

IADC takes care of business for nearly 65 years

Ken Fischer, IADC Vice President-Operations

AT A TIME when companies and organizations are refocusing their efforts on what they see as their “core business”, IADC continues to place the highest priority on its core businesses, Operations and Government Affairs.



Ken Fischer

IADC Operations is comprised of a variety of technical committees and related programs that support the drilling operations of our member companies.

The volunteer efforts of our members provide the fuel for these activities. The activities are supported, and often led, by a small group of dedicated professionals that make up the IADC staff.

The achievements in the area of Government Affairs are detailed elsewhere in this issue.

The series of articles that follow explain many of the diverse activities being conducted by some of IADC's technical committees.

IADC has a rich tradition of accomplishment that continues to the present.

It is important to remember that the organization, founded more than 60

years ago, immediately formed a series of technical committees.

Several of today's committees, particularly in the area of rig safety and contracts, trace their roots to these early groups.

Other committees have come and gone as industry needs and practices have changed.

Throughout our history, these activities have been the key mechanism for IADC members to contribute to the advancement of the industry and to derive value from participation in the Association.

Improving safety for workers at the rig site has always been, and will continue to be, the highest priority of IADC.

Our Health, Safety and Environment Committee has continued to grow stronger in recent years and recently has initiated a series of regional meetings across the US, focusing on local operating conditions and challenges.

These meetings have contributed to the steady decline of incident rates as contractors have freely shared their experiences and techniques.

Issues surrounding drilling contracts and the commercial relationships between companies continue to be an area where IADC members focus their efforts.

The continuous evolution of IADC contract forms and related documents facilitates efficiency for contractors and operators alike.

By conducting workshops in operating regions from West Texas to China and the Middle East, the Contracts Committee has been able to extend participation further than their 1940s predecessors could have ever imagined.

IADC's newest committees, those focused on Information Technology Solutions and Underbalanced Operations, have pushed the organization into the forefront of new technology and have opened the doors to a broader spectrum of industry disciplines.

The UBO Committee, one of our most active groups, has recorded a long list of accomplishments and continues to develop industry standards aimed at improving the safety and efficiency of these innovative drilling techniques.

While it is useful to take a look back and admire our many achievements, the strength and value of IADC depend on how we respond to the challenges of the future.

Without the continued efforts of our volunteer members and professional staff, we will fail to uphold the legacy passed down through nearly 65 years of cooperative work.

As you read about today's committees and the vast array of activities they are pursuing, look for ways that you can contribute.

Your active participation will allow you and your company to guide the direction of the industry and will provide a rich return on the time and resources invested. ■