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President's Message

Committee Update

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Joint Luncheon w/Appraisal Institute

10th Annual Twin Rivers Golf Event

Education

Membership

Professional Development

Relocation

Young Professionals

Career Hotline

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May Luncheon

Tuesday, May 14th at 11:30 a.m.
Place: Joe's Crab Shack — Austin Town Lake
600 East Riverside Drive, Austin, TX 78704
Topic: CTRMA – An Overview of Projects Currently Under Development
Speaker: Sean Beal, Managing Engineer for the CTRMA
Cost: $15/person

About our Chapter

Bluebonnet Chapter No. 74, is the Austin, TX, chapter of the International Right of Way Association. Our Chapter was founded in 1985 by professionals in the right of way field to unite members for education, to improve service to employers and the public, and to advance our members within the profession. We are part of Region 2 of the International Association. Our current membership includes professionals involved in a wide array of projects requiring real estate and right of way services.

Board of Directors Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the City of Austin. All are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please contact a Chapter 74 Officer.

Special points of interest:

- Joint Luncheon with Appraisal Institute (June 5)
- 59th Annual International Education Conference (June 23-26)
- Course 900 (July 11-12) Registration
- Membership Drive Challenge
- Career Hotline *new postings*
I was fortunate enough this past week to participate in a charity event sponsored by my company to benefit Haven for Hope here in San Antonio. As part of this weekend long event, Nustar brought in Anika Sorenstam, the most successful woman golfer of all time as the keynote speaker. As many remember years back, she created quite a stir by being the first woman to be invited to play on the PGA circuit since Babe Zaharias in 1945. Since her retirement in 2009, she has started a clothing line, a golf academy and a golf course design company. The thing that she credits her success on and off the course is her desire to always challenge herself. She indicated that her wanting to play in the PGA tournament was not about wanting to break into a man’s world, but about wanting to take on a challenge that would push her to play better and harder.

That point is something that we can take on in our own lives. How many times have we wanted to do something and then let our thoughts of failure take over and talk us out of it? I can say in my own life, there have been many times when that has happened. And many more when, thankfully my friends pushed and in some cases dragged me literally towards success. Years ago my good friend Lory had bought a boat and was going to teach me to water ski. I was ever very athletic and while I would watch skiers and want to be able to what they did, I thought that was a feat that was beyond my abilities. But Lory committed to teaching me to ski that summer and she did. But you know, the last run of the summer I got up and stayed up. It was so exciting. The next summer I slalomed for the first time. Although I haven’t skied in a few years now, that support and commitment pushed me into doing something I never thought I could and that has followed more and more things challenges conquered where my initial thought was “I’ll never be able to do that”.

Being part of the IRWA and on the Board of Directors was another challenge that I took on. I was looking for ways to explore my leadership potential and be a part of something. I can’t tell you how many times Randy Williams or Cheryl Speaker told me to just come to a Board meeting. I’m not really what finally made the difference, but eventually I did go and was put onto a committee and the rest, as they say, is history. The years participating in IRWA have been challenging and exciting. I have made true and wonderful friends. I have been continually challenged to grow and expand my horizons. This is true of everyone I have met. The individuals in this Chapter have always just amazed and awed me with their generosity and commitment to excellence. Chapter 74 has the highest percentage of individuals with either the SR/SA or one of the other certifications offered through IRWA. I hope that each of you will be continue to accept the challenges and opportunities offered through membership in IRWA.

We have so many great opportunities coming up in the next few months. We have another Young and Young at Heart Professionals Happy Hour at 219 West on the 21st of this month, the joint Luncheon with the Austin chapter of the Appraisal Institute on June 5, the International Conference in June, the Region 2 Education Update Seminar in August, the Eminent Domain Seminar in September, hold jointly with Chapter 39, not to mention our monthly luncheons. Come on out and see what is out there for you!

Denise L. Skinner, SR/SA
Chapter 74 - President
Committee Updates

**Monthly Luncheons** are typically held on the second Tuesday of each month. Please check the website each month as locations may change.

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**Asset Management**
Dean Harris, SR/WA
City of Austin, (512) 974-7061

**Communication**
Michelle Hawkins, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC
HDR Engineering, Inc., (512) 531-5915

**Education**
Sam Nassour, SR/WA
Contract Land Staff, LLC, (512) 346-6518

Luanne Dunn
City of Austin, (512) 974-7787

Lisa A. Hughes, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
Contract Land Staff, LLC, (512) 346-6518

**Local Public Agency**
John Reed, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC
Compliant Relocation Services, LLC, (512) 468-5097

**Membership**
Wade McNeill
Integra Realty Resources-Austin, (512) 459-3440

**Nominations**
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City of Austin, (512) 974-7193

Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA
Cintra U.S., (512) 637-8545

Teri Morgan, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
HDR Engineering, Inc., (512) 431-2742

**Professional Development**
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**Programs**
Susan Dwyer
(512) 658-8508

Alex Gale, R/W-RAC
HDR Engineering, Inc., (512) 239-9750

**Relocation**
David Harrah, R/W-RAC
TxDOT-Right of Way Division, (512) 416-2962

**September Seminar**
Elizabeth Norris
Atkins, (512) 342-3443

**Transportation**
Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA
Cintra U.S., (512) 637-8545

**Utilities**
Kerry Fulton, SR/WA
TxDOT-Strategic Project Division, (512) 531-5905

Freddy Lopez, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
LV Right of Way and Real Estate Service, Inc., (512) 913-6387

**Valuation**
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Atrium Real Estate Services, (512) 453-7407

**Young Professionals**
Mark Mendez
Aria Consulting Management Group, Inc., (512) 351-2774
April Luncheon Photos

Thank you Sheila Mills for updating our Chapter on TxDOT’s ROW Modernization & New Organization

POT OF GOLD
WINNER
Freddy Lopez, LV ROW & Real Estate Services
Please join us at the IRWA Chapter 74 and Appraisal Institute Annual Joint Luncheon being held on Wednesday, June 5th at 11:30 A.M at the City of Austin Learning Center (2800 Spirit of Texas Drive).

Topic: **Senate Bill 18 - When is direct access materially impaired?**  
(2 hours credit for IRWA, MCLE, MCE, ACE, & AI)

Speakers:
- Michael Barron, Attorney, Barron & Adler
- Susan Bonnen, Asst. Attorney General, Texas Attorney General
- Lynn Eckmann, Appraiser, Eckmann Groll, Inc.
- Rudy Robinson, MAI Appraiser, Austin Valuation Consultants
- Randy Ward, J.D., TxDOT - Moderator

*Please RSVP to reserve your BBQ plate - $25/per person. Cash/Check will be accepted at door.*

Click here for [Map to Learning & Research Center](#)

*Contact Michelle Hawkins if you didn’t receive Evite to RSVP!*
The planning is underway!!

The Onion Creek Golf Club has been booked for the 10th Annual Twin Rivers ED Golf Tournament benefiting Make-A-Wish on September 5, 2013.

Last year was a lot of fun and almost doubled the contribution we made in previous years. Thanks to all the golfers, sponsors and volunteers that made that happen.

It's not too early to call for sponsorships. It's the same this year: hole sponsor $100, silver sponsor $250, gold sponsor $500 and platinum sponsor $1,000.

Last year's donation will be sending Alan, a three-year old boy, from Pflugerville to Disneyworld in June!!

Let's work hard to grant two wishes next year!!!!! Contact any golf committee member (David Harrah, Steve Bohuslay, Bill Maples, Connie Real, Denise Skinner, Cheryl Speaker, Randall Potts, Martha Dowlearn, Maggie Schedler or John Reed) for further details, and watch for more announcements to come.

Thanks,
John Reed
Chairman, ED Golf Committee
# Education News

## Upcoming Seminars / Conferences:

- **59th Annual International Education Conference** *(June 23-26)* Charleston, WV
- **2013 IRWA Region 2 Refresher** *(July 31-August 2)* College Station, TX
- **Eminent Domain Seminar** *(September 6)* San Marcos, TX

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Chapter 74 will be offering 4 classes in 2013.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Principles of Land Acquisition</td>
<td>02/26 thru 03/01</td>
<td>Maggie Schedler</td>
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<td>Residential Relocation Assistance</td>
<td>04/05 &amp; 04/05</td>
<td>Luanne Dunn</td>
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<td>219</td>
<td>Introduction to Presentation, Instruction and Facilitation</td>
<td>05/01 &amp; 05/02</td>
<td>Sam Nassour</td>
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<td>Integrating Appraisal Standards</td>
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<td>Connie Real</td>
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<td>900</td>
<td>Principles of Real Estate Engineering</td>
<td>07/11 &amp; 07/12</td>
<td>Luanne Dunn</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>Principles of Real Estate Negotiation</td>
<td>09/19 &amp; 09/20</td>
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<td>600</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>215</td>
<td>Right of Way Agent’s Development Program</td>
<td>11/07 &amp; 11/08</td>
<td>Sam Nassour</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you need additional information on courses, contact:

- **Sam Nassour**, SR/WA  
  512) 346-6518
- **Luanne Dunn**  
  512) 974-7787
- **Lisa A. Hughes**, SR/WA, R/W-RAC  
  512) 346-6518
Chapter 74 would like to welcome our new members:
- Albert Betita, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Jesse Cooper, Texas Department of Transportation
- Maria Sedlachek, MLS Land Services, Inc.

Is STILL in the LEAD!!

If you have a competitive nature, here’s the deal! Chapter 74 wants to challenge each organization to promote and encourage their employs to become members of our chapter. The organization that has the most amount of people to join our chapter will receive a full year of advertising on our Chapter website for 2014. The winners will be announced in mid-December. May the best organization win!!!!

Contact Wade McNeil to become a Chapter 74 member or visit www.irwa74austin.org to submit your application electronically.
Congratulations!

~ TO ~

Rachel Lopez & Alejandro (Alex) Lopez
for completing the
Right of Way Agent Certification (RWA)

This certification is the first step in the generalist program toward the SR/WA,
(Senior Right of Way Professional Designation)

If you have any Professional Development questions, please contact Cheryl Speaker.
So you’ve been working in relocation for years. In addition, you put in the classroom hours, passed the exams and earned your credentials as a certified relocation specialist but that doesn’t mean this journey is over. Your credential from the IRWA notifies others that you are committed to professionalism in your field through ethical behavior and continuing education.

Many of us have taken classes where one or two of the students are there for recertification credit and now you need the same thing but how do you know what counts. Recertification for a generalist differs somewhat from a specialist. Generalist certification requires that of the total number of continuing educational units (CEUs) required for recertification a certain number of those CEUs must be from IRWA ethics and other courses. The remaining requirement can also be IRWA course work or through IRWA approved courses, conferences and/or seminars. Opportunities to earn these general CEUs are numerous and hopefully won’t pose a challenge to you. As a specialist however, you have an additional requirement to ensure that a required number of your recertification credits are earned by participating in a course for that certification discipline.

Qualifying relocation courses are available from numerous sources. Most obviously there are the IRWA courses from the 500 series but you can also receive credit for any of the three National Highways Institute courses (NHI 141029, 141030, and 141031) or four courses approved for recertification presented by ORC Training (ORC 303, 304, 306 and 308). At the time of this article’s writing the only course approved as a relocation discipline recertification credit is IRWA’s course 105 “The Uniform Act Executive Summary”.

While the majority of the discipline’s CEUs are not offered on-line there is something to be anticipating. One of the IPDC’s priorities is the development of on-line relocation offerings. In the meantime if you have a course or event in mind you think might qualify for recertification credits work with the chapter professional development chair or contact IRWA headquarters professional development staff. Good luck in all your educational pursuits!

David Harrah, R/W-RAC
Chapter 74 - Relocation Committee Chair
Young Professionals

New to IRWA? Interested in meeting other members and learning more about IRWA?

Come network with the Young Professionals of IRWA!!

Social events provide great opportunities to get connected with other IRWA members and expand your business network. They are also an excellent way to learn more about the organization if you are interested in joining.

If you would like more information about Chapter 74 Young Professionals, please contact Mark Mendez.
Career Hotline

Contact Land Staff, LLC has various job openings. click here to view job details.

HDR Engineering, Inc. has various job openings in the TX-Dallas area.
- Right of Way Project Manager
- Administrative Project Coordinator
  - Right of Way Appraiser
  - Sr. Right of Way Agent
  - Sr. Relocation Agent
- Sr. Right of Way Technician-Real Estate Services
  - Title Agent
  - Right of Way Agent
- Real Estate Services Technical Assistant

City of Austin is looking for Senior Appraiser with the Office of Real Estate Services click here to view job details.

Paul Hornsby & Company has an immediate opening for a real property appraiser with a minimum of three (3) years of experience. Practice areas include eminent domain, ad valorem tax, and general commercial litigation valuation. Please email inquiries in confidence to Paul Hornsby & Company at phornsby@paulhornsbyandco.com

TxDOT Strategic Projects Division (SPD) has several openings for right of way team leaders. The Management position will be located in Austin, Dallas/Ft Worth metro area, and Houston. The position would be working on the Comprehensive Development Agreements and the Design/Build projects under SPD oversight. If you are interested, please look for the positions on the Department’s web site at www.txdot.gov. If you have questions, please contact Don Toner at don.toner@txdot.gov.

Please send newsletter article submissions to:

Michelle Hawkins, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
HDR Engineering, Inc.
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Chapter 74 Bluebonnet is a publication of the International Right of Way Association.