



Bluebonnet News

Closing the Distance



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President's Message

Chapter 74 Members,

Well, here we are learning to adapt to social distancing and virtual meetings. We have all had to learn new skills, develop new routines, and maybe we've discovered some things about ourselves, as well.

Please know that the IRWA leadership team are continuing to take steps to keep our members safe while still providing opportunities to learn and network. Our education committee is looking at converting some of our upcoming courses to "Virtual" classes instead of in-person courses.

Although the Region 2 Spring Forum was cancelled, the Region 2 business meeting was still held on April 3rd. The Region Officers for 2020-2021 were elected. Denise Skinner will serve as Region Chair, Erin Newberry will serve as Region Vice Chair and Maggie Schedler will serve as Secretary/Treasurer. We continued planning for the Refresher Seminar in College Station and chose the theme "Closing the Distance: Coming Back Together for Education and Professional Growth".

Nominations for Young Professional of the Year, Right of Way Professional of the Year and Right of Way Employer of the Year will close on April 30th, so, please, get those nominations in today!

Chapter Officer election procedures will be revised this year due to the current situation we find ourselves in and the "Stay Home – Work Safe Order" signed by Mayor Adler on April 13th. You will find important details on the election in the newsletter.

Remember to submit your application to the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) 20/20 Vision Scholarship Program by May 1st, 2020. The program is targeted toward those individuals committed to achieving the RWA and/or the RWP credential.

Please check our website (<https://irwachapter74.org/>) and follow us on LinkedIn for updates on upcoming events.

I hope that each of you and your families are staying healthy and happy. I look forward to seeing you in person soon!



Lori Bible, SR/WA
Chapter 74 President

Past Presidents

- 2018 Alex Gale, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
- 2017 Virginia Anderson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
- 2016 Maggie Schedler, R/W-RAC
- 2015 Patti Bell, SR/WA
- 2014 Donald C. Toner, SR/WA
- 2013 Denise Skinner, SR/WA
- 2012 Teri J. Morgan, SR/WA
- 2011 Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA
- 2010 Lory R. Johnson, MAI, SR/WA
- 2009 Ron Olderoog, MAI, SR/WA
- 2008 John Reed, SR/WA
- 2007 Connie Real, PMP, SR/WA
- 2006 Tinker Cotton, SR/WA
- 2005 Steve Bohuslav, SR/WA
- 2004 Steve Beck, MAI, SR/WA
- 2003 Elizabeth Norris
- 2002 Elisa Garcia
- 2001 Randall Kopfer, IFA, SR/WA
- 2000 Laurie Park, SR/WA
- 1999 George Schlemeyer, SR/WA
- 1998 Lauraine Rizer, SR/WA
- 1997 Randy Williams, MAI, SR/WA
- 1996 Margie Hamby, SR/WA
- 1995 Dean Harris, SR/WA
- 1994 Mary Jane Amezquita
- 1993 Larry O'Neal, SR/WA
- 1992 Sandra Bishop
- 1991 John Baylor
- 1990 Cheryl Bennett
- 1989 Rayburn Corbitt, MAI
- 1988 Josie Wiltzius, SR/WA
- 1987 Greg Althoff, SR/WA
- 1986 Richard Steubing
- 1985 Charles Clinger, SR/WA



Nominations

Nominees for the IRWA’s Right of Way Professionals of the Year, Young Right of Way Professionals and Right of Way Employer of the Year Award are assessed based on demonstrated support of employees and commitment to the IRWA at the chapter, regional, and international levels in terms of participation, financing, time allowance, facilities, and services.

Chapter 74 Nominations Committee asks all members to report outstanding Right of Way Professionals, Young Right of Way Professionals and Right of Way Employers.

These individuals or employers will be dedicated to excellence in the industry and actively involved in our Chapter.

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**Submit Nominations to:**

Randy Williams - [Randy.Williams@am.jll.com](mailto:Randy.Williams@am.jll.com)

Ron Olderog - [ronald.olderog@austintexas.gov](mailto:ronald.olderog@austintexas.gov)

Virginia Anderson - [virginia@aria-cmg.com](mailto:virginia@aria-cmg.com)  
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Annual Nominations:

Official Open Date: March 1, 2020

Official Close Date: April 30, 2020

Nominations for Professional, Young Professional and Employer of the Year must be submitted by April 30th.

Attached to the newsletter email are the required forms to be submitted to the Nominations Committee by the deadline date. Forms can also be found on the chapter website <https://irwachapter74.org/>.

Officer Nominations:

Official Open Date: March 1, 2020

Official Close Date: May 1, 2020 – Online submission only

Chapter members interested in becoming an officer must submit a biography and rationale for candidacy to the Nominations Committee by the deadline date of Friday May 1, 2020 close of business day.

All candidates have the opportunity to speak at the April 14th Chapter (luncheon) meeting and candidate submissions are placed in the April 15, 2020 Newsletter.

Membership also has an option to run for candidacy from the floor at the May 12th Chapter (luncheon) meeting.

Election of 2020/2021 Chapter Officers will be held at the May 12th Chapter meeting, votes will be tallied, and the Nominations Committee will announce the winners at the close of the (luncheon) meeting.



Candidacy forms can be found on-line at <https://irwachapter74.org/news/> and attached to this email.

Candidacy for Chapter Secretary of IRWA Chapter 74

Laura Nelson, Senior Right-of-Way Specialist



With more than 19 years of service in the Right-of-Way industry, Ms. Nelson began her right-of-way career working on the SH 130 project, soon after Laura joined the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin District Right-of-Way department, During her time at TxDOT Laura mastered the right-of-way process guidelines, laws, rules and TxDOT requirements from environmental approval to recording of right of way maps. With a deep understanding of the entire process Laura was able to provide cost estimates and oversee all expenditures through completion and close out of the right-of-way.

Along the way, Laura built positive relationships with both property owners and community leaders. Laura is highly skilled in real estate, law, negotiation, acquisition, title, and condemnation support services. Laura served in the role as Local Government Agency Project Manager and is a highly valued asset providing federal and state auditing for acquisition and relocation assistance services for hundreds of projects.

Every weekend Laura volunteers with a non-profit organization called Minis and Friends and sits on the board of directors for the organization. Minis and Friends is a unique program and tailors activities for children with disabilities, at-risk youth, individuals in transition, and elder adults to improve their motor skills, ability to connect, tactile response, use of senses and spirits through interaction with miniature horses



- Be a cupcake in a world of muffins
- Create your own sunshine.
- Life is simple. It's just not easy.
- Start somewhere.
- Better an Oops, than a what if.
- Life is too short for bad vibes.
- Remember that happiness is a way of travel- not a destination.
- Stay strong. Make them wonder why you are still smiling.
- Never be afraid of what you are going for.
- In a world where you can be anyone, be yourself
- Success is in my veins
- Turned my dreams into my vision and my vision into my reality
- Strong. Silly. Straight up class act.

Candidacy for Chapter Secretary of IRWA Chapter 74



David Baylor, SR/WA

For those who do not know me, my name is David Baylor and I have served as Chapter 74's Program Committee's Chair for the past two years. This experience has opened my eyes to just how much effort is needed to not only effectively run an IRWA chapter, but also how much commitment is needed from all members of the Chapter Board, the various committees and the membership at large. It truly takes a team approach to function effectively for the benefit of the membership. Therefore, I have decided to seek the position of Chapter Secretary for the upcoming term.

Personally, the past few years have provided a whirlwind of experiences for me, and I have come away with a much greater appreciation of the IRWA and its role in our industry. During the past three years I have taken more than a dozen IRWA educational courses, earned my SR/WA designation and helped start a right of way team from the ground floor at LJA Engineering. During this time, I have encountered a large number of committed professionals who care a great deal about the success of not only their own careers, but the success of the IRWA and Chapter 74 in particular. That enthusiasm is infectious, and I want to join them in furthering our Chapter's and our members' success.

Those who know me well can attest that I am detail-oriented and goal-driven. My role as a Director with LJA in the Transportation and Public Infrastructure sector has prepared me for additional leadership opportunities. As an example, with aid of several other members, I helped to research and implement a solution to allow credit card payments at our luncheons and other Chapter events.

After earning a real estate degree from the University of Texas at Austin, I have 32 years' experience in providing real estate and right of way services, including appraisal, acquisition, title clearing, and condemnation support. Born in Austin, I now reside in Georgetown with my wife and two high school aged children.

I would be honored to have your support for my candidacy. Thank you!



2019 - 2020 Chapter Officers



President

Lori Bible, SR/WA



Vice President

Tara O'Neal



Treasurer

Barbara Price



Secretary

Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC



Director 1 Year

Virginia J. Anderson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC



Director 2 Year

Alex Gale, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-NAC



Election of 2020/2021 Chapter Officers to be held at the first Chapter meeting in May.



How to wash your hands properly

1 Wet your hands

2 Liquid soap

3 Lather and scrub - 20 sec

4 Rinse - 10 sec

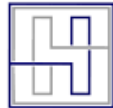
5 Dry your hands

6 Turn off tap

DON'T FORGET TO WASH:

- between your fingers
- under your nails
- the tops of your hands





Interested in sponsoring? Contact a member of the Communications Committee