

The Bluebonnet NEWSLETTER

IRWA Chapter 74

JANUARY 2024

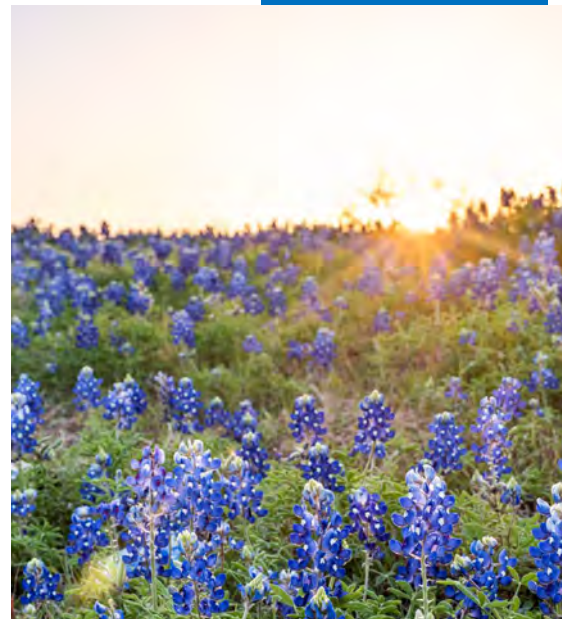
Edition



Wishing you
a Happy
New Year
and may it
be filled
with new
adventures
and good
fortunes.

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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CHAPTER 74 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, that was quick. It is already 2024! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and got a chance to take some time off to recharge.

The first half of the year is filled with a bunch of IRWA activities for our chapter. The Spring Seminar and Forum will be held in Arlington in early April, followed by chapter elections in May and the International Education Conference to be held in Long Beach, CA, in June. In addition, the chapter will be asking for nominations for Professional of the Year, Young Professional of the Year and Employer of the Year. This is a great opportunity to recognize a colleague or firm in the industry that has excelled over the past year. Please think about it and prepare a nomination. The Nominations Committee works hard to organize these awards, but they do prefer as many nominations as possible, and that process will begin in February.

The chapter officers and committees are working together to make the chapter function for the benefit of the members, now numbering over 220. If you perhaps want to make a difference in the organization, beginning at the chapter level is a prerequisite for most positions. If there is a particular committee you are interested in, begin reaching out to those committees now or the current officers to learn more about it. Right now, is a great time to show some interest in the committees and chapter leadership. The new officers will be elected in May and interested members, passionate about the committee functions, with a willingness to serve the chapter, make the best appointees.

I would like to thank the elected officers and committee members for all their hard work the past few months and look forward to serving with them for the next 6 months. Whether it's keeping the business of the chapter running or providing educational, social, and professional development opportunities, the many volunteers have done a great job. A special thanks goes out to those helping me stay organized and making sure the agenda items and the order of business stay on track.

Lastly, I appreciate all the cooperative collaboration in the Board Meetings and amongst the members to make sure we are serving the chapter. I have witnessed selflessness, patience, and a spirit of service throughout the chapter, and I want everyone to know I appreciate it.

A project management tip: Never have the same answer two status meetings in a row. The relentless pursuit of progress is the goal.

Let's have a fantastic 2024!

David Baylor SR/WA

Chapter 74 2023-2024 President

IRWA CHAPTER 74

DECEMBER 2023 "Jingle & Mingle" LUNCHEON - AUSTIN, TX

A special thank you to those that supported Operation Blue Santa.

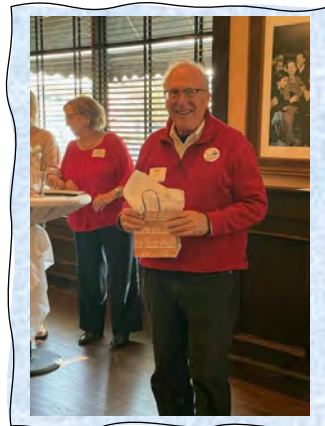


Thank you for your Sponsorship!

Gold Level
Stateside Right of Way Services

Silver Level
Rutherford Real Estate
HDR Engineering
Republic Right of Way Services

Bronze Level
Rials Appraisal and Review
OR Colan



UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter 74

[IRWA Chapter 74 February Luncheon](#)

Thursday, February 8, 2024

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.](#)

[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.](#)

[IRWA Chapter 74 March Luncheon](#)

Thursday, March 14, 2024

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.](#)

[501 – Residential Relocation Assistance](#)

March 19-20, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Virtual – Instructor Led Course

[Region 2 & 6 - 5th Annual ITC Symposium](#)

March 30, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Beach House Hilton Island

1 S Forest Beach Drive

Hilton Head, SC 29928

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

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

Please [email](#) for future newsletters!

[Region 2 – Spring Forum](#)

Friday, April 4-6, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

International Bowling Training & Research Center

621 Six Flags Dr.

Arlington, TX 76011

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

[403 – Easement Valuation](#)

May 8, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Virtual – Instructor Led Course

[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.](#)



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.





MEMBERSHIP

GET AND STAY CONNECTED.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS

244 Total Members

222 Primary | 22 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

Hunter Callis, Southwest Engineers

Shelby Dixon, Southwest Engineers

David O'Dowd, Southwest Engineers

Tye Siptak, Southwest Engineers

Leigh Walker, Southwest Engineers

John Walker, Southwest Engineers

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

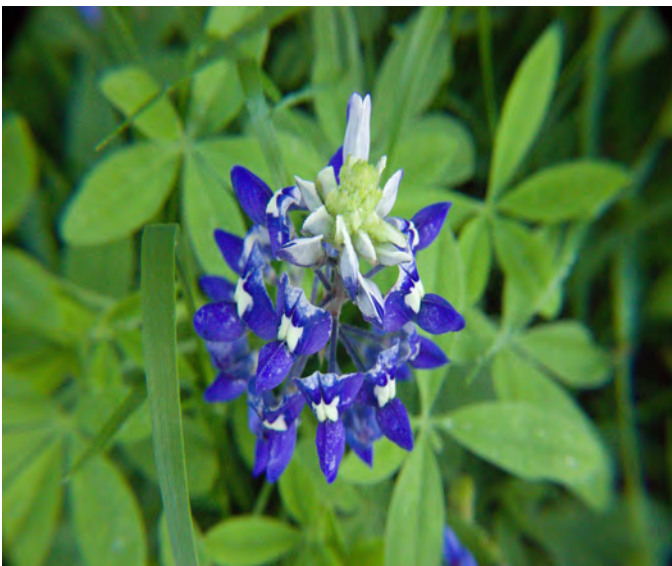
Chapter 74 has committed over \$20,000 to your training and credentialing needs! Chapter 74 will reimburse members \$200 for a 1-day course and \$350 for a 2-day course.

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

Irene Balderrama Rayos, R/W-NAC

SR/WA

John Breed, SR/WA

Christina Guidroz, SR/WA-GN



2023 - 2024 CHAIR
WILLIAM GOLD

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



PROGRAMS

JOIN US!

February Luncheon

Thursday, February 8, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Maggiano's at The Domain

10910 Domain Dr., Austin, TX 78758

SPEAKER

KAREN EVERTSON

Evertson & Sanchez, P.C.

TOPIC

**AD VALORUM TAXES/
APPRAISAL VALUES**



Evertson & Sanchez
MEDIATORS & ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Karen Evertson

Born and raised in Austin, Texas, Karen graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1992. She received her law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1996 and was licensed to practice law that same year. While at St. Mary's, Karen was active in both mock trial and moot court competitions. She served as the Vice-President of the Student Bar Association, Vice-President of the Board of Advocates, was a member of Phi Delta Phi honor fraternity, was inducted into the Order of Barristers and received the Patricia Scott Award for outstanding advocate in the law school.

Karen is married to James Terron Evertson, Deputy Senior Director of Infrastructure and Director of Road and Bridge with Williamson County, Texas. Karen and Terron were blessed with boy/girl twins in 2005. Karen is involved in their many extracurricular activities.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March Luncheon

Thursday, March 14, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Maggiano's at The Domain

10910 Domain Dr., Austin, TX 78758

SPEAKER

Relocation Team

Stateside Right of Way

TOPIC

RELOCATION

Danyelle Donnelly Daniels, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC. Stateside Vice-President. IRWA Region 2 Young Professional of the Year 2023

Mrs. Daniels has been in the right of way industry for over thirteen years and during this time she has become a proven knowledgeable leader on projects for rail entities, cities, counties, and transportation agencies that adhere to the Uniform guidelines for federally funded projects.

Briana Miller, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC. Stateside Executive Director

Mrs. Miller has proven relocation and complex project expertise gained from completing, supervising and managing hundreds of commercial, residential and personal property relocations that adhere to the Uniform Act guidelines for locally and federally funded projects. With high profile project experience as a relocation agent, manager and QAQC agent, Mrs. Miller is routinely brought in on projects where her oversight assists with ensuring successful project delivery.

Stacia Booth, R/W-RAC. Temple Director

As a senior relocation agent Mrs. Booth meets with displacees to discuss projects, provides relocation advisory services and maintains a relationship with the displacee through closings. Mrs. Booth has played a crucial part in getting numerous

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

William Gold II, R/W-AMC, RWA, R/W-NAC



What led you to a career in right of way?

I was lead to right-of-way through my interest in the broader field of public sector real estate. While finding my way in my first position with a public agency, I was seeking a professional association to join, and my supervisor encouraged me to join our local IRWA chapter. So, I did, and I got started on credentialing right away. I also joined the Programs Committee. It was the IRWA classes and participation in our local chapter activities that opened my eyes to the world of right-of-way; and I could see that it was an important aspect of a successful career in public sector real estate.

William is a Real Estate Analyst at The University of Texas at Austin and serves as the 2023-2024 Professional Development Chair.



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

I had learned the value of professional associations earlier in my career while working in real estate brokerage and property management, and I could see that our IRWA chapter offered the same networking and educational benefits that I had experienced before, with a lot of public agency participation. It's hard to say what the single biggest impact has been for me, because there have been three big ones, and they're intertwined with each other. Those are education, networking, and job opportunities.

What does the future look like for Right of Way?

There is clearly a lot of right-of-way work to be done in Central Texas for at least the next 10 years and beyond, and that includes both transportation and utility infrastructure. This is a great time for new professionals to establish themselves in the industry in Central Texas.

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

There are countless worthy people, but I always thought it would be cool to hear Albert Einstein explain General Relativity, and how the idea dawned on him. I'm sure he could do that over dinner — theoretically, of course.

Fun Fact about yourself: I have a side hustle as an Emergency Medical Technician. I always thought that firefighting had a lot of appeal as a profession, and after the real estate market tanked in 2008, I made some career moves, and started to pursue it. I got my EMT certification in 2011, and spent a couple of years working on ambulances. I ended up redirecting my career efforts at public section real estate, but I kept the EMT certification, and I've been working side gigs ever since then – sports events, rodeos, motocross, converts and festivals.

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.

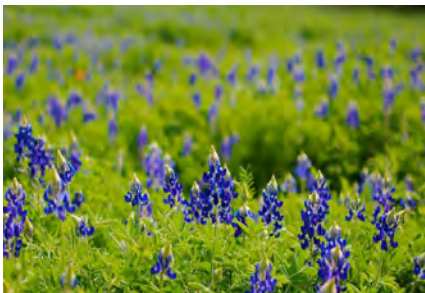
Send your questions to sponsor@irwachapter74.org

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](#)