



## The Bluebonnet

### 2020 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Due to COVID-19, IRWA had to cancel the Annual International Education Conference. However, the team worked hard to prepare a list of [virtual events](#) and distributed the Award announcements via email. See Page 7 of the newsletter for all the details regarding the 2020 International Education Conference.

As a reminder, the 2021 International Education Conference is scheduled to be held June 6-9, 2021 in San Antonio, TX.

### 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, 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. All are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please contact a Chapter 74 Officer.

The Chapters By-Laws are available [online](#).



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## OUTGOING PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Chapter 74 Members,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for opportunity to serve Chapter 74 as President this past year. And, what a year it was! We successfully updated our Bylaws for the first time in years. Our new Bylaws are now consistent with International’s Bylaws.

We started out the year with clear goals to increase our education course offerings and membership roster. We developed a plan to achieve those goals and were tracking very well to meet our goals. And then our world changed drastically – who knew we would be dealing with a pandemic! While we did not ultimately meet the goals set last year, I’m grateful for our volunteer committee members who gave untold hours to serve our Chapter. Our Chapter is better for their contribution.

I’m looking forward to serving as the Chapter’s 2-year Director and hope to see you soon.



Lori Bible, SR/WA  
Chapter 74 President

*Thank you Lori for your guidance and contribution to the Chapter throughout your presidency!*

## July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### PAST PRESIDENTS

2018 Alex Gale, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC

2017 Virginia Anderson, SR/WA, R/WRAC, 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 Olderog, 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

## 2020—2021 CHAPTER 74 OFFICERS



**President**  
Tara O'Neal



**Vice President**  
Barbara Price



**Treasurer**  
Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC



**Secretary**  
David Baylor, SR/WA



**Director 1 Year**  
Alex Gale, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-NAC



**Director 2 Year**  
Lori Bible, SR/WA

Volunteer opportunities are still available for the 2020-2021 chapter committees.

If you are interested in serving, please reach out to the chair of the committee or a chapter officer by clicking the email links within the newsletter.

## 2020—2021 CHAPTER COMMITTEES

### MEMBERSHIP

[Leslie Persia](#)

### EDUCATION

[Alexis Vanzura](#)

Laurie Miller  
Jaylia Travis

### PROGRAMS

[Lisa Cooper](#)

Shannon Gray

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[John Campbell](#)

Kimberly McClung

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

[Max Roach](#)

Jaylia Travis  
Pierce DeMarco  
Stephanie Ferraris  
Nicki Hebert

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### NEWSLETTER

[Lisa Cooper](#)

#### WEBSITE

[Ray Rials](#)

#### LEGAL

[Kimberly McClung](#)

#### VALUATION

[Cathy Thomas](#)

#### NOMINATIONS

[Randy Williams](#)

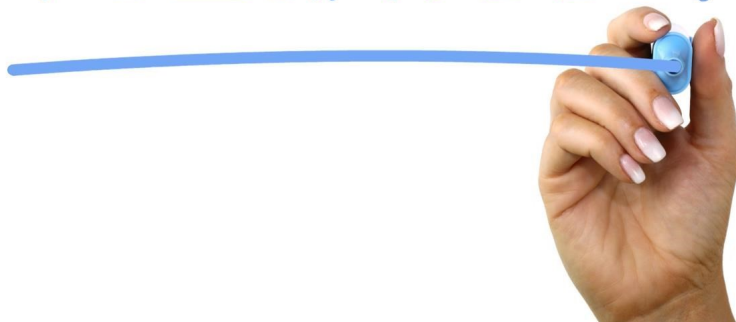
Ron Olderog

#### SEPTEMBER

#### SEMINAR

[Liz Norris](#)

# VOLUNTEER



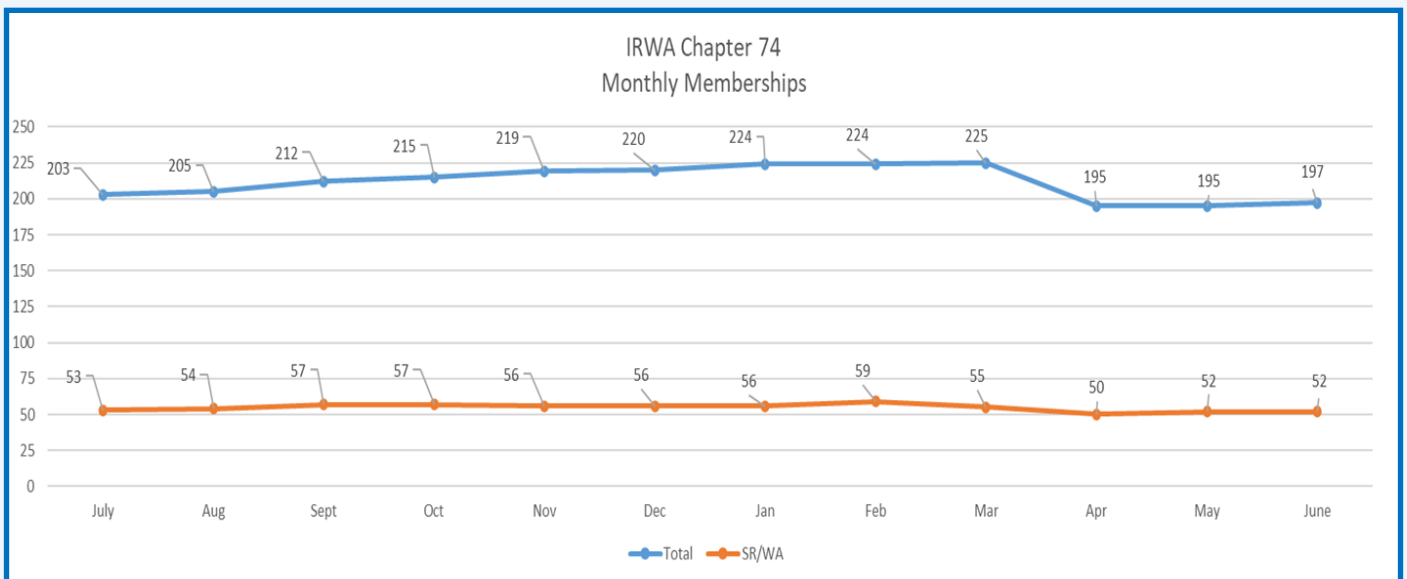
## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE

IRWA has started the membership renewal period and with the addition of [Online Renewal](#) it has never been easier to renew your IRWA membership!

By renewing your membership, you stay connected to your profession through, Right of Way Magazine, educational programs, and the community of your peers. You also receive reduced member rates when you take a course, as well as when you attend Association conferences, seminars, and Chapter meetings and events.

If you are facing the difficult choice of paying for your dues out of your own pocket- or letting your membership lapse altogether, we encourage you to call the IRWA Headquarters to discuss options on how you can maintain your membership for the upcoming year.

Don't let your membership lapse. Renew your IRWA membership today by going to [www.irwaonline.org](http://www.irwaonline.org) and clicking on "Membership" at the top of the homepage, then "Dues Renewal Invoice" on the right side, or by contacting Mariah Carrillo, Membership Services at 310-538-0233 ext. 134 by email [carrillo@irwaonline.org](mailto:carrillo@irwaonline.org).



## EDUCATION

Though many in-person courses and seminars are suspended due to COVID-19, IRWA leadership is working hard to make education available to the members.



### IRWA ON-DEMAND ONLINE COURSE SUMMER SALE

**\$100 OFF All  
On-Demand Online  
Courses**

Promotion Runs from  
noon on Thursday, July  
16, 2020 until noon on  
Friday, August 14, 2020

**Sign Up Online Today!**

## REGION 2 SPONSORED IRWA COURSE 105



19210 S. Vermont Avenue, Building A, Suite 100  
Gardena, CA 90248  
Phone: (310) 538-0233  
www.irwaonline.org

### Course 105: The Uniform Act Executive Summary August 5, 2020

**Virtual Class - Start Time 8am Central**



### Course 105: The Uniform Act Executive Summary

#### Course Description:

This course will benefit anyone who wants to learn more about the Uniform Relocation Assistance & Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and provides a better understanding of land acquisition activities that receive federal financial assistance or that utilize federal regulations. Participants will have knowledge in relocation assistance and the steps in a typical land acquisition project; specifically, project components and impacts on both project schedules and budgets..

#### Course Level:

Core

#### Tuition Includes:

- Participant Manual
- Federal Register

#### Topics:

- Key components of land acquisition activities
- Federal land acquisition and relocation assistance requirements
- Steps in a land acquisition project

#### Recommended Materials:

- Principles of Right of Way Textbook (desk reference)
  - Real Estate Dictionary (separate purchase)
- Both can be purchased separately through [www.irwapublications.org](http://www.irwapublications.org)

#### Who Should Take This Course:

This course is intended for administrators, appraisers, engineers and managers with little or no background in the relocation program; but who want to learn more about the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended..

**Register Online Today!**





## **IRWA 2020 AWARD WINNERS**

### **FRANK C. BALFOUR PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

**Fredrick L. Easton Jr., SR/WA, R/W-AMC**

### **W. HOWARD ARMSTRONG INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR**

**KRISTEN BENNETT, SR/WA, R/W-RAC**

### **YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

**Robert W. "Will" Snider, RWA, R/W-AC**

### **SARPA & CRWEF SCHOLARSHIP**

**Gavin Hamilton**

### **CRWEF SCHOLARSHIP**

**Abigail Bowering**

### **CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**

**Fort Worth/Dallas - Chapter 36, Region 2**

### **NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR**

**"Write Away CA" - Chapter 47, Region 1**

### **WEBSITE OF THE YEAR**

**Sacramento - Chapter 27, Region 1**

### **EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR - LESS THAN 20 EMPLOYEES**

**United Power, Inc.—Chapter 6, Region 9**

### **EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR - MORE THAN 20 EMPLOYEES**

**Pugent Sound Energy—Chapter 4, Region 7**

### **EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR - GOVERNMENT**

**LA Metro — Chapter 1, Region 1**

### **GENE L. LAND AWARD - HIGHEST NUMERICAL GAIN**

**North Texas - Chapter 36, Region 2**

### **GENE L. LAND AWARD - HIGHEST PERCENTAGE GAIN**

**Saudi Arabia - Chapter 87**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Programs Committee is actively seeking chapter members interested in assisting the committee.

Please [contact us](#) for more information on how you can support the Chapter.

## PROGRAMS

Due to COVID-19, the monthly meetings have not been held since February. The chapter is looking to hold virtual meetings in the near future to update the membership on news as well as provide online programs during the lunch hour.

Any suggestions for topics and/or speakers by the membership are welcome. Please contact the [Programs Committee](#) with your comments.

The **September Eminent Domain Seminar** is being coordinated as a virtual event. Additional information to be provided as available.

Chapter 74 will be partnering with the [Central Texas Food Bank](#) for an upcoming food drive. Please be on the lookout for emails related to this fundraising opportunity in the near future.

Details regarding the Central Texas Foodbank and their mission are included behind this month's newsletter.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## *NEW CERTIFICATIONS*

**Jaylia Travis**, RWA with O.R. Colan Associates, LLC received notification of having successfully completed the education, experience, course requirements and examination necessary to achieve her Right of Way Agent Certification (RWA) under the Generalist industry pathway.

**Enrique Perez**, R/W-RAC with HDR Engineering, Inc. received notification of having successfully satisfied the experience, course curriculum and capstone examination requirements for his Right of Way-Relocation Assistance (R/W-RAC) specialty certification.

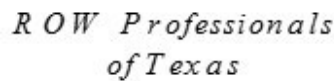


## *RENEWALS*

**Rhonda Young**, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC with HDR Engineering, Inc. received notification of her R/W RAC Recertification.

**Lisa Robinson**, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC with Contract Land Staff, LLC received notification of her R/W RAC Recertification.

## CHAPTER SPONSORS



STAY CONNECTED

FIND US ONLINE!

Chapter 74 Website:  
[www.irwa74austin.org](http://www.irwa74austin.org)

IRWA Website:  
[www.irwaonline.org](http://www.irwaonline.org)

IRWA Region 2 Website:  
[www.irwaregion2.org](http://www.irwaregion2.org)

COMMUNICATIONS  
CONTACTS

Website Questions?  
Contact [Ray Rials](#)

Newsletter Questions/  
Contributions?  
Contact [Lisa Cooper](#)

Contact [Ray Rials](#) to  
become an IRWA  
Chapter 74 Sponsor.

# FOOD BANK OVERVIEW

July 2020

## Hunger in Central Texas:

- There are more than 400,000 food-insecure people in the Food Bank's 21-county service area.
- 1 in 7 Central Texans (13.5%), and 1 in 5 Central Texas children (19%) are at risk of hunger. The child hunger figure is 8% above the national average.
- Nearly 40% of Central Texans facing food insecurity make too much to qualify for federal nutrition assistance programs. For these working poor, food assistance provided by the Food Bank and its Partner Agencies is crucial.

## Food Bank Facts:

- Nearly 50,000 Central Texans across 21 counties rely on our services each week. One-third of them are children.
- In the last fiscal year, we distributed more than 52 million pounds of food. That's equivalent to more than 43 million meals.
- About 80 percent of our Partner Agencies say without support from us, their ability to serve clients would be jeopardized.
- Due to our efficiency, every \$1 donated provides 4 meals.

## Who We Serve:

- 93 percent of our clients are not homeless.
- Nearly two-thirds of our client households had at least one working adult at home in the last year.
- About 80 percent of our clients had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care in the past year; two-thirds had to choose between food and housing.
- More than 60% of our clients must rely on receiving food from us or one of our Partner Agencies as a part of their everyday lives.
- Nearly 90 percent of our clients who are SNAP participants say that those benefits run out in three weeks or less each month.

## What's New?

- The Food Bank continues to meet the needs of those facing hunger through our network of mobile food pantries and partner agencies. Although a few partner pantries have suspended operations temporarily, all but three are still operating. We are also doing special drive-through distributions in the Austin area as well Waco and Temple.
- We continue to see a dramatic increase in the need for our services, have made changes to our distribution methods and are having to buy more food at or near retail prices in order to meet demand.
- The best way to help right now is with monetary donations, which give us the flexibility to purchase exactly what we need for this situation. Please go to [centraltexasfoodbank.org](http://centraltexasfoodbank.org) and donate if you can. You can also start a virtual food drive with your friends, colleagues and social network at [centraltexasfoodbank.org/virtualfooddrive](http://centraltexasfoodbank.org/virtualfooddrive).

## About the Food Bank

The Central Texas Food Bank provides food and grocery products through a network of about 300 Partner Agencies and mobile food pantries, serving nearly 50,000 people every week. Though headquartered in Austin, the Food Bank Serves 21 counties in Central Texas—an area about twice the size of Massachusetts.

Through social services programs and nutrition education courses, we help clients access nutritious food and promote healthy eating habits.

## Our Mission

To nourish hungry people and lead the community in the fight against hunger.

## Fulfilling Our Mission

The Central Texas Food Bank is on the front line of hunger relief helping nearly 50,000 Central Texans each week access nutritious food when they need it the most.

We believe all Central Texans should have access to the nutritious food necessary to achieve their full potential.

As the largest hunger-relief charity in Central Texas, our programs and community partnerships with businesses, agencies and other nonprofits make it possible to improve the nutrition of the more than 400,000 Central Texans who are at risk of hunger.



# FOOD BANK OVERVIEW

July 2020

## Food Bank Facility

- Full operations at our southeast Austin headquarters commenced on June 20, 2016.
- This 135,000-square foot distribution facility is located at 6500 Metropolis Drive and includes a dry storage warehouse, refrigerator and freezer space, a commercial kitchen, a teaching garden and 15 loading docks.

## How to Help:

Donors, volunteers and advocates make it possible for the Food Bank to connect more people to healthy food and reduce the health risks associated with an insufficient diet.

### Donate

Every \$1 donated provides four meals. We have been awarded Charity Navigator's highest rating, and 96 percent of your gift goes directly to support our programs.

### Volunteer

We couldn't do what we do without dedicated volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers to help prepare food donations for distribution, assist with delivering food at a Mobile Food Pantry, or lend a hand in our kitchen or garden. Visit [centraltexasfoodbank.org/volunteer](http://centraltexasfoodbank.org/volunteer) to check out the opportunities.

### Advocate

Help us inform elected officials and your neighbors about this growing public health crisis. More information can be found on our website at [centraltexasfoodbank.org](http://centraltexasfoodbank.org) to help you share our message and get involved.

## The Need

Central Texans face impossible choices and make painful sacrifices that prevent them from accessing healthy, nutritious food.

As a result, many turn to the Food Bank for help in emergencies or as part of their regular meal planning.

## Donations

Our most requested food items are:

- Peanut butter
- Canned chicken breast or tuna
- Canned low sodium vegetables
- Canned fruit in its own juice (no sugar added)
- Dry pinto beans
- Brown rice
- Non-fat dry milk powder
- 100 percent whole grain cereal

Or make your dollar go further by hosting a virtual food drive! Every dollar donated can be used to create four nutritious meals for our neighbors in need.

**For more information, visit:**  
**[centraltexasfoodbank.org](http://centraltexasfoodbank.org)**



In partnership with **FEEDING AMERICA™**



# COMMUNITY KITCHEN

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The Central Texas Food Bank facility includes a 4,200-square foot kitchen that gives us the ability to expand Food Bank programming and community engagement across our 21-county service territory. We are able to offer scratch on-site meal preparation for multiple programs, culinary job training and volunteer opportunities in the kitchen with individuals and organizations. The kitchen uses an integrated full-circle approach to meal preparation and job training that will allow us to serve healthier food more efficiently and at the same time provide training that will improve employment and reduce problems that lead to hunger.

## VALUE ADDED MEALS

Creating meals in-house helps reduce food waste and increases the distribution of nutritious cooked meals. Since early October of 2016, the kitchen has been packaging meals for distribution to our network of more than 250 Partner Agencies. Prepared meals come in a frozen one pound container equaling two servings and require minimal preparation.

Even though the Food Bank covers the cost of preparing the meals, Partner Agencies who order the meals incur a small shared maintenance fee to help with the packaging and cost of goods, but is less than one-third of what a frozen meal at a grocery store costs. Clients can complement their Value Added Meals entrée with other fresh produce or canned food items they usually receive at a Partner Agency to complete their meal.



## CHILDREN'S MEALS

With one in four children in Central Texas at risk of hunger, the Food Bank strives to make sure children get nourishing meals at our Kids Cafe after school programs and during the summer at our summer meal sites. The kitchen allows us to cook and prepare meals for the children on-site. By making our own meals, we can serve better quality cold meals, and for the first time, serve hot meals. In 2019, the Central Texas Food Bank served nearly 73,000 nutritious meals and more than 36,000 healthy snacks to children at 86 sites, all prepared in our own kitchen.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Culinary Training

Since 2018, our culinary training program has been training students in culinary arts to help them find a career in the food industry. Participants receive the job and life skills they need to be successful, while supporting our programs. We have successfully graduated six classes since the start of the program, with students going on to working in local kitchens or starting their own catering businesses.

### Externs

We host graduates from local culinary colleges as externs who complete their required externship hours while giving back to the community and providing inspiration to our community culinary students.

### Volunteers

Helping prepare meals in the kitchen is an exciting volunteer opportunity for both long-time Food Bank volunteers and newcomers. Their assistance is critical in maintaining kitchen production and helping fight hunger in Central Texas.



# CHOICES

## NUTRITION EDUCATION

**The Central Texas Food Bank is committed to healthy foods and healthy lives.** Hunger and health are deeply connected. Research shows that those facing food insecurity have limited access or no resources to purchase the nutritious foods that are critical to their overall health, growth, and development. Consequently, inexpensive and less nutritious foods are sometimes the only option, leading to increased risk and/or incidence of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and other diet-related conditions and diseases. For that reason, our registered dietitians and nutritionists work with food bank staff to ensure our food acquisition and distribution processes provide our clients access to enough nutritious foods for active and healthy lives.

**In addition to providing access to healthy foods, the CHOICES Nutrition Education Program offers a series of bilingual nutrition education, cooking and gardening classes that teach individuals and families how to shop for and how to prepare easy, nutrient-dense meals from budget-friendly grocery items and foods typically supplied through the Food Bank's network of more than 250 Partner Agencies.** In fiscal year 2018-2019, more than 5,008 unique participants were educated through 480 nutrition education classes, cooking demonstrations or grocery store tours.



*Participants learn the benefits of buying produce in-season while attending a guided grocery store tour.*

### **Participants in our youth and adult classes can expect:**

- Lessons that include the latest, research-based information from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and cover topics about physical activity, nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices, food preparation (cooking), and food resource management (saving money at the grocery store), eating a variety of healthy foods from all of the food groups, food safety, reducing fat, sugar and salt, and feeding children.
- Children learn to increase their consumption of fruits, vegetables, low-fat milk, and whole grains; decrease their intake of foods high in saturated fat and sugar; and increase their physical activity. They also learn how to decrease their screen time while discovering how to engage in environmentally friendly practices.
- Classes provide a variety of hands-on activities like food preparation, tasting and physical activity to reinforce learning and allow participants to apply the newly learned information.
- Participants receive various incentives in each class (examples: measuring cups, measuring spoons, pot holders, pedometers, water bottles, reusable grocery bags, thermometers, notepads, calculators, etc.).