

The Bluebonnet NEWSLETTER

IRWA Chapter 74

JULY 2024
Edition



Embrace the

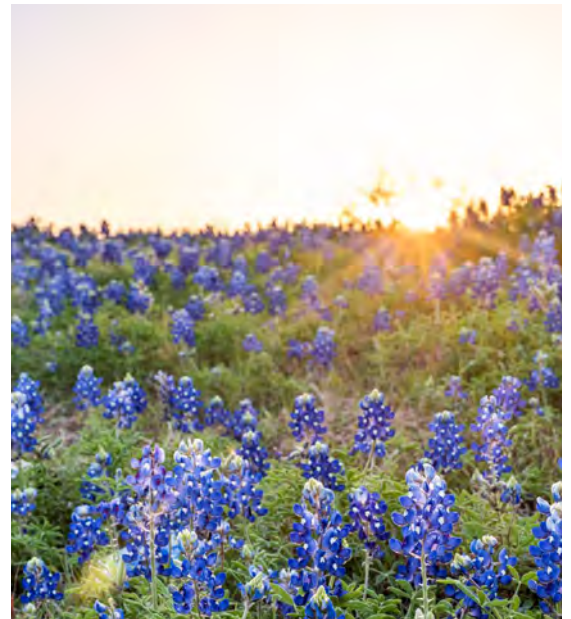
Summer.

Make it a month to

Remember!

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

Happy Summer!

I have just returned from another fantastic International Conference. Long Beach, California is a beautiful city, and the weather was fantastic, feeling much cooler and less humid than Central Texas. As the Emcee for the Awards Luncheon on Monday observed, the IRWA International Conference looked to her like a big family reunion. I would agree! I very much enjoy seeing the friends I have made in the industry over the years every summer at the conference, as the conference is very often the only time our paths will cross *in person* during the year. For me personally, as I work for a large company with folks all over the globe, it is also an opportunity to see my compatriots and colleagues in person, rather than on screens, which I very much enjoy; I'm sure other members who also work for large employers are in the same boat.

Aside from the socializing, the great education sessions were top notch as always. The agenda also included a couple of "off site field trips," including a boat tour of Long Beach Port, THUMS Islands, Wilmington Oil Field and International Gateway Bridge, as well as and a facility tour of Pure Water Southern California, the innovative regional recycling initiative by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Looking ahead, next year we will be gathering in Virginia Beach, Virginia; if you have never attended an International Conference before, I encourage you to make plans to attend next year.

I want to thank David Baylor, SR/WA for his leadership and service as Chapter President last year, as well as Barbara Price, who is retiring from the Board as she steps off following completion of her duties as last year's Director 1. I also want to give a shout out to Michelle Hawkins for her service on the Communications Committee and handling the newsletter, as she has decided to move on from this post. We are lucky in that Oscar Rodriguez and Kimberley Mojica with Stateside have graciously stepped forward to serve on the Communications Committee and take on the important task of the newsletter—so thanks to both of you in your new role. Lastly, I want to express gratitude for the rest of the outstanding folks who have committed to staying on the board in their current capacities; it takes a village for the chapter to run smoothly, and I am grateful for all of you. Any members who would like to become more involved in the chapter, please reach out to me or any board member.

As we move into July, Chapter 74 will take a break from monthly member luncheons for a couple of months. In August, we will come together in our long term tradition in College Station for the Region 2 Fall Forum August 7-9. On Wednesday, August 7, attendees may get education hours for IRWA C105 - The Uniform Act - Executive Summary, or participate in the annual golf tournament. Thursday, August 8 will find us at the one-day education seminar titled "Planes, Trains & Eminent Domain," while Friday morning is the Region 2 Fall Forum business meeting. All members are welcome at all events; registration is now open on the Region 2 website.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer and can manage to stay cool! I look forward to seeing all of you in College Station in August.

Cathy Thomas, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, R/W-AC
Chapter 74 2024-2025 President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter 74

[33rd Annual Region 2 Golf Tournament](#)

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Check in: 7:00 a.m.

Tee off: 8:30 a.m.

Texas A&M University Campus Course

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

[Region 2 Fall Seminar](#)

Thursday, August 8, 2024

8:00 a.m.

Texas A&M University Memorial Student Center

Second Floor, Room 2400

College Station, TX 77843

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

[Region 2 Fall Seminar – YP Social](#)

Thursday, August 8, 2024

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

The Backyard

303 University Drive

College Station, TX 77840

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

[IRWA Chapter September Luncheon](#)

Thursday, September 12, 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.](#)

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

Please [email](#) for future newsletters!

[IRWA Course 800 – Principles of Real Estate Law](#)

Thursday, October 8 & Friday, October 9, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

More details forthcoming.

[28th Annual Chapter 39 & 74 Eminent Domain Seminar](#)

Friday, November 8, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

New Braunfels Civic Convention Center

375 S. Castell Avenue

New Braunfels, TX 78130

More details forthcoming.

[IRWA Chapter 74 Christmas Luncheon](#)

Thursday, December 12, 2024

More details forthcoming.



2024 – 2025 OFFICERS

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



PRESIDENT

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



VICE PRESIDENT

Tommy "Ray" Rials, MBA, PMP



TREASURER

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



SECRETARY

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



DIRECTOR – 2 YEAR

David Baylor, SR/WA



DIRECTOR 1 YEAR

Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC

Congratulations to the Officer's who were sworn in on
May 23rd, 2024, at Fonda San Miguel Restaurant.

2024-2025 Officer Installation - May 23, 2024 at Fonda San Miguel



2024-2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Oscar Rodriguez, R/W-NAC (Chair/Newsletter)
Kimberly Mojica (Newsletter)
Ray Rials, R/W-AC, MBA, PMP (Website)
Tanner Taylor, SR/WA (Social)

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Tori Shrum (Chair)
Micah Bergman

EDUCATION

Elizabeth Taylor (Chair)
Michael Glaros

MEMBERSHIP

Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC (Chair)

NOMINATIONS

Alex Gale, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC, R/W-URAC
Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

J. Sunshine Vanover, SR/WA, PMP (Chair)

PROGRAMS

Lisa Rials, R/W-AC (Chair)
Darrin Ruot
Barbara Cotes

SEMINARS

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



IRWA CHAPTER 74

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

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



2024 - 2025 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.





Professional of the Year

Elizabeth Taylor, HDR

Employer of the Year

Stateside Right of Way Services

Young Professional of the Year

**Micah Bergman, Staff Appraiser
Angel Valuation Services**



MEMBERSHIP

GET AND STAY CONNECTED.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS

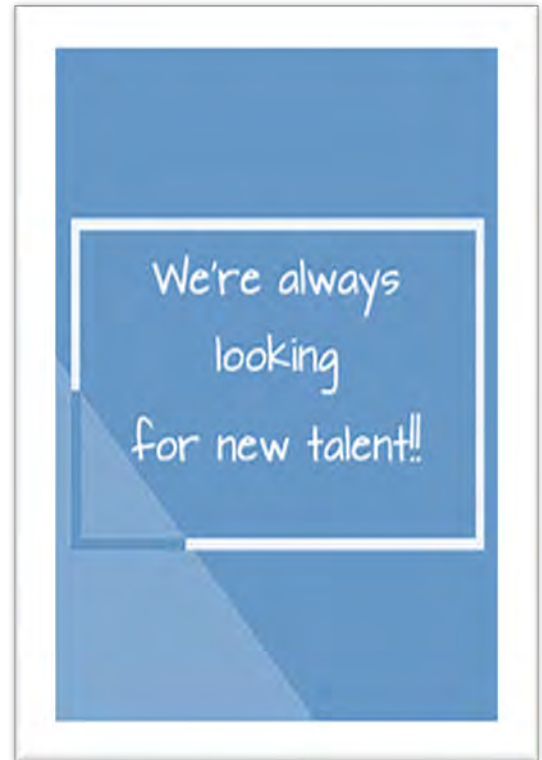
235 Total Members

214 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

Welcome

to our newest members

- **Brandon Childers, City of Pflugerville**
- **William Eastland, CobbFendley**
- **Norma Martinez, City of Pflugerville**
- **William Meador, SiEnergy**
- **Julia Mock, CobbFendley**
- **Greyson Peterk, Atrium Real Estate Services**
- **Barbar Prussiano, 7 Arrow Land Staff, LLC**
- **Robert Sherman**



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EDUCATION

EVERYWHERE. ANYWHERE.

CHAPTER 74 TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The Bluebonnet Education Scholarship Fund

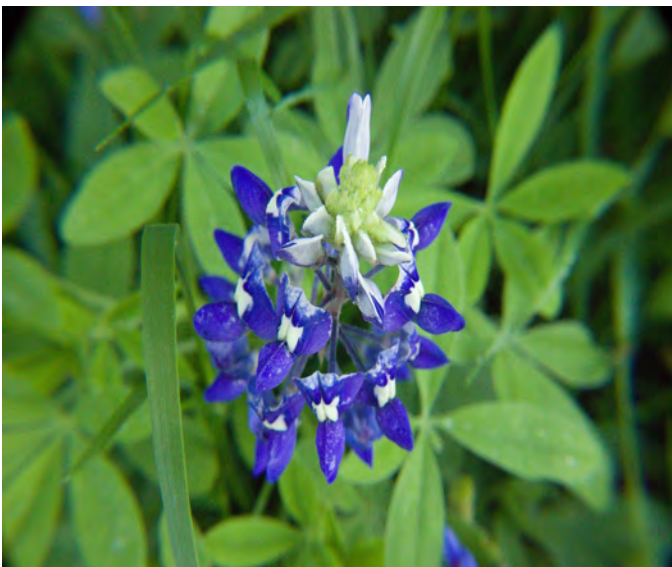
Chapter 74 has committed over \$20,000 to your training and credentialing needs! Chapter 74 will reimburse members \$200 for a 1-day course and \$350 for a 2-day course.

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)



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

Elizabeth Taylor, SR/WA-GN

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



2024 - 2025 CHAIR

J. Sunshine Vanover, SR/WA



PROGRAMS

JOIN US!

September Luncheon

Thursday, September 12, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Maggiano's at The Domain

10910 Domain Dr., Austin, TX 78758

SPEAKER

O. Preston Smith, CEO

Marathon Construction Estimating



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

October 10th

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

have suggestions for guest speaker opportunities or topics.

May 9, 2024 Chapter Luncheon at Maggiano's





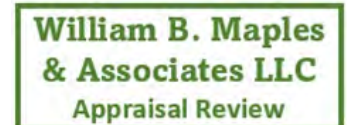
Thank you, Sue Ayers, Paul Gilliam, Paul Hornsby, Rudy Robinson, and Richard Scholtz for your participation.



Past Presidents

2023 David Baylor, SR/WA
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 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.

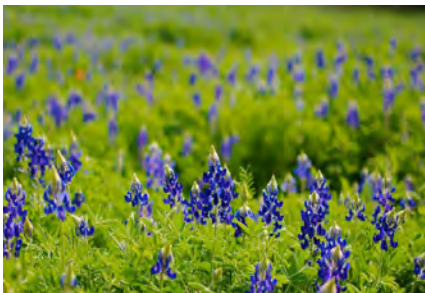
Send your questions to sponsor@irwachapter74.org

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: Oscar Rodriguez