I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all the members, vendors, and suppliers that attended the convention in February. Also, thank you for your patience with me as this is my first time doing anything like this.

I thought the convention was well attended and that we had some very good and informative speakers. For those of you that were not able to attend, a recap of the convention is included in this newsletter. We are looking for a new venue for the convention in 2018 which will be held again about the middle of February.

We were lucky to have a qualified applicant for the Lawrence Schachle Memorial Scholarship. Heidi Pichler was presented with a $500.00 check for her continuing education earning a Master’s Degree in accounting. The scholarship amount is being raised to $1,000 next year so encourage college students to apply.

The website is going to be redesigned and updated so please be patient with us during this transition period. We are hiring a new website designer so this may take some time. If there is any information you would like to see on the website please let us know. If you have a website you would like to have linked on the website we should be able to do that also. If your information that is on the current website is not accurate let us know that also so we can get it corrected. We will send out notices when the website has been changed.

We will also be sending out minutes of the business meeting and board meeting that was held on Friday the 17th. If anyone has any comments or corrections to make to the minutes please let us know so we can get them corrected.

Thank you for being members of the association and for supporting our industry.

Johnny Kay, President
Annual Convention Recap

Thursday the 16th of February

Michael Schnieders, provided a presentation on well cleaning and rehabilitation processes and provided a wealth of knowledge regarding cleaning and proper use of acids to bring old or poorly functioning wells back into a usable condition. Mr. Schnieders in the President & Principal Hydrogeologist of Water Systems Engineering in Ottawa, Kansas and representing the NGWA as their McEllhiney lecturer this year.

Kyle Brown, Discovery Drilling, Inc., delivered a presentation with regard to the requirement of the pump replacement logs. There was a mix of feelings within the group as to whether the information was good or redundant.

David Schade, Chief of Water Resources, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, presented an update regarding changes that are taking place within the DNR with regard to control and regulations affecting the usage of water within the boundaries of the State. He also answered many questions regarding the issuance of Temporary Water Use Applications and indicated that there is still a 60-90 day delay (wait) time.

Ernest Dumman, du Alaska, Inc., presented on heat trace; the history of heat trace, how it’s produced, and what the modern technologies allow in today’s environment. The pros and cons of each application and the best heat trace for what you’re trying to accomplish.

Melissa Hill, Chief Hydrologist with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land & Water, provided a great presentation on WELTS and the upgrades to the driller log entry program. Also she cautioned us that we would have the ability to overwrite information on the WELTS program.

Ian Anderson, Safety Consultant, and Greg Mathieu, Enforcement Officer, with the Alaska OSHA Consultation and Training Program, gave a great presentation covering the unfortunate accident which led to a fatality in our industry last year. Many questions were asked and answered so that we can all meet the goal of making sure our employees get to go home safely each day.

Friday the 17th of February

Shawna Andrews, Territory Sales Manager for Pentair Water & Filtration Solutions in Alaska, Oregon, & Washington, gave a presentation on variable drives offering the advantages and some of the troubleshooting processes of the Pentair drive, things to look for, and how to get the best use of the system. She also included a rough overview of competitive drive systems; going over proper pump sizing for an application.
Bryan Greco, owner of Grizzly Machine & Fabrication, gave a presentation about hydraulic systems, in particular to drilling and drill rigs. The age and proper application of hydraulic oils; cautioned on hydraulic hose crimps and hose applications. How to guard against accelerated hose wear and damage, and cautioned about hydraulic fluid injection into the body from a leak or failure.

Charley Palmer, Hydrologist for the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservations, Drinking Water Program, provided a presentation dealing with groundwater hydrology focusing on water resource allocation.

Last speaker before the business meeting was Jody Ashburn with Barrett & Associates Insurance. She along with Debra Barrett provided us a presentation on Workman’s Compensation insurance pitfalls, requirements, and proactive ways to minimize exposure and lower costs.
Congratulations to all those that won door prizes. Although we were not very good about getting names of those that won (sorry), this is close to accurate, I hope. For those of you whose names are wrong, let me know and we will get it corrected. Since not everyone signed in each day, I can’t verify names. We will do better next year.

A set of knives donated by Pentair - Cory with Sullivan Water Wells
Cole Sullivan of Sullivan Water Wells - McEllhiney Lecture booklet written by Mr. Schnieders
Milo (?) - bundle of green gloves
Dave Bay, Water By The Bay - fire extinguisher
Henry Martin, Anchorage Well & Pump - first aid kit and safety glasses
Jeff Peck, Valley Well Drilling - grinder
Ice Water Wells - kneeling pad
Wheaton Water Wells - torch kit
Safety Kit and Safety Glasses - ??
Chuck Ice - safety jacket
Dewalt grinder - Rick Kraxberger

Thank you to the vendors that donated door prizes, participated in the vendor room, and a special thank you goes to Alaska Pump & Supply for their monetary donation to the Thursday lunch. There were new vendors and vendor representatives and we appreciated each of you.

Alaska Pump & Supply, Inc. - Richard Ross & Randy Moon
Baroid - Kirby Donald
Flexcon Ind. - Kevin Hamm
Frontier Supply Company - Steve Erickson & Dave Hoeffel (Fbks)
Goulds Water Technology - M. Jay Hoiland
Mitchell Lewis Staver - Mike Glad
Pentair - Shawna Andrews
RJB Wholesale - Greg Guisness
SGS North America - Forest Taylor & Julie Shumway
TMC Alaska - Jason Chew

When at all possible, please support manufacturers & suppliers that support the Alaska Water Well Association.
Upcoming Events

The 2017 NGWA Ground Water Expo (now called Groundwater Week) will be in Nashville, Tennessee December 5-11, 2017.

The Pacific Northwest Ground Water Expo will be in Portland, Oregon March 15 - 18, 2018. This is a good event for our members to attend as the association gets a portion of the funds from the convention for each person from Alaska that attends. You will be able to register online at [www.pnwgwa.org](http://www.pnwgwa.org) as the time gets closer.

Other dates of interest are National Ground Water Awareness Week March 5th-11th, World Water Day March 22nd, Earth Day April 22nd, Drinking Water Week May 7th-13th, and Protect Your Groundwater Day September 5th. There is good information on the internet about all these events, some promoted by NGWA. Always a good opportunity to contact your clients and remind them of the importance of good, clean water and how to keep their systems running properly.

### 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Johnny Kay - Hefty Drilling</td>
<td>907-345-0593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Rick Kraxberger - Kraxberger Drilling</td>
<td>907-262-4720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Travis Denevan - Valley Well Drilling</td>
<td>907-746-4555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Roy Ireland - Retired from DNR</td>
<td>907-240-2680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Kris Westberg - M-W Drilling</td>
<td>907-345-4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractor Representative</td>
<td>Cole Sullivan - Sullivan Water Wells</td>
<td>907-688-2759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturer/Supplier Representative</td>
<td>Steve Erickson, Frontier Supply</td>
<td>907-334-3700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Representative</td>
<td>Jim Munter - J.A. Munter Consulting</td>
<td>907-345-0165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>Karen Henderson - Denali Drilling</td>
<td>907-562-2312</td>
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MISSION STATEMENT

The objectives of this association shall be to assist, promote, encourage, and support the interests and welfare of the groundwater industry in all of its phases generally and in particular within Alaska; to foster, aid, and promote scientific education, standards, research, and techniques in order to improve methods of well construction and development, and to advance the science of groundwater hydrology; to promote harmony and cooperation between well contractors and governmental and scientific agencies relative to the proper development and protection of underground water supplies; to encourage cooperation of all interested groups relative to the improvement of drilling and pumping equipment; to encourage, serve, assist, and promote close cooperation with the National Ground Water Association, Inc.; to collect, analyze and disseminate information to the economy of Alaska and of the nation; and to advance generally the mutual interests of all those engaged in the groundwater industry, in their own and the public interest.