



Institute for Briquetting and Agglomeration Newsletter Q2 2020.

Friday, March 27, 2020

Good Day to all of our Membership. I am **Jim Torok** and have been on the BOD's and a member for a number of years; 1979. I have recently retired and have agreed to take on the responsibilities of the Executive Director of the IBA. We thank Bob Hinkle for his long-term membership and leadership as our past ED.

This is a newsletter that we have kind of let slip over the past two years. We will use this format either quarterly or semi-annually depending on the information and news that we have to share.

For those of you who were not at the IBA Conference in Charleston, SC in November of 2019, our new President is **Frank Rafter** of Buhler, Inc. Frank has worked in the drying industry for 30 years responsible for Capital Equipment Sales for conveyor dryer and impingement drying technologies.



He currently serves as Global Segment Manager for Buhler, Inc. covering industrial, nuts and seeds, and fruit and vegetable drying applications.

Frank graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce and Engineering Sciences from Drexel University in Philadelphia and has been a member of the Institute of Briquetting and Agglomeration since 2009.

“As president, I am looking forward to promoting new studies and research in agglomeration techniques, and being able to draw attention to more non-traditional applications and advancements in binder technologies”.

We look forward to the next two years of leadership from Frank. If you have any questions for Frank you can reach him at frankrafter@buhlergroup.com



Board of Directors News:

The IBA's Board of Directors voted at the IBA Conference in November of 2019 to increase the size of the BOD's as per the organizations By-Laws, by four. We would like to welcome the following onto the BOD's beginning this past January. The new Board members are **Willy Cilengi** of BASF, South Africa, **Eric Bubniak** of Diproinduca, **Tim Hagen** of the University of Minnesota, NRRI and **Greg Mehos** of Greg Mehos and Associates LLC. Following is a bio of each of our new Board members. We welcome them as industry leaders and we look forward to their guidance going forward.

Willy Cilengi BASF South Africa:

Willy joined BASF in April of 2007 and is currently Technical Development Specialist – Agglomeration in the Mining Solution Division (EVG). Since 2013 he initiated and developed a binder formulation for coal fines, both briquetting and pelletizing, for which IP has been successfully submitted. Willy has promoted the use of BASF binders in the South African Ferro Alloys industry in whereby the organic binder has been commercially used and is a growing business. Willy's binder has been used with oxide fines, ferro alloys, mill scale, metallic oxide ores and sludges. Willy has contributed to past IBA conferences with technical papers having to do with Mineral Beneficiation in South Africa and BASF Binders.

Erick Bubniak, Diproinduca Group:

Erick is Chilean-Born, Venezuelan – Raised and now a Canadian citizen. Erick is Chief Innovation Officer and Head of Recycling Solutions at Diproinduca Group, a company dedicated to create quality raw materials from industrial By-Products. He currently leads the R & D team. Previously, he held different positions in operations, logistics and Marketing. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering and an MPP in Venezuela. Erick has studied at the London School of Economics, In London, UK, where he received his MSc in Development Studies. Before joining Diproinduca in Canada, he worked 10 years in Strategic Planning and Market Intelligence in Ternium, the largest Latin American Steel Company, in operations in Venezuela and Mexico.

Tim Hagen, University of Minnesota, National Research Resource Institute (NRRI):

Tim is a Research Specialist II at the University of Minnesota, Duluth at the Natural Resources Research Institute. (NRRI) Tim graduated from the University of North Dakota with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. Tim has worked from 2007 to today developing novel and innovative solutions for transforming woody biomass, lignite, recycled plastics, tear off shingles and cotton linters into useful agglomerated, green-based products for reuse. Tim successfully developed and defined a variety of torrefaction and hydrothermal techniques in which the combustion, handling, grinding and stowage properties of wood and ag based biofuels are effectively prepared for briquetting and agglomeration. Has also worked on the agglomeration of delicate corn stover fibers. Tim has been in research, operations and Marketing over the years. Tim has contributed greatly to the IBA with technical papers.

Greg Mehos, Greg Mehos and Associates LLC:

Greg Mehos, Ph.D., P.E. is an adjunct professor at the University of Rhode Island and is a chemical engineer who specializes in the storage, handling, and processing of bulk solids. He has been involved in a wide range of bulk solids handling projects including flow property testing, hopper and feeder design, and the design and operation of gravity dryers and moving bed heat exchangers. Greg is a member of AIChE, a former chair of the Boston local section of AIChE, and is an AIChE fellow. He is the author of several papers on bulk solids handling topics and is a contributor to the ninth edition of Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook. He received B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Colorado and a master's degree from the University of Delaware. He is a licensed professional engineer in the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IBA Conference - Charleston South Carolina:

We had a great conference at a great venue in November of 2019 at the Francis Marion Hotel in Historic Charleston, South Carolina. It was our 36th Bi-Annual Conference. We had 40 attendees and 13 technical papers. Some pictures are below of the vendors night where we had 11 vendor table top presentations.









Upcoming Conferences:

Other Conferences that are upcoming: (At this point due to Covid 19)

AISTech, Cleveland, OH May 4-7th of 2020. Cancelled and new date to be announced.

Bulk & Powder Show originally scheduled for April 28-30th 2020 now October 6-8th of 2020.

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Big Thanks to our Past Executive Director **Bob Hinkle**:



Bob Hinkle: 2019 Charleston, SC

Bob Hinkle has led the IBA for 8 years as Executive Director and did it well. Bob was a member of the IBA for 43 years. He was on the Board since 1987, retiring from the Board at the New Orleans meeting on September 25, 2011. However, he became a non-voting Board member when he was appointed Executive Director (ED) in December 2012, serving 8 years. We thank Bob for all his guidance and hard work making sure that our Conferences went on without a hitch. We had some great venues and great papers over this time period. Thanks Bob to you and Betty for all you have done for our Association. We wish you both all the best going forward.

Where to Next?

Next IBA Conference in Fall of 2021. Where shall we have the conference?

Suggestions from the BOD Meeting in November of 2019 for the next Conference in 2021 were:

- Newport, RI
- Austin, TX
- Denver, CO
- Puerto Rico
- Montreal
- Orlando
- Other???

Please text or e-mail me your preference or idea! We need everyone's feedback.

It's not too early to submit an Abstract for the next conference; Fall of 2021. The sooner the better! That way we can advertise and drive our membership and attendance at the next conference! Please commit to a paper and also get your colleagues to submit a paper!

Jim Torok

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Please, if you have not paid your dues and or you want to become a member, please go to the site, www.agglomeration.org to do so! We look forward to your membership!

Stay tuned for the summer / fall newsletter! Be safe, stay healthy!