

The Bluebonnet NEWSLETTER

IRWA Chapter 74

SEPTEMBER 2023

Edition

INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION



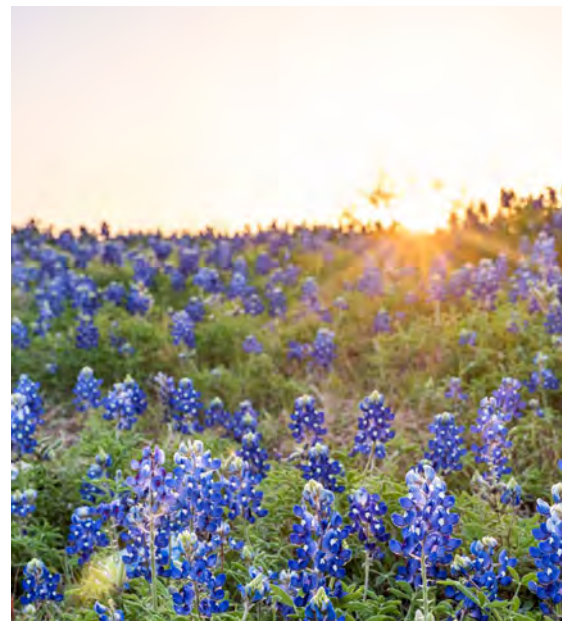
SUMMER RECAP

2023 IRWA SUMMER RECAP

It was a busy summer for IRWA Chapter 74! Review the newsletter for details on the International Conference in Denver, Region 2 Fall Foun in College Station and ED Seminar in New Braunfels.

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.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING EVENTS
2023-2024 OFFICERS
2023-2024 COMMITTEES
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
CONFERENCE & SEMINAR RECAPS
MEMBERSHIP

EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
SPONSORS
JOB POSTINGS

CHAPTER 74 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is such a great honor to serve Chapter 74 as President for the upcoming year, and a great responsibility. We have a talented Board of Directors and committees to provide the operational structure for the Chapter. The spirit of volunteerism has led each of them to serve in these roles and I encourage everyone to assist in any way possible to help them support the Chapter. By that I mean participate in functions, help at the Chapter luncheons if an extra hand is needed, and ask if there is anything you can do to help one of the committees you may be interested in serving at some point in the future. Many hours of work go into operating a successful chapter and I want to thank all these leaders in advance for their support over the next year.

Education is the key to career advancement and the IRWA provides a tremendous number of resources to aid in this endeavor. The pandemic changed our lifestyles, and we came out of it busier than ever with many infrastructure projects throughout the local and state governments, as well as nongovernmental entities. I am asking the Education Committee to make a push this year to host and/or coordinate more education courses to help prepare our members for the volume of work in our rapidly growing region of the state. Don't forget about the Bluebonnet Scholarship Fund that can help pick up many of the costs of qualifying classes. If you are not familiar with the scholarship program, I encourage you to reach out to the Education Committee or the elected Board.

Another focus for me this year is to increase participation in Chapter events and continuing education by young professionals. I know the YP Committee is already starting to plan for the year, so please watch for YP opportunities, and spread the word to the newer professionals in the industry. If you have a particular idea that you think would be highly engaging and draw the YP crowd, please reach out. We want to hear your ideas!

Finally, I want to reiterate what an honor it is to serve the Chapter and I hope I continue the legacy of good leadership brought to the position over the years. The past few years I have met and worked with a substantial number of the members, and it has struck me what a great group of professionals we have in Chapter 74. I am highly encouraged for the year and look forward to serving. Let's have a fantastic year!

*David Baylor SR/WA
Chapter 74 2023-2024 President*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter 74

[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.](#)

[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.](#)

[421 The Valuation of Partial Acquisitions](#)

September 26-29, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Virtual – Instructor Led Course

[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.](#)

[IRWA Chapter 74 Young Professional Event](#)

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

High Five Entertainment (Bowling)
2700 W Anderson Ln, Ste. 101, Austin, TX

[Additional Details Coming Soon!](#)

[IRWA Chapter 74 October Luncheon](#)

Thursday, October 12, 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.](#)

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

Please [email](#) for future newsletters!



2023 – 2024 OFFICERS

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



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 the Communications Committee as the newsletter editor for the upcoming year!

COMMUNICATIONS

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

High Five Entertainment

2700 W Anderson Ln, Ste. 101, Austin, TX



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.



INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION EDUCATION CONFERENCE JUNE 2023 – DENVER, COLORADO



Outgoing International President, Judy Jones, with the puppet Chapter 74 donated for the auction. The puppet sold for \$4,200.



Monday Night Event at Sculpture Park.



Alex Gale, SR/WA and John Barnes, SR/WA with Austin Transit Partnership.



International Relocation Committee
Mortgage Rate Differential Presentation



WHAT NOW?

Angel Banks, SR/WA
RWIEF Trustee

Denver's conference was fabulous! You learned lots of industry best practices and had a blast reconnecting with peers and friends. The Rocky Mountain scenery was simply breathtaking -- maybe you stayed a few extra days to soak it all in. But in your after-conference glow, taking those first steps into a new Chapter and Region year can be daunting. What now?

Coming off high conference energy is a wonderful time to build leadership for the future. Leadership training and development is crucial for every Chapter and Region. So how do you engage in that learning process without breaking the bank? Great leadership skills are mouse clicks away via IRWA's Leadership Institute modules, provided FREE to IRWA members. (You read that correctly - **FREE.**) Funded by the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF), eleven training modules help prepare Chapter and Region volunteers to be more effective. And these principles provide personal development that can be used in other leadership roles through life as well.

Want to know how to develop a strategic plan, how to delegate and empower, how to make meetings work, or how to motivate volunteers? These topics and more can be found at IRWA U (for University). Go to www.irwaonline.org and select the Education tab. From there, select:

- Students,
- Online Education,
- The Library,
- Look for courses with a red dollar sign (\$).

Want more? Just announced at conference, the Foundation is investing \$225,000 in our up-and-coming IRWA leaders!! In memory of our past RWIEF President, Carol A. Croft, SR/WA, the Carol A. Croft Finish Line Memorial Scholarship will provide funding for SR/WA candidates who are within two courses of completing their designation. RWIEF will provide grants of up to \$225,000 for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, and IRWA will manage the program. There is no application process. IRWA is contacting the 90 members that qualify. For any questions, contact Amir Vafamanesh at IRWA headquarters (vafamanesh@irwaonline.org). Chapter Presidents, make sure your future leaders take advantage of this amazing scholarship and cheer them on to the finish line.

There is no better way to build your organization than to provide leadership training and assist your members in the pursuit of ROW education.



IRWA 2023-2024

CHAPTER 74 AWARD RECIPIENTS

IRWA Chapter 74 President, David Baylor, presented the Chapter's Professional of the Year and Employer of the Year Awards at the 60th Annual IRWA Region 2 Fall Refresher in College Station on July 27, 2023.

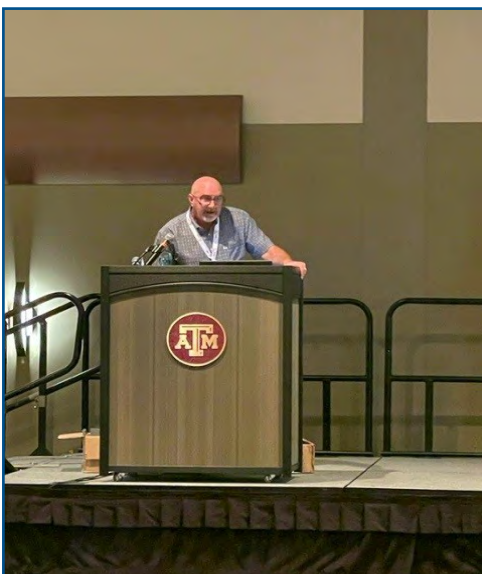
Employer of the Year

CBRE, Inc.



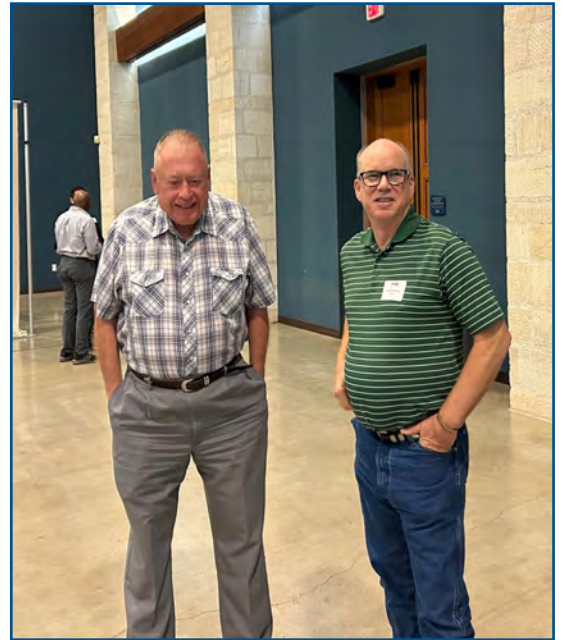
Professional of the Year

Ray Rials, R/W-AC



IRWA CHAPTER 39 & CHAPTER 74 EMINENT DOMAIN SEMINAR AUGUST 2023 – NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

Special thank you to the City of New Braunfels for hosting the 2023 Eminent Domain Seminar. This year's seminar was held in-person and virtual for maximum attendance.





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

Brian Biggs

Ashley Maupin
Stateside Right of Way Services

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

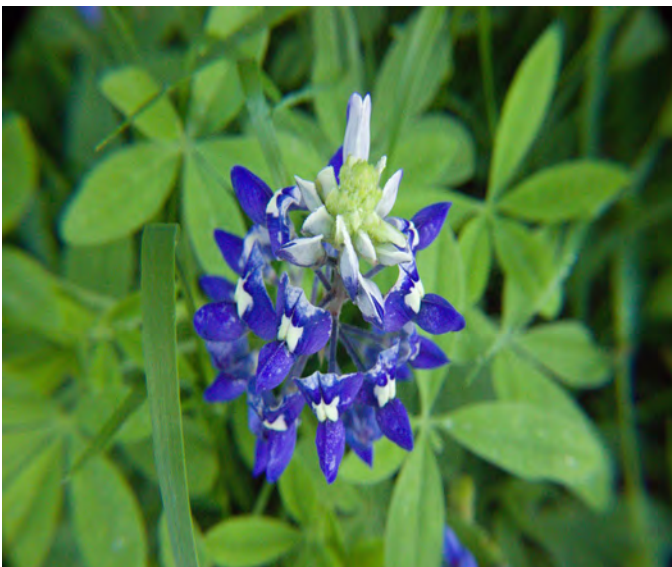
Chapter 74 has committed over \$20,000 to your training and credentialing needs! Chapter 74 will reimburse members \$200 for a 1-day course and \$350 for a 2-day course.

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.

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

SR/WA

Alejandro Lopez, SR/WA-GN
Alexandria Clark, SR/WA-GN
Lisa Roberts, SR/WA-TN
Michael Gates, SR/WA-GN
Rhonda Young, SR/WA-TN
Tanner Taylor, SR/WA-GN

RWA

Mary Hammel, RWA-GN
Hunter Barker, RWA



2023 – 2024 CHAIR
WILLIAM GOLD

Congratulations to these IRWA Chapter 74 members for earning their IRWA certifications and designations this year!

R/W-AC

Jeff Johnson, R/W-AC
Tommy Rials, Jr., R/W-AC

R/W-NAC

Alex Turbeville, R/W-NAC
Laura Nelson, R/W-NAC

R/W-RAC

Marett Hanes, R/W-RAC
Stacia Booth, R/W-RAC
Yoana Quintero, R/W-RAC

R/W-URAC

Danyelle Donnelly, R/W-URAC

PROGRAMS

JOIN US!

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

SPEAKER

JOSHUA SPEIRS, J.D.

Ross, Molina, Oliveros, P.C.

TOPIC

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY



Josh Speirs is based in the Austin/Dripping Springs area and has experience assisting clients with a broad range of real estate acquisition and eminent domain matters for private entities, counties, cities, and other municipalities.

Mr. Speirs has represented clients during all phases of acquisition, including complex title review, negotiation, drafting, and eminent domain proceedings. Recently, Mr. Speirs took an active role in the representation of a pipeline client in its acquisition of right-of-way spanning hundreds of miles and crossing hundreds of landowners.

He also assists clients in fee purchases by conducting due diligence and drafting conveyance documents, declarations of restrictive covenants, and other documents ancillary to a fee purchase.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Brittney Snellgrove, R/W-NAC



What led you to a career in right of way?

My aunt has worked in the Right of Way/Relocation world since I was a kid. I was born and raised in Florida, and after college I got into property management for an investment company. After a few years I realized I wanted to go in a different direction career wise and explore life outside of Florida. My aunt told me her company was hiring and they were based out of Austin, Texas. Next thing I know, my family is moving me out here. I'll have been in Texas 5 years this coming October.

Brittney is a Right of Way Agent II at O.R. Colan Associates and serves as the 2023-2024 Programs Chair.



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

My Project Manager, Jaylia Travis, was involved in IRWA Ch 74 and encouraged me to get involved when I first started at ORC. We volunteered with Blue Santa and other young professional events, and it helped me get acquainted with members very early on. Eventually, I was encouraged to apply to the programs committee and became the chair very quickly. I had zero idea what I was doing, but I knew I always loved attending the chapter luncheons and wanted them to be a success. Now I get to help run them and it's been a lot of fun!

What does the future look like for Right of Way?

It looks busy! Thankfully, we work in an industry where job security isn't an issue. The more people, the more of a need there will be to improve and expand our roads and highways.

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

This is a tough one, but my first initial thought was my mom and dad. We love the same foods, we love trying new things, and they usually end up paying. Since I can have dinner with them whenever I want, I would say Taylor Sheridan. He is the writer of Yellowstone, but is also an actor, filmmaker, and producer. A few things he's worked on are Mayor of Kingstown, Tulsa King, 1883, 1923 and Sicario just to name a few. Honestly, his list of tv shows/ movies is so impressive, having dinner with him and being able to pick his brain and figure out how he develops all these awesome shows would be a dream come true.

Fun Face about You: I was in drama in middle and high school, not because I wanted to act but because I enjoyed the improvisation part of classes and liked making people laugh. If you ask my friends/family they will tell you my specialty is impressions and accents.

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

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 (Multiple)

Click [HERE](#); [HERE](#); [HERE](#)

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.

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

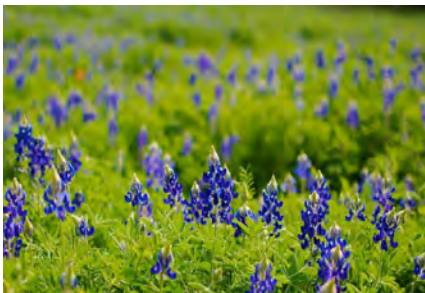
Click [HERE](#) to apply today!

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: [Lisa Cooper](#)