



The Bluebonnet

IN PERSON & VIRTUAL LUNCHEONS

We will begin in-person luncheons starting in February. The luncheons will also be available via Zoom for those that do not wish to attend in person. We will have individual plated luncheons rather than family style and the number of attendees will be limited in order to accommodate social distancing. See page 8 of the newsletter for additional information.

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

“A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It’s about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role.” -Yehuda Berg

It’s a new year and since we have all seen such a year as 2020 together albeit, separately; let us hope things will be a little more optimistic in the future and we can once again gather together without risking the health and well-being of others at some point in the near future. One thing I can say, is that this has certainly made me more aware and very grateful for my community in every sense of the word. As I stated before in a previous newsletter, I will state again, I am so very thankful for the essential workers who choose to go to work every day. The doctors, nurses, teachers, janitors, grocery store staff, restaurant staff, delivery services, construction workers who work tirelessly to keep us healthy, safe and families fed; these are my heroes! I am so thankful and appreciative for the sacrifices and the services that they perform each day to meet the needs of my community.

I am also very grateful for our IRWA community, both personally and professionally, I long for the days of our luncheons, socials, and conferences and hoping the new year will afford us more opportunities to see each other, but until then, we remain socially distanced, together. We are working to create ways to stay connected into the foreseeable future since there are so many unknowns. If you have any suggestions on ways to keep us connected or ways we can share ideas and network, please reach out to any of our board members listed in our newsletter or on the IRWA website.

Congratulations to Alexis Vanzura and her husband James Vanzura who welcomed a son, Timothy Bruce Vanzura the morning of October 19, 2020. I am so excited for their beginning a new chapter and pray it is filled with joy and blessings. I am so glad she has returned to us and is working on offering upcoming classes in a venue that is suitable. Please reach out if you have any questions or suggestions for upcoming courses, we appreciate your flexibility during this time of both business for her and her new family as well as the unknown challenges with the pandemic.

There will be no luncheon for January so our next luncheon will be February 9th, be on the lookout for details! The Membership Drive continues and we are always on the lookout to grow our community! Please have those who might be interested reach out to our Membership Chair, Leslie Persia for additional information.

Lisa Cooper, our Communications Chair and Ray Rials, our Web Master are accepting donations for sponsorships! If you’re interested in sponsoring our Chapter and having your logo placed in the newsletter, please reach out to Ray!

Wishing you many blessings this new year!

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, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, 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 DRIVE ✓

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.

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](#).



Chapter 74's Newest Members

Jake Kane
Paul Hornsby & Co.

Anderson Brice Morris & Irene Balderrama-Rayos
Contract Land Staff, LLC

David R Birmingham & Andrew Sustaita
Lower Colorado River Authority

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, has returned from maternity leave and is currently working to schedule 2021 education courses.

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.





FEBRUARY 2021 HYBRID LUNCHEON

Please join us virtually or in-person for our
February luncheon.

February 9, 2021

Registration @ 11:30; Presentation @ 12:00 PM

Matt Dugan with IMAGINE AUSTIN

As it approaches its 200th anniversary, Austin is a beacon of sustainability, social equity, and economic opportunity; where diversity and creativity are celebrated; where community needs and values are recognized; where leadership comes from its citizens, and where the necessities of life are affordable and accessible to all.

Austin's greatest asset is its people: passionate about our city, committed to its improvement, and determined to see this vision become a reality. [Read more online.](#)

Maggiano's Little Italy
10910 Domain Dr Ste 100, Austin, TX 78758

[**Register Online**](#)

In-person registration is limited to 20 people in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Online registration will end once the limit has been reached.

Join Zoom Meeting

[**https://zoom.us/j/92284405954?pwd=cm12cGppSVRobTJjQmFzQllrSHUvZz09**](https://zoom.us/j/92284405954?pwd=cm12cGppSVRobTJjQmFzQllrSHUvZz09)

346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 922 8440 5954
Passcode: 646171

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 UPCOMING LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

March 2021 Hybrid Luncheon—Maggiano's & Zoom Christin Evans Director of Investor Engagement and Fundraising Texas Economic Development Corporation



Christin Evans is Vice President of External Affairs for Texas Economic Development Corporation (TxEDC). Christin manages fundraising for the non-profit and oversees a robust global marketing program which includes economic development missions, regional summits, and messaging strategy. Before joining TxEDC, Christin served as National Fundraising Director for a Presidential Campaign where she managed a multi-million-dollar fundraising operation. She began her fundraising career with the Republican Party of Texas.

April 2021 Hybrid Luncheon —Maggiano's & Zoom Matt McGee & Georgia Snodgrass 2021 International Conference Chairs



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 Region 2&6 Spring Forum and Transportation Symposium

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 2021 Spring Joint Forum with Region 6 to be held March 31 – April 2, 2021 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA.

Schedule of Events:

March 31, 2021 – IRWA Class (TBD)

April 1, 2021 – Transportation Symposium

April 2, 2021 – Region 2 and Region 6 Spring Forums

We are looking to have the Symposium and Forums as hybrid live and streamed events. More details will follow and the registration portal will be going out shortly.

The Forums will present updates from the IEC/IGC and IRWA HQ as well as Region elections.



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.

Congratulations

Tanner Taylor, R/W-NAC
Negotiation/Acquisition
Specialty Certification

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT





CURRENT JOB POSTINGS

AUSTIN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP—JOB POSTINGS—[CLICK HERE](#)

The Austin Transit Partnership is an independent organization with the authority and resources to design, construct and implement the Project Connect program. ATP will operate with full transparency for the community and with oversight from the Capital Metro board and Austin City Council. Our next steps will be to search for candidates who are leaders and change agents able to effectively collaborate with Capital Metro and the City of Austin leadership and staff. Many of these new jobs include architectural, urban design, engineering, or construction expertise.

CITY OF AUSTIN—PROPERTY AGENT SENIOR—[CLICK HERE](#)

This position performs key functions for the Leasing and Property Management section of the Office of Real Estate Services including but not limited to identifying, negotiating, and closing the acquisition or real estate for lease or purchase. Other duties may include maintaining leases after execution, inputting lease information into databases, and processing monthly lease and utility payments. Job posting closes 2/15/2021.

HDR ENGINEERING, INC.—MULTIPLE POSITIONS POSTED

Want to be part of a company on Forbes magazine's list of America's Best Large Employers for 2019? Are you interested in a company that has a strong local presence, supported by national experts in Right of Way Acquisition and Real Estate Services, that provides you with opportunities to work on transformational projects in the Transportation and Resources sector? Are you interested in a firm that is 100% employee-owned with full transparency of financial results and a solid record of performance year-to-year? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, we have several positions within Texas that may be an excellent fit. Click on the links to find out more!

[REAL ESTATE SERVICES AGENT 2](#)

[REAL ESTATE SERVICES AGENT 1](#)

[REAL ESTATE SERVICES TECH 2](#)

[REAL ESTATE SERVICES TECH 1](#)



It is time for our annual website sponsorship renewal. If you are interested in continuing your sponsorship or would like to become a new sponsor, please reach out to our website coordinator, Ray Rials, at ray.rials@rialsarc.com or via phone 844-901-9993.

Perks of Being a Sponsor

- Free job postings in the newsletter, website, and email blast.
- Your logo and link to your website included on IRWA Chapter 74 website and monthly newsletters.

Payments can be made [online via our website](#) for your convenience.

We appreciate all of our sponsors as they help support our website and social media platforms so we can stay connected with our membership.



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.