

# IAGI Newsletter

NEWS, NOTES AND RESOURCES FROM IAGI

## A Note from IAGI's President—Brian McKeown



I would like to thank you for your continued support of IAGI. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President. After the upcoming elections, a new President will be chosen. It has also been a pleasure working with the dedicated professionals that serve on the Board.

When I started as President one of my goals was to expand the international reach of the organization. We have made strides in that direction and I hope that trend continues. My second goal was to raise the profile and gain recognition for the Geosynthetic Installer. I have long maintained you can have the best plans but shoddy workmanship will ruin the design. The IAGI Board started the IAGI Installation Awards of Excellence Program. I encourage you to start collecting pictures of interesting and extreme projects you may be working on. IAGI will begin

soliciting entries next summer for the 2013 I<sup>2</sup> Awards program. This is an excellent way to get more exposure for your company. An article is written on each winning project which IAGI then sends to numerous magazines for publishing consideration.

While I hate to interject less popular news into my farewell address, I would be remiss in not telling you that the 2012 membership dues will be increased. IAGI has not raised membership dues in more than 12 years and the Board has always aimed to keep dues as low as possible while maintaining operations and expanding services. We currently find ourselves in need to upgrade our database management program while facing increased costs for operating the association. The Board has approved membership dues at \$500 for 2012.

I personally look at the expense of IAGI membership dues as one of my marketing expenses for my company. As a member, I get Buyer's Guide listings on the IAGI website. That benefit alone justifies membership for me. In the month of November, the IAGI website received more than 2700 visits (not hits—but unique visitors



**Brian McKeown,**  
IAGI President

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## A Note from IAGI's President—Brian McKeown (cont.)

who came to the site). There were more than 200 people going to the membership directory and 118 looking at the Buyer's Guide. IAGI membership costs me \$41.67 per month—which really doesn't come close to my beer budget but I digress — for \$41.67 I get exposure to all of these visitors. I cannot buy an ad in an industry publication for \$500. Now throw in the savings for testing CWTs, savings on my AIC renewal, my

handsome face in every issue of the newsletter and that is about the best marketing investment in the industry. I hope you will continue to support IAGI while we invest in the future of our association. Should you have questions, please contact me.

All my best,  
*Brian McKeown*

## 2012—2013 Board of Director's Elections

It is time to select the leadership for IAGI. Four seats are open for election. This year the election ballot will come out in an e-mail to you with a link to the ballot. Ballots will be electronically counted. There will be a slate of candidates however, you are welcome to write in people willing to serve on the IAGI Board of Directors.

The ballots must be returned no later than January 14, 2012. The results of the election will be announced shortly after the close of the election. The four (4) candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to the Board of Directors. The whole process should only take you a few minutes to complete. Please look for the e-mail as it will contain a link unique to you to do your voting.

At the time of publication, the following people were on the slate of candidates. A couple other members are still contemplating whether or not they have time to serve. The ballot will contain biographies of each of the candidates for your reference.

### **Nicky Araujo**

Nicky Araujo started his involvement with geosynthetics in 1985, working initially as a Field Supervisor for Field Lining Services in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1989, he decided to move back to Latin America and started Field Lining Services of Latin America, Inc. In 1993 a branch office called Servicios de Ingeniería Geosintética, S.A. was opened in Costa Rica. Under his management, the group of companies has extended and now includes 4 offices in Central and South America. The companies provide engineering design services that incorporate geosynthetics, supply materials and do the installation and CQC that the customers may require. The primary concern of the companies lead by Nicky Araujo has always been to provide the customers with the very best geosynthetics and the best installation that the project and the customer may require, which has resulted in these companies becoming a leader in the Latin American region. Constant training of the personnel has also been a key element that allowed Nicky to count with a team of professionals of exceptional qualities.

## 2012—2013 Board of Director's Elections (cont.)

### *Installer*

#### **Max Brady**

Since 1983 Max and wife Marguerite have owned and operated Darling Downs Tarpaulins (DDT) located in Toowoomba, in Queensland, Australia. Toowoomba is the main city on the Darling Downs, a fertile agricultural zone. DDT had an active liner fabrication and installation division – that developed into DDT Liners.....  
www.ddtliners.com.au. Now trading as a separate entity, DDT Liners is a founding Installer Member of IAGI, and is an Approved Installation Contractor (AIC). In a former life Max was a High School teacher; he has a degree in Earth Sciences.

### *Installer*

#### **John Heap**

John Heap has been in the geosynthetic industry since 1978. Working initially as a Field Supervisor for his first 8 years in the business, John moved into sales, estimating and project management in 1986. In 1992 John purchased CLI from his Father Robert A. Heap, and with a strong employee team and a customer first approach CLI has continued to grow by offering a wide range of high quality fabricated products and construction services.

### *Installer*

#### **Steve Hobbs**

Steve Hobbs is currently the Business Development Manager for Leister USA. Leister manufactures all manner of plastic weld and test equipment, and Steve has been charged with facilitating Leister's expanding footprint in the North American market.

Steve began his career in geomembranes al-

most 30 years ago. From 1982 to 1985, he supervised the installation of over 9 million square feet of liner. In 1986, Steve became Technical Director of Resicon, Inc., where he supervised installations in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and the UK. He also developed wedge welders, test equipment, and field procedure protocols. In 1990, Steve founded Concord Geotechnical Associates, which has enjoyed 20 years as one of the lining industry's primary worldwide suppliers of wedge welders and related test equipment. Last year, Steve merged Concord's interests with those of the Swiss manufacturer Leister.

Steve would bring a depth of

field & installation experience, equipment design and manufacturing experience, and interaction with the engineering community to the IAGI board, and would be honored to serve in that capacity.

### *Manufacturer*

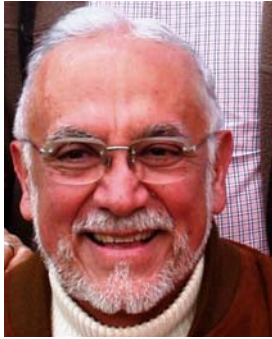
#### **Bill Shehane, P.E.**

Bill has spent over 15 years in the geomembrane industry and is currently Seaman Corporation's Geomembrane Marketing Specialist for North America. He is a registered Professional Engineer in North Carolina and also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and American Water Works Association (AWWA). Bill is married with twin children and enjoys hiking, golf and real estate investment.

### *Manufacturer*

Look for an e-mail from IAGI with the link to the ballot. Each link is unique and cannot be used by multiple people.

## Industry News



### Rafael Rocha Vargas Offers Geosynthetic Installation Course.

Rafael Rocha Vargas is an expert in geosynthetic installation with more than 18 years of experience in the geosynthetic industry. Rafael presents a course on geosynthetic installation practices. Located in Mexico, Rafael is willing to travel North, Central and South America to teach this course. Rafael offers the course in both English and Spanish. Further, Rafael is a Proctor for the IAGI CWT polyethylene exam. To contact Rafael, telephone: 01 449 996 7589, mobile: 333 201 4524 or e-mail: georocha@prodigy.net.mx for more information.

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### Skellerup Containment Systems Changes Name to Viking Containment

New Zealand – based Skellerup Containment Systems, part of Viking Group, Ltd., is changing its name to Viking Containment. Viking Containment is New Zealand's leading supplier and installer of geosynthetic products, including geosynthetic liners, baffle curtains, floating covers, geotextiles, geocomposites and geogrids. Under this new identity, the company will continue its tradition of reliability and strong quality control and assurance standards. Viking offers a comprehensive program to ensure that all design and manufacturer installation specifications are complied with. The company holds accreditation from the International Association of Geosynthetic Installers (IAGI) Certified Welding Technician (CWT) program. For more information: [www.containment.co.nz](http://www.containment.co.nz).

### Leister Makes Commitment to the US Geo Industry

Leister Process Technologies, the worldwide leader in plastic welding and hot air equipment announces the opening of its expanded U.S. headquarters outside of Chicago. The new, centrally located facility quadruples Leister's capabilities in North America. Among the new services offered:

- Complete inventory of Geosynthetic tools for instant availability
- Complete spare parts inventory for overnight parts shipping
- Complete new service and repair facility
- Complete new training & demonstration space

“The expansion of Leister USA is paramount in our effort to better service the U.S. Market,” stated Jerry Zybko, general manager, Leister USA. “This is the first step in our commitment to the U.S. Geo industry,” reports Steve Hobbs, business development manager of Leister USA's Geosynthetics Division. “We're ramping up our customer service and support network to assure a positive experience from start to finish with Leister tools,” explained Hobbs.

In addition, Leister continues to expand and refine its Geosynthetics tool offerings. The newest addition is the FUSION 3 extrusion welder with 5 mm rod feed, an inexpensive solution to medium output extrusion welding.

For details, contact your Leister distributor toll-free: 855-Leister (855-534-7839); via email: [geosynthetics@leisterusa.com](mailto:geosynthetics@leisterusa.com); or visit their website: [www.leisterusa.com](http://www.leisterusa.com).

## Industry News

### **The Geosynthetic Institute is offering Continuing Education short Courses in 2012.**

The Geosynthetic Institute is pleased to announce four short courses scheduled for 2012. Two of these courses are new. The instructors for these courses will be Drs. Robert M. Koerner and George R. Koerner. As a team, they have worked together in guiding the Geosynthetic Institute for more than 20 years.

The following courses will be offered:

**Course #1—13 March 2012—Geosynthetic Reinforced Retaining Wall Failures and Their Remediation**

This is a new course, which provides the state-of-practice on the performance (not design, per se) of geosynthetic reinforced MSE walls. Its is felt to be necessary due to the many failures that are ongoing.

**Course #2—14 March 2012—Inspection, Monitoring and Maintenance of Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) Walls, Berms and Slopes**

This new one-day course is focused on the inspection, monitoring and maintenance of MSE walls, berms and slopes reinforced with geogrids and geotextiles. Step-by-step construction aspects will be presented along with idiosyncrasies of the various geosynthetics and soil types used in the construction process.

**Course #3—20 March 2012—Geosynthetics in Waste Containment Liner and Cover Design**

This one-day course is focused on the proper design, analysis and testing of geosynthetics used in liner and cover systems for landfills, surface impoundments and waste piles and heap leach pads.

**Course #4—21 March 2012—Quality Assurance/Quality Control of Geosynthetics Installation**

This one-day course is focused on the quality assurance and quality control of geosynthetics

as placed in permanent and/or critical application. Specifications and testing are emphasized. It focuses on both the manufactured geosynthetics and on the installation processes. Applications are mainly in the waste containment area, i.e., landfills and surface impoundments, but applicability to walls, slopes, dams, canals, etc. will also be mentioned.

The Registration Form and more detailed information on each course, including fees and location of courses, can be found at [www.geosynthetic-institute.org](http://www.geosynthetic-institute.org) under the "Education" tab.

### **CETCO Hired Charles Wilk for Technical Sales Manager**

CETCO is proud to announce the appointment of Charles Wilk to the position of Technical Sales Manager in the Midwest region for the lining technologies product line. As Technical Sales Manager, Chuck will be directly responsible for sales efforts in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. He will continue to be based out of the

*Industry News continued on page 7*



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# Plan, Train and Maintain for Safety Success

by Carl Potter, CSP and Deb Potter, PhD

Safety discussions often lead to conversations about which rules and regulations will drive us to a zero-injury workplace. The issue is that many workers know the rules and regulations yet do not know how to apply them to achieve the goal that nobody gets hurt. If we measure safety success by how many injuries occur, it

could be as King Solomon stated, "...we are just chasing the wind."

Numbers are elusive. Many companies attempt to reach some industry benchmark such as "top quartile" or "best in class."

The difficulty is in the comparison and many groups spend much effort making sure they are using the same types of measurements. In a review of work teams, divisions and companies that have the lowest number of injuries as well as an overall safety process, we found that they measure their success around three areas that can be measured and improved: planning, training and maintaining.

Maintaining skills in a professional environment is crucial to creating a zero-injury workplace.

## Planning

Dr. Stephen Covey says, "Begin with the end in mind." Describing what the ultimate goal can be difficult for some organizations – particularly if the goal is not stated in terms of a number. Determine what safety success looks like in your company. Then determine what the gap is between the current state of safety and the desired results. Bridging the gap is what planning is all about. Many times companies are just throwing ideas "against the wall" to see what sticks. This just upsets everyone involved because it feels like the "safety program of the month" – everyone gets confused on what the emphasis is at any time and people give up trying to keep up with the latest "new idea."

Planning is not the easiest part of safety because it takes work. Identifying where you are in the process by conducting a formal hazard assessment (FHA) is a good place to start. This assessment results in the identification of hazards that must be targeted for risk mitigation. Once you know what to mitigate, plans should result in a budget of time and money to address the issues. Mitigating hazards in the workplace is a fundamental process in creating a zero-injury workplace. A key tool for reducing risk is the development of skills through a solid training process.

## Training

Training for safety success goes beyond what many organizations refer to as "mandatory compliance training." It also goes beyond corrective action. Have you ever been sent to training because you failed? Maybe you had a vehicle incident and your boss sent you to defensive drivers training. This is a typical reaction of many companies and, without realizing what

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## Plan, Train and Maintain for Safety Success (cont.)

they have done, employees are put on the defensive because the training is viewed as punitive. Consequently, little actual learning takes place. Other times, training seems like punishment because of the trainer's lack of ability or knowledge of the subject. The primary thought of most employees is, "This is a waste of time." Most skilled professionals value training. When training is delivered in such a way that allows the participant see why they need it, then they are open to learning. To be effective, the training must be at a level that is not below their current knowledge. It is fine to review basic concepts, yet maximum learning takes place when participants are challenged with new concepts and applications. Training must be purposeful and not left to chance.

### Maintaining

Maintaining skills in a professional environment is crucial to creating a zero-injury workplace. When a skilled worker continues to work day in

and day out without perfecting and honing his or her skills, complacency sets in. Highly skilled workers can get into bad habits and become over confident, leading to injuries when skills are not maintained through purposeful training. Imagine professionals such as doctors that studied their work in college and never returned to a learning environment for 10 years. Would you want your family to see such a doctor for a medical crisis? Make sure that you take responsibility for not only your technical skills, but also your safety knowledge. New techniques and applications can help you maintain yourself for safety success.

*Carl Potter is a board-certified safety professional (CSP), the highest earned designation in the safety profession, and is a certified management consultant. Carl may be contacted at [carl@potterandassociates.com](mailto:carl@potterandassociates.com).*

*Deb Potter, PhD, is a certified management consultant and specializes in safety management for high-industry. Deb may be contacted at [deb@potterandassociates.com](mailto:deb@potterandassociates.com).*

## Industry News (cont.)

Hoffman Estates, Illinois office.

In addition to holding a Bachelor's of Science degree in Environmental Sciences and a Master's degree in Business Administration, Chuck is a Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner in the State of Illinois and a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Accredited Professional with the U.S. Green Building Council. He has published a number of technical papers and articles in international journals and conference proceedings on solidification/stabilization treatment and is a member of the Interstate

Technology and Regulatory Council team.

Charles Wilk can be reached at: office: 847-851-1786 or mobile: 630-902-0232.

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## New Members

We would like to welcome our new members to the International Association of Geosynthetic Installers. Members are the foundation of IAGI, and we look forward to working with you to advance installation and construction technologies and to strengthen the knowledge, image and communication within the industry. We value your membership and look forward to your input.

### **Geomembranas SAS**

Rodrigo Arevalo  
Calle 170 # 20 A 13  
Bogota , Cund 110131  
COLOMBIA

Phone: 1 6777701  
Fax: 1 6777716  
E-MAIL: [rodrigoarevalo@geomembranas.com.co](mailto:rodrigoarevalo@geomembranas.com.co)  
Website: [www.geomembranas.com.co](http://www.geomembranas.com.co)  
*Associate Member*

### **Humphrys' Textile Products**

Ron Nissenbaum  
5000 Paschall Avenue  
Philadelphia , PA 19143

Phone: 215.724.8181 x 104  
EMAIL: [rnb@humphrys.biz](mailto:rnb@humphrys.biz)  
Website: [www.humphrys.biz](http://www.humphrys.biz)  
*Associate Member*

### **PT Kalimantan Prima Persada**

Irma Puspasari  
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Kawasan Industri Pulogadung  
Jakarta , Timur  
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Fax: 021-46822988  
E-MAIL: [irma.puspasari@pamapersada.com](mailto:irma.puspasari@pamapersada.com)  
*Installer Member*

### **SABK International EST**

Mustafa Hussein  
Rawdah Street  
PO Box 10540  
Jeddah , Western 21443  
SAUDI ARABIA

Phone: 26688312  
Fax: 26640231  
E-mail: [mustafa@sabk.net](mailto:mustafa@sabk.net)  
Website: [www.sabk.net](http://www.sabk.net)  
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Montague Gardens  
Cape Town , Western Cape 7442  
SOUTH AFRICA

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Fax: (0)215528307  
EMAIL: [gravin@ttls.co.za](mailto:gravin@ttls.co.za)  
Website: [www.ttls.co.za](http://www.ttls.co.za)  
*Installer Member*

**IAGI is grateful to the sponsors who have supported  
the IAGI Installation Awards (I<sup>2</sup>A) program.**



## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOSYNTHETIC INSTALLERS

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## Approved Installation Contractors

### **AIC Mission Statement**

*To establish criteria for recognizing the geosynthetic installation companies that meet a minimum level of professionalism, experience and business practices. The program's goal is to promote growth in the geomembrane installation industry and promote better quality workmanship.*

**American Environmental Group, Ltd.**

**Atlantic Lining Company**

**Atlantic Poly Liners, Inc.**

**CETCO Contracting Services**

**Clean Air and Water Systems, LLC**

**Colorado Lining International**

**DDT Liners**

**Environmental Fabrics, Inc.**

**Hallaton, Inc.**

**Layfield Environmental Systems Ltd.**

**New England Liner System Inc.**

**Polilainer de Mexico S.A. de C.V.**

**Soluciones Ambientales Integrales, S.A. De C.V.**

**Titan Environmental Containment Ltd.**

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **SPECS CALLING FOR AIC COMPANIES**

Installers have reported that some jobs are now requiring AIC as a pre-qualification for a bid. Join this distinguished list of companies by applying for AIC today.

### **CWT TESTING NOW AVAIL- ABLE IN VIETNAMESE**

IAGI thanks Kenny Tran for translating the Certified Welding Technician test and all associated documents into the Vietnamese language. Kenny volunteered his time and completed the translation recently. IAGI appreciates the dedication of such individuals in serving the industry.

*Note: IAGI welcomes new product announcements. Please send to Sally Perillat at [info@iagi.org](mailto:info@iagi.org). A maximum of 100 words and one picture will be included.*