

HAC Moving to Fall Format Convention

You may recall that late last year HAC conducted a survey of its members on a prospective move to a Fall format convention and trade show. You may also recall that we conducted a similar survey two years ago, and we had an underwhelming response rate and a hung jury. Most recently, not only did we achieve a significantly higher response-rate, but there was a resounding majority in favour of a move to a Fall format.

Support for the move centred around the following Issues:

- Less conflict with HAI and the CHC Safety & Quality Summit. Some Associates commented "We just saw our customers at HAI, and sometime the logistics of moving from HAI to HAC when they are three weeks apart can present a challenge")
- "Between HAC and CHC running back-to-back in the Spring in Vancouver, we would have to take at least a full week out-of-the-office at our busiest time of the year..."
- Operators commented "In the Spring we are too busy preparing for the operating season, which means less focus on the HAC Convention and Committee work, particularly when HAC is later in the Spring. In the Fall, we can catch our breath and focus... and we might even have some money to spend..."
- "With a Fall Convention, the Committees may be able to maintain some momentum, rather than down-tools their work right after the convention to generate some revenue..."
- Operators who favoured a Fall Convention wanted to stay out of December owing to the conflict with Christmas preparations, but also didn't generally want an October convention if there was a late Fall operating season.

Your board and President decided as a bridge to a full Fall format Convention and AGM November 7-10 2013 in Vancouver, we will be holding a Fall Educational/Professional Development Forum and General Meeting in the Calgary Westin during the period November 4-5 2012. The General Meeting at that time will also be used to present some By-Law changes to the membership.

The Forum will include themes around the Oil & Gas industry, and a significantly enhanced training program both for Ops and Engineering-types, which will take place immediately before and the after the convention itself.

Because this will be the second General Meeting and trade show in the 2012 calendar year, and because we appreciate that our Associates and exhibitors were not planning on this event, the trade show will be less than one-third of the size of the Ottawa trade show, which was roughly 120 10X10 booths. We will return to a larger-than-ever trade show floor in Vancouver in 2013.

Please watch the HAC site for more details on the program, hotel options and other details.