

2009 Annual Report of the President

Council of Industrial Boiler Owners

**October 16, 2009
Omni La Mansion del Rio
San Antonio, Texas**

Back in October 2008 at CIBO's 30th Anniversary Meeting I mentioned CIBO had experienced Fuel shortages, embargos and Natural Gas Bubbles; Clean Air Act Amendments and more Amendments; all kinds of fuel use concerns, technology innovations and applications, roadblocks and hurdles; Business Boon and Bust Cycles; five (5) Presidential changes (good and bad); two (2) major Congressional Changes (good and bad); and a change in energy perception from science/engineering based to social/politically based. We were all looking forward to another Administration change; and assessing what we might be called on to do. We were beginning to see signs that the recession was beginning to lift; and there was a sense of optimism that any change would be good.

It is always interesting how foresight is always colored with hope and hindsight is always colored with reality. In any case, "Change" we got! Barack Obama won the election and President Barack H. Obama was sworn in on January 20th – right in the middle of the great recession. This is a recession that we are, only now, seeing some positive signs of recovery, and hearing projections that it could be a year of more before unemployment comes back to a level where it should be. It could be that long for companies to realize sustainable revenues and begin to exit survival mode economics.

With President Obama's victory and the acknowledged and proclaimed help of the environmental community for that, we are getting change. Environmental groups and individuals, who have been waiting since puberty, for a committed environmentalist President with a majority control of both the House and Senate, are ready to get what they want. Climate Change (formerly known as Global Warming) is the highest priority on their list with every other environmental regulation close behind. With the appointment of an Energy and Environment "CZAR" to coordinate the Administration's activities across all the Executive Branch offices in line with their supporter's demands, every one of CIBO's issues, Energy, Environmental and Technical, are fully active and engaged. If there is one that is not, it soon will be. Small (little) boilers that were once assumed safe are now on the block. If there is natural resource used or an environmental emission to the air, land or water, it is on the block. Change we got!

To date, participation is up in all areas of CIBO activity; and we are doing even more than last year. Again as you have heard from the Membership Committee and our Treasurer, we continue to hold our own and do better than could be expected considering the financial state of the country and regulatory uncertainty impacting energy and environmental projects. Because of the core technical knowledge and support of our members and consultants, CIBO continues to hold a strong and highly credible leadership position on all the major industrial energy and environmental issues. There are some

people in Washington and within the environmental community that do not practically like our questions when they may be trying to change the laws of physics.

CIBO staff: After 20 years, BJ Ogden left. Candy and Gail have been able to handle all the administrative needs with the outsourcing of the bookkeeping/accounting functions to a part-time person. Productivity and moral in the office are better than ever and no replacement is anticipated. As I say every year, you tell us what you would like to do or see, and we will do everything we can to make it happen. Members have priority over whatever we are doing. We are here for you. The meetings are set for next year. The quarterly meetings are again at the Radisson Crystal City; the FBC Conference is in Jacksonville, Florida, the Industrial Emissions Control Technology Conference is, again by popular mandate, back at the Holiday Inn in Portland, Maine; and, the Annual Meeting will be in Williamsburg, Virginia. Our job, for you, is to make what you want happen.

The linkage of energy and environmental issues and technology and operations is our strength. And, the knowledge and understanding of the fuels and energy equipment within Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector and how to make and use the required energy in an environmentally responsible and efficient way is the foundation upon which CIBO's strength has been built since our formation in 1978. With energy supply, environmental regulation and financial uncertainty at levels beyond anything experienced before and Climate Change driving a direct link between energy and environmental concerns, the stage is set. With your continued help and support, we are looking to another very busy and very good year in 2010.