



## *The Bluebonnet*

### VIRTUAL EMINENT DOMAIN SEMINAR

The 2020 Eminent Domain Seminar will be held virtually due to COVID-19 on **Friday, September 11**. This is an all day event and has been approved for 6 IRWA CEUs & State Bar of Texas 6 CLEs. As in the past, the Eminent Domain Seminar takes the place of our September chapter luncheon. Registration is ending soon so check the [website](#) to see if there are any spaces available.

### 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!

This month we begin to say goodbye to Summer and hello to Fall and as for me, Fall can't come soon enough! Although, it seems we only really have 2 seasons here in Central Texas, sizzling hot and hot, however we do have a little winter blast that comes through maybe once or twice a year so that I can wear that jacket that I bought on sale a year ago... (but can we really call that a season?). I must say, I am looking forward to some cooler weather and being able to step outside without melting.

I hope everyone enjoyed some time during Labor Day weekend; whether you spent your time in your own backyard, spent it with your close family, or decided to venture out on a small vacation, I hope you made time to reconnect and recharge. With school beginning, whether in-person or virtual, I am sure the break was much needed for many.

The Eminent Domain Seminar will be held Friday, September 11 and will be unlike any other Seminar we have held as it will be completely virtual. Given that the Seminar will be virtual, we will certainly miss the networking opportunity, however proceeding in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic speaks volumes of the efforts of the key individuals that have made the Seminar happen, especially Liz Norris and Randy Williams.

We held our first virtual chapter meeting this past month and had close to 40 participants! Lisa Cooper, Richard Scholtz and Ray Rials worked together and planned the first virtual Chapter Meeting and fundraiser, which was a success. Tara Sinicropi of the Central Texas Food Bank gave wonderful information about the resources the Central Texas Food Bank provides to the local area food banks and the community outreach programs. The fundraiser will be ongoing until September 11, our goal is \$10,000 to raise for the Food Bank; please consider donating if you're able.

We are looking for your input! Two surveys will be sent out requesting your feedback, one for information regarding your education needs and how you would like to attend IRWA courses, virtually or in-person. The other is about social events, including chapter luncheons and networking opportunities. This survey will include questions such as if you would be interested in attending, if so, what kind of venue or setting, how soon would you be open to attending within the next few months or later? We would really like your involvement so that we can better ascertain your personal and professional needs and preferences and would like to provide those opportunities if we're able.

*During this time, let us not forget September 11, 2001, and the souls that were lost in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the heroes of Flight 93.*

Thank you to the Board of Directors and all the Committee Volunteers.

Sincerely,  
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 Amezcuita

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 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).

**You can also reach out to our local Membership Chair, [Leslie Persia](#).**



## 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.

## UPCOMING VIRTUAL COURSES

**Sign up today for an upcoming IRWA virtual class!**

**801: United States Land Titles**

September 28-29, 2020 (8am Pacific Time)

**802: Legal Aspects of Easements**

September 18, 2020 (8am Mountain Time)

September 30, 2020 (8am Pacific Time)

November 9, 2020 (8am Central Time)

**803: Eminent Domain Law Basics for ROW Professionals**

November 10-11, 2020 (8am Central Time)

**804: Skills of Expert Testimony**

September 17, 2020 (8am Mountain Time)

*The Chapter 74 Education Committee is preparing a survey regarding upcoming course needs. Please take the time to complete this survey so we can better meet the educational needs of our local membership.*



# REGISTER NOW

International Electric and Utilities Committee

## Educational Webinar: Telecom Communication Rights within an Easement

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



Registration is now *open* for the Telecom Communication Rights within an Easement Educational Webinar to be held from 2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. CST on September 24, 2020.

This is a free webinar but spaces are limited so be sure to register soon!

Speakers include Mischa M. Boardman, Shareholder with Zausmer, P.C.; Wayne Wright, SR/WA, Senior ROW Representative for Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC and Thomas Schaffer, Right of Way Senior Manager at American Electric Power Transmission.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!](#)**



## **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](mailto: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 AUGUST LUNCHEON RECAP**

A special thank you to our members for attending our first virtual luncheon in August. We are so grateful for your participation. Our guest speaker, Tara Sinicropi, with the Central Texas Food Bank provided members with a look into how the Central Texas Food Bank has adapted its program in order to continue to serve our community amidst the COVID.

The Food Bank gave out 83,000 children's meals through the [summer program](#) this year. They partnered with Austin City Parks, Austin YMCA and Foundation Communities to provide weekly meal packs of seven breakfasts and lunches with milk, using socially distanced distributions.

The kitchen team also produced thousands of rapid-response meals for Hurricane Laura evacuees in the past couple of weeks.

In addition to the luncheon, our Chapter has partnered with the Central Texas Food Bank to help their organization to continue to provide meals to those in our community. The donation website is [LIVE](#) and will remain open until Friday, September 11, 2020.

Just \$1 can provide 4 meals through their program so even the smallest contribution makes a BIG difference.



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

## HELP US MEET OUR GOAL BY SEPTEMBER 11, 2020



\$1,235.27

\$10,000



Central Texas Food Bank, Inc

### HELP FAMILIES IN NEED!

When faced with hunger, it's difficult to prepare for the unexpected.

The Central Texas Food Bank believes in providing comprehensive support to address urgent issues, and to ensure that our neighbors have the tools and information needed to access food and other programs through our network—now or whenever they find themselves in need.

A gift today helps ensure the Food Bank's shelves are stocked so they can respond when needed most.

Every donation matters and every dollar helps. Donate today!



# ATTENTION!

Members,

As we look to 2021, the Chapter Board and Committees are seeking your input. Please complete [THIS SURVEY](#) to let us know if you're ready to return to in-person luncheons, happy hours or other social events.

It is important that we remain connected during this unprecedented time but we also want to make sure we are following all the appropriate safety guidelines.

Please remember there are no right or wrong answers here but the more participation we receive, the better we can plan for the future of Chapter 74.



## CHAPTER SPONSORS



*ROW Professionals  
of Texas*

**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.**