

The Bluebonnet NEWSLETTER

IRWA Chapter 74

APRIL 2024
Edition



Spring

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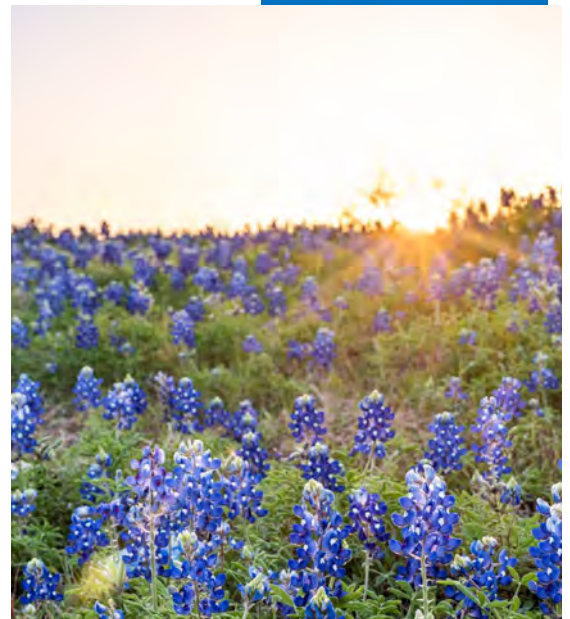
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Bluebonnet Chapter No. 74 is the Austin, Texas, chapter of the International Right of Way Association. Our Chapter was founded in 1985 by professionals in the right of way field to unite members for education, improve service to employers and the public, 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
NOMINATION UPDATE
REGION 2 FORUM AWARDS
UPCOMING EVENTS
2023-2024 OFFICERS
2023-2024 COMMITTEES
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

MEMBERSHIP
EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
SPONSORS
JOB POSTINGS

CHAPTER 74 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here and that means the International Conference in June and a change of chapter leadership. I have really enjoyed working with the other Chapter Officers and committees and look forward to finishing the year strong in June.

This past week several of us attended the Spring Symposium and Forum hosted by Dallas Chapter 36. In attendance were several current or former International Board Members and the Executive Director. Things look strong for the association, and we learned about the numerous improvements and retooling of some of the courses the association provides. The Spring Symposium was held at the Texas Rangers' stadium and a tour of the facility was a highlight of the event. I encourage everyone to attend the Spring and Fall Symposiums to learn more about our industry. The sessions were informative, and it was a great opportunity to network with other professionals you will be working with in the industry.

On a more local note, you probably saw the email go out announcing an extension April 17th to declare candidacy for Chapter Officer. No member declared for one of the Officer positions and so the Board chose to extend the candidacy period for members to continue to consider running for an Officer position. Obviously, it helps someone to have committee or former Officer experience in filling the positions, but it is not a requirement! Many former Board Members are ready to help support any of the new Officers. International HQ also provides a wealth of resources to assist Officers in their new positions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call!

Also, the time to nominate Professional of the Year, Young Professional of the Year, and Employer of the Year has also been extended to April 17th. Unbelievably, no one/firm was nominated by the original deadline. I'm sure everyone knows a deserving professional in our industry. Please consider stepping up to nominate great people or a firm for these awards. Please get with the Nominations Committee, Barbara Price or Alex Gale, for the applications.

Furthermore, speakers are needed for three more Chapter Meetings/Luncheon dates this year. Please consider topics you would like to hear presented or individuals you would like to hear speak and reach out to our Programs Committee to get the ball rolling. We strive to provide educational and informative programming and would love to hear from YOU.

Once again, I would like to thank the Chapter Officers and committee members for all their hard work over the past few months. I've been really impressed with the timely and thorough Officer and Committee Reports. The business of the chapter is truly a team effort.

Let's finish the year the year strong!

David Baylor SR/WA

Chapter 74 2023-2024 President

NOMINATIONS

We are pleased to announce that the **Officer Installation will be held at Fonda San Miguel Restaurant at 5 p.m. on May 23rd**. Details and registration are available on the Chapter website.

The nominations for [Chapter 74 Officers](#) as well as [Professional](#), [Young Professional](#) and [Employer of the Year](#) nominees have been extended.

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

Attached 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 here: <https://irwachapter74.org/Nominations>

Officer Nomination & Candidacy Important Dates:

Tuesday April 2nd, 2024 Date extended for submittal of officer candidates to the Nomination Committee: **Nominations and Candidacy are open until April 17th, 2024.**

- The Treasurers 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 quarterly newsletter.

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024: A motion to open the elections on April 19th to May 3rd, was presented at the Chapter Board meeting. The motion was made and seconded.

April 17th, 2024: Closing date for candidate submittal

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

April 18th, 2024: An email blast will be sent to the membership identifying the officer candidates.

Friday, April 19th, 2024, Elections will Open 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.

Friday, May 3rd, 2024: Early electronic voting elections will close. An email will be sent out with the announcement to members.

Thursday, May 9th, 2024, In Person voting will be held at the Chapter Luncheon and concludes at that time. The elected officers will be announced at the Thursday, May 9th luncheon.

May 10th, 2024: an email will be sent to the chapter membership announcing the new **2024-2025** Officers.

Officer Installation will be held at Fonda San Miguel Restaurant at 5 p.m. on May 23rd.

If you have any questions regarding the information, please send questions or comments to nominations@irwachapter74.org

IRWA CHAPTER 74 REGION 2 – SPRING FORUM

Richard Scholtz and Barbara Price received their Past-President plaques at the Spring Forum on April 5th, 2024.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter 74

Young Professional Happy Hour

Thursday, April 18, 2024

5:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Easy Tiger

3508 S. Lamar Blvd. #300

Austin, TX 78704

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

403 – Easement Valuation

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Virtual – Instructor Led Course

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

IRWA Chapter May Luncheon

Thursday, May 9, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Maggiano's at The Domain

10910 Domain Dr.

Austin, TX 78758

2024-2025 Officer Installation

Thursday, May 23, 2024

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fonda San Miguel

2300 W. N Loop Blvd.

Austin, TX 78756

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

IRWA / AI Joint Luncheon

Thursday, June 13, 2024

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

More details forthcoming.

70th Annual International Education Conference

June 23-26, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center

300 East Ocean Boulevard

Long Beach, CA 90802

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

28th Annual Chapter 39 & 74 Eminent Domain Seminar

Friday, November 8, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

More details forthcoming.

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

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

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

REGISTER TODAY!!! - [CLICK HERE.](#)

Please join the Young Professionals at **Easy Tiger.**

Thursday, April 18, 2024

3508 South Lamar Blvd. #300

Austin, TX 78704

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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.





MEMBERSHIP

GET AND STAY CONNECTED.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS

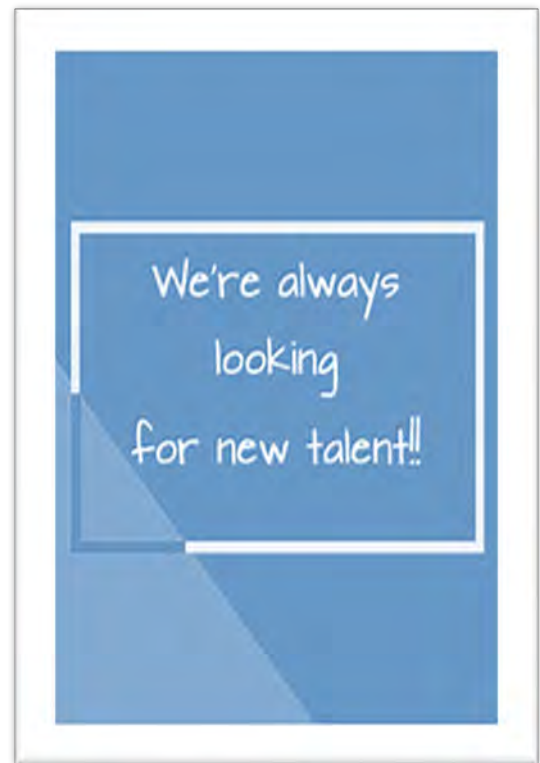
249 Total Members

228 Primary | 21 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.



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

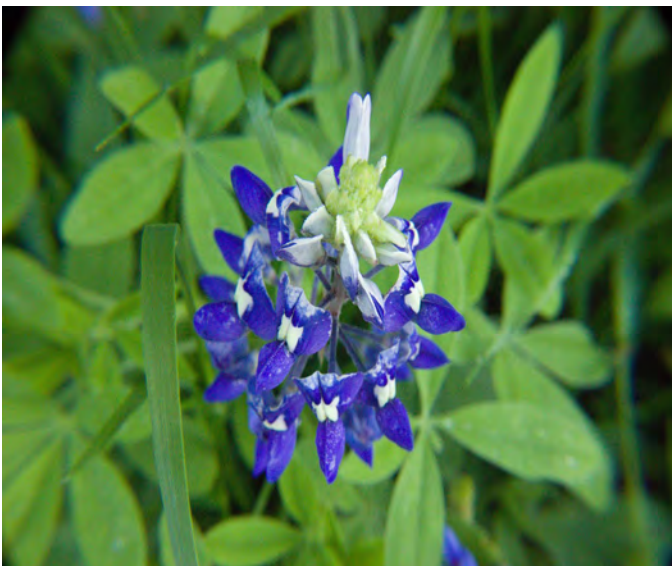
Chapter 74 has committed over \$20,000 to your training and credentialing needs! Chapter 74 will reimburse members \$200 for a 1-day course and \$350 for a 2-day course.

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

R/W-NAC

Lisa Cooper, R/W-NAC

R/W-RAC

Candice Spitzer, R/W-RAC

Congratulations to the IRWA Chapter 74 member for earning their IRWA certifications and designations!



2023 - 2024 CHAIR
WILLIAM GOLD



PROGRAMS

JOIN US!

May Luncheon

Thursday, May 9, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Maggiano's at The Domain

10910 Domain Dr., Austin, TX 78758

TOPIC

**Chapter 74 Business,
Officer Voting and Networking**



Please join Chapter 74 Officers and Committee Members to learn more about Chapter 74.

Calling New Members, Designated Members, and Sponsors – the floor is yours!

Take this opportunity to introduce yourself, the role you play in the industry and why you joined IRWA.





The **Programs Committee** still has opportunities for **Luncheon Guest Speakers** for

July 11th

October 10th

Please email programs@irwachapter74.org if you are interested or

have suggestions for guest speaker opportunities or topics.

February 8th Luncheon




Evertson & Sanchez
MEDIATORS & ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Thank you, Karen Everston for speaking at our February Luncheon. Chapter 74 enjoyed your presentation on Ad Valorem Taxes/ Appraisal Values.

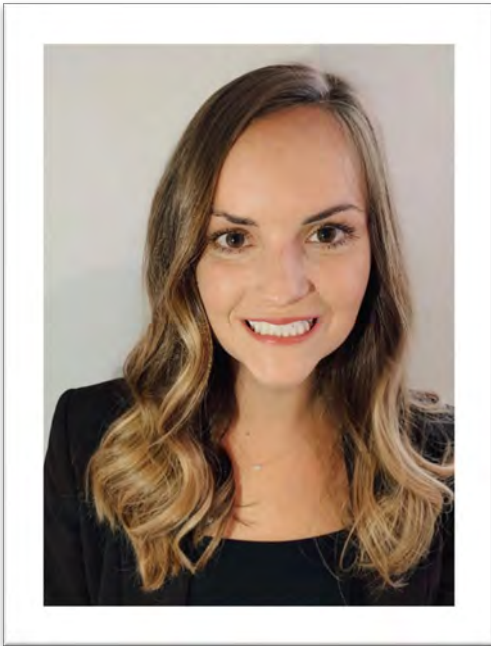


March 14th Luncheon

Thank you, Danyelle Donnelly Daniels, Briana Miller and Stacia Booth for presenting your outstanding Relocation presentation at our Chapter 74 March Luncheon. We enjoyed all the fascinating stories!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Tori Shrum

Tori is a Senior Associate at CBRE | Valuation & Advisory Services and serves as the 2023-2024 Young Professional Chair.

What led you to a career in right of way? I grew up in a family of real estate brokers and knew at a young age I wanted to get involved in real estate in some avenue. However, I started off my career out of college in the banking sector. I knew I wanted to get back to my real estate roots and I transitioned into real estate as a right-of-way appraiser. I had several conversations with CBRE right-of-way professionals, and knew it was a right fit for me. I was drawn to right-of-way specifically because of the projects and the people; you can see the direct community impact of your work.

What made you want to become more involved in the IRWA and what has been the biggest impact so far on your career? The two reasons that come to the front of my mind are the people and the networking opportunities. Every member of the IRWA has a unique and interesting history in right-of-way, and I have learned so much about the industry through conversing with other professionals. I appreciate the face to face emphasis of IRWA opportunities such as the monthly luncheons and the young professional happy hours.

What does the future look like for Right of Way? I anticipate growth of projects and more technology advancements that make all of us in the right-of-way sector more efficient.

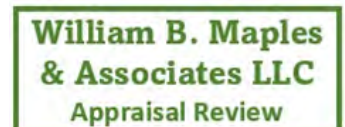
Fun Fact about yourself: I have been to over 25 countries and spent six months in Greece.



Past Presidents

2022 Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC
2021 Barbara Price
2020 Tara O'Neal
2019 Lori Bible, SR/WA
2018 Alex Gale, SR/WA
2017 Virginia Anderson, SR/WA
2016 Maggie Schedler, SR/WA
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
2009 Ron Olderog, MAI, SR/WA
2008 John Reed, SR/WA
2007 Connie Real, 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, 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

2024 CHAPTER SPONSORS



DONATION SPONSORS



*ROW Professionals
of Texas*

**2024 SPONSOR DRIVE IN PROCESS.
JOIN TODAY!**

BECOME A CHAPTER 74 SPONSOR

Benefits

- Recognition on the Chapter 74 website with links to your company website.
- Your logo is presented in the chapter newsletter and recognized as chapter events.

Sponsorship Drive

- Annual sponsorship drive December 2023 through January 2024.
- Cost: \$300



Additional Perks of Being a Sponsor:

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. If paying by check, make payable to "IRWA Chapter 74" and mail check to the mailing address found at this [link](#).

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

SPONSORSHIP PURCHASES ARE NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENSES AND ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

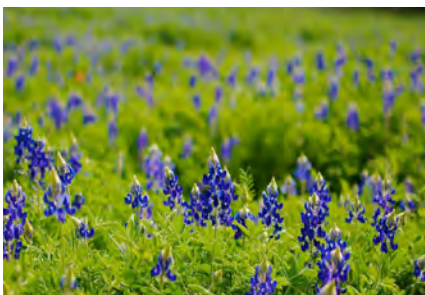
Send your questions to sponsor@irwachapter74.org

JOB POSTINGS

Local Right of Way Opportunities.



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](#)