



Region 7 Review

A monthly publication for the members of IPSSA, Inc. – Region 7

May 2010

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Director's Notes

Region 7 Quarterly Report

NDPA – On April 25th thru the 27th I had the honor and privilege to represent IPSSA at the 9th Annual National Drowning Prevention Alliance Symposium in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, accompanied by **Terry Snow** and **Jeremy Smith**. I knew that **Mary Ann Downing** (an NDPA Director) was going to be there; it was good to see her, and it was a pleasant surprise to see **John Silcox** from the San Diego chapter there also. For more details see the attached Outreach report.

BORD – From there I went to the May BORD meeting in San Antonio the following weekend. I went in a day early to visit with **Phil Sharp** (a Director and current President of IPSSA). Can you believe he had me out doing sick route pools with him the first day? On that Friday Phil had his Region 9 meeting. There were two representatives from every chapter (FYI, due to the size of the region, the members have to spend a night in the host city at their or their chapter's expense, sometimes two nights, depending on the length of the meet-

ing). It was an extremely well-run meeting, and I was impressed by the lack of crosstalk, which made for a very efficient meeting.

Saturday the BORD meeting started at 9:00 a.m. as usual. For the most part it was an unexciting meeting, as much of the business was cleaning up some overlooked details from the February meeting. Additional Chairmen and Liaisons approved:

Bylaws **Chuck Gough**

Member Education **Celia Hugueley**

Expansion **Jim Romanowski**

IPSSAN **Eric Nielson, Bob Nichols**

Member Benefits **Gary Ellyatt**

Outreach **Bob Nichols, Jeremy Smith, Javier Payan**

FPSIE Liaison **Mike Gardner**

SPEC Liaison **Terry Snow**

NPIRC Liaison **Lance Sada**

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- The new protocols and the contract for NPIRC have been approved.
- Suggestion to waive the entry chemistry exam for holders of a CPO certification – no action taken. Region discussion!
- The executive office to pursue a free conference call account for IPSSA.
- Kelly and Associates (publishers of our Regional directories) has been given notice to inform prospective advertisers that they receive the add income, not IPSSA. Some advertisers were under the impression that IPSSA received the income.
- Florida is considering legislation to extend VGB regulations to residential pools.
- A chapter is being considered in Oklahoma as part of Region 9.

- IPSSA census as of March 31, 2010 is 3,676.
- After consideration of a different date due to several potential show conflicts, the 2011 Leadership Conference will remain February 11-12, 2011.
- The next BORD meeting will be August 7, 2010 in Oakland, California.

REMEMBER!!

May is National Water Safety Month – Plan an event to inform your customers/the public about the risks associated with water, whether it is the backyard pool or the beach. Get coloring books from IPSSA to hand out at schools or a health fair. Don't forget Water Watcher Tags – insert them in your invoices or hand them out as you interact with your customers.

Next Region 7 meeting is June 23, 2010, same place, same time.

Calendar of Events

- **National Water Safety Month**, May 2010.
www.watersafetymonth.org
- **R7 Board Meeting**, Wed., June 23, 7:00 p.m., SCP Conf. Rm. (858-467-9495), 5648 Copley Dr., SD.
- **B.O.R.D. Meeting**, Sat., Aug. 7, Oakland, CA.
- **R7 Board Meeting**, Wed., Sept. 22, 7:00 p.m., SCP Conf. Rm. (858-467-9495), 5648 Copley Dr., SD.
- **R7 Board Meeting**, Wed., Dec. 15 (one week earlier due to Christmas), 7:00 p.m., SCP Conf. Rm. (858-467-9495), 5648 Copley Dr., SD.

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9th Annual NDPA Symposium

On April 25th thru the 27th Terry Snow, Jeremy Smith and I participated in the 9th Annual National Drowning Prevention Alliance Symposium in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Although I do not yet have the follow-up statistics on attendance and groups attending, I would guess there to be at least 200 individuals and 30 groups. IPSSA had a prime spot for our booth, as we were the sponsor of the exhibition space.

The event was hosted by Slippery Rock University. The symposium consisted of several high-profile people as keynote speakers, including the Auditor General of Pennsylvania. In addition to the keynote speakers, there were several break-out sessions addressing critical issues pertaining to drowning prevention. The main theme was certainly “that drowning is not an **accident**, unless you were on the Titanic”. Consensus was that too frequently drowning happens because most people are unaware of the risk involved in their activities around water. Two- to four-year-olds have the highest rate of drowning, after which the curve drops sharply until about sixteen to eighteen, when it then goes back up gradually, due to bad decisions on the part of “invincible” teenagers, especially boys.

Florida and Texas have the highest number of drownings each year.

Florida has done a great job of gathering statistics that have led them to a course of action to minimize their drowning figures in the future. They found that culture plays a big part in the lack of understanding of the risk associated with water: the Asian community, where swimming is not a recreational activity; the dysfunctional, possibly violent family; and the Hispanic community. Each group has a different sensitivity to the risks associated with water.

Many in the Asian community, in addition to lacking a culture of recreational swimming, have lived on boats

a good part of their lives and are, sad to say, accustomed to a high drowning rate.

The dysfunctional families are for the most part poor parents and do not provide sufficient supervision.

The Hispanic community has an ethic of cleanliness and frequently leaves the soapy water bucket standing while wringing out the mop or just leaves it for awhile, period. Little kids are fast and can tip into the bucket in no time. The highest number of “bucket drownings” occurs in this group.

Florida has initiated a system of one-on-one education where sworn officers (often firemen) knock on doors, sit down with families to explain the risks associated with water, and leave appropriate literature.

Texas is in the statistic gathering mode and formulating a plan to improve drowning prevention.

Open water and boating activities comprise another category of risk. Open water drownings are generally due to poor decisions about one’s swimming ability or the use of unsafe equipment. The high rate of drowning associated with boating accidents is usually due to alcohol or not wearing a life vest.

Although the San Diego IPSSA chapter was the first with the “Water Watcher Tag”, many other groups have adopted the idea, and they now come in many shapes and forms, including one with a springy wrist band and whistle.

We had many discussions at the booth about VGB (Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act). Everyone seemed pleased that IPSSA is in the forefront of seeing that it is implemented correctly.

This was an excellent opportunity to network, and we had many opportunities to talk to several members of the Consumer Product Safety Commission as well as other organizations.

Chuck Gough

Region 7 B.O.R.D. Representative

Water Safety

National Water Safety Month is set for May 2010!

This designation has been proclaimed as a joint effort of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, the International Swimming Hall of Fame, the Independent Pool & Spa Service Association, the National Recreation & Park Association, and the World Waterpark Association and will be celebrated through educational programs, public service announcements, governmental proclamations, dealer and business promotions, and the distribution of water-safety-themed materials, aimed primarily at the public.

<http://www.watersafetymonth.org/>

Barbeque Recipe Contest

Share your Barbeque recipe with the Innovation Lab, and you could win a Cuisinart 4-piece classic grill tool set. Just **submit your recipe below** between March 25 and May 31, 2010. Entries will be judged in the following categories:

- Most Original Name
- Most Unusual Ingredient(s)
- Best Healthy Makeover of a Tried-and-True Recipe

Three prizes will be awarded for each category!

All contestants represent that their entries are original recipes or family recipes and shall not be recipes that have been copyrighted or otherwise published by third parties.

<http://innovationlab.pentairpool.com/events/barbeque-recipe-contest>