

# EDITORIALS

From the Chairman

## SOLID GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

**GLOBAL LEADERSHIP FOR** the Drilling Industry: A sweeping statement, yet it succinctly summarizes IADC's mission. Whether on land or offshore, desert or arctic, IADC's activities and initiatives provide decided value to drilling contractors around the world.

Most recently, I am pleased to announce that a number of IADC priorities were signed into law by **President Bush** in the recently passed US Energy Bill. Thanks to the efforts of **US Rep Joe Barton**, R-Texas, the new law has rescued hydraulic



Edward D Kautz, Chairman

fracturing from falling prey to new, court-ordered federal regulations. In addition, the law requires the Department of the Interior to inventory all US offshore energy resources using 3-D seismic and other means, though drilling is not among these. Another provision should lead to improved worker availability for our industry. Within a year, the Secretaries of Energy, Labor and Interior must submit to Congress recommendations

for meeting future US labor needs in the oilpatch. All in all, good news for IADC members and for the US energy picture.

Speaking of training, I am proud to announce that IADC recently unveiled two new training programs. The first is WellCAP Plus, which expands our already comprehensive series of well control accreditation programs. The second is our Ballast Control and Stability accreditation program, which we are offering in conjunction with the London-based Nautical Institute.

WellCAP Plus is a new approach to well-control training for experienced personnel that builds critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Participants, who must pass a rigorous entry examination, form teams to solve progressively difficult well-control exercises. A number of operators, contractors and commercial training firms have readily embraced the program, among them **Chevron, UNOCAL, Transocean, Aberdeen Drilling Schools, Murchison Drilling Schools, Randy Smith Training Solutions, and Wild Well Control.**

Our new ballast control and stability program establishes training provider specifications and course curriculum guidelines based on the ballast control and stability requirements of the International Maritime Organization.

The program is designed to fulfill international training requirements for ballast control operators, barge supervisors, and offshore installation managers aboard mobile offshore units. The system has already been officially approved for individuals seeking those licenses on vessels registered in the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu. IADC is currently seeking additional approval from the US Coast Guard, Liberia and Panama.

Meanwhile, IADC continues to work issues that are vitally important to the drilling community. On the offshore side, for example, there are pressing issues of rig security, air and sea discharges, the re-write of the International MODU Code and

more. For land sailors like me, IADC is addressing issues that include stormwater permitting, logs for drivers, oilfield labor, and rig moving, to name a few. You will see more details on each of these elsewhere in this issue.

I invite all of you to attend our 65th Annual Meeting in Galveston on 28-30 September. We have a topnotch program. If you didn't receive one in your mailbox, you can check it out on our website, [www.iadc.org/conferences.htm](http://www.iadc.org/conferences.htm). I hope to see you there!

From the President

## TRUE THEN, TRUE NOW

**ON THE OCCASION** of the 65th Anniversary of IADC, I offer selected quotes from the Welcoming Address given by the President, **J.E. Brantly**, to the very first Annual Meeting of the Association:

"There are, admittedly, many associations, institutes and societies looking after every interest of the various businesses, but none of these is interested in the drilling contractor. None fights our battles and none is familiar with or concerned directly in our problems of improvement or even of survival. We must attend to our own establishments and welfare, if they are to receive attention."

"The drilling contractor, as a free lance laborer, may move his tools from one job to the other as required by the operators and spread his equipment inventory and depreciation over the accounts of all of those for whom he works. Thus are the operating companies relieved of burdensome inventories which, of necessity, would be reflected in the cost of their products to the public."

"There is probably no industry...in which the [business] mortality rate is so high as in contract drilling and there is probably no industry...deserving of so high a [business] mortality rate. We have operated by rules of thumb. We have kept our accounts on our check stubs or even on our cuffs. We have followed almost every principle of business that leads to disaster. We have fattened and squandered during periods of plenty and we have wasted away and passed out of existence during periods of scarcity. Our sins of omission and commission are multitudinous, but our hearts are sound and our ambitions are laudable. Our primary desire is to justify an important and honorable position in the oil industry for ourselves through capable, efficient and helpful work."

"In order that we contractors may more fully justify ourselves; to claim a more important and responsible position in the industry; that we may give among ourselves, as well as receive; a full measure of cooperative effort is essential. To promote this cooperation our Association has been organized. The membership of the Association shall extend from that boll-weevil to that venerable head, and to those who work closely with us or who are dependent upon us and to those upon whom we depend."

"Always must we do workmanlike jobs and seek constantly to increase our efficiency and usefulness as drillers."

"The lone wolf individualist can function as such in so long as he may be allowed to attain his selfish ends by receiving only. A house which fails to recognize the wisdom and necessity of cooperation, cannot maintain itself."



Lee Hunt, President