

The Bluebonnet NEWSLETTER

IRWA Chapter 74

NOVEMBER 2023

Edition



Happy Fall Y'all!

2023 IRWA FALL HAPPENINGS:

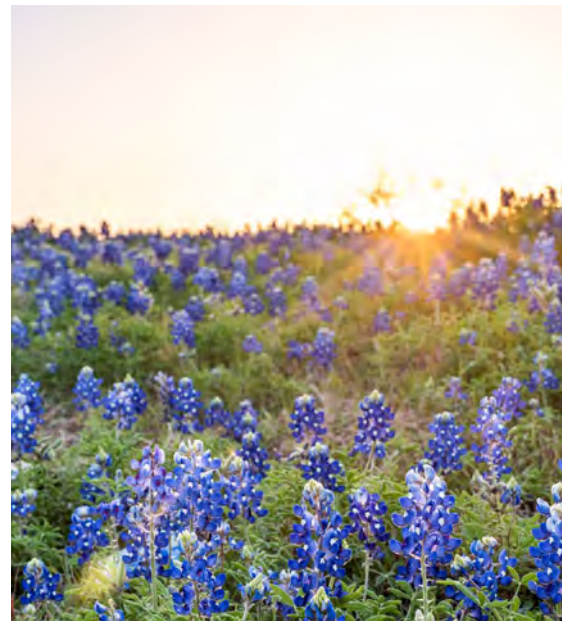
Jungle & Mingle
Christmas
Luncheon

2024 Education
Survey

Membership
Renewals

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

[IRWA Chapter 74 November Luncheon](#)

Thursday, November 9, 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.](#)

[IRWA Chapter 74 Christmas Luncheon](#)

Thursday, December 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.](#)

[200 Principles of Real Estate Negotiation](#)

Thursday, November 16, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Trinity River Authority
5300 S. Collins, Arlington, TX 76018

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

[2024 Oil & Gas Pipeline Symposium](#)

Thursday, February 22, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Norris Conference Center
806 Town & Country Blvd., Ste. 210
Houston, TX 78758

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

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

Please [email](#) for future newsletters!



2023 – 2024 OFFICERS

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



PRESIDENT
David Baylor, SR/WA



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



TREASURER
Tommy "Ray" Rials, MBA, PMP



SECRETARY
Lisa Cooper, SR/WA, R/W-RAC



DIRECTOR – 2 YEAR
Richard Schulz, R/W-AC



DIRECTOR 1 YEAR
Barbara Price



2023-2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Looking to be more involved? Reach out to [David Baylor](#) if you'd like to join a committee for the upcoming year!

COMMUNICATIONS

Michelle Hawkins, SR/WA (Chair/Newsletter)
Ray Rials, R/W-AC, MBA, PMP (Website)
Tanner Taylor, SR/WA (Social)

EDUCATION

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

MEMBERSHIP

Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC (Chair)

NOMINATIONS

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

PROGRAMS

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

SEMINARS

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

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

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



IRWA CHAPTER 74

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

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



2023 - 2024 YP CHAIR
TORI SHRUM

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 CHAPTER 74

OCTOBER LUNCHEON – AUSTIN, TX

Special thank you to Lora Gunter for presenting “Using a Lawyer Hat Without Practicing Law”.





MEMBERSHIP

GET AND STAY CONNECTED.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS

212 Total Members

192 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

Ryan Landes

Heather Larsen
7Arrows Land Staff

Dashiell Voorhees
Lower Colorado River 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!



Richard Scholtz, Chair



EDUCATION

EVERYWHERE. ANYWHERE

CHAPTER 74 TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The Bluebonnet Education Scholarship Fund

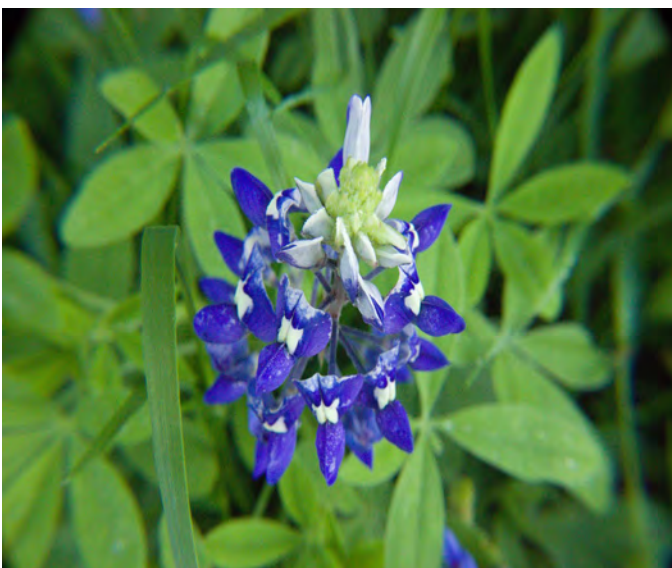
Chapter 74 has committed over \$20,000 to your training and credentialing needs! Chapter 74 will reimburse members \$200 for a 1-day course and \$350 for a 2-day course.

Updates to the Program:

- 3-day courses are now reimbursable for \$450!
- \$1,000 cap per fiscal year for a single member

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

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



MEET THE COMMITTEE



Elizabeth Taylor (Chair)



Laurie Miller



Michael Glaros

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.

Chapter 74 Designation / Certification Candidates

2024 Education Survey

As a candidate for IRWA Designation or Certification, Chapter 74 Education Committee is working to provide education classes to meet your education goals.

Please take a few minutes to provide feedback to the Education Committee on your education delivery preferences, and courses you are interested in taking in 2024.

[2024 Candidacy Education Survey](#)



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

RWA

Aaron Glen Davis, RWA

R/W-AC

Brian Richard Biggs, R/W-AC

R/W-NAC

Melissa M. Deleon, R/W-NAC

Laura Nelson, R/W-NAC

***Congratulations to these
IRWA Chapter 74 members
for earning their
IRWA certifications!***



2023 - 2024 CHAIR
WILLIAM GOLD



PROGRAMS

JOIN US!

November Luncheon

Thursday, November 9, 2023

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

SPEAKER

ANGELIKI CAVAZOS

Lower Colorado River Authority

TOPIC

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A
REAL ESTATE ARCHEOLOGIST**



Angeliki was born and raised in Cyprus and completed her undergraduate studies in History and Archaeology at the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. Angeliki then moved to Texas in 2003 and in 2005 joined a cultural resources management team of an engineering firm with projects all over Texas.

In 2007, she entered graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, where she holds an MA and PhD in Anthropology, and was a researcher at the Center of Archaeological and Tropical Studies (CATS) until 2015.

Since 2020, she has been an archaeologist for the LCRA and part of the Real Estate Group.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Elizabeth Taylor



What led you to a career in right of way?

Throughout my professional life, I have always worked in the Real Estate world to some degree. My first job being in the real estate office, then managing homeowner's associations to then finding Right of Way. Once I found the Right of Way industry in Colorado, I really jumped all in. Starting out as a part-time administrative assistant, I wanted to know all aspects of the process so I could truly understand the whole process and grow within the industry. As my knowledge grew, naturally so did my responsibilities and growth within the company. I quickly grew into a project coordinator and then a project manager. In May 2019, I moved to Texas and started my journey with HDR, I knew I wanted to supply this same drive as I had previously, so I started as a technician until I could obtain my Texas Real Estate license and quickly became a Real Estate Services agent in December of 2019.

Elizabeth is a Senior Real Estate Service Agent at HDR Engineering, Inc. and serves as the 2023-2024 Education Chair.

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

IRWA is a great organization on many levels; from networking opportunities and education to great events that really pull the community of like-minded people together. So, when I saw a need, I eagerly jumped at the chance to do what I could to help.

What does the future look like for Right of Way?

So bright it is blinding. At HDR, our ROW presence is getting bigger and better every year. More and more departments are recognizing what we can do; therefore, growing our work opportunities and we have an amazing team that can get it done.

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

Abraham Lincoln. Not because he was a president, but because he was truly aware of himself and others. Abraham can tell good stories and keep the conversation going, and also, listen empathetically to you, and respond sincerely and with integrity. It is rare to find an individual that can do both.



Past Presidents

	2004 Steve Beck, MAI, SR/WA
	2003 Elizabeth Norris
2022 Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC	2002 Elisa Garcia
2021 Barbara Price	2001 Randall Kopfer, SR/WA
2020 Tara O'Neal	2000 Laurie Park, SR/WA
2019 Lori Bible, SR/WA	1999 George Schlemeyer, SR/WA
2018 Alex Gale, SR/WA	1998 Lauraine Rizer, SR/WA
2017 Virginia Anderson, SR/WA	1997 Randy Williams, MAI, SR/WA
2016 Maggie Schedler, SR/WA	1996 Margie Hamby, SR/WA
2015 Patti Bell, SR/WA	1995 Dean Harris, SR/WA
2014 Donald C. Toner, SR/WA	1994 Mary Jane Amezquita
2013 Denise Skinner, SR/WA	1993 Larry O'Neal, SR/WA
2012 Teri J. Morgan, SR/WA	1992 Sandra Bishop
2011 Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA	1991 John Baylor
2010 Lory R. Johnson, MAI	1990 Cheryl Bennett
2009 Ron Olderog, MAI, SR/WA	1989 Rayburn Corbitt, MAI
2008 John Reed, SR/WA	1988 Josie Wiltzius, SR/WA
2007 Connie Real, SR/WA	1987 Greg Althoff, SR/WA
2006 Tinker Cotton, SR/WA	1986 Richard Steubing
2005 Steve Bohuslav, SR/WA	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

2024 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.

Brazos County Electric Cooperative - Transmission Right of Way Claims Agent (Waco)

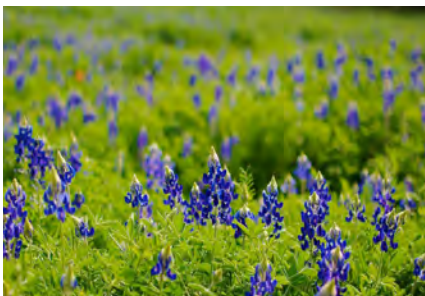
Click [HERE](#) to apply today!

Secures and coordinates acquisitions of properties required by the Cooperative for generation and transmission facilities. Settles damage claims brought against the Cooperative due to maintenance and construction operations. Promotes and maintains good public relations between property owners and the Cooperative by resolving concerns and complaints involving the rights-of-way and Cooperative owned property.

Lower Colorado River Authority - Right-of-Way Agent II (Austin)

Click [HERE](#) and apply today!

We are excited to announce that we are experiencing outstanding growth in our Transmission Services Corporation portfolio and would like to add a Right of Way agent to our team. In fact, LCRA TSC plans to invest about \$3 billion on capital projects over the five-year planning period to support the need of the ERCOT and LCRA TSC systems. As our right of way agent, you will negotiate transmission line easements (both amendments and greenfield) and fee simple purchases for multi-million-dollar projects for our critical infrastructure. This position will allow you to apply your knowledge and experience in acquisitions and negotiations as well as build higher-level knowledge and skills that allows many opportunities for cross training and growth. The projects will range from West Texas, Central Texas, and down to Matagorda Bay. If you are looking for an opportunity to collaborate with the public and governmental entities that enhances the lives of Texans than look no further.



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](#) | Social Media: [Tanner Taylor](#)

Newsletter Questions/Contributions: [Michelle Hawkins](#)