

2019 Annual Hydraulic Institute Conference

Expanding, Engaging and Evolving the Pump Industry

Hydraulic Institute (HI) is recognized as the global authority on pumps and pumping systems. Its primary mission is to value-add resources to the industry and develop pump standards, guidelines and guidebooks. In order to facilitate comprehensive and current resources for pump OEMs, suppliers and end users, HI holds an annual conference. The 2019 HI conference took place this year at the lovely Vinoy® Renaissance St. Petersburg Resort & Golf Club, in Florida, USA. The event offered a diverse platform for pump industry leaders to join together and focus on expanding communities, engaging new partners and evolving the industry.

Pump Engineer had the pleasure of attending this year's event and experiencing many of the dynamic sessions the conference had to offer.

By Angelica Pajkovic



A Comprehensive Conference Program

Over 300 industry veterans and professionals gathered from around the world to attend this year's HI conference. The event consisted of a four-day networking and committee driven program, with a focus on pump design and applications, installation, operation, efficiency and maintenance. Throughout a series of meetings, HI committee members took time to address current pump regulations and negotiate new tactics to achieve energy saving goals.

The energy and enthusiasm of every committee member was evident at each day's welcome breakfast. Each morning began with an inspiring presentation detailing the strides HI has made over the last year, and its progressive goals for the future of the pump industry. The breakfast was typically followed by a series of committee meetings and presentations. Topics ranged from Rotodynamic pumps for vibration measurements and pump piping validation studies, to meetings focused on energy rating oversights.



Interspersed between the committee sessions, were a number of engaging social opportunities. Events such as the ‘Evening Welcome Reception’, held at the Museum of Fine Arts and the offsite ‘golfing tournament’ promoted casual networking between industry peers. The easy-going nature of the activities drew in a large number of participants and allowed new connections to be made and old connections to be renewed.

The overall sense of camaraderie amongst the committee members at both the social gatherings, as well as the committee sessions, created a welcoming atmosphere for first time attendees of the event.



Women in Pump Industry Group Dinner. Women from all branches of the pump industry gathered together to discuss empowering workforce diversity.

Memorable Moments

While all of the scheduled meetings and sessions were highly advantageous to the conference’s progressive agenda, there were a few moments which stood out over the four-day event.

The general session, held on the final day of the conference, was particularly noteworthy. The highly anticipated session featured the economist, and keynote speaker, Dr. Alan Beaulieu, who addressed the state of economic conditions impacting the pump industry. Panellists from Engineering Procurement Consulting



Dr. Alan Beaulieu presenting his keynote speech on the state of economic conditions impacting the pump industry.



Panellists from Engineering Procurement Consulting (EPC) and Engineering Consulting (EC) firms. From left to right: Kirk Neubauer, Robert Burchette, Frank Michell and John Minahan.

(EPC) and Engineering Consulting (EC) firms also took this opportunity to share their perspectives and insights on industrial, water, wastewater, and other market and technology trends.

Events such as the CEO Roundtable, the Tabletop Exhibit and Reception, where associate members and suppliers showcased their latest products and technologies, and the Women in Pump Industry Group Dinner similarly had a significant impact on



HI general session presentation. All images courtesy of Hydraulic Institute.

participants. The conference’s dynamic agenda ensured that all facets of the pump industry were represented throughout the conference and allowed participants to walk away from the event with new insights and goals for the industry.

Looking Forward

The next HI conference will take place October of 2019, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA. Pump Engineer is looking forward to attending this upcoming event for the chance to continue growing and strengthen the connections we made at this year’s annual event. To become more involved with the conference, or for more information for upcoming events, please visit: <http://pumps.org/conferences.aspx>.