get-togethers also occurred between the US and Canadian Chapters at the Annual GSA meeting in October 2014. Both the US National Chapter and the Canadian Chapter of IAH held independent board meetings at GSA – I was able to attend and participate in both.

In 2014/2015 the USNC sponsored six professionals from Developing Countries, made efforts to help establish a Bolivian Chapter of IAH in concert with Hydrogeologists without Borders, and sponsored 5 students in 2014 with IAH membership. The Chapter also supported the efforts of Uniwater and is instituting a new “International Service Award” (the first Award will be at GSA 2015). The chapter is coordinating with the American Geological Institute to review a new draft of the AGI “Critical Issues: Geoscience for America’s Future; 3rd edition (2016) geared towards educating incoming administration, and has reached its initial monetary goal in a philanthropic Endowment Fund. Finances of the National Chapter are healthy and details can be supplied if desired. The USNC also co-sponsored the joint annual meeting of the Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR), National Institutes on Water Resources

(NIWR), and Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc (CUAHSI) in Las Vegas in June 2015, providing a plenary panel discussion and a concurrent session. The Chapter continues to have interest in including Mexico as part of the North American region of IAH. Specifically USNC is investigating possible collaboration with the National Ground Water Association's Science and Engineering Board for international groundwater efforts focused on Latin America. This may include a 2-3 year programme including a follow-up conference to the 2009 Panama City "Groundwater for the Americas" NGWA meeting, twice-yearly 2-day training courses (instructors from NGWA), scholarships to attend NGWA and IAH meetings and developing a Spanish-language portion of NGWA and USNC websites. The USNC decided not to have a webpage hosted by the IAH International Secretariat at this time but will continue the direct link from the international site to the US site. The next USNC Newsletter is scheduled for September 2015. The theme for the newsletter will be "Resilience, Technology and Teaching Advances", and ideas for articles include: NGRT GW School, a Chilean PhD programme, UNESCO groundwater programmes, Edwards Aquifer Authority, and the University of California, Davis programme on climate, water, and society.

The Canadian National Chapter of IAH is planning an IAH-CNC conference in Waterloo, Canada in 2015 to coincide with the University of Waterloo's Farvolden Day, and I am planning to attend. The CNC is also sponsoring several new IAH members. Canada's IAH membership is reported as about 360 on their website, and CNC's finances are reported as sound. The last Annual IAH-CNC conference was held at the end of September/beginning of October 2013 in Montreal, jointly with other professional societies, and was attended by over 800 people.

There is some potential for holding a joint USNC – CNC general membership conference but the current thought is to put on hold the idea of a joint CA-US Chapter meeting (because of need for more planning and coordination and a lack of novel meeting theme idea at this time). Instead, the chapters will focus efforts on special IAH-sponsored sessions at each annual GSA meeting, as we did last year.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you all in Rome.

David K. Kreamer