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 2020 HI conference took place this year at the lovely J.W. Marriott Starr Pass Tucson, Arizona, 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 sponsoring 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.
The breakfast on each day was typically followed by a series of committee meetings and presentations. Topics ranged from Rotary Pumps for Nomenclature, Definitions, Application, & Operation and ANSI/HI 3.6 Rotary Pump Tests, to Application Guidelines for Mechanical Seals for Pumps and CVMP Pump Piping. The event’s general session 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.

Interspersed between the committee sessions, were a number of engaging social opportunities. Events such as the ‘Guest Welcome Tea’, ‘Evening Welcome Reception’, and the offsite ‘golfing tournament’ and ‘mountain biking’ 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.

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 pump knowledge workshops for example, (Pump Couplings Failure Modes and Troubleshooting, and Instrumentation for Pumping Systems), offered advantageous insight into technical aspects of industrial pumps.

Continuing the HI tradition of recognizing women in the pump industry, the session with Karen Horting, Society of Women Engineers, and Kerrie Greenfelder, Society of Women Engineers, was also well worth attending. Both ladies discussed Men as Diversity Partners: Being a Champion of Women in Engineering, in a frank and open dialogue. Together they highlighted how men play an important role in achieving a truly inclusive environment.

Events such as the technical tour of General Rubber, Positive Displacement Roundtable and the Tabletop Exhibit and Reception, where associate members and suppliers, such as CFturbo and Vazel Mechanical Seals, showcased their latest products and technologies, similarly had a significant impact on participants. The keynote 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. 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 on October 26 – 29, 2020 in Savannah, GA, 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.