



The Bluebonnet

AUGUST VIRTUAL MEETING

Due to COVID-19, Chapter 74 will be holding virtual meetings/ luncheons for the foreseeable future. We invite you to join us for our first virtual chapter meeting.

We will discuss chapter business and then have a presentation by Tara Sinicropi, with the Central Texas Food Bank.

August 11, 2020; 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting Link](#) (no registration required)

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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chapter 74, Austin, Texas Bluebonnet Chapter!

Firstly, I want to thank Lori Bible for her leadership and being a role model to follow into the seat of President for this Chapter. Lori not only reached many of the goals that she previously initiated at the onset of her Presidency, but faced challenges that no other President has faced and was able to navigate the transition with ease and confidence. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served with Lori for the last several years on the board and enjoyed getting to know her personally and her mentoring.

We have made it to the middle of 2020; that is something to celebrate if you ask me! We have faced several challenges throughout the year, one of which has been a global pandemic. COVID-19 or the Coronavirus befell us all around mid-March in the United States. With this pandemic we have had to reexamine the way we live; getting used to wearing masks, standing 6-feet apart, meeting virtually, working from home, schooling from home, being a fulltime cook, a playmate for your children, art teacher, PE Teacher, janitor, counselor, ... no professional could have imagined this scenario..., and most memorable of all, the massive toilet paper shortage of 2020 (WHAT?).

Although this time has presented our country with a number of challenges, we persevered together, determined to get through the valley and all come out on the other side together, as a network of talented professionals. I am still of that mindset and belief that we will all make it through, and that this too shall pass. We have adapted by creating office spaces at our kitchen tables, in laundry rooms, in closets, in bedrooms, and even outside when the weather is nice. I feel we have all learned to give each other a little more grace and understanding, because it seems like everyone's life is a far more relatable in this period of change. I have become so much more appreciative of teachers, waiters and waitresses, first responders, nurses, people who have been stocking our grocery shelves, construction workers, truckers and delivery services. A huge thank you to those who keep us going!

Personally and professionally, I am not sure when "normal" life will return. I have no doubt it will and until that time, we will remain physically distant as much as possible as we work, experience our networking and business via technology, and keep this industry moving forward. We will continue to recognize the capable, multi-disciplined professional industry we are a part of. As we enter the upcoming Fiscal Year for IRWA, with the new officers in place, I am hoping to efficiently and creatively maintain the momentum of Chapter 74 business, education, and networking opportunities. Lisa Cooper, (Programs Coordinator and Newsletter Editor) along with Richard Scholtz (Treasurer) have recently talked about virtual Chapter Luncheons. Alexis Vanzura (Education Chair) has been working on new courses that will be offered by Chapter 74 virtually. Elizabeth Norris and Randy Williams have been working to finalize the plans for the upcoming virtual September Eminent Domain Seminar. I am open to all suggestions to how we can keep our momentum robust, while safely following socially distancing requirements.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Chapter 74 as President during the 2020-2021 Year. I look forward to all we can achieve together. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any creative ideas or questions about our Chapter during the year.

Tara O'Neal
2020-2021 Chapter 74 President

PAST PRESIDENTS

2019—Lori Bible, SR/WA
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

PROGRAMS

[Lisa Cooper](#)

Shannon Gray

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[John Campbell](#)

Kimberly McClung

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

[Max Roach](#)

Jaylia Travis

Tori Shrum

Stephanie Ferraris

Nickie Hebert

LEGAL

[Kimberly McClung](#)

COMMUNICATIONS

NEWSLETTER

[Lisa Cooper](#)

WEBSITE

[Ray Rials](#)

VALUATION

[Cathy Thomas](#)

NOMINATIONS

[Randy Williams](#)

Ron Olderog

Virginia Anderson

SEPTEMBER

SEMINAR

[Liz Norris](#)

BY-LAWS

[Kimberly McClung](#)

Tanner Taylor

Shannon Gray

Virginia Anderson

Don Toner

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 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.



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!](#)

UPCOMING WEBINAR

SAVE THE DATE

International Electric and Utilities Committee

**Educational Webinar:
Telecom Communication
Rights within an Easement**

September 24, 2020 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST



Be on the look out for additional details coming soon!



REGION 2 FALL FORUM A&M EDUCATION REFRESHER UPDATE

At the June 23, 2020 meeting of Region 2 Directors, it was voted to postpone the annual Region 2 Education Refresher currently scheduled for August 6-7, 2020. Given the on-going travel and meeting restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19, we do not feel that we can move forward with an in-person or even a hybrid virtual and in-person format. The decision to postpone the event was made to give us a chance to regroup and plan how to move this to a full virtual event. We are looking at a couple of alternatives and will keep you posted as we firm up plans. There will be a fee component and Sponsorship opportunities for the virtual event. The registration fee amount is still pending, depending how many hours we are able to provide and if we will be able to have some sessions approved for TREC or TALCB CE hours as well.

For those of you that have already registered, you may either receive a full refund of your registration or receive a refund for the difference between the current registration and the virtual fee when that is determined. If you opt for the full refund now, you can still register again for the virtual offering when we have that set up. Please contact Housman & Associates at john@housmanandassociates.com or june@housmanandassociates.com to let them know what you would like to do.

Stay tuned for more updates.

Thank you for your patience while we continue to work through these unprecedented times to provide you with education alternatives.

Denise Skinner – Region 2 Chair
Erin Newberry – Region 2 Vice Chair
Maggie Schedler - Region 2 Secretary/Treasurer





2020 Eminent Domain Virtual Seminar Hot Topics in Real Estate and Eminent Domain

The 2020 Eminent Domain Seminar is on!

With the help of IRWA Headquarters, Chapter 74, Chapter 39 and Region 2 are joining forces to put on the annual Hot Topics in Eminent Domain Seminar, virtually.

The date is September 11th. Mark your calendars to enjoy a full day of interesting and relevant topics, covering appraisal issues, easement language, municipal acquisitions and, of course, a discussion of the latest Supreme Court cases.

Session 1

PUC Rules, Municipality Acquisitions and Updates

Session 2

Sale/Leasebacks Bona fide Transactions or Financing Shams

Session 3

Current Eminent Domain Issues—Texas and US Supreme Courts

Session 4

Legal and Valuation Issues in Pipeline Condemnation

Session 5

Virtual Condemnation Hearings

Session 6

Easement Language

All sessions qualify for IRWA CEUs.

[REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!](#)

If you didn't receive an email with registration information please contact Liz Norris at **elizabeth.norris@atkinglobal.com** for more details.

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, Chapter 74 will be holding virtual meetings/ luncheons for the foreseeable future. We invite you to join us for our first virtual chapter meeting.

We will discuss chapter business and then have a presentation by Tara Sinicropi, with the Central Texas Food Bank.



Tara is the Community Engagement Specialist for the Central Texas Food Bank.

August 11, 2020; 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting Link](#) (no registration required)

Chapter 74 will be partnering with the [Central Texas Food Bank](#) for an upcoming food drive. Check out our [website](#) for more information in the near future.



The **September Eminent Domain Seminar** is being held virtually and will serve as our September event.

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

LEGAL UPDATE

Service of Citation by Publication

Pursuant to Senate Bill 891 (86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019), the Office of Court Administration was required to develop and maintain a searchable website that includes citations and other related public or legal notices required by law to be posted to effectuate service of citation by publication.

The Supreme Court of Texas amended the citation-by-publication rules effective July 1 to require dual publication in newspapers and on the OCA's searchable, public website, which can be accessed [here](#).

Read the order amending Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 116 and 117 regarding citation by publication [here](#).

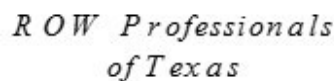
For all related citation by publication and notice questions, please email OCA-Legal@txcourts.gov.

LEGAL

[Kimberly McClung](#)



CHAPTER SPONSORS



STAY CONNECTED

FIND US ONLINE!

Chapter 74 Website:
www.irwa74austin.org

IRWA Website:
www.irwaonline.org

IRWA Region 2 Website:
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.