Mark your calendar for IADC Annual Meeting


On Wednesday, 25 September, the Government Affairs Committee will present a keynote speech by Ms Johnnie Burton, Director of the US Minerals Management Service (MMS). Ms Burton was sworn in as Director of the MMS last March 15. Since 1995 she served as Wyoming’s Director of the Department of Revenue. She served in the Wyoming State House of Representatives during 1982-88. Ms Burton was vice president of Dwights Energydata Inc (1984-89) and TCF Inc (1989-92). Prior to that Ms Burton was president and founder of Hotline Energy Reports Inc, which later merged with Dwights Energydata.

Following a coffee break, an IADC Operations and Regulatory Review will include reports by IADC’s Land Division, Offshore Division and WelICAP. This wide-ranging session examines IADC initiatives in training and technology, as well as reviewing regulatory developments both current and on the horizon.

The keynote address is “ISO 14001—Getting it right ... Legally!” A representative of the law firm of Haynes and Boone will explore the legal ramifications and potential pitfalls of implementing ISO 14001 environmental management system.

Also during the session, William P Hedrick, HSE Manager, Rowan Companies, and Chairman of IADC’s Health, Safety & Environment Committee, will present a committee update.

Updates also will be presented by Jon Gent, Drilling Engineer-Upstream Technology Group, BP Houston, and Chairman of the Underbalanced Drilling Operations Committee, and Robert C Burnett, Training Manager, Global-SantaFe Corporation and Chairman of the Well Control Committee.

Additionally, Mark A Childers, General Manager Technical, Atwood Oceanics, will update the Drilling & Well Servicing Structures Equipment Task Force, of which Mr Childers is Chairman.

A welcoming reception will be held that evening.

On Thursday, 26 September, the keynote speaker during the industry breakfast will be Charles Matthews, Commissioner of the Texas Railroad Commission. Mr Matthews has served on the RRC since 1994 and was reelected to his second term in 2000 with the highest number of votes of any commissioner in history. His accomplishments in office include streamlining the commission and pushing through a severance tax initiative, among others.

Following a short break will be a session not to be missed: “Rising Insurance Costs for the Drilling Industry.” Rising insurance costs are an increasing challenge for the drilling industry. The panel members will review the reasons behind the trend and solutions drilling companies should consider.

Speakers will include James R Pierce, Managing Director of Aon Risk Services Natural Resources Group, John Lloyd with Lloyd Thompson in London, and Gary Brantz with Towers Perrin.

“Deepwater Geological Hazards in the Gulf of Mexico” will be presented following the insurance session, which includes W R “Bill” Bryant, a professor in the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University.

Next up will be a presentation on “Public Lands Access in America: An Independent’s Perspective”, with Diemer True with True Companies and Chairman of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA).

A Hughes Christensen-sponsored lunch that day will feature a panel on the Geopolitics of Oil & Gas with featured speaker Amy Myers Jaffe with the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University.

Later that afternoon will be the IADC Board of Directors Meeting for contractor members and directors only.

The much-anticipated reception and banquet will be held from 6:30-10:00 p.m. with a Six Flags Over Texas theme and will include music of Drugstore Cowboys.

The Annual Meeting adjourns following closing remarks by Mr Garber.