



WEDA's 2018 President's Report

June 28, 2018

On behalf of the Western Dredging Association, I would like to extend a thank you to all the contractors, engineers, consultants, government agencies and industry leaders for their membership and support over this past year. I would also like to recognize and thank those specific members who participate and volunteer their time preparing papers and presentations, along with moderating sessions at our conferences. These individuals directly help WEDA achieve its primary goal of promoting the exchange of knowledge in fields related to dredging, navigation, marine engineering and construction.

Because of the support received by our membership, our not-for-profit dredging association could achieve many of the goals and initiatives we set forth to accomplish throughout the year. Some achievements worth mentioning here are:

- WEDA launched the Dredging 101 short course to educate anyone interested in learning the basics of dredging, dredged material and environmental considerations;
- We continued our scholarship program to assist under-graduate students in extending their knowledge of dredging to ensure our industry has a bright and successful future;
- We enhanced our dedicated website for the Dredging Summit Expo to increase user-friendliness and ease of navigation of content;
- We expanded the use of the WEDA mobile application to make it easier to get the most out of the Dredging Summit and Expo;
- We increased attendance numbers at our events
- And overall, we have furthered WEDA to become a better, stronger, more streamlined professional organization.

And looking ahead to next year, I am pleased to announce that the 2019 Dredging Summit & Expo will be in downtown Chicago, Illinois the first week of June. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us June 4-7 next year!

Membership

WEDA's membership and support throughout our industry continue to increase. As of this date, our total membership stands at approximately 650, with 45 industry sustaining members. We encourage everyone to let your friends and colleagues know about the advantages of being a WEDA member, our goals and objectives and the pride each and every one of us has being a part of this association. Due to challenges within our industry which changes almost on a daily basis, the experience and knowledge available to WEDA from new members - especially in the areas of excavation methods, coastal resiliency, environmental protection, and sediment remediation, will greatly benefit our association and our industry. However, there are also quite some professionals in the dredging industry who are not WEDA members yet; and I would like to challenge us collectively, each and every one of us, to strive to advance WEDA membership by inviting colleagues to join the organization.

Financial Status

WEDA is a not-for-profit organization with total balance sheet assets as of June 15, 2018 of about \$917,000.00.

As of June 15, 2018, about \$561,000 was held in our checking account, \$300,000 was in our savings accounts, and the remaining \$56,000 constituted our pre-payment to the Hilton for our Dredging Summit & Expo events.

After deducting the estimated total Dredging Summit & Expo '18 expenses of \$250,000, our estimated net balance after this conference will be approximately \$667,000. In addition to having a solid financial foundation, I'm also happy to announce that WEDA has completed its second consecutive full independent financial audit, for the past calendar year 2017, which confirmed again this year that our financial reporting is sound and accurate. Many thanks go to the financial management and monthly reporting provided by our Treasurer, Matt Binsfeld and our Executive Director, Tom Cappellino along with my fellow officers, Vice President Alan Alcorn and Secretary Carol Shobrook. Their collaborative work behind the scenes is what keeps WEDA going strong!

WEDA continues to support technical excellence, including the *Best Paper Award* during our annual Dredging Summit & Expo. WEDA also supports the *Young Author Program* that is designed to encourage university students and young professionals to present technical papers at our annual conference. As part of this program, WEDA at each annual Dredging Summit & Expo waives the student registration fees and will provide financial support in the amount of \$500.00 for up to 4 students. In addition, we also have the *Young Author Award* in the amount of \$500 for the best paper by an author age 35 or under.

WEDA also has continued our financial support to students at Texas A&M University by continuing the William R. Murden Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000.00. This scholarship is awarded annually to a graduate student in the fields of dredging and marine engineering and construction.

Safety

Safety continues to be the most important issue throughout our industry. Because the health and welfare of WEDA members is paramount, and the safety of dredgers and WEDA members on and off the job is one of our primary concerns, WEDA is pleased to report that the Dredge Safety Management Program jointly developed by the Corps of Engineers and the Dredging Contractors of America continues to raise to new heights the awareness level of all our members about the hazards they face daily. WEDA's Safety Commission Chair, Julie Hile, is to be commended for her outstanding performance in promoting safety throughout the industry. I am pleased to report that WEDA's Safety Commission and Panel, chaired by Julie at this and other WEDA conferences, keep making progress in making our industry safer.

Environment

I am certain that you all have seen the WEDA motto, "Dredging Creates a Strong Economy and a Cleaner Environment." WEDA long ago recognized that dredging contributes to the preservation and enhancement of our environment. Through the efforts of our Environmental Commission Chairman Craig Vogt, great strides have been made in making environmental dredging issues one of the focal points at WEDA Summits. It has become common knowledge throughout the industry that only by educating all concerned on the importance of Dredging and by working together can we hope to remove obstacles to dredging and help solve the environmental problems facing our industry. The continued efforts by the Environmental Commission, under Craig's leadership, to advance these goals are indeed commendable.

Two years ago, we released the WODA joint Environmental Statement– which was largely a collaborative effort between the three sister organizations – WEDA, CEDA, and EADA – a fine example of our international collaboration.

WEDA Chapters and Conferences

No annual report would be complete without mentioning the outstanding job being done by all WEDA Chapters. During the reporting period, the Eastern, Gulf, Midwest and Pacific chapters have held their meeting in their respective areas. All were well attended and professionally executed. Following are the planned chapter meetings and other events that are on the calendar, as of now:

- Eastern Chapter: October 16-18, 2018 in Savannah, GA
- Pacific Chapter: October 23-25, 2018 in Waikiki, HI
- Gulf Chapter: November 14-15, 2018 in New Orleans, LA
- Mid-West Chapter: Location TBD, likely in March 2019
- Dredging Summit & Expo '19: June 4-7, 2019 in Chicago, IL

Our next annual conference, the 2019 Dredging Summit & Expo will be held at the historic Hilton Chicago in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue from Tuesday June 4 to Friday June 7, 2019. All

conference information, including early sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities will be available on the Dredging Summit & Expo website.

Thanks

I wanted to take a moment to thank our Technical Paper Committee members, and specifically its Chairman, Robert Ramsdell from GLDD, for developing an outstanding conference program and Dr. Donald Hayes from the University of Nevada for his efforts as Editor in getting the proceedings ready for distribution at this conference. What you see here is the culmination of approximately a year's worth of daily and monthly planning – a job well done!

Last, but not least, I also want to thank the WEDA Board of Directors for their active contribution and support in the management of WEDA, as well as in executing our goals. WEDA would not be what it is today without our Directors and Sustaining Members. Thank you!

And while I'm at it, I would also like to thank all who have made this conference a great success. While the individual list is endless, thanks go to:

- All the exhibitors and their excellent exhibits
- The authors and presenters of the many outstanding papers
- The Chairs of the sessions and the panels
- WEDA's Sponsors & Sustaining members
- Dredging Supply Company, Dredging Contractors of America and Anchor QEA for their generous donations that fund the best paper awards
- The Executive Committee and the Technical Papers Committee for an excellent conference program
- Tom Cappellino and Skylar Thomas for his and her support and hard work behind the scenes, for all things logistics and operations wise, without which this conference would not have been possible, let alone a success!

WEDA Business

The Nominating Committee comprised of Matt Binsfeld, Walter Dinicola and myself have decided to nominate for another 3-year term 3 Directors whose terms expire in 2018. This pertains to the following directors:

- Matthew Binsfeld
- Donald Hayes
- Steve Shaw

In addition, the nominating committee has decided to nominate the following individuals as a new Director:

- Dana Trierweiler from Infrastructure Alternatives Inc.
- Janet Kirkton from Caterpillar, Inc.
- Dr. Todd Bridges from USACE, Engineer Research Development Center (ERDC)

Per WEDA's bylaws, these nominations need to be confirmed at the general membership meeting. These nominations were confirmed by vote of the general membership at the closing session of the 2018 Dredging Summit & expo in Norfolk, Virginia.

This concludes my President's Report.

Thank you!



Marcel Hermans

President / Chair

Western Dredging Association

