



# HoleTalk

Winter 2024  
Published Quarterly

[www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org)

## ESWWDA ANNUAL MEETING January 14-15, 2025

*Turning Stone Casino*

*The 2025 ESWWDA annual meeting* is being held on **January 14th -15th** at the **Turning Stone Casino, Shenandoah Clubhouse**, 5218 Patrick Rd. Verona, just minutes off of NYS Thruway exit 33.

The clubhouse is located adjacent to the **Lodge and Casino**. Where ever you choose to stay, shuttles are available to transport you to and from the hotel and or clubhouse.



Room reservations can be made by calling **1-800-771-7711** no later than **December 23th at 5pm**. A block of rooms has been reserved, be sure to say that you are part of the **ESWWDA block** to get the agreed upon rate. Rates are as follows:

Hotel Rooms: **\$139.00** plus tax  
Tower Rooms: **\$188.00** plus tax  
Lodge Rooms: **\$259.00** plus tax

*Valet parking is also available for a minimal fee.*

On Tuesday morning, a **Board meeting** is scheduled for 7:30 am followed by a **Primer class for rotary drilling** (fee required; pre-registration necessary).


A **peer-to-peer meeting** conducted by **Chris Root** will follow the board meeting in the downstairs lounge area behind the bar in the clubhouse.

Pizza will be available after the primer class, followed by an afternoon of informative classes. Suppliers will be setting up for the trade show at this time also. All auction donations can be brought to the trade show room on the second floor at any time. All money raised through the auction will go towards benefit projects throughout the year. **The Supplier Cocktail Party and Trade show** begins at 4:30 and runs through 7:30.


On Wednesday morning the **general membership meeting** begins at 9 am with the election of officers and award presentations.

A speaker from NGWA will be onsite along with **Joshua Oppenheimer**, lobbyist, from Greenberg Traurig, **Carrie Friello** from NYS DEC Division of Minerals talking about updated on geothermal regulations, and **Beth Guidetti** from NYS DEC Water Well Program. Beth will be guiding us thru the usage of the new portal system for locating wells in NYS.

*See page 2, for the meeting itineraries.*

**Turning Stone** is noted for its renowned gaming rooms, more than 20 food establishments on site, as well as their 2 luxurious spas, 5 golf courses, their 5,000 seat event center and the cabaret-style show room. Shopping is also available on site. 

### Mission

*The ESWWDA is committed to taking a leadership role in protecting our natural resources through the promotion of the ground water industry. It strives to support a spirit of cooperation, communication, and education within the industry and with the consumers and regulatory agencies.* 

### Visit

#### *What's in this Issue*

*Board of Directors* .....2  
*Meeting Directions* .....2  
*President's Message* .....3  
*Meeting Minutes* .....4-5  
*Membership Report/Application* . 6-7

*Rotary Drilling Class* .....9  
*Clip 'n Copy* .....15  
*Legislative Update* .....17  
*What to Know* .....19  
*Bits & Pieces* ..... 20-23  
*Upcoming Events* .....24

# Annual Meeting Agenda

Turning Stone Resort & Casino - January 14-15, 2025

## Tuesday, January 14th

7:30	ESWWDA Board Meeting
8:30 am	Class Registration
9 am – 11 am	Rotary Drilling Class (fee for this class)
10 am	Peer-to-Peer Meeting hosted by Chris Root (meeting room on main floor)  What is on your mind? What it is like to be a Board member?
11 am – Noon	Water Conditioning by Peter Melle
Noon	Pizza in the Building
1 pm – 2 pm	NYS Disability & Paid Family Leave by Jason Bowman from ShelterPoint
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Fleet Safety by Matthew Keith from Gallagher Insurance Co
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Geothermal Update and Panel Discussion
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Supplier Cocktail Party, Trade Show and AUCTION!

## Wednesday, January 15th

9:00 am	ESWWDA General Membership Meeting  Guest Speakers: Government Affairs Update by Joshua Oppenheimer from Greenberg Traurig, Carrie Friello from NYS DEC Division of Minerals talking about updated on geothermal regulations, and Beth Guidetti from NYS DEC Water Well Program. Beth will be guiding us thru the usage of the new portal system for locating wells in NYS.
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**Location:** Turning Stone Resort & Casino  
5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478  
1-800-771-7711 [www.turningstone.com](http://www.turningstone.com)

**Accommodations:** Hotel Rooms: \$139.00 per night plus tax  
Tower Rooms: \$188.00 per night plus tax  
Lodge Rooms: \$259.00 per night plus tax

A block of rooms with the above special rates have been set aside from Monday, January 13 through Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Please make your reservations early. The block of rooms expires by 5 pm on December 23rd. Going forward, the room rates will be at standard rates based upon availability. Make sure to mention ESWWDA to obtain the special group rate pricing.

*All activities and meetings will be held in the Shenandoah Clubhouse located adjacent to the Lodge.*

**Directions:** Take the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90) to Exit 33 (Verona-Rome). At the exit turn left. At the first traffic light, turn left again. If you can the spot the 19-story Tower Hotel at the Turning Stone Casino Resort, you are leaded in the right direction. Follow the signs for directions to different buildings, parking garage and free parking areas. Valet parking is also available for a minimal fee.

For road conditions, phone 800-THRUWAY.

## 2024 Officers and Directors

### President

**Dave Rosick, CWD/PI, Rosick Well Drilling LLC**  
1175 Farley Road, Hudson Falls, NY 12839  
(518) 746-0173 • [Rosickdrilling@yahoo.com](mailto:Rosickdrilling@yahoo.com)

### Vice President

**Chris Root, CWD/PI, Root Contracting**  
(585) 593-4304 • [Rootwaterwell@gmail.com](mailto:Rootwaterwell@gmail.com)

### Past President

**Tyler Wills, MGWC, Smith Well Drilling**  
PO Box 585, Niverville, NY 12130  
(518) 758-6142 • [Driller1234.tw@gmail.com](mailto:Driller1234.tw@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

**Charles W. Crover, CWD/PI**  
Roarke Well Drilling, Inc.  
431 Scotchtown Ave., Goshen, NY 10924  
(845) 783-9355 • [Chuck@RoarkeWellDrilling.com](mailto:Chuck@RoarkeWellDrilling.com)

### ESWWDA Correspondence Manager

**Julie Boyd**  
1054 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512  
(845) 225-3196 • [Jewels2564@aol.com](mailto:Jewels2564@aol.com)

### ESWWDA Assistant Correspondence Manager

**Susan Bates**  
900 N. James St., Rome, NY 13440  
(315) 225-3060 • [Gramsue67@gmail.com](mailto:Gramsue67@gmail.com)

### 3 - Year Directors

**Jeremy Baldwin, MGWC, Hawk Drilling Co., Inc.**  
(518) 885-7952 • [hawkdrilling@aol.com](mailto:hawkdrilling@aol.com)

**Daniel Boyd, DNA Well Maintenance**  
(772) 626-4515 • [Daniel.Boyd70@gmail.com](mailto:Daniel.Boyd70@gmail.com)

### 2 - Year Directors

**William Frey, MGWC, Frey Well Drilling Inc.**  
(716) 937-7977 • [DrillerFrey@aol.com](mailto:DrillerFrey@aol.com)

**James Utter, Utter Well Drilling**  
607-582-7436 • [jimdrilling@yahoo.com](mailto:jimdrilling@yahoo.com)

### 1 - Year Directors

**Mike Palleschi, CPG, CWD**  
Senior Geologist, Alpha Geoscience  
(518) 348-6995 • [mpalleschi@alphageoscience.com](mailto:mpalleschi@alphageoscience.com)

**Richard Tompkins, Reliable Pump & Well**  
845-629-8301 • [reliablepumpandwell@gmail.com](mailto:reliablepumpandwell@gmail.com)

### Supplier Directors

**Alan Dretel, D&S Pump and Supply**  
845-279-3785 • [aldretel@aol.com](mailto:aldretel@aol.com)

**Bernie Kistner, Group One Northeast, Inc.**  
(845) 473-1969 • [bckistner@aol.com](mailto:bckistner@aol.com)

**Dave Keough, Blake Equipment**  
(845) 258-7867 • [Dave.keough@blakeequip.com](mailto:Dave.keough@blakeequip.com)

**Christopher Beatson, Xylem**  
585-469-0069 • [christopher.beatson@xylem.com](mailto:christopher.beatson@xylem.com)

### Values

The Board of Directors and membership of E.S.W.W.D.A. believe in the promotion of the ground water industry through:

**Professional Standards • Communication  
Education • Integrity • Affordability**



## Final Letter

Hello everyone,

*This is a bittersweet moment for me, as this will be my last letter for Hole Talk as President.* The bitter part is that just as I'm getting used to doing the job as the President, my term is over. The sweet part is that my business is very busy, as well as my personal life. I don't have to worry about the association as my replacement is more than qualified.

I would like to thank **the Bates** for hosting the **Fall meeting** in **Lake George**. Although the spring and fall meetings are traditionally the off meetings both were very well put together.

The speakers were **Beth Guidetti** and **Mike Grasso**. Beth Guidetti from **DEC** was very informative on the mapping of wells in New York, and she also did a great job on all the other questions we asked her. Mike Grasso from **Gallagher Insurance** was also very informative. We really need to pay attention when we sub out any work and should check the coverage when we are listed as additional insured. There are



many substandard companies out there. Thank you both.

Moving along, we will have some things to decide and hopefully we will come together with DEC on the upcoming new laws that are pending, both for geothermal and pump repair.

The next meeting is our **annual meeting** which again will be at **Turning Stone** in Verona NY. If you have never been it is a great meeting

which is packed full of very good information. We can all pick up something new.

The meeting costs the association a lot of money, so we will be doing a money raffle to offset the cost, so please buy a few tickets. Also, the meeting will be dedicated to **Jeff Quinn** who was the representative from **Baroid**. Jeff was always there to help anyone out and was on the board at ESWWDA for many years. Jeff was a great asset to us. He is definitely missed.

That's it from me, thanks everyone who helped me out as I was lucky enough to have many people on my committees and board that knew way more than me in their field. The 2 years definitely flew by.

**David Rosick**, ESWWDA President

## Special Thank You to

**D&S Pump and Supply**  
**Goulds/Xylem**  
**Tompkins Bank**

For sponsoring the Primer Class on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.



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## Fall Meeting October 4-5, 2024

The fall meeting of the *Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association* was called to order at 9:05 am in Lake George, NY with 22 members signing in. **Jeremy Baldwin** was selling raffle tickets. Directors in attendance were:

President **Dave Rosick**

Vice President **Chris Root**

Director **Jeremy Baldwin**

Director **Dan Boyd**

Director **James Utter**

Director **Michael Palleschi**

Director **Dave Keough**

Director **Christopher Beatson**

There was no **treasurer's report** given.

**President Rosick** wanted to thank the committee chairs for their hard work. He thanked both the guest speakers **Beth Guidetti** from **NYS DEC** and **Mike Grasso** from **AJ Gallagher**. There is still a lot going on, especially in the area of geothermal. ESWWDA is keeping up and working with DEC on regulations.

No **communications** at this time.

**Sickness & Health:** **Katharine Torlish**, wife of **Tom Torlish** from **Torlish & Sons** passed away.

**Beth Guidetti** from **NYS DEC** joined us at the fall meeting. Beth took the time to show the attendees how to use **DECInfo Locator and Open Data**. Each of them shows drilled wells throughout NYS and slightly different information. There was also discussion regarding revising the DEC completion report such as shortening it to one page by removing the bottom section and adding a hydrofracking section. There was a great deal of discussion with Beth on geothermal regulations. The members discussed with Beth more enforcement, more teeth in the law and difficulty taking exams. We will be seeing Beth at the annual meeting also. It was also mentioned that you could learn more about bedrock at the **NYS Museum website** and on an app called **ROCKD**.

The next speaker was **Mike Grasso** from **AJ Gallagher**. He opened his presentation with the statement that some **certificates of insurance** (COI) are not worth the paper they are written on. A COI just states that you have insurance. NYS Labor Law sections 240, 241 and 241.B are there because of the scaffolding deaths in NYC. In NYS employees can sue responsible parties. It is the only state that allows it otherwise an employee is limited to only workers compensation. A hold harmless and indemnification need to say to the fullest extent of the law. The hold harmless and indemnification need to be read carefully regarding limitations on endorsement and contractual liability. When you hire a subcontractor, you now become a general contractor. It is better to have a sub work directly with the homeowner or you as the GC need to verify their insurance. You also wanted to be added on the COI as an additional insured primary and

## ESWWDA Slate of Officers

President – **Chris Root**, CWD/PI

Vice President – *To Be Determined*

Secretary/Treasurer – **Charles Crover**, CWD/PI

3-Year Directors – **Mike Palleschi**, CPG/CWD  
– **Richard W. Tompkins**

2-Year Directors – **Jeremy Baldwin**, MGWC  
– **Daniel Boyd**

1-Year Directors – **William Frey**, MGWC  
– **James Utter** 🗨️



## ESWWDA Values

non-contributory waived subrogation. If you do not have a written contract, then you have no additional insured. 5-23-1 Anti Indemnity

Statue states you cannot indemnify anyone for their own negligence. An additional summary of the presentation is published in *Hole Talk* on page 19.

At this time **President Rosick** thanked both speakers and we moved onto the committee reports.

**Insurance:** **Analisa Bastiani-Jesco** stated the as of October 1st the compensation board lowered the plumbing rate by 11% and the drilling rate by 14%.

**Membership:** **Sue Bates** reported that we have **291 members**. We have **171 contractors, 44 suppliers** and **76 associate members**. Invoices will be going out after the fall meeting. **Please remember that dues were increased at the 2024 annual meeting.**

**Scholarship:** No report was given.

**Government Affairs:** It must be noted that we had both **Jeff Smith** and **Janice Hawk-Baldwin** at the meeting. Janice has been working with the DEC and there is another new person over **Beth Guidetti** and the water well program. We are trying extremely hard to stay within the loop.

**NEWWA:** **Henry Boyd** reported that at the last Board meeting, ESWWDA received a \$3000 check for its share. Currently, NEWWA is only operating with 5 out of 7 states. Rhode Island's association dissolved and Maine has not been participating.

**Hole Talk**

The Board of Directors and membership of E.S.W.W.D.A. believe in the promotion of the ground water industry through:

**Professional Standards** ◦ **Communication**  
**Education** ◦ **Integrity** ◦ **Affordability**

**Budget & Finance:** No report was given.

**Education:** **Henry Boyd** reminded the members that there would be a class at **D&S in Brewsters** for general drilling and pump installers. We are working on the class agenda for the annual meeting.

**NGWA:** **Chris Root** reported that the annual **Ground Water Expo** would be **December 10 through the 12th in Las Vegas**. NGWA is looking for businesses to try out **Business Pro** and provide them with feedback. Anyone traveling to the Expo should contact **Sue Bates** so she can sign them up for the delegates meeting.

**WSC:** **Chris Root** stated their new handbook is available on their website.

**Hole Talk:** The deadline for articles or advertisements is November 1st.

**Public Information:** No report was given.

**DOT:** No report was given.

**Continuing Education:** No report was given.

**Geothermal:** It was reported that DEC is going back to verbiage from a previously proposed legislation that the association had written. **NYGEO** has asked if in the interim we can use their geothermal log

when drilling the geothermal boreholes.

**Veterans:** The committee reported that this year has had more obstacles than the previous year. **Reliable Well Drilling** had installed a new tank for a veteran. The committee will be putting together an application with criteria such as proof of DD214 and economic status. **Chris Beatson** volunteered to help the committee. **Chris Root** asked about the article for the **Water Well Journal**. The article criteria will be sent to Chris.

**Past Presidents:** No report was given.

**Old Business:** The Annual meeting in January will be dedicated to **Jeff Quinn**. We have a full slate of classes and speakers. The meeting dates are January 14-15, 2025. **Sue Bates** is still looking for assistance with the spring and fall meetings. The **summer meeting** will be hosted by **Flomatic**. **Rick Moravec** thanked everyone for attending their **Anniversary/ Summer meeting**. There were over 200 people on Friday for the demos.

**New Business:** If anyone is interested in running for the Board, please contact the nominating committee.

**Jim Utter** won the **50/50 raffle** and donated the money back to the association.

At 11:15 am **Jeremy Baldwin** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Jim Utter** seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Julie Boyd** 

## 2024 ESWWDA Committees

### Scholarship

Chairperson Jim Utter 607-582-7436  
Kevin Moravec 315-536-3911

### Education

Chairperson Henry Boyd 845-225-3196  
Jeremy Baldwin 518-885-7952  
Sandra Baldwin 518-396-9499  
Brian Frey 716-937-7977

### Membership

Chairperson Sue Bates 315-225-3060  
William Frey 716-937-7977  
Chris Root 585-593-4309

### Insurance/ Safety

Chairperson Analisa Jesco 888-869-3535  
Jeff Smith 518-758-6142  
Chuck Crover 845-783-9355

### Government Affairs

Chairperson Janice Hawk-Baldwin 518-885-7952  
Sandra Baldwin 518-885-7952  
Alt. Jeff Smith 518-758-6142  
All Board of Directors

### NEWWA

Chairperson Henry Boyd 845-225-3196  
Julie Bullock 845-225-3196  
Alt. Alan Dretel 914-522-7855  
James Utter 607-351-1002

### Liaisons to NGWA/WSC

Chairperson Chris Root 585-593-4304  
Henry Boyd 845-225-3196  
Jeff Smith 518-758-6142  
Alan Dretel 914-522-7855  
Michael Palleshi 518-348-6995  
Richard Moravec 315-536-3911

### Budget & Finance

Chairperson Chuck Crover 845-783-9355  
Bernie Kistner 845-473-1969  
Analisa Jesco 888-869-3535  
Alan Dretel 914-522-7855

### Hole Talk

Chairperson Julie Bullock 845-225-3196  
Sue Bates 315-225-3060

### By-Laws

Chairperson Tony Ferraioli 518-861-8733  
Henry Boyd 845-225-3196

### Environment

Chairperson Henry Boyd 845-225-3196  
Daniel Boyd 772-626-4515

### DOT

Chairperson Jeremy Baldwin 518-885-7952  
Chris Root 585-593-4304  
Brian Frey 716-937-7977  
Daniel Boyd 772-626-4515

### Geothermal

Chairperson Kevin Moravec 315-536-3911  
Jeremy Baldwin 518-885-7952  
Richard Tompkins 845-629-8301

### Giving Back

Chairperson Sandra Baldwin 518-885-7952  
Chris Root 585-593-4304  
William Frey 716-937-7977  
Tyler Wills 518-758-6142

### Suppliers' Division

Chairperson Bernie Kistner 845-473-1969  
Dave Keough 845-258-7867  
Alan Dretel 845-279-3785  
Christopher Beatson 585-469-0069

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

## November 2024

CATEGORY	TOTAL
Contractors	168
Suppliers/Manufacturers	45
Associates	76
	===
Total Members	289

*Members in arrears for 2+ years  
will be dropped from active membership*

*Payments may be made by mailing checks to:  
ESWWDA, 1054 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512*

*or PayPal at [www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org)*

## One new member this quarter WELCOME NEW MEMBER

### ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

*Flomatic Valves*  
**Raymond Smith**



## 2025 DUES INCREASE

Contractor/Driller .....	\$250
Pump Installer .....	\$250
Supplier/Manufacturer .....	\$250
Associate Company Member .....	\$50
Retired Member .....	\$50
<i>(Who were self-employed with no employees)</i>	

## ESWWDA & You ... A Smart Alliance

The industry is in an era of change. To understand the changes taking place and to lead the industry through its transitions, drillers need to access the best minds available - each other.


That's why your affiliation with the ESWWDA is a smart investment. It's an alliance of individual drillers that work for you and with you.

Your membership gives you access to programs and services specifically formulated for the professional growth and success of water well drillers and pump installers.



### The association provides:

- **Educational programs in:** water well drilling, pump installation, general management.
- **Informative newsletter:** *Hole Talk* covers local, state and national issues and news.
- **Annual Tuition Scholarships**
- **A united voice:** ESWWDA speaks for drillers on issues of far-reaching impact.
- **A voice:** A vote on the direction ESWWDA takes.

Join or renew your membership and keep this powerful alliance alive! 

## ESWWDA

Membership Application **Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association** • Organized 1941

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor/Driller ..... \$250

NGWA Member Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Pump Installer ..... \$250

MGWC/CWD/CPI # \_\_\_\_\_

Supplier/Manufacturer ..... \$250

NYS DEC Reg # \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Company Member .....\$50

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Retired Member .....\$50

(Who were self-employed with no employees)

**Dues are NOT Tax Deductible**

Mail application to: **Susan Bates, 900 N James Street, Rome, NY 13440** (Checks payable to: **ESWWDA**)

Or visit our website at [www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org) to join.



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# Rotary Drilling Class

Will Be Offered at the Annual Meeting **Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

*At the Annual meeting* of the Empire State Water Well Driller's Association, we will be offering the rotary class. **Preregistration and payment are required in advance and classes must have a minimum attendance or classes will be cancelled. Registration deadline is January 6th.**

Completion of this two-hour class and general hands-on experience will enable you to prepare for the required NGWA exams. Licensing for any person operating a drill rig or performing pump work is a DEC requirement. Please note exams are not given on-site. You must schedule for the test on your own and in advanced. We will not be teaching the General, Pump Installer or Cable Primer at this meeting.

***Class size will be limited.*** Registration will be \$75 for ESWWDA members and \$150 for non-members. Any member who has already taken any of the primer classes offered in 2002 through 2024, may retake the class for \$40.00. Non-refundable payment will be taken at time of pre-registration via check or credit card (MasterCard or Visa). **Onsite check-in begins at 8:30 am.**

**Contact Julie Boyd to pre-register at 845-225-3196 or [jewels2564@aol.com](mailto:jewels2564@aol.com).**

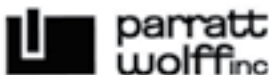


## New York State Environmental Conservation Law **ECL §15-1525** requires the following:

- Water well drillers and pump contractors must be registered with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
- After a well is drilled, contractors must provide a DEC well completion report to the well owner.
- At least one certified individual must be on site during well construction, pump installation or repair to either.
- Water wells must be constructed in accordance with NYS Department of Health rules and regulations (link leaves DEC website).
- Water well drillers and pump contractors are subject to General Business Law 36-A, which regulates home improvements.
- The NYS Health Department has Fact Sheets on Protection of Water Wells (link leaves DEC website).

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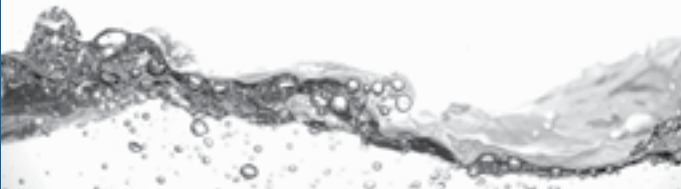


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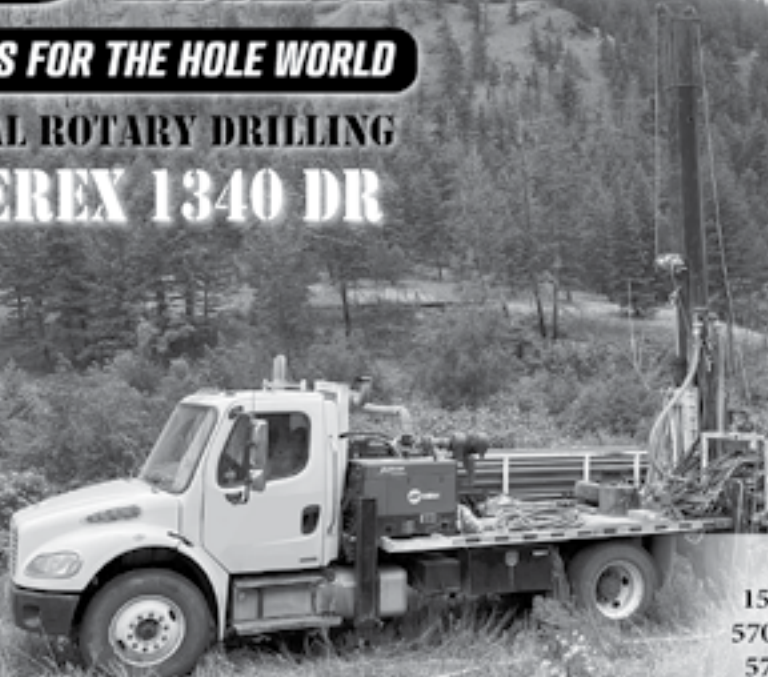
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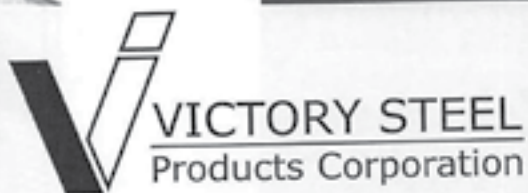


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## for your Company's Safety Meeting

# BATTERY CHARGING SAFETY

From NGWA Safety Facts Sheets

*In the past*, when we've gotten together for a short safety talk, we've covered a variety of topics, so maybe some of the things we'll discuss today will sound familiar to you. That's because battery-charging operations deal with some common hazards, such as burns and back injuries. But fortunately, there are many simple precautions that can be taken to combat these dangers.

Battery charging should be accomplished in areas devoted exclusively to this type of activity and there's a good reason for this. Hazards common to this type of work can be isolated from employees not engaged in battery charging.

Wood-slat floor boards or rubber mats should be utilized in the area to minimize slips and falls and the danger of electric shock. These boards or mats should be kept in good condition. Report any faulty or defective mats or boards.

Ample ventilation to disperse fumes is necessary and water for prompt flushing of spills of electrolyte on the floor is another important safety factor. Availability of water is also important for fire protection. Fire doors should be installed between the charging area and areas where flammable liquids are located.

Only trained personnel should charge or change batteries, so don't attempt to do any job you aren't authorized to do. No-smoking regulations must be observed, as escaping hydrogen can easily be ignited. In fact, open flames in general must be kept out of the area.

These points cover the work area, but personal protective apparel is just as important.

Splash-proof goggles are essential to prevent splashes from reaching your eyes. Acid proof gloves and aprons also should be worn. Your footwear should have non-slip soles, and during the actual battery filling operation, rubber boots should be worn.

As mentioned earlier, back injuries are a common problem, so handling of batteries should be done on roller conveyors or chain hoists to avoid back strains and hernias. Use hand carts to transport batteries. Likewise, safety experts recommend that acid be handled by a carboy tilter or siphon.

If it is necessary to lift a battery manually, it should be done

in accordance with safe lifting procedures – by using your leg muscles, not your back muscles. Squat close to the load, hold it close to your body and lift by gradually straightening your legs. Don't try to handle a tough lifting job alone. Ample help should be used for all lifts.

Never place metal tools on top of batteries and never put them in a spot where they might fall on a battery and cause a short circuit. This could result in an explosion or serious burns.

Avoid wearing rings on your fingers as severe burns can result if they short out on a battery terminal.


Powered chain hoists used to lift batteries should be equipped with a chain collecting basket to prevent slack chain loop from shorting out on terminals or connectors, and when a manually operated hoist is used, the battery should be covered to prevent the hand chain from shorting out similarly.

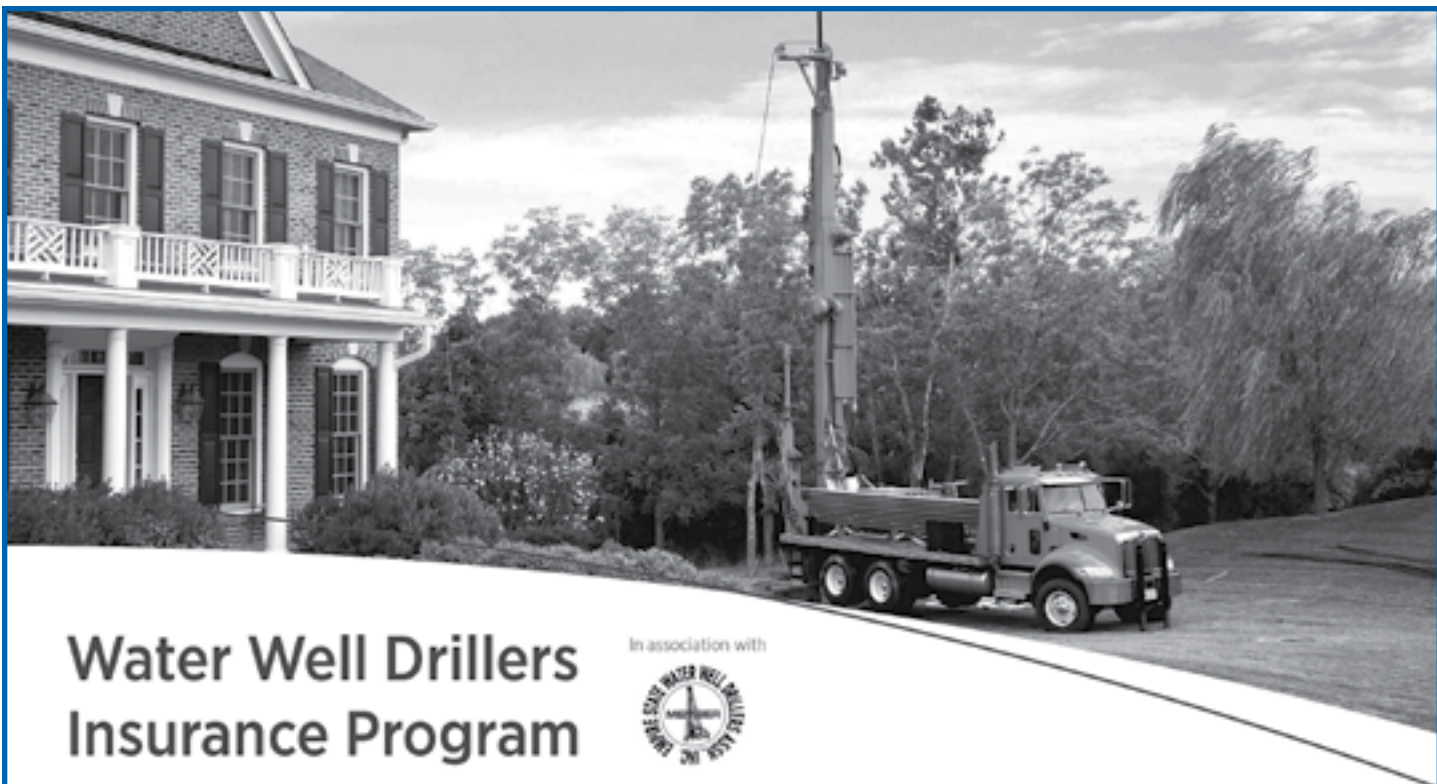
Know the location of water faucets and hoses so they can be utilized quickly for flushing when electrolyte or acid has been spilled on skin or clothing. A strong alkali such as baking soda should be applied when acid is spilled on the floor. Clean-up operations should be done promptly.

Acid burns from lead-acid batteries can be treated with baking soda and water. Treat electrolyte burns from alkaline batteries with vinegar and water. Of course, additional first aid or medical attention should be used as needed.

If you're charging or changing the battery for an industrial truck, make sure the truck is correctly positioned and the brakes set. Vent caps should be kept in place when charging to control electrolyte spray.

Safety experts also offer this advice: Pour acid into water, not water into acid. The reason for this is the heat of dilution is so great that water poured on acid will boil and spatter.

Well, for the past few minutes, we've covered some of the elements of safety that are related to battery charging. But in addition, there are common sense precautions we should all take, such as reporting faulty electrical apparatus and by following manufacturer's recommendations as to the charging rate for batteries. 



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# ESWWDA Legislative Update

*Bill and I were up in New York this fall* and had the opportunity to attend the ESWWDA meeting in Lake George. The room was filled with many people that I had the opportunity to work closely with since 1997. **Beth Guidetti** from DEC was the speaker at the meeting. She outlined a number of issues that DEC has been seeing over the past twenty plus years. ESWWDA board members are well aware of the issues, as we have identified the same things.

COVID changed our world in 2020. Many people working for the state in both DEC and DOH opted to retire right after COVID. New staff have been appointed to decision-making roles. The people who worked to build these programs have retired and left

the system. The new people who have taken over these roles do not have the history or understanding of what came in the past. The good news is that DEC has agreed to work with us to resolve the issues we have discussed for 26 years. These include but are not limited to wells being drilled by companies that are not registered and/or who do not have certified people on staff, failure to submit prenotification to drill, submitting well logs and failure rate of NGWA exams. All of these issues have been discussed several times over the years. The good news is that DEC is willing to listen to our concerns. Our lobbyist **Josh Oppenheim** has spoken to Beth's boss (sorry I do not have his title). The good thing about people retiring is that

it provides us with an opportunity to discuss our shared concerns. My role is to work with board members to address these issues in an effort to make some positive changes. It has been 26 years since this program has been implemented and there is much to discuss. Top of our list is **Senate bill 6349** which I received right after the meeting. The bill was a surprise to me because no input was asked for from the association. The positive out of all this is that DEC is open to working with ESWWDA. The wheels are being set into motion and I hope to have some kind of update for the annual meeting.

*Happy holidays to you and your families!*

**Janice Hawk Baldwin** 



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# WHAT To Know

## about being a Subcontractor and Subcontracting

The following was presented at the fall meeting.

**Mike Grasso**, a representative from **Gallagher Insurance**, delivered an insightful presentation on subcontracting and working as a subcontractor in New York State. He emphasized the critical role of certificates of insurance and indemnification agreements in the construction industry. These documents are essential for shifting risk from the general contractor to the subcontractor, ensuring clear delineation of responsibilities.

### Key points from Mike's presentation include:

1. **\*\*Certificates of Insurance\*\***: These documents confirm that a subcontractor has the appropriate insurance coverage for a project. They provide the general contractor with assurance that the subcontractor is protected against potential risks and liabilities.
2. **\*\*Indemnification Agreements\*\***: These contractual clauses require the subcontractor to assume certain responsibilities, thereby protecting the general contractor from

specific risks. They are crucial for defining the scope of liability and ensuring that risk is appropriately managed.

3. **\*\*Coverage Limitation Endorsements\*\***: Mike warned about common endorsements that can limit the insurance coverage available to subcontractors. If these limitations are not carefully reviewed, subcontractors may face uninsured losses. He stressed the importance of thoroughly reviewing insurance policies and endorsements before entering into a subcontract agreement to avoid gaps in coverage.

Overall, Mike Grasso's presentation highlighted the complexities of subcontracting in New York State. He underscored the importance of insurance and indemnification agreements in managing risk and protecting all parties involved in a construction project. His advice emphasized the need for both general contractors and subcontractors to be careful in their risk management practices to avoid potential financial issues. 💬


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## Condolences

The ESWWDA wishes to express it's condolences to **Torlish & Sons Well and Pumps** on the passing of **Katherine Ann Torlish**, wife of **Thomas Torlish**, on **September 27th, 2024** at **Vassar Brothers Medical Center** at the age of 82.

Services were held on October 3rd, 2024 with burial on October 4th.

In lieu of flowers, the Torlish family requests donations to **Regina Coeli Church** in Hyde Park or to **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** in Memphis, TN. 💬

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### Important Contacts:

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Any ESWWDA member wishing to voice their concern with the contamination of ground water by injection wells should contact:

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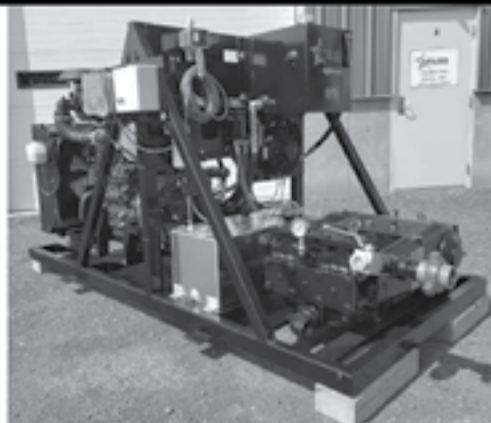
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As we approach the beginning of another school year, college-bound students and their families are searching for available funds to help offset the cost of further education. The ESWWDA offers a scholarship to applicants whose course of study is [related to the water well industry](#). Preference is given to family members of association members and secondly to those attending 2-year programs at an accredited school.

Further information is available by contacting  
the **Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Jim Utter.**

## Albert H. Mack Scholarship Guidelines

Guidelines for the establishment  
of the scholarship fund and awarding  
of scholarship monies for ESWWDA:

### A. Scholarship Fund

1. Maximum funds available in one calendar year: \$2,500.
2. One thousand dollars per year to be set aside until the fund reaches \$7,500.

### B. Awarding of Scholarships

1. Preference to be given to sons or daughters of association members.
2. Preference to be given to students attending 2-year programs.
3. Scholarships available only to persons whose course of study is related to the water well industry.
4. Persons may make application to the scholarship committee only after acceptance at an accredited school, offering a program related to the water well industry.
5. Funds may be distributed to more than one person in any one calendar year.
6. Scholarship funds are released upon acknowledgment of grades.

## Daniel M. Shultes Scholarship Fund Guidelines

This scholarship is a one-time award to children of Contractor members in good standing who are attending college in a field of study outside the industry or areas not covered by the [Al Mack Scholarship](#).

### Awarding of Scholarships

- Preference to be given to children of Full Contractor members
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- The number of scholarships and the amount of the scholarship are at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee and cannot exceed a total of \$1000 per calendar year.
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For more information contact the scholarship committee or go on our website at  
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**Turning Stone Casino**, Verona, NY

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For details go to [www.wsc.org](http://www.wsc.org)

### ESWWDA Spring Meeting

**April 25-26, 2025**

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### ESWWDA Summer Meeting

**July 2025**

Hosted by **Flomatic** in Glens Falls, NY

Details to follow

Visit [www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org)