



IAH Vice President North America Report – February 2018

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Thompson

Activities

My last report was submitted in February 2017. Since that time, my IAH activities have included the following:

- Participated in the April 21, 2017 United States National Chapter (USNC) Board meeting
- Followed up on questions for USNC regarding potential for Congress collaboration with Latin America and Canada, retired membership categories and ECHN funding
- Attended a symposium coordinated by the Canadian National Chapter (CNC) and the Regional Groundwater Flow Commission (RGFC) – Characterizing Regional Groundwater Flow Systems; June 26 - 28, 2017 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. 99 registrants from across Canada, Hungary and Australia and China
- Attended the RGFC general meeting on June 27, 2017
- Attended IAH Council Meeting and Congress in Dubrovnik, Sept 24 – 30, 2017
- Attend IAH-CNC Board meeting in Ottawa, Oct 1, 2017 via conference call
- Participated in the USNC executive meeting in Seattle, Oct 22, 2017 via conference call
- Submitted messages to both the CNC and USNC member newsletters

Conference Updates

- “GeoOttawa 2017” was held in Ottawa, Ontario in early October 2017. This was a joint conference between the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) and the CNC. By all accounts, it was a successful conference with more than 400 papers presented.
- “Resources for Future Generations 2018” conference will be held in Vancouver in June 16 - 21, 2018. This international conference is the first dedicated to the availability of resources needed to sustain future generations. The conference is expected to attract 4000-5000 attendees focused broadly on resource issues representing earth science and engineering research and practice, industry, governments and civil society, and First Nations and Indigenous Peoples. IAH-CNC is a technical partner for this event.
- “GeoEdmonton 2018” is also being co-organized with the CGS and the CNC and will be held in Edmonton, Alberta in September 2018 (September 23 - 26). The local organizing committee has agreed that final submissions to the Hydrogeological Theme can be either an abstract, extended abstract or full paper.
- Preparations are well underway for the Geological Association of Canada/Mineralogical Association of Canada/IAH conference (GAC-MAC-IAH) 2019, which will be held in Quebec City, May 12 - 15, 2019.

- The USNC is not currently co-sponsoring conferences, but it is important to note that they do support various meetings and activities by groups such as the American Geological Institute (AGI), Geological Society of America (GSA), and National Ground Water Association (NGWA) by listing information on their website and social media.
- The USNC is exploring the idea of hosting an IAH Congress jointly with the CNC and Latin American National Chapters. A Letter of Interest was sent to Council about potentially holding the Congress in Seattle, Portland, or Oakland in 2021. The primary goal at this time is to find a dedicated person or persons to champion the planning of such a joint Congress.

Awards and Scholarships

The CNC has established a series of awards including the following. Not all are awarded each year.

- Long Term Service Award – presentation of recognition plaque and acknowledgement in CNC Bulletin - awarded to Steve Holysh in 2017
- Lifetime Achievement Award – presentation of framed certificate and acknowledgement in CNC Bulletin
- Early Career Hydrogeologist Award – presentation of framed certificate, acknowledgement in CNC Bulletin and 1 year IAH-CNC membership
- Scholarship for Graduate Studies in Hydrogeology - \$5,000 for Ph.D. student
- Tóth Award – \$1,000 and certificate to the winner and \$500 for up to 3 runners-up (all winners also receive a one-year free membership in the IAH-CNC)
- Robert N. Farvolden Award – joint award with the CGS Groundwater Division. Presentation of engraved and framed certificate – awarded in 2017 to Mike Wei, of the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, for his professionalism, leadership, and profound contributions to the protection of British Columbia's and Canada's groundwater resources

The USNC has established:

- International Service Award – recognition plaque
- Endowment Fund - has reached its goal and they are now looking for optimum ways to use it
- Student scholarship program - 10 scholarships for membership will be awarded for 2018

National Chapter Status

Both the USNC and CNC chapters will be sending reports to the Council to summarize their current status and activities. It is my understanding that both chapters are in good shape with respect to finances. With respect to membership, the CNC has changed its membership renewal platforms in order to address problems encountered with the registration program in the past. The launch of its 2018 membership drive was delayed to January 2018 to accommodate the platform switch. By all accounts the new platform is working well. The USNC membership seems to be steady.

Information Request

Both groups continue to put to put more effort into keeping existing members and obtaining new members. With respect to this, the CNC Board and USNC executive members have expressed an interest in receiving some promotional materials from the IAH to distribute at meetings and to universities. Some kind of flyer of a 'recruitment' nature to promote membership would be most welcomed.