

# EDITORIALS

From the Chairman

## MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

**US ELECTIONS** are nearing, and as we all know, every vote counts. If, once upon a time, we only paid lip service to that truism, the Presidential election circus in Florida during 2000 surely brought home to us the power of a single vote. The election on the nearing horizon promises to be a similarly close horse race. Whatever your political preference, make your vote count! That is one way we maximize the value of our citizenship and help our democracy stay strong.

In the same manner, “make your vote count” with IADC. Being a member is just step one. To maximize the value we receive

from our industry association, it's important that we participate. It's like the other old adage—the more we put in, the more we get out.



Marion M. Woolie, Chairman

My professional life has been immeasurably enhanced through my efforts in IADC—the contacts we have with colleagues and customers around the world, the improvements we can make to safety and environmental protection, the beneficial changes we can realize in

regulation and legislation that translate to our bottom line.

A good starting place to make your vote count with IADC is our 2004 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. You should have received a program of events already. If not, you can download everything you need from the IADC website ([www.iadc.org](http://www.iadc.org)). The IADC Annual Meeting is a must-attend meeting for everyone in the drilling business. This year's program will feature presentations on topics ranging from the changing geopolitics of oil and deep-gas opportunities to advances in rig technology and a drilling contractor's perspective on Iraq and everything in between.

I am especially pleased to announce that two of the industry's finest will receive recognition in the form of IADC Distinguished Service Awards—Donald Ray, Executive Vice President-QHSE, Transocean Inc (retired), and Buddy King, Vice President-Special Projects, Noble Corporation (retired). I applaud both gentlemen and their career achievements in enhancing our industry and supporting IADC.

If you asked either gentleman, I am sure he would tell you that their participation in IADC committees, regulatory initiatives, HSE endeavors and the like have greatly enriched their careers. My only regret is that our industry will be losing their wisdom and experience.

Meanwhile, IADC is advancing the industry's interests across several fronts. You can read highlights in this edition of *DRILLING CONTRACTOR*, in “Drill Bits”, on our website and in the Board of Directors handbook available at the Annual Meeting. Just to pick a few.

And if your schedule prevents you from joining us in New Orleans for the 2004 Annual Meeting, there is still a lot going on with IADC this autumn and winter.

We are convening two important well control conferences this year. The first is being held 24-26 October in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is the IADC Well Control Conference of the Americas, and I am proud to say it is sponsored by **Chevron-Texaco** and **Global Santa Fe Corp.** The second is our International Well Control Conference, which is being held 7-8 December in Dubai, made possible through the generous sponsorship of **Saudi Aramco**, **Kuwait Oil Company**, **Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations (ADCO)** and **Petroleum Development Oman**.

On 1 December, IADC will hold its second Surface BOP Workshop in Houston. This event will review advances in SBOP drilling technology and the way forward for SBOP since our first workshop in 2002. We will also roll out the IADC Guidelines for SBOP Operations, developed as a result of the first workshop.

I invite you to take part in your industry association and “make your vote count”!

From the President

## HEROES

**THE INDUSTRY RECENTLY** mourned the passing of one of its legendary heroes, “Red” Adair, oil well firefighter. Eulogies were profuse in their praise of this unique individual. Stories recounted by old friends were both amusing and touching as they reminisced about the “character” that built the legend.

One newsman remarked “Red” Adair was one of the last of a vanishing breed of independent, tough-minded oilmen. Perhaps so.

That's not to diminish the toughness and heroics of those who still practice the profession of extinguishing oil and gas well conflagrations. They're still with us. You know them. They are competent and brave in the same tradition as the legend himself.



Lee Hunt, President

There's another breed, though, that is not as visible.

Not as dramatic. They are not flamboyant and seldom are their feats newsworthy.

They would be the legions of well control trainers and teachers who populate our industry. Unsung, and almost unnoticed, they toil not under the blasting heat of a roaring blowout, but in the classroom and on the simulator. Their job is to see to it that the men and women who operate drilling rigs avoid making the mistakes that lead to blowouts. To the degree that they succeed, it is true that “Red” Adair will be one of the last of a breed—oil well firefighter.

In the meantime, we honor not only our legendary heroes, but also recognize the value of today's firefighters. If our teachers and trainers are as good as our firefighters, then our need for heroes will be few and far between. When there are no more blowouts, then we will all be heroes.