



# **International Association of Hydrogeologists**

## **July 2015 to June 2016 Report of the Vice President, North America**

During the 2015-2016 academic year, several activities in the North American region of IAH moved forward, with more activities and new initiatives planned for the next year. I was able to meet with the IAH Council in September 2015 in Rome, Italy.

Both the U.S. National Chapter and Canadian National Chapter were able to establish Early Career Hydrogeologist Network groups for the first time. These ECHN activities are progressing with enthusiasm.

In October 2016 I attended the Canadian National Chapter meeting in Waterloo Canada, participating in the CNC IAH Board meeting prior to the conference, and speaking in a short plenary at the conference. The Conference coincided with the University of Waterloo's Farvolden Day, with field trips and student talks. The conference was extremely well-attended, run in excellent fashion (kudos to the organizers), and included the latest in innovative activities in groundwater. Attendance was much larger than anticipated and registration in the end had to be restricted. Many luminaries of hydrogeology were able to attend.

I also participated in USNC Board Meetings this last year. The Executive Board of the U.S. National Chapter (USNC) of IAH typically 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. The USNC has been a co-sponsor of the Groundwater Summit for several years, including the 2014 summit in Denver, Colorado, 2015 in San Antonio Texas, and another in Denver in 2016. NGWA will be discontinuing its Summits in 2017, combining them with a December "Groundwater Week". No decisions have been made for USNC IAH future spring face-to-face meetings in light of this change.

In 2015/2016 both the CNC and USNC sponsored IAH membership of many professionals and students from developing countries, the USNC continued to make efforts to help establish a Bolivian Chapter of IAH in concert with Hydrogeologists without Borders, but this has proved difficult. The U.S. Chapter has reached its initial monetary goal in a Philanthropic Endowment Fund and is beginning to carefully expend funding under the U.S. 501c, tax-exempt non-profit guidelines, similar to UK charitable organizations. Members of the Canadian Chapter are actively participating in "Groundwater 2.0", which is an online revival

edition of Alan Freeze's and John Cherry's 1979 textbook with all proceeds going to Hydrogeologists without Borders. Groundwater 2.0 will be managed by an editorial board, including the original authors, and will be constantly updated in a fashion similar to Wikipedia.

Finances of both the Canadian and U.S. National Chapters are healthy and details can be supplied if desired. The U.S. Chapter continues to have interest in including Mexico as part of the North American region of IAH. Specifically and similar to last year, the USNC is investigating possible collaboration with the National Ground Water Association's (NGWA's) Science and Engineering board for international groundwater efforts focused on Latin America. This may include a 2-3 year program including 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 next U.S. Chapter Newsletter is scheduled for September of 2016, the CNC has just published its latest newsletter.

There was some potential for holding a joint USNC – CNC general membership conference; like last year 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 annual GSA meetings, as we did last year.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David K. Kreamer