



Region 7 Review

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

May 2008

IPSSA, INC. REGION 7

Board Officers

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IPSSA, Inc.

Highlights of B.O.R.D.

Meeting

May 3, 2008

Cathedral City, CA

Financial Report and Census

1) Assets are \$172,948, liabilities \$6,390, and equity \$166,558.

2) Benevolent Fund has a balance of \$16,428 available for future claims.

3) The Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$128,317.

Administration Committee

1) **Bill Brooks**, **Mark Harris**, **John Bettencourt**, **Phil Sharp**, and **Chuck Gough** appointed to investigate policies for (a) centralized processing of membership applications and (b) uniform minimum membership requirements.

Bylaws Committee

1) **Lester** reported that an incorrect return address was printed on the ballot that was recently mailed regarding amendments to the bylaws. Although return envelopes were provided for the ballots, some ballots were returned in envelopes written by members to the incorrect address. The post office that handles the mail for those addresses (both post office boxes) is forwarding the mail to the correct box.

MSC to extend the deadline for the ballot's return to June 15 and to publish a notice in the June issue of The IPSSAN that any member who did

not use the return envelope provided can verify with **Cramer's** office whether or not the ballot was received.

2) *MSC* that members of all regions and/or chapters that are created after March 1, 2007 must pass the IPSSA water chemistry exam within six months of filing a valid membership application form. It will be the responsibility of the chapter president and/or regional director to monitor this requirement. 24 months after creation, chapters and regions no longer will qualify for this exception. Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9 voted for the motion. Regions 1, 6, 7, and 10 voted against it.

(Note from Gough: Sorry, guys, I fought like hell, but sometimes you don't win them all. It will be revisited. See item 1(b) under Administrative Committee.)

Future B.O.R.D. Meetings

1) August 2, San Jose.

2) November 1, Las Vegas, with the planning meeting on October 31.

Expansion Committee

1) Approved four new chapters in Region 9: North Dallas, TX; Venice; Jacksonville; and an additional chapter in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Finance Committee

1) *MSC* that the reinstatement fee of \$50 shall be waived if a member agrees to go on automatic withdrawal payments or automatic credit card payments of monthly insurance and fees.

MSC that electronic billing will be made available to members, permitting members to have their fees and dues automatically deducted from their checking accounts or paid by credit cards.

Member Benefits

1) AS of April 29, 87 members have enrolled in the Transworld/Green Flag collection service.

2) 3 Step Billing, Leak Detection USA, North American Salt Company, and Pool Care Pro Network approved as associate members.

Outreach Committee

1) **Nichols** reported that Title 20 regulations are undergoing a public comment period at this time. Any changes in Title 20 regulations will be grandfathered into Title 24 regulations. IPSSA members are encouraged to submit their comments to the California Energy Commission before the public comment period ends at the end of May (see article).

Note from Gough: It was a long day, and the BORD worked hard to resolve many issues, very professionally, not like the bulls--t of ten years ago.

Chuck Gough

Calendar of Events

• **R7 Board Meeting**, Wed., July 23, 7:00 p.m., SCP Conference Room, 5648 Copley Dr., San Diego (858-467-9495).

• **B.O.R.D. Mtg.**, Sat., Aug. 2, Region 10, San Jose. Contact IPSSA executive office, ipssamail@aol.com or 888-360-9505.

• **R7 Board Meeting**, Wed., Oct. 22, 7:00 p.m., SCP Conference Room, 5648 Copley Dr., San Diego (858-467-9495).

• **B.O.R.D. Mtg.**, Sat., Nov. 1, Las Vegas, with planning meeting Oct. 31. Contact IPSSA executive office, ipssamail@aol.com or 888-360-9505.

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IPSSA, INC.**Highlights of IPSSA, Inc. – R7 Meeting****SCP Conf. Rm, San Diego, CA
Mon., April 14, 2008****Call to Order**

Due to a scheduling conflict, the meeting date had been changed from Wed., April 23. *By unanimous consent*, the Board agreed to keep quarterly R7 meetings the fourth Wed. of the month.

Chapter ReportsCarlsbad Chuck Gough:

- 1) Attendance has improved – maybe it is the pizza. Only complaint is the noise factor in restaurants.
- 2) Good guest speakers. Recently a rep from Orange County pitched a school.
- 3) Education – Gough used to be in charge of education at meetings. Suggested establishing a separate checking account for business; if you co-mingle funds, you do not know how much money you are making. We need more business education.

Escondido John Hackett:

- 1) Charity – Chapter donated \$1,000 and salt system repairs to the Charles Hulme Community Therapy Pool in Escondido, which will soon be closing due to lack of money (see article, <http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/04/05/news/inland/escondido/bed85dff80067c9e882574210055bf9c.txt>).

The pool already has cleaning service, so chapter is looking for other ways to help. Will be a big issue at chapter meeting this week. **Gough** said that if he knew the balance in the R7 treasury, R7 could perhaps make a donation.

- 2) Padre's game is Aug. 2. Every year the chapter gets a suite and pays half the cost of tickets.
- 3) Attendance – Trying to increase attendance; is open to suggestions. Good guest speakers coming up. Present meeting place is noisy, and members are tired of the food. **Dick Allen** responded that normally one out of three members attend meetings in his chapter.

Rancho Del Mar Thomas Regalado:

- 1) Chapter is doing okay.
- 2) Three new members.

- 3) Chapter has chapter supporters.
- 4) Good meeting place – Tio Leos Del Mar. Chapters with a good meeting place have better attended meetings.
- 5) Trying to get everyone computer literate. Chapter paid for members to get trained at Pentair.

San Diego Mark Curran:

- 1) Sick leave – four people down so far this year. Chapter has a great sick leave program.
- 2) Continuing education – To raise the professionalism and image of the industry, as of the first of the year, chapter requires every member to obtain 10 credits every two years. Hopefully, other chapters will adopt something similar. New program going great, although we may have made it too easy.

No reaction yet from those who voted against the program. Observed that 20% of members are very involved in the chapter; 60% are somewhat involved; and 20% do the bare minimum, just enough to remain in IPSSA.

A lot of those against the program are old-timers with old accounts that have old equipment. They are close to retirement and not interested in new technology. However, if someone provides sick leave coverage, they should know the technology.

Chapter also has a separate education fund of \$20,000 to reimburse members for attendance at seminars.

- 3) Membership – Four prospects.
- 4) Newsletter – Newsletter now has more of a newspaper look, with articles, letters to the editor, and coupons. Gough added that the blue card is printed on the back of the newsletter.
- 5) Directory – Chapter created a directory two years ago with color pictures of the members. Updated every two years to include new officers. Next update will have pictures of chapter supporters and advertisers. Chapter supporters are heavily involved in the chapter and provide revenue. Thirty supporters; \$300/year, or \$550/two years.
- 6) Meetings used to last several hours and cover business minutia. Members lost enthusiasm to attend, and chapter supporters did not get a chance to mingle at meetings. Two years ago format was changed; business meetings are now held on a separate date.

There is now time to introduce chapter supporters at the front of the room – that takes 30 minutes. The meetings are educational, with good speakers. Meetings now last an hour. With the meetings now condensed, people tend to stay afterwards to mingle, and that is the real meat of the meeting. Attendance is usually 60 to 80; at the yearly mandatory meeting, attendance is 150+, including members and supporters.

No meals at the meetings, just water and iced tea. Chapter has an annual dinner meeting. Christmas and the picnic are not counted as meetings; Table Top counts as one point towards education.

- 7) Guest speakers at meetings – Jan. – **Mark Lane**, Title 20; 100 attended. Feb. – CHP, regulations and new laws. March – **Keri Tom**, Infant Swim Resources; presentation and video on teaching infants and toddlers to swim. April – **Tony Arsneault** will discuss the Trans World Systems affiliation with IPSSA. All invited to attend.

SD East County Dick Allen:

- 1) Things are going well.
- 2) Meetings – Eliminated the policy of counting the Christmas party and R7 annual picnic as meetings – it is asinine and does not benefit IPSSA. Chapter meets at a country club, have meals every so often, and get good attendance. Check availability at country clubs in your area – they are busy on weekends but most likely sit empty week nights.
- 3) Two new chapter supporters. Cost went from \$200 to \$250 last year.
- 4) Getting more guest speakers. Check the back of The IPSSAN for a list of available speakers.
- 5) Membership – four prospects.

Director's Announcements

- 1) IPSSA membership requirements – **Gough** reported that the By-Laws Committee was considering watering down requirements for IPSSA membership by allowing new members six months to pass the chem. test and eliminating the requirement of one year's experience. In February Gough e-mailed the B.O.R.D. (see e-mail following minutes) that he is against watering down requirements and thinks passing the chem test should continue to be a requirement, and stated that the Committee majority seems to be willing to reduce the standards in order to reap a number of unqualified, non-

professional members into what we call a professional association. *By unanimous consent*, all present concurred with Gough's opinions.

Gough suggests prospects attend their first meeting, buy the training manual, and be given 90 days to pass the chem. test.

2) By-laws – **Gough** is in favor of a change to the by-laws under consideration which would allow formation of new regions without the vote of the entire membership. The by-laws will eventually be revised so that the entire membership does not have to vote on changes and to eliminate the rule that IPSSA be limited to 10 regions. There is also talk of making Florida a separate region and no longer part of Texas.

3) Liaison to plaster study – **Gary Myer** will replace **Dan Gossage**, who served since 2004, as the new IPSSA liaison to the National Pool Industry Research Center and the National Plasterers Council. **Phil Grider** continues to be R7's liaison.

4) Kudos to Javier Payan for his all his work with San Diego chapter on the pool and spa safety videos. The April 2008 issue of The IPSSAN contained two photos of him, his Report from the 2008 National Drowning Prevention Symposium, and an announcement that he received the NDPA Community Lifesaver Award.

5) R7 Donation – R7 has donated \$2,000 to Operation Homefront, which is championed by radio personality **Roger Hedgecock**. Operation Homefront (see link following minutes) supports our local military families in need, and there are no administrative costs. The donated money did not come from the R7 treasury. Roger Hedgecock was very appreciative.

6) Gripes, comments, recommendations? **Gough** asked for feedback.

Meals – **Dick Allen** asked why there was no pizza at tonight's meeting. Gough said he didn't know he was supposed to order meals.

Meeting location – **Regalado** asked if SCP is a good location for everybody. Gough said he will check the R7 treasury, and perhaps R7 can meet at a restaurant again.

New Business

1) R7 Annual Picnic – No Picnic this year.

2) Reminder: every chapter is required to have at least one voting member in attendance at the R7 meetings.

3) Next R7 meeting Wed., July 23, 2008.

Policies and Procedures

----- Original Message -----

From: [Chuck Gough](#)
To: [Lane Clark](#) ; [Phil Sharp](#) ; [Mike Gardner](#) ; [Bob Luedtke](#) ; [Bob Nichols](#)
Sent: Sunday, February 17, 2008 8:16 PM
Subject: Policies and Procedures

Hello Everyone

I certainly seem to be swimming upstream on this one. I think what we are doing is a rush to judgment. The majority seem to be willing to prostitute our standards in order to reap a number of unqualified, non-professional members into what we call a professional association. I think this speaks out of both sides of our collective mouths. Do we want membership or professionalism?

Would you want someone who is either unmotivated or unable to pass the water chemistry test (open book, mind you) doing your pools if you became unable to do them yourself? It could cost you part or all of your business.

I think my proposal of 02/09/2008 has merit for existing chapters. I recognize that new chapters present a different challenge, and need a different approach. I do not have time at the moment to address the issue of new chapters, as you all know I am leaving town at the crack of dawn tomorrow. But in accordance with my thoughts above I think 2 years is far too long. We are establishing a DOUBLE standard. What do we call new members under that proposal: *semi-pros* or maybe *someday lpsans*? I don't know.

Chuck

Operation Homefront

Our objective is to assist our military families left behind during deployments with the day to day issues that arise so our warriors are not pre-occupied with the goings on at home and can concentrate on the job at hand!

Veterans, civilians and local businesses in San Diego County want to help fight the war on terrorism by showing their support of our military families! We have local businesses who are willing to provide pro-bono services, donated furniture, appliances, baby items, stuff! If you have a problem or a need, or if you would like to volunteer, please call the Operation Homefront hotline at (619) 606-2861 or email us at sandy@cinchouse.com.

www.operationhomefront.net/san-diego

Operation Homefront is the brainchild of CinC House, a local organization of military wives, and KOGO-AM/600 radio personality Roger Hedgecock, who promotes the program heavily on his afternoon show.

IPSSA Pool Safety Videos

The water safety videos are now online. Check them out at:

<http://www.waterwatcher.org/videos.html>
 and
http://www.ipssa.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=32&Itemid=64.

The videos were produced by IPSSA with major help from **Javier Payan** and our Water Safety Committee.

Also, check out all 12 videos at www.YouTube.com and leave your comments and links. A quick way to locate the videos is to type *wiseaqua* in the video search window.

Thanks to Oasis Gals for the heads up:

Please send an email to the Cal Energy Commission urging them to retain the exemption for pool pump motor replacements. Don tells me as many as possible in our own words will be very effective. Include the docket # 07-AAER-03-B in the subject line and your name in the name of the file. It must be in Word or PDF.

Send to hsingh@energy.state.us. Please also copy me oasisgals@aol.com

Thank you! The hearing is next Thursday (5/15). We will be attending.