



The Bluebonnet

VIRTUAL ONLY MARCH LUNCHEON

Our February luncheon was held in-person. However, due to lack of attendance, we our March luncheon will be virtual only. We will reevaluate in-person luncheons at a later time. Please join us Wednesday, March 9 via Zoom for a presentation by Christin Evans, Director of Investor Engagement and Fund-raising with the Texas Economic Development Corporation. Additional details on Page 8.

2021 NOMINATIONS—See Page 7 for all the details!

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

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” – Maya Angelo

Welcome to February! It has been unusually cold with winter storms moving through our area and causing quite a bit of damage in its wake, with frozen vegetation and trees causing broken limbs and damage to property. I hope that everyone has stayed safe and well during this time and look forward to getting things cleaned and cleared and back to normal.

Lisa Cooper organized and held our first hybrid luncheon on the 9th. Though there was a limit of 20, we only had 8 members attend in-person but still had a good showing virtually. Matthew Dugan with Imagine Austin gave an excellent presentation on all of the innovative ways their organization works with citizens, communities, entities and the city to solve problems and issues and create sustainable, interconnected, and prosperous resolutions. Thank you to all who chose to attend both in-person and virtually.

There are a few upcoming events!

- The Spring Forum will be held in New Orleans on April 1st and 2nd. This is a hybrid event and will be both a Symposium and a Forum; early registration is March 11th.
- Fall Region 2 Region 2 Refresher will be held August 11th through the 13th in Bryan, College Station.
- International Education Conference will be held in San Antonio from June 6th through the 9th and will be offered virtually and in-person. Registration begins Wednesday, February 17th.

Thanks to the Board of Directors and all of the Committee Chairs and members!

Looking forward to March and hopefully and little more spring-like weather! (Never thought I would wish for warmer weather, but I wouldn't mind just a few degrees wouldn't hurt).

Stay safe, stay warm, many blessings to you all!

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



MEMBERSHIPDRIVE

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

Liza Evans

WhiteWater Midstream

Stacia Booth & Christy McDaniel

Stateside Right of Way Services

Slade G. Doucet

Lower Colorado River Authority

Judson Clark

Cobb Fendley & Associates

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.

CHAPTER 74 EDUCATION SURVEY



The Education Committee is currently planning courses for the 2021 year. Be on the look out for additional information coming soon!

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



**NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

RANDY WILLIAMS

VIRGINIA ANDERSON

RONALD OLDEROG

**[CLICK HERE TO EMAIL
YOUR NOMINATIONS
FORM TO THE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS](#)**

Submit

CHAPTER 74 NOMINATIONS

The Chapter 74 Nomination Committee has identified the following schedule for the upcoming 2021/2022 election cycle. Additional notifications and information will be distributed by email to the Chapter membership during the indicated timeframe. Indicated submissions must be sent to the Nomination Committee members identified in the column to the left.

Nominations for Professional, Young Professional and Employer of the Year

March 1, 2021 (Monday): Opening date to begin submittal of nominations to the Nomination Committee

April 30, 2021 (Friday): Closing date for submittal s

Nomination forms will be sent in a blast email to the membership.

We will announce the awarded nominees with the officer election results in May.

Officer Nominations

March 1, 2021 (Monday): Opening date for submittal of officer candidates to the Nomination Committee

Nominees for officer positions must submit a biography and rationale for their desire to serve the Chapter. These will be added to the April and May newsletters.

April 30, 2021 (Friday): Closing date for candidate submittal

(A reminder email will be sent to the membership that nominations for the officer positions is closed.)

May 3, 2021 (Monday): An email blast will be sent to the membership identifying the officer candidates on

May 4, 2021 (Tuesday): An email request for a motion to open the elections will be sent to the Chapter Board. The motion must be made and seconded before opening the election. Once the motion and second have been made, an email with the ballot of the officers and the nominated candidates will be sent to the chapter membership with a 14-day deadline for voting.

If seconded, the next day (**May 5**); an email will be sent to the chapter membership that elections will close May 19, 2021 (Wednesday).

May 20, 2021 (Thursday): An email will be sent to the chapter membership informing them the elections are closed.

May 21, 2021 (Friday): An email will be sent to the chapter membership announcing the new 2021-2022 officers.



MARCH 2021 VIRTUAL LUNCHEON

Please join us virtually for our March luncheon.

March 9, 2021
Presentation @ 12:00 PM

Christin Evans
*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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91513498344?pwd=R3FhUXJuOFZlOFdhck13NWgyTHVldz09>

346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 915 1349 8344
Passcode: 218463

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



April 2021 Luncheon

**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.

May 2021 Luncheon

Lauren Woodward Stanley, AIA

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 – Course 102—Elevating your Ethical Awareness

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.

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

Early Registration ends March 10. Registration closes March 26.

You can register to attend in-person or virtual.

See flyers attached to the end of the newsletter for details!



2021 International Education Conference in San Antonio

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The IRWA 67th Annual Education Conference is moving forward in San Antonio, Texas June 6th - 9th, 2021. You should have already received an e-mail with registration information, including registration either for virtual or in person attendance. Chapter 39, as host for this conference, is requesting volunteers at this time for various shifts and assignments. We're not quite certain yet how many volunteers we will need, but are looking for at least 100 at this point to ensure we have enough help when the time comes. Volunteer slots will be filled as we get closer to the conference date. Just looking for names at this point. This conference will be a big undertaking, so the more volunteers we have the smoother it will run.

If you are planning on attending the conference, we would hope that you would volunteer to help this great Region pull off yet another successful event. We know that we have great members who are always willing to help out and this is another opportunity to make our Region SHINE.

So step up and sign up! Please provide your name, contact information (e-mail and cell phone) and shirt size. The shirt will be a polo shirt in both men's and women's sizes.

Joyce Labus
Chapter 39 Conference Volunteer Coordinator
210.416.4557
jglabus64@gmail.com





2021 International Education Conference in San Antonio

67th Annual International Education Conference June 6 - 9, 2021

The International Right of Way Association is excited to announce plans for the 67th Annual International Education Conference, June 6 – 9, 2021.

We understand that there is uncertainty around traveling and events, but we are committed to providing you a valuable education experience – whether you choose to attend in person, or virtually.

[Register Online Today!](#)

In Person

Where: San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter

Plans are in place for a safe, socially distanced annual conference with opportunities to learn, network, and engage with other right of way professionals. With your live registration, you also have virtual access and can earn a total of up to 48 hours of CE credit*!

You can book your hotel reservations here: **[San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter](#)**

Virtual

Where: Wherever You Are!

Experience the Annual Education Conference virtually! You'll be able to view the general sessions, join educational sessions and earn up to 48 hours of CE credit with your virtual participation**!

**24 hours of CE credit will be automatically recorded for participation at the in-person conference. Up to an additional 24 hours of CE credit can be earned by watching additional educational sessions on demand.*

***Up to 48 hours of CE credit can be earned by watching on-demand educational sessions presented at the live conference.*

SAVE THE DATE

International Electric and Utilities Committee

Educational Webinar: Part 2 | Telecom Communication Rights within a ROW Easement

March 11, 2021 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST



Advancements in Telecommunications with Utility Right-of-Way (ROW)

In this webinar, we'll explore how utility companies are leveraging advances in telecommunications to more efficiently run their networks and access faster, real-time data. The data supports their network's maintenance, and in times of emergency, outages, high-use, and issues. We will learn more about the contracts between utility companies and service providers as well as challenges to deploy these services within the ROW.

Additional attendance information to follow!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

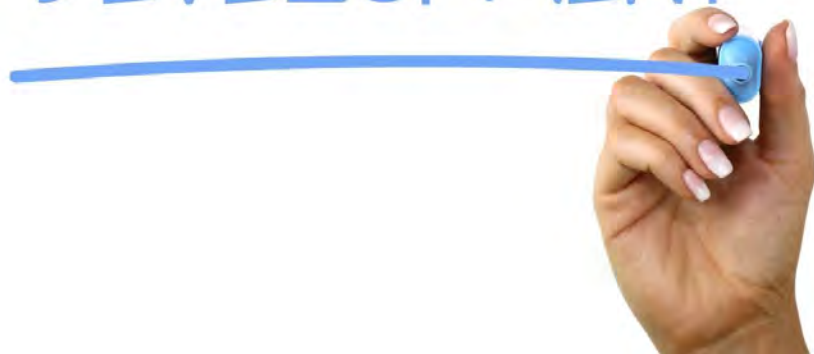
Be sure to check out the current the current [industry paths](#) as well as [specialist career paths](#) available to you.

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

Congratulations

Jeffery Rutherford,
SR/WA, R/W-AC
Right of Way Appraisal
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.

[DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM](#)

This position will develop and direct the processes for acquisition, appraisal, relocation and property disposition and will perform and lead specialized, technical work requiring thorough knowledge of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements, expertise in State and Federal real estate laws, regulations, and best practices for real estate acquisition, including necessary contracting and reporting requirements. Closes 3/10/2021.

[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!

[RELOCATION AGENT](#)

[AGENT 1](#)

[AGENT 2](#)

[SENIOR AGENT](#)

[ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER](#)

[PROJECT MANAGER](#)



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – APRIL 1- 2, 2021



**IRWA Region 2, Region 6, Chapter 43 & the International
Transportation Committee**

Presents:

The 2021 Transportation Symposium and Spring Forum

WHEN: April 1 – April 2, 2021

WHERE: Royal Sonesta Hotel – New Orleans

Course 102 – Elevating Your Ethical Awareness – March 31, 2021 (In Person Only)

📌 More information will be forthcoming including room rates, schedule of events, registration (in person and virtual), IRWA Course and sponsorship opportunities.

📌 Please contact Ernie Cochran at ernie@housmanandassociates.com if you are interested in sponsoring the event.

