

The Bluebonnet NEWSLETTER

IRWA Chapter 74

March 2023
Edition



IRWA REGION 2 & 6: 2023 SPRING JOINT FORM

Join us in paving the way for a new
infrastructure era.



2023 REGION 2 & 6 SPRING FORUM

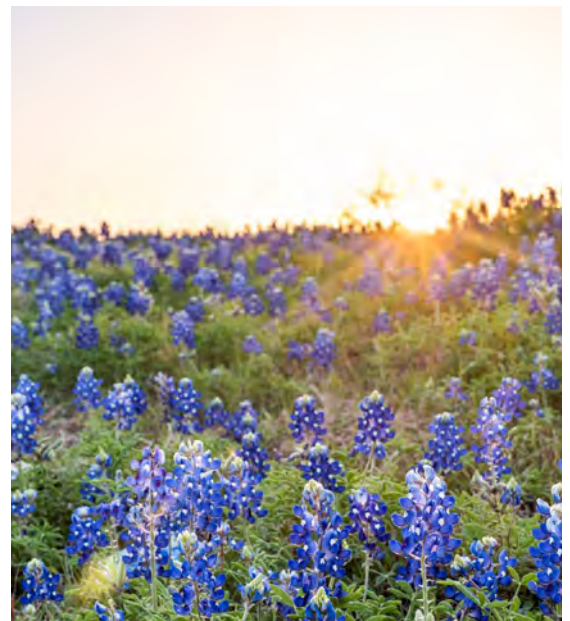
Join your fellow
chapter and
Region 2 members
in Hilton Head, SC
for the upcoming
Region 2 & 6 Joint
Spring Forum.

March 30-April 1

Details are
available [online](#).

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 & 6: ITC Symposium

March 30, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Beach Houst Hilton Head Island
1 S Forest Beach Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

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

IRWA/Appraisal Institute Joint Luncheon

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m..

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

[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.](#)

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!](#)

Chapter 36 Spring Seminar/Golf Tournament

Thursday/Friday, April 20-21, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Golf Club at Champions Circle
15801 Championship Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76177

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

IRWA International Education Conference

Sunday, June 25 – Wednesday, June 28, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Denver
Colorado Convention Center
650 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

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



2022 – 2023 OFFICERS

Chapter 74 officers can be contacted via the [Officers Page](#) of our website.



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

Interested in joining a committee or have questions about the Chapter? Reach out to the Committee Chairs and Members below for assistance. Contact information is available on the [website](#).

COMMUNICATIONS

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

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



CHAPTER 74

**YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
2ND QUARTER HAPPY HOUR
REACH OUT TO MAX FOR INPUT**



**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 NOMINATIONS

It is that time of year to begin thinking about nominations for Chapter 74 Officers as well as Professional, Young Professional and Employer of the Year nominees.

Included at the end of the newsletter are this year's applications for the PoY, YPoY and EoY.

The Officer nominations must submit a biography and rationale for their desire to serve the Chapter.

More information regarding nominations can be found below or you can visit the Chapter 74 Nominations [website](#).



NOMINATIONS TIMELINE

February 27
Nominations Open

April 28
Nominations Close

May 1
Chapter Notified of Officer Candidates

May 2
Motion at Board Meeting to Open
Officer Elections

May 3 – May 17
Officer Voting Timeframe

May 22
Announcement of 2023-2024 Officers &
2022 Professional, Young Professional,
& Employer of the Year

Please spread the word among the membership for the Officers and the PoY, YPoY and EoY awards. We look forward to receiving your nominations.



Alex Gale & Virginia Anderson
Nominations Committee

February 27, 2023: Opening date for submittal of officer candidates to the Nomination Committee:

- The Treasurer position may require you to provide personal information to banking/card processing entities.
- 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 28, 2023: Closing date for candidate submittal

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

May 1, 2023: An email blast will be sent to the membership identifying the officer candidates.

May 2, 2023: A motion brought to the Chapter 74 Board at the monthly meeting will be made to open the elections. 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.

May 3, 2023: an email will be sent to the chapter membership that elections are open and will close **May 17, 2023**.

May 19, 2023: an email will be sent to the chapter membership informing them the elections are closed.

May 22, 2022: an email will be sent to the chapter membership announcing the new **2023-2024** Officers.

Nominations for Professional, Young Professional and Employer of the Year Important Dates:

February 27, 2023: Opening date to begin submittal of nominations to the Nomination Committee.

April 28, 2023: Closing date for submittal.

May 2023: We will announce the awarded nominees with the officer election results.

If you have any questions regarding the information, please [email](#) your questions or comments.



MEMBERSHIP

GET AND STAY CONNECTED.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS

186 Total Members

171

Primary Chapter Members

15

Associate Chapter Members

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Aaron Davis & Hunter Baker

LCRA

Tracy Wieczorek

Lone Star Transmission, LLC

Alyssa Tanguma

Atrium Real Estate Services

**Terri Castro, Virginia Vergara &
Danyelle Donnelly**

Stateside Right of Way Services

Andres Junca

OPC

Gary Schroeder

Texas Land and Right of Way

Ginney Worley & Barbara Cote

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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

203 - ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

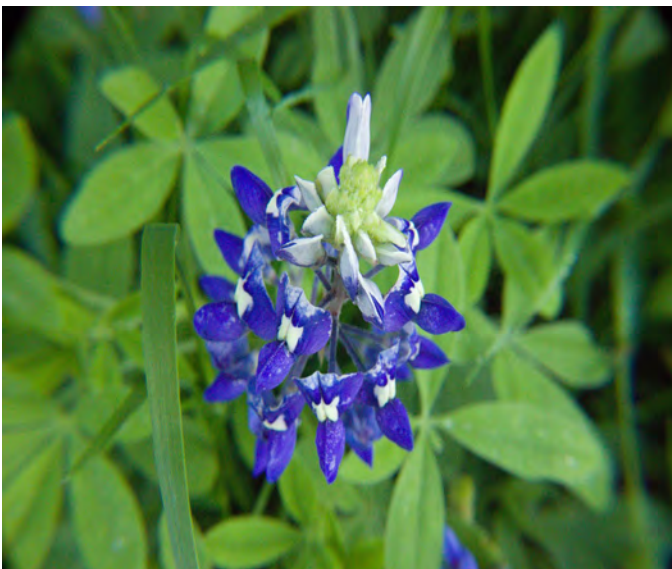
April 24, 2023 – April 23, 2023 (Virtual Lead)

This course provides the right of way professional with information regarding alternate methods to resolve negotiation disputes.

Participants will learn how to identify different alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods and how to recognize each method's strengths and weaknesses.

Participants will also learn how to bust through deadlock, how to save money when negotiations are not successful, and how to avoid getting involved in court proceedings.

REGISTER 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 RE-CERTIFICATIONS!

Kimberly McClung, SR/WA

Senior Right of Way Professional Re-Certification
Law Offices of Kimberly McClung

Elaine Verver, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC, R/W-URAC

Negotiation/Acquisition Certification
HDR Engineering, Inc.



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 MONTHLY LUNCHEON

January 2023

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO TERI MORGAN AND SUNSHINE VANOVER FOR SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Catherine A. Thomas, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, R/W-AC



What led you to a career in right of way?

Like most of us in this industry, I fell into right-of-way serendipitously. I left a career in Human Resources in the semiconductor industry when I decided to transition to Real Estate Appraisal. When I was looking for a sponsor appraiser as I began my career almost 19 years ago, the person who hired me was Lory Johnson, MAI, SR/WA. If I had been hired by an appraiser who primarily did transactional appraisals, my career would look very different now.

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

As my career progressed over the years, making deeper connections with the folks I'm working for, working with and other people who use my appraisals in the eminent domain process became important to me. The folks in this industry are not just my clients, colleagues, and peers--attorneys, ROW agents, title professionals, appraisers, review appraisers--they're my friends.

What does the future look like for Right of Way?

The historic strong business environment in Texas continues to lead to strong in-migration and growth, I believe. I think that pattern continues for the foreseeable future.

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

My grandfather. I was fortunate in that he lived until I was well into my 20's, but I was too young and dumb while I had the chance to ask him about his life, his military service during the Korean War, his career in civil service afterwards, etc. My visit to the Korean War Memorial in Washington DC a few years ago was very moving, as I made the connection to his service, that he was one of the ones that memorial honored and realizing I knew nothing about his experience. I regret that and wish I had the opportunity to learn more about those parts of his life.

Cathy is an appraiser and Director at CBRE. She currently services as the Treasurer of IRWA Chapter 74.



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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 III-V

Click [HERE](#) and Search Job ID: 3512 3513, 3514

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 - Deputy Director Right of Way Division – Austin

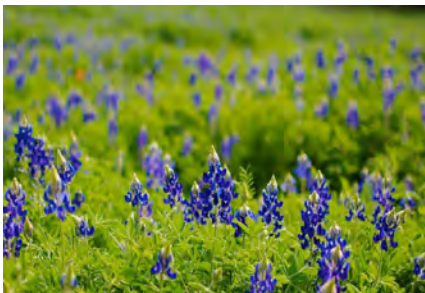
Click [HERE](#) and Search Job ID: 2201085

Assists in overseeing and directing all activities of the Division and directly supervises Right of Way Section Directors. Duties include management of all aspects of the portfolio of right of way projects, procurement and management of outsourced professional service and personal service contracts to deliver right of way parcels, appraisal, acquisition of real property, eminent domain, utility adjustments, dispositions of real property and administration of the commercial sign regulatory program. Recommends and manages development and implementation of policy, procedures, staffing, and funding required to execute division programs. Reports to the Division Director. Manages a group of professional and technical employees. Work requires extensive contact with high-level executives, governmental officials, private entities, and district/division operations. Employees at this level perform work at the highest level of discretion and independent judgment and are responsible for final outcome

Texas Department of Transportation - Right of Way Project Coordinator, San Antonio

Click [HERE](#) and Search Job ID: 2301192

Assists in performing project management work related to state and federally funded right of way projects including: negotiating with landowners, helping relocate displacees, reviewing appraisals, assisting in the relocation of utilities, coordinating the eminent domain process, and assisting in the management of acquired right of way. Work involves assisting in coordinating the planning and initiation of projects; assisting in monitoring the progress and schedule of projects; and communicating with project stakeholders, management, private entities, governmental agencies, and other relevant parties. Employees at this level perform assignments following specific instructions and are subject to frequent review by the immediate supervisor.



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



GET IN TOUCH

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

Website Questions: [Ray Rials](#)

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



2023 Official Nomination Application for the Chapter 74 Young Professional of the Year Award

The Candidate should be an active member of IRWA Chapter 74. They should have contributed to the Chapter in some way such as holding an office or participating on a committee or assisting with one of the Chapter's special events throughout their membership with the Chapter.

The age requirement/restriction associated with the Young Professional of the Year is 35 years or under.

Winners within the previous three years are not eligible for nomination.

Nominee Name		
Address		
City	State / Province	Zip/Postal Code
Chapter Number 74	Region Number 2	
Years as an IRWA Member		
IRWA Designations		
Employer		
Applicant Name		

IRWA Participation Describe their participation at the Chapter, Region, and International level including positions held, initiatives, and goals. (if known)	
Justification Describe the reasons why you're nominating this person as a good candidate for the Young Professional of the Year Award.	
Person Submitting Nomination:	Date:



2023 Official Nomination Application for the Chapter 74 Professional of the Year Award

The Candidate should be an active member of IRWA Chapter 74. They should have contributed to the Chapter in some way such as holding an office or participating on a committee or assisting with one of the Chapter's special events throughout their membership with the Chapter.

There is no age requirement/restriction associated with the Professional of the Year award or Application.

Winners within the previous three years are not eligible for nomination.

Nominee Name		
Address		
City	State / Province	Zip/Postal Code
Chapter Number 74	Region Number 2	
Years as an IRWA Member		
IRWA Designations		
Employer		
Applicant Name		

IRWA Participation Describe their participation at the Chapter, Region, and International level including positions held, initiatives, and goals. (if known)
Justification Describe the reasons why you're nominating this person as a good candidate for the Professional of the Year Award.



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Person Submitting Nomination:	Date:
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2023 Official Nomination Application for the Chapter 74 Employer of the Year Award

The nominated company must be an active supporter of its employees, who must be members of the International Right of Way Association. To qualify as a candidate for the award a company must have made outstanding support contributions to the activities of the Association and its member employees.

Winners within the previous three years are not eligible for nomination.

Nominated Company / Agency		
Company / Agency Representative / Contact Person State / Province		
Address		
City		Zip/Postal Code
Phone	Email	
Nominated By		
Chapter Number 74		

1. Does the Company or agency actively support Chapter 74?
2. Are their employees' members of IRWA and Chapter 74?
3. Does the company or agency send their employees to IRWA and Chapter 74 education classes?



4. Does the company or agency support IRWA chapter 74 activities by sponsorship or encourage their employees to Participate?

5. Please add additional comments as to why this company or agency should be considered for this award?