EMPIRE STATE WATER WELL DRILLERS ASSN., INC. MEMBER

Hole Talk

Winter 2026
Published Quarterly

www.nywelldriller.org

ESWWDA Annual Meeting

January 18-20, 2027

Shenandoah Clubhouse, Verona

Join us at New York's most awarded four-season resort destination. We are returning to the **Shenandoah Clubhouse** at 5218 Patrick Rd. in Verona, just minutes from NYS Thruway Exit 33. Conveniently located next to the Lodge and Casino, the clubhouse is accessible by a complimentary shuttle from your hotel. Reservation details and room rates are available on page 2 of ***Hole Talk***.

We have expanded our class offerings this year. On **Monday, January 18**, we will offer the **General Drilling and Pump Installer Primer class**. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m., and the class starts at 1 p.m. Please see page 16 in ***Hole Talk*** for more details.

Tuesday, January 19th, begins with a full schedule. Classes start at 10 a.m. with **Timothy Knight**, ***P.A.***, of **Occustar**, speaking on ***DOT compliance and the importance of drug testing***. A pizza lunch, sponsored by several of our suppliers and manufacturers, will follow. Classes resume at 1 p.m. with **Contract Risk Transfer** by **AJ Gallagher**, followed at 2 p.m. by **East Well Drilling Rig Maintenance**. The day's final session will be **Hammer & Bit Maintenance** by **NUMA**. At 4:30 p.m., the tabletop trade show begins with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. **Todd Jantzi** will serve as our live auctioneer for auctions benefiting our veterans' program. ***Bring your wallets!***

Wednesday begins with a FREE breakfast buffet at 8:30 a.m., followed by our **General Membership** meeting at 9 a.m. The meeting will include updates from **Beth Guidetti** on the ***NYS DEC Water Well Program***, our lobbyist **Joshua Oppenheimer** from **Greenberg Traurig**, **Dave Schulenberg** from **NGWA State Affiliate Program** and others. We will have the election of officers and much more.



If you still have free time, **Turning Stone** offers acclaimed gaming, more than twenty dining options, two luxury spas, five golf courses, a 5,000-seat event center, a cabaret-style showroom, and on-site shopping.

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.

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2027 Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 19-20, 2027

Tuesday, January 19h

8:00 am	**ESWWDA Board Meeting**
10:00 – Noon	**Timothy Knight,** P.A. from **Occustar** speaking on ***DOT Compliance* and *Importance of Drug Testing***
Noon	**Pizza Lunch**
1 pm – 2 pm	***Contract Risk Transfer* by AJ Gallagher**
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	**Rig Repair/Maintenance by East West Drilling Inc.**
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	***Hammer & Bit Maintenance* by NUMA**
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm	**Supplier Cocktail Party, Trade Show** and **AUCTION** with **Todd Jantzi!**

Wednesday, January 20th

8:30 am	Breakfast for all
9:00 am	ESWWDA General Membership Meeting Guest Speakers: ***Government Affairs Update*** by **Joshua Oppenheimer** from **Greenberg Traurig**, **Beth Guidetti** from **NYS DEC Water Well Program**, and representative from **NGWA** **By-law Vote** to be taken **Election for Officers** and **Board of Directors Awards**

Location: Turning Stone Resort & Casino
5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478
1-800-771-7711 www.turningstone.com

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 spot the 19-story Tower Hotel at the Turning Stone Casino Resort, you are headed 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**.

Accommodations:
Hotel Rooms: **$151.00** per night plus tax
Tower Rooms: **$204.00** per night plus tax
Lodge Rooms: **$279.00** per night plus tax

A block of rooms with the above special rates have been set aside from Monday, January 18 through Wednesday, January 20, 2027. Please make your reservations early. The block of rooms expires by 5 pm on December 19th. Going forward, the room rates will be at standard rates based upon availability.
Make sure to mention ESWWDA to obtain special group rate pricing.

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

2026 Officers and Directors

President
Chris Root, CWD/PI, **Root Contracting**
5540 Wolfspring Road, Scio, NY 14800
(585) 593-4304 ◦ *Rootwaterwell@gmail.com*

Vice President
Jeremy Baldwin, MGWC, **Hawk Drilling Co., Inc.**
354 Stone Church Road, Saratoga, NY 12020
(518) 885-7952 ◦ *hawkdrilling@aol.com*

Past President
Dave Rosick, CWD/PI, **Rosick Well Drilling LLC**
1175 Farley Road, Hudson Falls, NY 12839
(518) 746-0173 ◦ *Rosickdrilling@yahoo.com*

Secretary/Treasurer
Charles W. Crover, CWD/PI
Roarke Well Drilling, Inc.
431 Scotchtown Ave., Goshen, NY 10924
(845) 783-9355 ◦ *Chuck@RoarkeWellDrilling.com*

ESWWDA Correspondence Manager
Julie Boyd
1054 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512
(845) 225-3196 ◦ *Jewels2564@aol.com*

ESWWDA Assistant Correspondence Manager
Susan Bates
900 N. James St., Rome, NY 13440
(315) 225-3060 ◦ *Gramsue67@gmail.com*

3 – Year Directors
Brian Frey, **Frey Well Drilling Inc.**
(716) 937-7977 ◦ *DrillerFrey@aol.com*

James Utter, **Utter Well Drilling**
(607) 582-7436 ◦ *jimdrilling@yahoo.com*

2 – Year Directors
William Frey, MGWC, **Frey Well Drilling Inc.**
(716) 937-7977 ◦ *DrillerFrey@aol.com*

Richard Tompkins, **Reliable Pump & Well**
(845) 629-8301 ◦ *reliablepumpandwell@gmail.com*

1 - Year Directors
Daniel Boyd, **DNA Well Maintenance**
(772) 626-4515 ◦ *Daniel.Boyd70@gmail.com*

Zach Barlett, **Bartlett Well Drilling**
(315) 331-6900 ◦ *zach@bartlettwelldrilling.com*

Supplier Directors
Bernie Kistner, **Group One Northeast, Inc.**
(845) 473-1969 ◦ *bckistner@aol.com*

Dave Keough, **Blake Equipment**
(845) 258-7867 ◦ *Dave.keough@blakeequip.com*

David Dretel, **D&S Pump**
(845) 279-3785 ◦ *ddretel@dspumps.com*

Christopher Beatson, **Xylem**
(585) 469-0069 ◦ *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

The President's Thoughts

"Tour of Duty"



I hope everyone had an enjoyable fall season. I hope you are getting your projects wrapped up from the summer and fall push to close the season out. Yes, I know what is coming around the corner. Cold fingers, runny noses, cold feet, and hard starting motors and let us not forget about frozen water. Yuck! I do not even like saying it! Quite frankly I look forward to winter and the slight slowdown it provides at work and with the holidays. Winter is upon us and so is our big annual meeting. Get it on your calendar. This year we would like to top last year's which topped the year before that, and... well you get what I am trying to say. We are going all out this year; the vendor tables will be full of even more space given to them. We have a professional auctioneer that will run the veterans fund auction. We are moving the cocktail bar out into the hallway and will be shutting down all other activities during the auction so that this event gets the attention that it deserves! We will also be voting on the hot topic of the by-laws change to allow us to go from 4 meetings to 2 a year. This will be voted on by the membership in attendance.

Before I go any further, I need to take moment to thank **Jim** and **Carol Dwyer**, owners of **JD's Well and Pump**, for once again hosting our fall meeting at one of our favorite locations of all time at **Cronin's Golf Resort**. Once again Carol and Jim pulled out all the stops. We had a foremost rig drilling with an 8"screen welded onto 8"casing gravel packed in 10" outer casing and then pulled back. Just down the parking lot there was a brand-new Derex rig provided by **Roarke Well Drilling** and they drilled a 6" well and set and developed a 5" telescoping screen. All this while **Jimmy Wild** was spudding away on his cyclone cable tool. **Dan Boyd** had his well rehabilitation/frack equipment there on call. Thank you all there was a lot of time and effort by many to put this meeting on. I had a great time being back at Cronin's. So, I also want to thank the **Cronin family** for the over-the-top hospitality shown to our entire association. You treat us like family!

ESWWDA Slate of Officers

President – **Jeremy Baldwin**, *MGWC*
Vice President – **James Utter**, *CWD/PI*
Secretary/Treasurer – **Charles Crover**, *CWD/PI*
3-Year Directors – **Daniel Boyd**
– **Zack Barlett**
2-Year Directors – **Brian Frey**
– **To be determined**
1-Year Directors – **William Frey**, *MGWC*
– **Richard W. Tompkins**

As I write my final letter to you as President of the Empire State Water Well Drillers Association, I want to share a few thoughts on where we have been and where we are heading. Serving as your president has been a privilege and this transition has me reflecting on why our association matters so much to our daily work.

The ESWWDA is essential to the drilling and pump industry here in New York State. We serve as a vital watchdog, keeping a close eye on legislation in Albany to ensure our interests are protected. At the same time, we work together with many others to help mold our industry and set better, safer standards for our trade. This important work does not happen on its own, it requires the time, voice, and dedication of our entire membership.

To our younger members, and to those who have been on the sidelines recently, I want to speak to you directly.

The future of this association, and the direction of drilling in New York, depends on all of us SHOWING UP. The veteran drillers who built this organization have done a tremendous job laying the groundwork, but we cannot rely on just a few hands to carry the load. We need the fresh energy and new perspectives of our next generation, alongside the re-engaged support of our inactive members who have so much valuable experience to share. Every single member has a stake in this trade, and we need everyone pitching in. I watched many people sit on the board gain experience on how things work and then go thru the steps of VP and President before me. I look at this as a ***"tour of duty"*** to our industry, to put my time into an industry that provides for my family and many others in this state. Not to mention the knowledge that I have gained by having conversations with other people that fight the same battles and solve the same problems that I encounter every day. The friendships that I will have long after I am a well driller.

I highly encourage you to get involved, share your ideas, attend meetings, and consider taking on leadership roles. Protecting our industry and maintaining high standards tomorrow depends on the steps each of us takes to step up and participate today.

I can entrust that the ESWWDA is in great hands moving forward with its next **President Mr. Jeremy Baldwin** and wish the best of luck to him and the board. I plan to stay very involved as a past president to the board of directors. So, let us keep it building head pressure. Ha!

Thank you to the entire membership for your support and dedication during my time as president. It has been an honor to serve.

Sincerely,
Chris Root, *ESWWDA President*

ESWWDA FALL MEETING
Friday, October 23, 2026

The 2026 fall meeting of the ***Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association*** was called to order at 4:19 pm by **President Chris Root** with 24 members in attendance. The following officers and directors were in attendance:

President **Chris Root**

Vice President **Jeremy Baldwin**

Past President **Dave Rosick**

Secretary/Treasurer **Charles Crover**

Director **Jim Utter**

Director **Daniel Boyd**

Director **Zack Barlett**

Supplier Director **Dave Keough**

Adrienne Boyd sold the 50/50 tickets. **Dave Rosick** made a motion to wave the reading of the minutes and accept them as printed in *Hole Talk*. Henry Boyd seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Treasurer Chuck Crover read the treasurer's report to the membership. The report was year-to-date and noted that we were within budget, especially with membership invoicing being sent out in the next few weeks. **Jim Wild** made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. **Jeremy Baldwin** seconded the motion. The motion was passed. Copies of the Treasurer's report are available upon request.

President Root thanked **Carol** and **JD Dwyer** for hosting the meeting and **the Cronin family** for all they provided us. It was a pleasure to return to **Cronin's** again. President Root also thanked **Beth Guidetti**, from **NYS DEC Water Well Program** and **Kevin Kenyon** from **NYS DOH**. At this time President Root summarized the status of the proposed regulation changes especially the incorporation of the geothermal drillers into the regulations. At this time, the changes that the committee has been working on for over two years are in the hands of the attorneys now. We are hoping that they will have their changes made sometime this fall so our attorney can review them. At this time **Beth Guidetti** took questions related to other concerns members had.

Communication: No communications to report.

Sickness & Health: **Hank Baski** from **Baski Packers** passed away in September. **Dick Vedder** is recovered from double pneumonia.

Insurance: **Jack Ralbovsky** stated that the industry is seeing more General Contractors require their subs to have a pollution policy somewhat due to forever chemicals. **New York's Industrial Code Rule 59** is a mandatory **Workplace Safety and Loss Prevention Program** requiring certain employers with annual payroll over $800,000 and an experience modification rating above 1.2 to undergo a certified safety consultation within strict timelines. New York is going to begin lowering the payroll number. So, more companies will fall into the program. Also, **OSHA** not only have heat related guidelines, but they also has cold related guidelines regarding extreme cold.

Membership: **Sue Bates** reported that we have a **total of 289 members**. **Dues invoicing will be sent out on November 1st.**

Scholarships: No report given at this time.

Government Affairs: It was covered during the update from President Root and the question and answer period with **Beth Guidetti**.

NEWWA: **Henry Boyd** reported that the fall meeting of the **NEWWA Board** had occurred with ESWWDA receiving a check for $3500 from the association. The next meeting will take place in January and the **Expo** dates in **Marlborough** are **March 12-13, 2027**.

Budget & Finance: No report given at this time.

Education: **Henry Boyd** stated that there will be a **general drilling and pump installers primer class on November 7th at D&S Pump and Supply in Brewster, NY**. We will also offer the **primer on January 18**, the day before the annual meeting. We have a full slate of **classes scheduled for the annual meeting on Tuesday, January 19**.

NGWA & WSC: The **Ground Water Expo** will be **December 8-10** in **Las Vegas**. New York has 23 delegates. We have invited a representative from NGWA and **Dave Schulenberg** from the **State Affiliate Program** to attend our annual meeting.

Hole Talk: The deadline for submission for the next issue is **November 1**.

Public Information: **Sue Bates** asked if members could review their listing on the website. It is a good time since changes can be made with your membership renewals.

DOT: No report given at this time.

Continuing Education: **Julie Boyd** reminded the membership that those participating in the program should turn in their continuing education points with their renewal.

Geothermal: **Jeremy Baldwin** stated that there are more jobs drilling over 500 feet even with all the additional requirements such as discharge and flow charts. Two UTEN (U10) approved projects, in Haverstraw and Buffalo, carry a combined utility commitment of **$111.5 million** and will be the state's first utility-scale thermal energy networks, a type of shared heating and cooling system that New York mandated utilities study under the 2022 Utility Thermal Energy Network and Jobs Act.

Veterans: **Jim Utter** stated that the Caster project was finished. Also,

ESWWDA Values

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Professional Standards ◦ Communication Education ◦ Integrity ◦ Affordability

with **Goulds** and **Water Well Wish program** through **Water Systems Council** a well was drilled for a veteran.

Past Presidents: **Dave Rosick** wanted to thank all the volunteers in the association. He also noted that recently he had to get a crane certification for a state job and was able to obtain on through a company called **Liftoff Certifications** online.

Old Business: Over the last few meetings there was discussion regarding a proposed bylaw change. At this time **Dave Keough** made a motion that **Article VI, SECTION 2** of the bylaws be changed to, **"The Board of Directors shall determine the number of membership meetings to be held each year."** From this, ~~"At least three other meetings of the membership shall be held each year on a quarterly basis, with the time and place designated at the previous membership meeting."~~ At this time there was a discussion from the floor regarding the proposed change. It would not impact the Board of Directors who would still be required to meet a minimum of four times a year. **Jay Deline** then seconded the motion. The motion was tabled to the Annual meeting where it will be voted on by members in good standing.

The annual meeting is scheduled for **January 19-20** at the **Shenandoah Clubhouse at Turning Stone Casino**.

The spring meeting will be hosted by **Jim Wild** and **Henry Boyd**. The summer meeting in 2027 will celebrate **the 100th anniversary** of **Hawk Well Drilling**. As of this time there is no fall meeting scheduled.

New Business: There was no new business to be discussed at this time.

We asked **Beth Guidetti** to draw the winning raffle ticket for the Numa hammer. The ticket was sold to **Jim Dwyer**. Beth also drew the winning 50/50 ticket who was held by **Steve Cline** from **Morris/Preferred**.

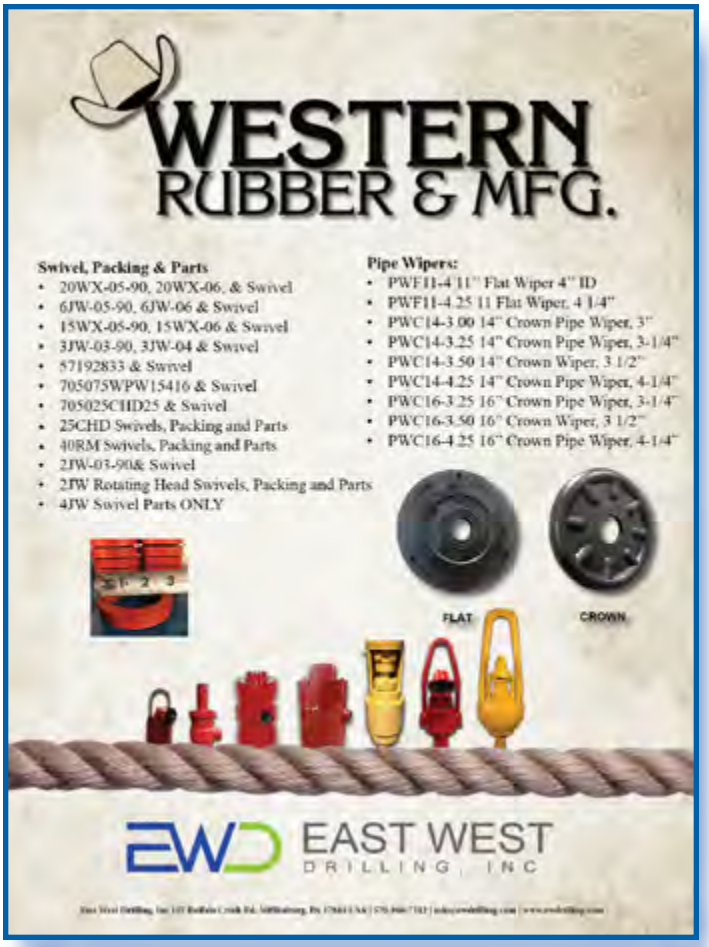
Dave Rosick made a motion to end the meeting at 5:29 pm. **Tyler Wills** seconded the motion. All approved, the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted by:
Julie Boyd

GROUNDWATER SUPPLY CO., INC.
"THE DRILL STORE"

217 Leominster Rd Route 12
PO BOX 513
Sterling, MA 01564
(P) 978-422-3209 (F) 978-422-6055
Monday – Friday 8:30am- 5:00pm
sales@groundwatersupply.net
www.groundwatersupply.net

A family business since 1992, located in Central Mass,
We are a wholesale supplier and source for
Water Well, Environmental, Geothermal,
Geo-technical and Construction drilling.
We represent many manufactures and have most
everything you could possibly need for your drilling project.
Let us help you find what you need!
Contact Ed, Rob, Ken, Andy, Gary with any questions



DEREX

DRILLS FOR THE HOLE WORLD

T-REX

#MeetingDrillersNeeds

Like the king of the dinosaurs, the T-REX is designed to be the king of geothermal and exploration drilling. This beast of a track drill will dominate the toughest terrain and conquer the most challenging drilling conditions with ease.

Raw Power:

With up to 70,000 lbs of pullback, dual rotary, and angle (45° - 90°) drilling capabilities, the T-REX muscles through stubborn formations — driven by a powerful deck motor, and outfitted with an up to 1200 CFM 500 PSI air compressor to make sure your deep holes stay clean.

Flexibility

The T-REX can be outfitted in many configurations to suit your specific needs. These include mud or air rotary top head, reverse circulation, flooded reverse circulation, and dual rotary.

Offsyder:

The T-REX comes standard with the Offsyder, designed to make hands-free rod handling fast, safe, and easy!

Cabin:

Stay clean, dry, and focused with a climate-controlled articulating cab that allows you to drill in comfort and shields you from harsh weather — and those relentless bugs!



PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE FOR VOTE

The Board of Directors is proposing the following change to the existing bylaws of the association. President Root and the Board of Directors have been discussing this change for several meetings. **This change will be voted on at the Annual meeting on January 20, 2027, at the Shenandoah Clubhouse at our 9 a.m. General Membership meeting by members in good standing.** The definition of member is good standing means your membership dues must be paid prior to this vote.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - The annual meeting of the association shall be held on the third Wednesday of January of each year, with the time and place to be determined at a previous meeting of the membership, or, if not so determined, by the President.

SECTION 2 – **The Board of Directors shall determine the number of membership meetings to be held each year.** ~~At least three other meetings of the membership shall be held each year on a quarterly basis, with the time and place designated at the previous membership meeting.~~ Special meetings shall be called by the President, either on his own initiative or by request of five members in good standing. The Correspondence Manager thereof shall notify by necessary means to all members at least ten days prior to the date of any such special meeting.

SECTION 3 - At all meetings of the Association, either regular or special, any ten members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the membership.

SECTION 4 - All members in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

SECTION 5 - Any member in good standing may be represented and vote at any meeting by written proxy sent to the Correspondence Manager by mail prior to the meeting.

SECTION 6 - If a quorum be not present at any general meeting, the presiding officer must adjourn an official meeting to a day and hour fixed by him/her. An "unofficial " meeting may continue.

A complete copy of the bylaws is available at **www.NYWellDriller.org** under **Resources**, then **Documents**, where it appears as a featured document.

You may also request a copy from **Julie Boyd**.

ATTENTION *HOLE TALK* ADVERTISERS

As you may have noticed, you are now seeing many of your ads currently being printed in color. Enclosed with your invoice for the **upcoming advertising cycle which runs from the fall 2026 issue through the summer 2027 issue**, you were given the option of forwarding an updated color ad for publication in *Hole Talk* going forward. The invoice also noted the increase in cost which only amounted to 20% for all four (4) issues. Pricing is as follows:

Ad size	Black/White	Color
Busines Card	**$ 200**	**$ 240**
¼ page	**500**	**600**
½ page	**1,000**	**1,200**
Full page	**1,500**	**1,800**

For anyone who'd like their company's ad to run in color all you need to do is forward a camera ready ad and we'll update it for you in the next published issue. I will bill you the difference. Just email the update to: **gramsue67@gmail.com**.

We have received many, many compliments on ***Hole Talk*** over the years and after looking at how great the last issue looked, the more color the better!! We have a reputation of having the best newsletter in the industry, let's keep it going!!!!

2026 ESWWDA Committees

Scholarship

Chairperson	Jim Utter	607-582-7436
	Kevin Moravec	315-536-3911
	Ricky Tompkins	845-629-8301
	Zach Barlett	315-331-6900

Education

Chairperson	Henry Boyd	845-225-3196
	Jeremy Baldwin	518-885-7952
	Sandra Baldwin	518-396-9499
	Zach Bartlett	315-331-6900

Membership

Chairperson	Sue Bates	315-339-9060
	William Frey	716-937-7977
	Chris Root	585-593-4309

Insurance/ Safety

Chairperson	Jack Ralbovsky	518-533-6850
	William Frey	716-937-7977
	Chuck Crover	845-783-9355

Government Affairs

Chairperson	Sandra Baldwin	518-885-7952
	Jeff Smith	518-758-6142
	Tyler Wills	518-758-6142
	All Board of Directors	

NEWWA

Chairperson	Henry Boyd	845-225-3196
	Julie Bullock	845-225-3196
Alt.	Dan Boyd	772-626-4515
	James Utter	607-351-1002

Liaisons to NGWA/WSC

Chairperson	TBD	
	Henry Boyd	845-225-3196
	Dave Keough	845-258-7867
	Zach Bartlett	315-331-6900
	Richard Moravec	315-536-3911

Budget & Finance

Chairperson	Tyler Wills	518-758-6142
	Chuck Crover	845-783-9355
	Bernie Kistner	845-473-1969
	Jack Ralbovsky	518-533-6850

Hole Talk

Chairperson	Julie Bullock	845-225-3196
	Sue Bates	315-339-8960

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
	Daniel Boyd	772-626-4515
	William Frey	716-937-7977

Geothermal

Chairperson	Kevin Moravec	315-536-3911
	Tyler Wills	518-758-6142
	Jeremy Baldwin	518-885-7952

Giving Back

Chairperson	Jim Utter	607-582-7436
	Richard Tompkins	845-629-8301
	Zach Bartlett	315-331-6900
	Brian Frey	716-937-7977

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

October 2026

CATEGORY	TOTAL	PAID	UNPAID
Contractors	161	129	32
Suppliers/Manufacturers	54	38	17
Associates	74	57	17
Total	**290**	**224**	**66**

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

There was 1 new member in the third quarter of 2026

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

SUPPLIERS

WATERSPRINT
Jim Burrill
Hampton, NH 03842
Sponsor: ESWWDA

DnA Water Well Maintenance

Hydrofracking and water well rehabilitation for your residential, commercial and irrigation needs.
Call today for an estimate!
Owners: Daniel & Adrienne Boyd
(845) 600-6382
DnAWaterWellMaintenance@icloud.com

Hydrofracking is money "well" spent!

"Support the Suppliers Who Support You"

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

Pump Installer $250

Supplier/Manufacturer $250

Associate Company Member $50

Retired Member $50

(Who were self-employed with no employees)

NGWA Member Yes _____ No _____

MGWC/CWD/CPI # _____

NYS DEC Reg # _____

Sponsor: _____

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*** *to join.*

Letter to the Editor

Hi fellow ESWWDA Members,

It has been a long time since I have written a letter for *Hole Talk*. I feel the need to share my opinion regarding the proposed change to the bylaws. First, I must say I feel our President Chris Root and soon to be President Jeremy Baldwin along with their fellow Board members are doing an excellent job. I just feel a little different about this bylaw change and would like to stop the change.

I feel that by changing the bylaws we will be limited by how we spread the meetings throughout the state of New York. The association has tried to move the meetings outside of the annual meeting to various places in the state. By having four meetings a year we expand our availability to our members. The more the association is seen by our members the more of a strength we are to our members and the more educational opportunities we provide for our membership.

A few years ago, ESWWDA formed our own Voluntary Accreditation program which members who participate must submit 5 hours of continuing education points each year along with a signed affidavit to participate. As most of you know NYS DEC has proposed changes to the regulations which include continuing education. If we limit the number of meetings, we reduce educational opportunities. We would also be making it difficult for our members in our own program to get their continuing education. Education is part of our mission statement.

Finally, I know people are very busy with running their business and with family, but that time we spend together as professionals at meetings provides us with new knowledge, learning from others' experience and great friendship.

As one of your past presidents, I do not support this bylaw change. Please attend the annual meeting and vote.

Sincerely,

Henry M. Boyd, MGWC
Past President



SPRING Meeting 2027

Jim Wild and **Henry Boyd** will be hosting the spring meeting of the ESWWDA, and it will be an antique drilling show.

If you are interested in showing off your antiques, please contact **Jim Wild** (**845-225-4155**) or **Henry Boyd** (**845-225-3196**). Show dates and location to be determined.

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Hurry-up Can Hurt

From NGWA Safety Facts Sheets

Sports cars that hurry over a designated driving course in competition with others are usually marked with racing stripes. Merthiolate and bandages are the racing stripes people wear when they've hurried on the hob.

Even people who have never been known for doing things speedily will hurry through certain activities on occasion. There are a couple of frequently used sayings concerning this type of behavior, such as, "Haste Makes Waste" and "The Hurrier I Go, The Behinder I Get." Another one which is more closely associated with safety on the job is, "Hurry-Up Can Hurt."

In most instances, hurrying on the job has little to do with increased production. It usually is connected with attempting to do something the easy way, getting a tough job over and done with quickly, or getting off the job as soon as possible. All of these reasons for hurrying lead to unsafe acts and injuries.

The rally driver may "lose it" on a curve if he's going too fast, or knock down pylons if he's cutting it too short on the turns. We have similar results with unwarranted hurrying and shortcuts. These types of accidents are easy to identify, but there are others resulting from being in a hurry that we should consider for a moment.

For instance:

- Using the wrong ladder for the job just because it's closer than the one that's the right height.
- Not wearing safety glasses because the job will only take a second.
- Charging through a door without regard for fellow employees right behind or ahead of you.
- Not taking time to properly lock-out and tag machinery on which you want to make repairs.
- Carrying a heavy object without first planning a safe route.
- Leaving water or oil on the floor for someone else to wipe up – probably with the seat of their pants.

Sometimes, think back to an incident when you nearly got hurt. When you review the circumstances of the near miss, there's a good chance that hurrying was part of your difficulty. If you took a shortcut, you probably realize, as most of us do sooner or later, the shortcut really didn't save any time and wasn't worth the risk involved.

However, it should be pointed out that while hurrying unnecessarily is frowned upon, faster ways of doing things might be beneficial at times. If you think there is a better way of doing a certain job, by all means, bring it to the attention of your supervisor. But, don't proceed to use the new method or make any changes without first getting them approved.

One of the safest means of speeding up operations is through experience. As we become more familiar with our jobs, our efficiency and speed increases. But, this is taken into consideration in planning jobs and how they should be handled; and then, of course, we all reach a point where increased speed through experience becomes negligible and the danger of not remaining alert on the job grows.

As we indicated earlier, a lot of us get into trouble hurrying to get off the job. This carries over into the parking lot and all along the route home. Hurry-up on the road can hurt, too.

So, if we try to develop a steady pace while at work, driving to and from the job, or whatever, we'll find that things go better and we can develop a productive routine that meets safety requirements.

Obviously, accidents cost money. So, if you think that meeting the cost of living is rough now, just imagine what it would be like if you had to face expenses without a full paycheck because of a work injury. So, both physically and financially, hurry-up can hurt!


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A General Drilling and Pump Installer Classes

Will Be Offered **Monday, January 18, 2027**

At the Annual meeting of the Empire State Water Well Driller's Association, we will be offering classes. **Preregistration is required one week in advance and classes must have a minimum attendance or classes will be canceled. Registration deadline is January 8th.**

The first part of the class will cover general drilling knowledge, which will assist individuals in taking the **Drilling General Exam** and some questions on the **General Water Systems Exam**. The second part of the class will cover more of the **Water Systems General and the Pumps under 100 gpm exam** for pump installers. **Please note exams are not given on-site.** *You must schedule the test on your own and in advance.*

Completion of this class and general firsthand 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.

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 2026, may retake the class for $40.00. Payment can be made with cash, check or credit card (MasterCard or Visa). **Onsite check-in begins at 12:30 am and class begins at 1 pm.**

Contact Julie Boyd to pre-register at 845-225-3196.

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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Protecting Workers from Cold Stress

Cold temperatures and increased wind speed (wind chill) cause heat to leave the body more quickly, putting workers at risk of cold stress. Anyone working in the cold may be at risk, e.g., workers in freezers, outdoor agriculture and construction.

Common Types of Cold Stress

Hypothermia

- Normal body temperature (98.6°F) drops to 95°F or less.
- **Mild Symptoms:** alert but shivering.
- **Moderate to Severe Symptoms:** shivering stops; confusion; slurred speech; heart rate/breathing slow; loss of consciousness; death.

Frostbite

- Body tissues freeze, e.g., hands and feet. Can occur at temperatures above freezing, due to wind chill. May result in amputation.
- **Symptoms:** numbness, reddened skin develops gray/white patches, feels firm/hard, and may blister.

Trench Foot (also known as Immersion Foot)

- Non-freezing injury to the foot, caused by lengthy exposure to wet and cold environment. Can occur at air temperature as high as 60°F, if feet are constantly wet.
- **Symptoms:** redness, swelling, numbness, and blisters.

Risk Factors

- Dressing improperly, wet clothing/skin, and exhaustion.

For Prevention, Your Employer Should:

- Train you on cold stress hazards and prevention.
- Provide engineering controls, e.g., radiant heaters.
- Gradually introduce workers to the cold; monitor workers; schedule breaks in warm areas.

For more information:

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U.S. Department of Labor

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New York State Business Mileage Rate Increased in 2026

Businesses and employees in New York State should be aware that the standard mileage reimbursement rate changed during 2026. From January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, the reimbursement rate for business use of a personal vehicle was **72.5 cents per mile ($0.725)**.

Effective July 1, 2026, the rate increased to **76 cents per mile ($0.76)**, following the updated Internal Revenue Service (IRS) standard mileage rate. New York State reimburses employee business travel based on the IRS mileage allowance, helping ensure reimbursements remain non-taxable when paid at the approved rate.

As a result, businesses and employees should use **$0.76 per mile** for eligible business travel occurring on or after July 1, 2026. [osc.ny.gov], [irs.gov]



Tuesday Evening Cocktail Party Update

Cocktails & Appetizers

Thanks to the generosity of **D&S Pumps**, we will be adding a few "hot" cocktail choices to be passed around by the servers. These will include ***Philly Cheese Steak Spring Rolls***, ***Bacon Wrapped Scallops*** and ***Jumbo Lump Crabcakes with Old Bay Aioli Sauce***. In addition, there will be self-serve choices to include a fruit and cheese board, a garden vegetable crudite along with an array of warm chips and assorted dips.

As always, the CASH bar will open at 4:30 and end at 7:00.

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NYSWells@gw.dec.state.ny.us

General permitting questions:
Bureau of Energy Project Management, Division of Environmental Permits
DEPEnergy@dec.ny.gov

SPDES permitting questions:
Bureau of Water Permits, Division of Water
SPDESGeothermal@dec.ny.gov

Report a Violation:
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(1-844-332-3267)
See DEC's website for the ECO roster in the county where the violation occurs

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(800) 551-7379
www.ngwa.org

PSI Exams:
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www.psiexams.com

Water Systems Council:
(202) 625-4387
www.watersystemscouncil.org

American Ground Water Trust
(603) 228-5444
trustinfo@agwt.org

ESWWDA: **Julie Boyd**
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Sickness and Health

Please keep **Dick Vedder** of **Provost Bros.** in your prayers as he recovers from double pneumonia.

Condolence Corner

NGWA mourns the death of industry pioneer **Hank Baski**. Henry "Hank" Baski, a former **Groundwater Foundation McEllhiney lecturer**, passed away on September 14, 2026 in Denver, Co. He was 87 years old. In 2004, he was recognized by the **National Ground WaterAssociation's Technology Award.**

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Scholarship Money Available

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. MackScholarship 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
- Preference to be given to students attending minimum of a 2-year program
- Persons may make applications to the scholarship committee only after acceptance at an accredited school.
- Funds may be distributed to more than one person in any one calendar year.
- Application deadline is April 1st of each year.
- Applicants are selected via a blind selection process.
- 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.
- Scholarship funds are released upon acknowledgment of grades.

For more information contact the scholarship committee or go on our website at **www.nywelldriller.org**



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

Ms. Nicole Kraft, *EPA Section Chief* at **(212) 637-3093** or **NicoleKraft@EPA.com**.

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- Student Associates

Send us *your* events!

To place an item in this calendar, or to submit an article or advertisement, please email **Jewels2564@aol.com** *or* **Gramsue67@gmail.com** no later than **February 1, 2027**, the next ***Hole Talk*** deadline.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NGWA Groundwater Week

December 8-10, 2026

Las Vegas, NV

Details to follow at **www.ngwa.org**

ESWWDA Annual Meeting and Trade Show

January 19-20, 2027

Turning Stone Resort and Casino, Vernon, NY

Agenda to follow

NEWW Expo and Trade Show

March 12-13, 2027

Best Western Royal Plaza

Marlborough, MA

Details: **https:// newwassociation.org**

ESWWDA Spring Meeting

Hosted by **Henry Boyd** and **Jim Wild.**

Date and site to be determined.

ESWWDA Summer Meeting

July 16-17, 2027

Hosted by **Hawk Drilling Co.** celebrating 100th year anniversary

Ballston Lake, NY

Details to follow

Visit www.nywelldriller.org