



Hello Fellow IGWA Members,

Let me first say that I am honored and humbled to be re-elected as the IGWA President for 2022. This is an incredible organization that has been around for many decades, and the Board and I are here to help you, our members. We had a very successful 2022 IGWA Annual Convention in late January at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. I am proud of the attendance of over 220 drillers, pump installers, and manufacturers suppliers who were able to attend. The Tradeshow was also very successful and well attended. For those of you who were not able to attend this year, we missed you but will hopefully see you in 2023.



During the 2022 Annual Convention, there was a vote taken on whether an electrical license was needed to install a domestic pump. There were 53 members who attended but 78 ballots were cast, so the election was considered null and void. To address this issue, the Board of Directors voted in February to mail a ballot to each IGWA member to vote on this issue again. The ballot will be sent out in a couple of weeks to those who have paid their 2021-2022 membership dues. We will have two board members and one non-board member count the ballots and will update you on the results and future actions the association will need to take.

This association belongs to you as members. If you have any issues you need us to work on, please let us know. Our Executive Director and the Board are already working on some important issues for the industry, and we will be keeping you up to date on the progress.

John Bishop, *IGWA President* Bishop Well Drilling



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# **Executive Director's Report**

In January the Idaho Ground Water Association hosted a successful and well-attended Annual Convention at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. There were about 220 people in attendance and 24 exhibits for the tradeshow. Presentations included Idaho Rules & Regulations, Business Management, Ranney Well Collectors, DOT updates, CAT engine maintenance, Electrical Safety, a Mud School, Pump classes and many others. A total of 11 credits were available for those who were able to attend the Convention.

For those who were not able to attend the Annual Convention the IGWA is hosting a Virtual Workshop on March 21. The Virtual Workshop has been scored for 6 credits for 2022 license holders. As a recap, only 6 credits are required for your 2022 license renewals so the Virtual Workshop on March 21 will take care of this 6-credit requirement. Please go to the IGWA website at www.igwa.info to download the Workshop Registration Form if you still need credits.

The IGWA is going to be working on several issues in 2022. These will include a proposal to raise the geothermal temperature from 85 degrees to 120 degrees and to eliminate the 4-hour requirement on contacting the Department for well sealing. If there are other issues you would like for the Association to work on, please don't hesitate to contact the IGWA office so we can help you and your business be more successful.

At the IGWA Annual Convention a ballot was cast where attendees voted on whether they wanted to eliminate the requirement to have an electrical license to install a domestic pump or whether they wanted to move forward with developing a separate exam that would create a specialty license for domestic pump installation. After counting the ballots there were more ballots cast than there were IGWA members, so the vote was considered null and void. The IGWA Board recently met to address this issue and voted that the ballot will soon go out to the IGWA membership via mail for the membership to vote on this issue and to give final guidance to the IGWA on an action strategy.

The IGWA Board will meet with the Idaho Department of Water Resources in early April to discuss some potential changes to the Well Driller Licensing Rules. At this point we don't know what the Department will be proposing but we wanted to be engaged early in these discussions so that the industry has input into the first DRAFT of the Rules prior to going out to other potential interests.



Roger Batt Executive Director, IGWA



# **Scholarship Committee Update**

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Convention this year was a great success! Attendance was up, and the participation was wonderful. For those that were not there, we missed you. The contributions to the Crisis/Scholarship fund auction were diverse and generous, and created a good time for everyone as well as future success for the fund.

For those that have not heard, we are now set up for being able to offer scholarships for those that are striving to attend college and extend their education. The IGWA Scholarship Application follows on the next page of the Newsletter and is also available on the IGWA website. Just a reminder that all Scholarship Applications need to be turned in by April 1, so that they can be evaluated, and correspondence returned back to the applying students by May 1.

On another note, we are looking to expand the Association and get more of the Pump companies involved. If you know of any Pump companies that are not part of the Association, please let them know about the IGWA as well as our Scholarship Program. This may be a good way to generate interest.

Lastly, there may be members of the Association that are not in the Contractor group, but in the Associate group, that have children of graduating age. Let's not forget them as they are qualified to apply for an IGWA Scholarship.

We as an Association are increasing our ability to be a source for good in the state. I am proud of what we are doing and becoming. Best wishes.



David Baker, Apex Drilling 208-300-0542 | apexdrillingllc@gmail.com



# Idaho Groundwater Association Scholarship Application

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A -l -l		City		State
none Number	email address			
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1/2 Year GPA	Anticipated Course of Study			
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# Message from an IGWA Board Member

Here is an update on the electrical and plumbing license issue for well drillers and pump installers. The IGWA board met on January 25, 2022, and the main topic of discussion was on the electrical and plumbing issue. We discussed the results of the meeting on May 4, 2021, with the Bureau of Occupational Licensing and August 13, 2021, with the Division of Building Safety. This topic was explained in the last IGWA Newsletter. The IGWA Board then determined that the IGWA membership needed to have input on this issue. During the IGWA Annual Membership Meeting on January 26, 2022, a Ballot was given to all member companies who attended the Convention. There were two Ballot options:

**Option 1:** To vote for eliminating the requirement to pass the electrical exam and have an electrical license for domestic pump installation.

**Option 2:** To vote for developing and implementing a special exam for domestic pump installers (this would take a 3-year process having to amend Statute, conduct Rulemaking and develop a special exam).

The number of votes for Option 1 was 62. The number of votes for Option 2 was 16.

Specific instructions were given to the membership prior to voting on these options. Only **ONE** vote was allowed per voting Member Company and the name of the company had to be written onto the Ballot. After researching the Ballots that were cast only 53 voting member companies attended the Annual Convention, yet 78 votes were cast for the Ballot making the Ballot non-valid (void). Many of the companies also did not write their names onto the Ballot.

The IGWA Board of Directors met again on February 7, 2022, to further discuss the electrical and plumbing license issue. The Board decided again that the membership needed to vote again on this issue. A new Ballot will be sent out to the IGWA Company Members following Board approval on the contents of the Ballot.

The subject of trying to obtain input from other companies and people in our Industry who are not members of our Association was also a topic of concern that was discussed by the Board.

Just for your information there are in Idaho:

- 64- Electrical Specialty Limited Contractors (Well Driller/ Pump Installer Category)
- 119- Electrical Specialty Limited Installer (Well Driller/ Pump Installer Category)
- 74- Electrical Specialty Limited Trainees (Well Driller/ Pump Installer Category)
- 73- Plumbing Specialty Limited Contractors (Water Pump Category)
- 117- Plumbing Specialty Limited Journeyman (Water Pump Category)
- 74- Plumbing Specialty Limited Apprentices' (Water Pump Category)

As you can see there are quite a few people and companies that this change can and will affect. In my opinion, I would like to see us not get rid of the licensing requirements all together for domestic pump installation but change the law to allow Trainees to work alone. The Trainee would not have to have direct on-site supervision, as there would still be a qualified person to answer for the work.

I encourage everyone to let your opinions be heard by mailing in your Ballots to the IGWA office once you receive them. You can also contact Roger Batt or one of the IGWA Board Members for questions or concerns on this issue.

Roger Buchanan Board Member, IGWA



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# **Crisis Fund Report**

The Crisis/Scholarship auction was a huge success at the convention this year! The Auction brought in just over \$10,700 from the auction and raffle. This could not happen without the generous support of our members. The many unique items donated from the manufacturers and suppliers as well as many others are much appreciated as well as the handmade pieces. The mystery ice chests, coffee baskets, quilts and beautiful custom woodwork were just a few of the highlights.

We plan on holding a family summer event this year so please watch for those notices. I would like to thank Orion Armament in Kuna for letting the IGWA purchase a few auction/raffle items. If you are in the market for pistols, rifles or ammunition please look them up.

Thanks again to everyone who supports these funds and for making it fun at the same time.

Charlie Fox Crisis Fund Chairman

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	E: bishopdrilling@gmail.com	
Vice President	Down Right Drilling & Pump	P: (208) 454-3098
Sam Kingrey	6025 Little Freezeout	
	Caldwell, ID 83607	
	E: sam@downrightdrilling.com	
Assoc. President	Adamson Pump & Drilling Inc	P: (208) 466-6439
Sam Navarro	1320 Smith Ave	F: (208) 466-0008
	Nampa, ID 83651	C: (208) 1473-8930
	E: adamsondrilling@gmail.com	
Assoc. Vice President	Adamson Pump & Drilling Inc	P: (208) 466-6439
Josh Young	1320 Smith Ave	F: (208) 466-0008
3	Nampa, ID 83651	C: (208) 573-1723
M & S President	Mountainland Pump & Drilling Supply	P: (208) 565-3087
Jay Meade	1428 Madison Avenue, Building #6	C: (208) 880-9835
,	Nampa, ID 83687	. (===)
	E: jay.meade@mountainland.com	
M & S Vice President	Franklin Electric	C: (208) 949-0604
Charlie Fox	1196 N Creek Drive	0. (200) 0 .0 000 .
5.14.11.5 1 5.1	Kuna, ID 83634	
	E: cfox@fele.com	
Past President	Apex Drilling	P: (208) 678-9393
David Baker	3855 Hiland Ave	F: (208) 678-9043
David Baker	Burley, ID 83318	C: (208) 300-0542
	E: apexdrillingllc@gmail.com	C. (200) 300 03 12
IGWA Directors	z. apexariiii.g.ieg giriaii.com	
Andy Clark	Coonse Well Drilling	P: (208) 454-0190
7 may clark	P.O. Box 666	C: (208) 941-3731
	Middleton, ID 83644	0. (200) 3 12 37 32
	E: office@coonsedrillingpump.com	
Roger Buchanan	Buchanan Well Drilling	P: (208) 522-2794
Hoger Buchanan	3405 N 15 E	F: (208) 522-2798
	Idaho Falls, ID 83401	C: (208) 681-3517
	E: roger@andrewwelldrill.com	C. (200) 001 3317
Rod Hendricks	Independent Drilling	P: (208) 684-3788
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	Blackfoot, ID 83221	1. (200) 004-3302
	F: inform@independentdrilling.com	
Pill Tannor	E: inform@independentdrilling.com	D. (208) 421 0127
Bill Tanner	Tanner Pump & Drilling	P: (208) 431-9137
Bill Tanner	Tanner Pump & Drilling 602 S D St.	P: (208) 431-9137
Bill Tanner	Tanner Pump & Drilling 602 S D St. Rupert, ID 83350	P: (208) 431-9137
	Tanner Pump & Drilling 602 S D St. Rupert, ID 83350 E: dr24driller@yahoo.com	
Bill Tanner  Kenny Vollmer	Tanner Pump & Drilling 602 S D St. Rupert, ID 83350 E: dr24driller@yahoo.com Vollmer Well Drilling	P: 208-552-0236
	Tanner Pump & Drilling 602 S D St. Rupert, ID 83350 E: dr24driller@yahoo.com	