

The Bluebonnet NEWSLETTER

IRWA Chapter 74

JULY 2023
Edition



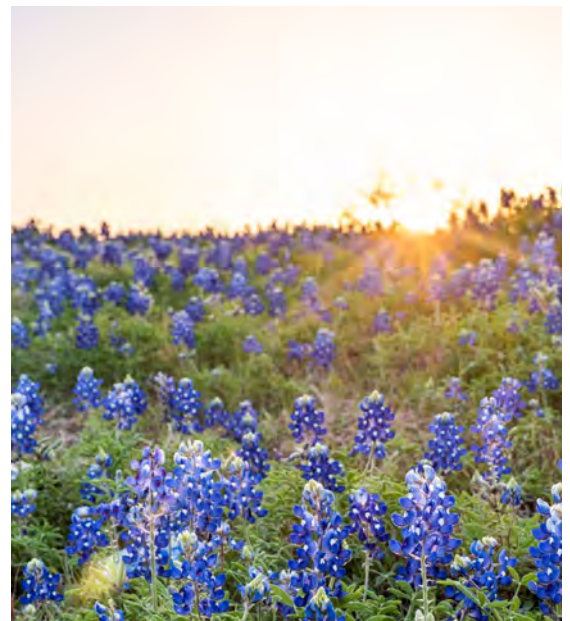
2023-2024 OFFICER INSTALLATION

The 2023-2024 Chapter Officer installation was held on June 14, 2023. Special thank you to Randy Williams for swearing in our new board.

See Page 11 for more event photos.

Bluebonnet Chapter No. 74 is the Austin, Texas, 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.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter 74

Region 2 32nd Annual Golf Tournament

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Texas A&M University Campus Course
On Campus off of Texas Avenue
College Station, TX 77843

[Click for additional details and registration.](#)

Region 2 Refresher & Fall Forum

Thursday/Friday, July 27-28, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Texas A&M University
Memorial Student Center,
Second Floor, Room 2400
College Station, TX 77843-1232

[Click for additional details and registration.](#)

10th Annual Region 2 YP Social

Thursday, July 28, 2023

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

The Backyard
303 University Drive
College Station, TX 77840

[Click for additional details.](#)

**Attend an IRWA event or conference and
have photos to share?**

Please [email](#) for future newsletters!

Chapter 74/39 Eminent Domain Seminar

Friday, August 25, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

New Braunfels Civic Center
375 S Castell Ave, New Braunfels, TX 78130

Additional Details Coming Soon!

IRWA Chapter 74 September Luncheon

Thursday, September 14, 2023

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Maggiano's at The Domain
10910 Domain Dr., Austin, TX 78758

[Click for additional details and registration.](#)



2022 – 2023 OFFICERS

Thank you to our 2022-2023 officers for their dedication this past year!



PRESIDENT

Richard Schulz, R/W-AC



SECRETARY

Tommy "Ray" Rials, MBA, PMP



VICE-PRESIDENT

David Baylor, SR/WA



DIRECTOR 2 YEAR

Barbara Price



TREASURER

Cathy Thomas, R/W-AC, MAI,
SRA, AI-GRS



DIRECTOR 1 YEAR

Teri Morgan, SR/WA, R/W-RAC,
R/W-NAC

2022-2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Looking to be more involved? The Chapter is looking for new volunteers for the 2023-2024 year. Reach out to [David Baylor](#) if you'd like to join a committee for the upcoming year!

COMMUNICATIONS

Lisa Cooper, SR/WA, R/W-RAC (Chair/Newsletter)
Ray Rials, MBA, PMP (Website/Social Media)

EDUCATION

Roxan Sierra, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC (Chair)
Michael Glaros
Laurie Miller, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC
Elizabeth Taylor

LEGAL

Kimberly McClung, SR/WA (Chair)

MEMBERSHIP

Leslie Persia (Chair)

NOMINATIONS

Virginia J Anderson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
Alex Gale, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC, R/W-URAC

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

John Campbell P.E., SR/WA (Chair)
William Gold II, R/W-AMC, RWA, R/W-NAC

PROGRAMS

Brittney Snellgrove, R/W-NAC (Chair)
Lisa Rials, R/W-AC

SEMINARS

Elizabeth Norris (Chair)
Randy Williams, MAI, SR/WA

VALUATION

Lory Johnson, MAI, SR/WA (Chair)

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Max Roach (Chair)
Micah Bergman
Victoria Shrum
Jaylia Travis, RWA, R/W-NAC





VOLUNTEER TODAY!

All members are welcome to serve in a committee position. There are a wide range of positions available at the chapter level with various options for your skill sets and time availability. Any volunteer with a desire to learn new skills, who is willing to actively participate and follow through, is welcome to [submit](#) their interest to the the Chapter President.

COMMITTEE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

COMMUNICATIONS:

Newsletter: Preparation and distribution of newsletters to membership including coordination with Board and Committee members on content, identifying related content from the International Right of Way Association headquarters and local Region.

Website: Regular maintenance of the website, including updating content, luncheon registrations, sponsorship renewals, payment of fees, and additional web master related activities as they arise.

Social Media: Regular content updates of Chapter social media accounts including LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.

MEMBERSHIP: Consisting of no more than 3 members, each to be appointed by the President for no more than three consecutive one-year terms. Your primary responsibility is to develop membership recruitment campaigns using the chapter membership report form. Be the point person in the membership renewal process that begins in September of each year for the chapter. Oversee the new member approval process for the chapter to ensure that all new chapter members are approved in a timely manner. Distribute new member certificates and pin to all new members either at chapter meetings or by mail. You will be asked by the Chapter- President to work with fellow board members in setting the goals and objectives for membership growth and retention.

EDUCATION: Consisting of no more than 3 members, each to be appointed by the President for no more than three consecutive one-year terms. Your role critical in two areas: Member attendance of chapter courses and the promotion of online courses. There are many resources available to assist you as you develop the Chapter's Education Plan and online promotion. The primary responsibility of the Chapter Education Chair is to develop and implement a strategic, comprehensive Chapter Education Plan.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Consisting of no more than 3 members, each of whom shall be appointed by the President for no more than three consecutive one-year terms. The primary responsibility of the Chapter PDC Chair is to assist and mentor chapter members who have achieved, or are in the process of achieving, a designation (through IRWA's Generalist Career Path) and/or certification.

NOMINATIONS: Shall consist of a Chairperson and no more than 2 members. This committee shall present 5 and recommend a slate of officers to the membership for their consideration no later than the ninth month of the administrative year.

PROGRAMS: As part of the Programs Committee, you will be responsible for locating and scheduling speakers for eight Chapter luncheons, reserving space for Chapter luncheons, coordination and set-up with the venue in advance and the day of for menu, equipment, spacing, registration, etc. Coordination with the Treasurer and Webmaster for luncheon and venue payments. Coordination with the Board on luncheon content.

CHAPTER 74

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

Thanks to Max Roach for serving as our YP chair for the last several years. He will remain on the committee but will be stepping down as chair for the 2023-2024 year.



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL CHAIR, MAX ROACH

The other Young Professional Committee Members include Jaylia Travis, Micah Bergman, and Tori Shrum

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Young Professionals group is responsible for planning networking and community involvement events for the Chapter.

This group is specifically designed for beginning right of way professionals who want to become more actively involved into the Association while enhancing their skills. If you are passionate about continually educating yourself, augmenting your skillset and having your hard work acknowledged, then it's time to surround yourself with likeminded individuals.



IRWA 2023-2024

CHAPTER 74 ELECTION RESULTS

The Nominations Committee is proud to announce our incoming Officers for the 2023-2024 cycle, we appreciate both the outgoing and incoming Officers for their service to Chapter 74. Additionally, we are very excited to announce the awards for Professional of the Year, Young Professional of the Year and Employer of the Year!

We appreciate everyone who took their time to submit nominations and vote in the election.

Chapter 74 Nominations Committee

Virginia Anderson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC

Alex Gale, SR/WA

2023-2024 ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

David Baylor, SR/WA

VICE PRESIDENT

Cathy Thomas, R/W-AC

TREASURER

Ray Rials, R/W-AC

SECRETARY

Lisa Cooper, SR/WA

DIRECTOR – 2 YEAR

Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC

DIRECTOR – 1 YEAR

Barbara Price



Congrats

Professional of the Year

Ray Rials, R/W-AC

Young Professional of the Year

Tori Shrum

Employer of the Year

CBRE, Inc.





MEMBERSHIP

GET AND STAY CONNECTED.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS

193 Total Members

173 Primary | 20 Associate

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Dedicated exclusively to the right of way profession, the International Right of Way Association (IRWA) has nearly 10,000 professional members.

As the central authority for the right of way profession, IRWA has united the efforts of its members toward professional development, improved service to employers and the public, and recognition of right of way as a highly specialized profession.

Welcome to our newest members!

Sue Ayers, Jackson Walker

Nicolette Hebert, LJA Engineering

Paula Ostroot, Ostroot Business Solutions

George Pereira, BBG Real Estate Services

Juan Rodriguez, City of Georgetown

Curt Acklam, Acklam, Inc.

Sierra Creighton, Universal Field Services

Andrew Jimenez, ATS

Trisha Lockaby, City of Austin

Kimberly Montgomery

Carol Bellinger

Jeffrey Curci, LW Survey Company

Natalie Johns

BENEFITS

- IRWA members enjoy discounts on tuition, events, and the annual IRWA Education Conference.
- IRWA membership comes with access to IRWA Member Network - the only online community dedicate to the Right of Way industry.

Contact our [Membership Chair](#) to join today!



Leslie Persia, Chair



EDUCATION

EVERYWHERE. ANYWHERE

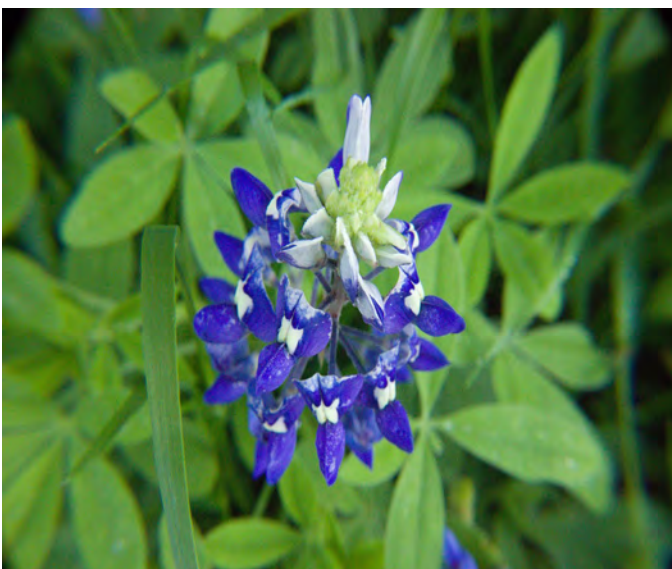
CHAPTER 74 TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The Bluebonnet Education Scholarship Fund

Chapter 74 has committed over \$20,000 to your training and credentialing needs! Chapter 74 will reimburse members \$200 for a 1-day course and \$350 for a 2-day course.

Click [HERE](#) to review the program details.

Check out [available courses](#) online today!



MEET THE COMMITTEE



Roxan Sierra (Chair)



Laurie Miller



Michael Glaros



Elizabeth Taylor

BECOME A COURSE COORDINATOR

- It takes only half an hour to become certified.
- You take any courses you coordinate at no cost.
- Great way to pick up classes for your designations.
- Excellent opportunity to network and meet IRWA members from other chapters.

Click [HERE](#) for the Course Coordinator Certification.

IRWA stands for the *highest standard* of excellence. As such, its certification and designation path is a rigorous process that will work to differentiate you from other professionals.

Our high standards have enabled us to create a distinction that is universally respected by customers, businesses, and colleagues across most disciplines.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR DESIGNATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS!

Hunter Baker, RWA

Right of Way Agent
Lower Colorado River Authority

Mary Hammel, RWA-GN

Right of Way Agent - Generalist
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Alex Turbeville, R/W-NAC

Negotiation/Acquisition Certification
O.R. Colan Associates, LLC



John Campbell, P.E., SR/WA &
William Gold II, R/W-AMC, RWA, R/W-NAC
serve as our 2022 – 2023 Professional
Development Committee



CHAPTER 74 YP SOCIAL AND OFFICER INSTALLATION

June 2023



Thank you to **Vamonos Tex-Mex** for hosting our YP Social Event and Officer Installation on June 14, 2023.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

David Baylor, SR/WA



What led you to a career in right of way?

I've been around real estate my entire life in various aspects with numerous family members owning investment property or working in real estate. My father worked for the City of Austin and TxDOT in ROW but I chose another path immediately after college. I was an appraiser for several years before getting into cell site locating for various carriers until the early 2000's. I had no interest in home selling, getting back into appraisal, or even being a commercial broker. My interest in real estate led me to the consultant side of public sector acquisitions.

David is a ROW Services Director at LJA Engineering, Inc. and serves as the 2023-2024 Chapter 74 President.

What made you want to become more involved in the IRWA and what has been the biggest impact so far on your career?

The IRWA opens doors and provides opportunity. It's easy to get busy and churn out work without connecting with many people in the industry. But to take the next step, I've learned that to advance in your career it is necessary to seek out educational and networking opportunities. The IRWA provides both educational resources to earn certifications/designations and networking opportunities to build teams of other industry participants to pursue work. Being an active participant in the chapter has aided greatly in both respects.

What does the future look like for Right of Way?

The ROW industry continues to grow rapidly in Texas due to infrastructure projects driven population growth and improved safety. I expect many opportunities for the industry in other states as well do to an aging infrastructure and need for modernization. While the industry is somewhat impacted by economic downturns, I believe they will be short lived. Given that right of way professionals are generally in short supply, I expect tremendous opportunity for persons interested in the industry to jump in and be successful. I believe there is a challenge to entice qualified persons into an industry most people have never heard of and then find the necessary resources to develop them into competent professionals

If you could have dinner with one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?

Meriwether Lewis. I think being on the Lewis and Clark expedition would have be the neatest exploration. Just getting to find out all they saw for the first time and how things were crossing the country into the largely unknown western US would be neat. If I had lived at that time, being on that expedition would have been my dream job.



Past Presidents

2021 Barbara Price	2003 Elizabeth Norris
2020 Tara O'Neal	2002 Elisa Garcia
2019 Lori Bible, SR/WA	2001 Randall Kopfer, SR/WA
2018 Alex Gale, SR/WA	2000 Laurie Park, SR/WA
2017 Virginia Anderson, SR/WA	1999 George Schlemeyer, SR/WA
2016 Maggie Schedler, SR/WA	1998 Lauraine Rizer, SR/WA
2015 Patti Bell, SR/WA	1997 Randy Williams, MAI, SR/WA
2014 Donald C. Toner, SR/WA	1996 Margie Hamby, SR/WA
2013 Denise Skinner, SR/WA	1995 Dean Harris, SR/WA
2012 Teri J. Morgan, SR/WA	1994 Mary Jane Amezquita
2011 Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA	1993 Larry O'Neal, SR/WA
2010 Lory R. Johnson, MAI	1992 Sandra Bishop
2009 Ron Olderog, MAI, SR/WA	1991 John Baylor
2008 John Reed, SR/WA	1990 Cheryl Bennett
2007 Connie Real, SR/WA	1989 Rayburn Corbitt, MAI
2006 Tinker Cotton, SR/WA	1988 Josie Wiltzius, SR/WA
2005 Steve Bohuslav, SR/WA	1987 Greg Althoff, SR/WA
2004 Steve Beck, MAI, SR/WA	1986 Richard Steubing
	1985 Charles Clinger, SR/WA

2023 CHAPTER SPONSORS



Right of Way
of Texas

William B. Maples
& Associates LLC
Appraisal Review



DONATION SPONSORS



ROW Professionals
of Texas

2023 SPONSOR DRIVE IN PROCESS.
JOIN TODAY!

Become a Sponsor Today!

Perks of Being a Sponsor include free job postings in the newsletter, website, and email blast as well as your and link to your website included on IRWA Chapter 74 website and logo in the newsletter.

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

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

JOB POSTINGS

Local Right of Way Opportunities.

Office of Attorney General – Transportation Assistant Attorney General I-III

Click [HERE](#) and Search Job ID: 3510 3511, 3512

The Transportation Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office represents the Texas Department of Transportation throughout the State in lawsuits involving eminent domain, torts, worker's compensation, employment discrimination, contracts, and regulatory enforcement in both state and federal courts. All attorneys in the Transportation Division have a robust litigation docket that includes motion and discovery practice, jury trials, and in some cases, matters before the appellate courts. The OAG is a dynamic state agency with over 4,000 employees throughout the State of Texas.

Texas Department of Transportation - ROW Project Manager IV – Austin

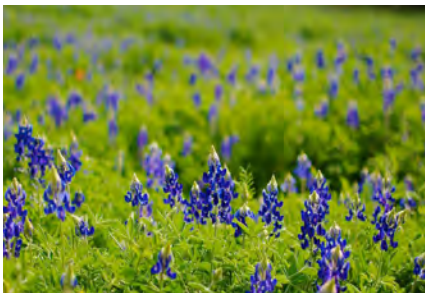
Click [HERE](#) and Search Job ID: 2301668

The Project Manager IV is responsible for senior level project management work with respect to the successful initiation, daily oversight, and delivery of a portfolio of projects. Project managers are responsible for leading and executing the project lifecycle from project initiation through completion. Work involves coordinating the planning and initiation of projects at various levels of completion; monitoring the progress and schedule of projects; and communicating with project stakeholders, management, and other relevant parties. Performs and leads [highly complex] project management work related to state and federally funded right of way projects including negotiating with landowners, relocating displacees, reviewing appraisals, assisting in the relocation of utilities, coordinating the eminent domain process, and management of acquired right of way. May direct, assign, and evaluate the work of project staff. Employees at this level do not require frequent supervision of details.

Texas Department of Transportation - Right of Way Project Delivery Utility Specialist

Click [HERE](#) and Search Job ID: 2302230

This position performs highly advanced utility accommodation program coordination, consultative services and technical assistance work in the Right of Way Project Delivery operations. Work involves planning, developing, and implementing major agency programs, facilitates activities related to right of way project delivery utility accommodations and state or federally funded utility adjustments and relocations. Trains, leads, assigns, and prioritizes the work of technical and administrative employees and others. Provides consultative services and technical assistance to program staff, governmental agencies, utility companies, community organizations, or the general public. Employees at this level establish their own work plan and priorities to meet set objectives. Issues are rarely referred to the supervisor but are handled at the occurrence.



Don't forget to submit your job postings to the Communications Committee!



IRWA
BLUEBONNET
CHAPTER 74

GET IN TOUCH

[Chapter 74 Website](#) | [Chapter 74 LinkedIn](#)

Website Questions: [Ray Rials](#)

Newsletter Questions/Contributions: [Lisa Cooper](#)