



Region 7 Review

A monthly publication for the members of IPSSA, Inc. – Region 7

February 2007

IPSSA, INC. REGION 7

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Highlights of IPSSA, Inc. – R7

Regular Board Meeting

SCP Conference Rm, San Diego

January 16, 2007

Chapter Reports

Carlsbad Doug Hausman: **1)** Chapter Christmas party, Christmas tree, catered, nice presents for everyone. **2)** Carlsbad was the first chapter to do sick leave coverage. Recently, a few members down. Chapter does not do sick leave coverage for 10-day periods or less – it is too short a period of time. By the time blue cards are distributed, the time is up. Chapter will discuss a problem with sick leave coverage at next month's mandatory chapter meeting. **3)** Chapter just raised fines for missed meetings – members should be able to find time one evening per month to attend.

Escondido Peter Kuhlman: **1)** Chapter vice president quit. **2)** Members were fined for non-attendance at the November 2006 mandatory meeting, but the fines were then suspended because members said they didn't get enough notice that the meeting was mandatory.

N. County Coastal Jim Lawson: **1)** Chapter holiday party that went quite

well; \$125 per person. About half the members and spouses attended and exchanged gifts. Javier was present to give John Nelson his B.K. Taylor award. **2)** Last year the chapter provided sick leave coverage for a 10-year member. Member has not attended any meetings or paid his membership dues this year and has not passed the chem test. He will be dropped as a member if he does not pay. Other chapter reps present tonight indicated they give a member one month to pay. Doug stated that the Carlsbad chapter makes a delinquent member go through the entire initiation again.

San Diego Mike Gregg: **1)** R7 had a teleconference in October to address a grievance regarding sick leave coverage. Mike has since released the member from the chapter. When a member is released, he can't just join another chapter, and he can't be reinstated until he pays the fine. **2)** Mike asked how much pool service experience other chapters require a new member to have; San Diego requires one year's experience. All chapter reps present tonight said their chapters also require one year's experience. Peter Kuhlman added that Escondido chapter has the apprenticeship program, which gives prospective members the experience. Javier noted that at the national level, Ray Arouesty says one can get a three-month policy until one meets the time requirement. This is one area chapters can decide themselves. Most of R7 is one year. **3)** The installation dinner was held during the chapter's holiday party. Well attended, with about 100 people. A member's rock band played.

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Calendar of Events

- **B.O.R.D. Mtg. and Annual Business Meeting**, Fri., Feb. 2, Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, Newport Beach, CA. Contact IPSSA executive office, ipssamail@aol.com or 888-360-9505.
- **IPSSA Annual Leadership Seminar and Banquet**, Sat., Feb. 3, Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, Newport Beach, CA. Contact IPSSA executive office, ipssamail@aol.com or 888-360-9505.
- **Florida Pool & Spa Show**, Feb. 22 - 24, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL. Contact (941) 952-9293 (phone) or (941) 366-7433 (fax), or visit www.floridapoolshow.com.
- **Western Pool and Spa Show**, Mar. 1 - 3, Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, CA. For information call 800-787-7727 (general info), 800-746-9772 (exhibitor info), or visit www.westernshow.com.
- **R7 Board Meeting**, Tues., Apr. 17, 2007 (third Tues. of the month), 7:00 p.m., SCP Conference Room, 5648 Copley Drive, San Diego (858-467-9495).

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SD Metro Mark Cerecedes: **1)** Chapter Christmas party with really nice gifts and \$25 gift cards. Attendance was okay. Chapter is reinstating prepayment for spouses; if they show up, they get their check back. **2)** Two members out on sick leave. Another member wants to schedule surgery. **3)** TableTop Show will count as the January meeting. Chapter reps will interview prospective members at the TableTop. **4)** One new member. **5)** Working to improve attendance.

TableTop

1) Javier said that R7 is setting up an IPSSA table at the TableTop Show and is asking for volunteers from each chapter. **2)** Javier will not be at the TableTop Show because his brother is getting married. **3)** Ray announced that SCP donated the grand prize of \$1,000.

Director's Announcements

IPSSA Annual Leadership Seminar and Installation Banquet: **1)** Will be held the weekend of Feb. 3. Javier recommends R7 Board members attend or send a chapter rep. It is eye opening to see the big picture. **2)** New water chem books by Dr. Lowry will be distributed there. After the weekend, the books will be available for purchase. The books are written in readable language.

Terry Cowles: **1)** Terry Cowles, past B.O.R.D. member from R4, passed away about a year ago. He had been instrumental in getting the Benevolent Fund started. **2)** A Terry Cowles Memorial Award (like the B.K. Taylor Award) has been established and will be awarded every year at the Leadership weekend. It is an opportunity to recognize excellence in IPSSA members. The first winner of the award will be Terry's widow.

IPSSA Expansion into Florida: Florida Pool & Spa Show Feb. 22 – 24. It will be major. The Florida IPSSA members, part of R9 in

Texas, consist of four or five chapters. They are enthused and gaining momentum. This year should be one of massive growth in Florida.

Public relations: IPSSA ads will be run in national magazines and at shows. CDs are being sent to the media. The water safety budget has been doubled to \$30,000.

NPC Plaster Study – 1) November B.O.R.D. meeting was held in San Luis Obispo. Dan Gossage gave an update and tour of the Cal Poly facility. Dan is a wealth of knowledge. He has offered to come to a future TableTop if R7 would pay his air fare. **2)** Mark Cerecedes said that Phil Grider, a member of San Diego Metro, is asking the chapter to pay for him to go to the National Plasterers Council convention in Las Vegas in February and give a report. Phil does underwater repairs and knows plaster. *Motion* was made by Doug Hausman, seconded by Loyal Johnson and carried unanimously to appoint Phil Grider as R7 plaster rep; all seven R7 chapters will make a one-time donation of \$100 each towards his expenses. Phil will report directly to R7. **3)** At the November B.O.R.D. meeting, Javier made a motion to contribute another \$10,000 to the Plaster Council. This is cutting edge stuff going on in the industry. Consensus is that plaster is bad – some companies don't even offer it. Add to that aggressive chemicals. Some companies have to do repairs on 12% of their jobs. The study is bringing the plaster and pool service industries together. **4)** Mike Gregg mentioned that his chapter may invite OnBalance to be guest speaker at a meeting.

Insurance: **1)** Disability Insurance Benefit – At the Oct. 3, 2006 R7 meeting, Javier asked for feedback from chapters on a disability insurance benefit proposed by Ray Arouesty, Arrow Insurance. Some chapters were for and some against. The B.O.R.D. is doing due diligence by checking with independent insurance companies and will look at

proposals at its Feb. meeting. It is a work in progress. **2)** Ray reported that an IPSSA member in Northern California is being named in a wrongful death suit. Javier will give R7 updates as he hears them.

SPEC – Motion was made by Ray Duchene, seconded by Mike Gregg and carried unanimously to approve a \$1,000 donation from R7 to SPEC at the Installation weekend.

IPSSA Issues? Javier asked if anyone has any burning issues they want IPSSA to address. **1)** Loyal and Doug said they thought Javier was doing a great job. **2)** Picnic – Mike said he enjoys the picnic, and it is a good opportunity to meet others in IPSSA, but he heard several people complain that there were not enough people at the picnic. Loyal said there were 300 people this year, and they ran out of food. **3)** Education – Javier said he had heard that, when polled, people wanted more education, yet a lot of attendees at TableTop are non-members. Loyal said members of his chapter are hungry for all the information they can get. **4)** Standard sick leave policy – Ray Duchene asked if IPSSA was considering a standard policy. Javier said the attorney is looking at it. We probably should have a standard policy, but the problem is that some regions are very different from ours. For instance, R9 in Texas is spread out over a huge area. **5)** Dues – R7 dues go towards TableTop, picnic, water safety – media, fairs.

R7 Director position – Javier stated that this is his last year as R7 director, and he has served for four years. It has been an awesome experience – he has traveled and met a lot of people. By October we need a nominee for 2008. He asked Mike to sit in for him at the May and August B.O.R.D. meetings.

Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life.

~ Sandra Carey