



The Bluebonnet

VIRTUAL LUNCHEON TOMORROW (11/10)

Join us for the November Virtual Luncheon tomorrow, November 10, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. where we hear from Region 2 President on the current happenings in IRWA as well as an update from Chapter 39 President, Matt McGee on the planning for the 2021 International Right of Way Conference being held in San Antonio this June. Additional details on Pages 8-9 of this month’s newsletter.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN US TOMORROW VIA ZOOM](#)

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

Dear Chapter 74, Austin, Texas Bluebonnet Chapter!

“Autumn is the season to find contentment at home by paying attention to what we already have.”

Author Unknown

In the spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday, I wanted to share the following quote; “find what there is to be thankful for each day.” I felt this quote was fitting during this time of year since it is the month of Thanksgiving and a time of being grateful. Often it is so easy to discount the blessings and opportunities given and laid in our path each day. As such, I would like to be sure that I offer my many thanks to all who have contributed their dedication to this chapter, those who have made it what it is throughout the years past and those who continue to offer their talents, resources, and guidance, creating a community and a family we can reach out to and depend on.

The Annual Membership drive has kicked off, you will be receiving a notice by email as a friendly reminder to renew your membership. If you have already renewed, disregard the notice and we look forward to another year striving to reach our personal and professional goals together. If you need any assistance or guidance in renew, please reach out to our Membership Chair, Leslie Persia.

The Chapter is planning a social event to be held in early December. It will be a casual Happy Hour Event to be held in conjunction with a Blue Santa toy drive and fundraiser. An evite will be sent out with details regarding the venue, date and time of the get together, should you wish to join.

I am wishing you and your family a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving, however you will be spending it this year. If you will be travelling on the roads, please drive carefully, even during this pandemic the traffic incidents and fatalities continue to rise, I would imagine due to speeding. Please keep this in mind as you drive with your families and many families will be on the roads.

Happy Thanksgiving everybody, see you in December!

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 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



MEMBERSHIPDRIVE

2021 Membership Renewal Invoices have been sent out and while there is plenty of time to renew your IRWA membership, December 31st will be here before you know it. 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.

Split-payment option for IRWA dues. Want to break up your IRWA dues into two payments? Please contact Mariah Carrillo, Membership Services, at carrillo@irwaonline.org for more information.

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.

Contact our local Membership Chair, [Leslie Persia](#).



*Kimberly Pulver with
LJA Engineering is our
newest member to
Chapter 74.*

IRWA PARTNER PROGRAM

The International Right of Way Association (IRWA) Partner Program is designed to make purchasing annual memberships for your agency or corporate employees easy and financially attractive.



BENEFITS

The Partner Program extends special benefits and incentives to entities that purchase multiple memberships. All entities that participate in the Partner Program are eligible for the following benefits:

Transferable Memberships

Memberships purchased under the Partner Program are transferable. This preserves your investment when an employee leaves your entity or is no longer involved in the right of way profession.

Waived Application Fee Under the Partner Program

The \$25 application fee for each new member is waived.

Streamlined Invoicing

Your entity will receive a single, annual invoice from IRWA for all membership fees under the Partner Program.

CONTACT

Entities that are interested in discussing the benefits of the Partner Program and how to enter into an agreement can contact Charlie Nobles, Chief Executive Officer at 310-527-9938 or nobles@irwaonline.org.

Additional details regarding the program are provided as an attachment to this month's newsletter.

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.

Visit the International website for a [listing](#) of the virtual courses available.



Alexis Vanzura, our Education Chair, is currently out of the office on maternity leave.

If you need any assistance during her absence please reach out to Education Committee member, **Laurie Miller**.

CHAPTER 74 EDUCATION SURVEY



The Education Committee is seeking responses for your 2021 education needs to assist in planning for the upcoming year.

Your feedback is important. Planning surveys generally only receive about 10% response from membership. We want to serve all members and would so appreciate your input. The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

Please take the [SURVEY](#) today!

Opportunities are also available to join the committee, become a course coordinator, or instructor.





NOVEMBER VIRTUAL LUNCHEON

Please join us virtually for our November luncheon.

Region 2 & 2021 International Conference Updates

November 10, 2020 12:00 PM

We will receive an update from our Region 2 Representatives as well as a planning update for the 2021 International Convention to be hosted by IRWA Chapter 39 in San Antonio, Texas.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/91261535194?
pwd=NFR1ZkJPcVBEZTdsZThUYoJTczErUTo9](https://zoom.us/j/91261535194?pwd=NFR1ZkJPcVBEZTdsZThUYoJTczErUTo9)

Dial In

+1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID: 912 6153 5194

Passcode: 000188

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 NOVEMBER 2020 SPEAKER BIOS

Denise Skinner, Region 2 President International Right of Way Association Updates



Denise Skinner, SR/WA has been a member of IRWA since 2002. During that time she has served on the Chapter 74 Board as Membership Co-Chair, Education Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, President Elect, President, Director 1 and 2 Year, and Nominations Committee before moving onto the Region Leadership. Denise is currently serving as Region 2 Chair. She has also been a member of annual ED Seminar committee since 2009. In her day job Denise works for NuStar Energy where is she manages assets in the Central-West-South Region, working on both on-going maintenance and strategic projects in the Region.

Matt McGee, Chapter 39 President 2021 International Conference Update



Matt became a member of Chapter 39, South Texas, of the IRWA in March 2015. The following year he was voted in as Secretary of Chapter 39 and recently completed his term as Chapter President in 2019. In 2016, he became Co-Chair of the 2021 International Education Conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas. Matt is currently serving as the Right of Way Education Foundation Young Professional Board of Trustee Member and pursuing his SR/WA certification.

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

2021 feedback

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 time but we also want to make sure we are following all the appropriate safety guidelines.

We have currently received 34 responses. 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. The survey takes less than 2 minutes to complete.

You can also reach out to any officer or board member with your feedback or suggestions. We look forward to hearing from all of you!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Professional Development committee is available to assist you in obtaining your right-of-way career goals.

Be sure to check out the current the current [industry paths](#) as well as [specialist career paths](#) available to you.

Please reach out to a [committee member](#) for any questions you may have.

A Message from Headquarters...

We hope you are doing well during these trying times. This is a quick note to **THANK YOU for being an IRWA member**. Your contributions and efforts make a profound difference. You, along with your fellow IRWA members, are our motivation for continuing to nurture current and future right of way leaders. As we all navigate through these uncertain times, we wanted to remind you of a few useful services that are exclusive to you as an IRWA member

IRWA Career Center

Currently over 140 right of way jobs are listed! it is the place to find your next exciting opportunity or the right candidate for your organization.

IRWA Member Network

The perfect place for virtual knowledge exchange, content sharing, and professional networking.

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT





Since March 2020, the United States and most of the world has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the midst of the unknown, our lives have been forever changed by the evolving pandemic. As a result, the Young Professionals Group have created a 10-question survey that tries to get a broad perspective of how the COVID pandemic has impacted Young Professional's in the right-of-way industry.

Your responses will be helpful in regards to what has happened, what is going on and what has changed from a Young Professional's perspective for an upcoming magazine article.

Please be honest and forthcoming with your response, as this will help guide an upcoming article in the IRWA magazine. If you have other questions or feel like you have something you would like to share, please feel free to contact me, Callie Howard, at callie.howard@cbre.com.

Thank you in advance for taking the time out of your busy schedule to do this and also, please feel free to share with other Young Professional's within our industry. Click the photo below to take the survey or [HERE](#) if you prefer.



CHAPTER SPONSORS



*ROW Professionals
of Texas*

STAY CONNECTED

FIND US ONLINE!

Chapter 74:

[Chapter 74 Website](#)

[Chapter 74 LinkedIn](#)

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.**

PARTNER PROGRAM

The International Right of Way Association (IRWA) Partner Program is designed to make purchasing annual memberships for your agency or corporate employees easy and financially attractive.

BENEFITS

The Partner Program extends special benefits and incentives to entities that purchase multiple memberships. All entities that participate in the Partner Program are eligible for the following benefits:

- **Transferable Memberships**
Memberships purchased under the Partner Program are transferable. This preserves your investment when an employee leaves your entity or is no longer involved in the right of way profession.
- **Waived Application Fee**
Under the Partner Program, the \$25 application fee for each new member is waived.
- **Streamlined Invoicing**
Your entity will receive a single, annual invoice from IRWA for all membership fees under the Partner Program.

ADDITIONAL TIERED BENEFITS

Entities that purchase 20 or more memberships in a year will be categorized in the following tiers and will qualify for additional tier-specific benefits:

Tier	Number of Annual Memberships
Tier I	20 - 39
Tier II	40 - 69
Tier III	70+

Discounted Membership Pricing

Tiered entities will receive the following membership discount for each member, based on the current membership rate of \$225.00:

Tier	Discounted Membership Rate	Membership Rate Discount
Tier I	\$215.00	4.4%
Tier II	\$205.00	8.9%
Tier III	\$195.00	13.3%

Free Course Registrations

Each calendar year, tiered entities will receive two free one-day course registrations when their number of paid IRWA course registrations equals the number of members that entity has in the Partner Program.

Further, each calendar year, tiered entities will receive an additional free one-day course registration when their number of paid IRWA course registrations equal twice the number of members that entity has in the Partner Program.

For example, if an entity has 35 memberships in the Partner Program, the entity will receive two free one-day course registrations upon purchasing 35 IRWA courses. If within the same calendar year the entity purchases an additional 35 IRWA courses, it would receive another one-day registration in addition to the first two free course registrations received.

Renewal Incentive

Tiered entities are eligible to receive one-day course registration credit by renewing an existing Partner Program agreement from the immediate previous calendar year.

Tier	Number of Free Course Registrations
Tier I	1
Tier II	2
Tier III	3

Job Board Discount

Tiered entities receive a discount on listed prices for job board advertisements on the IRWA website.

Tier	Job Board Advertisement Discount
Tier I	5%
Tier II	10%
Tier III	15%

Complimentary Conference Registration

Each calendar year, tiered entities will each receive one free Annual International Education Conference registration.

CONTACT

Entities that are interested in discussing the benefits of the Partner Program and how to enter into an agreement can contact Charlie Nobles, Chief Executive Officer at 310-527-9938 or nobles@irwaonline.org.