

# THE BLUEBONNET *Newsletter*

*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.*



# Inside This Issue

**03** Presidents Message

**04** Upcoming Events

**05 -** IRWA Conference Photos  
**07** Long Beach, CA

**08** Committee Members

**09** Membership

**10** Welcome New Members



**11** Young Professionals

**12 -** Education / Classes Offered  
**14**

**15** Professional Development

**16** Programs

**17** Call for Speakers

**18 -** Sponsors / How to Become a Sponsor  
**19**

**20** Job Opportunities



# President's Message

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Welcome Autumn! I don't know about you, but I am so glad to start seeing glimpses of cooler weather!

As the 2024-2025 fiscal year is now into full swing, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve the chapter and my thanks for the many other talented professionals who volunteer their time and talents to the Chapter 74 board. There is a strong spirit of volunteerism in the Austin chapter and it takes all of us contributing what we can to create the strong and vibrant chapter and community that we enjoy in Austin. Sharing the load is what makes the journey enjoyable, so if you are wondering how you can share your talents with the Chapter 74 community, I want to encourage you to reach out, as there is plenty of room for being able to contribute.

With the change in seasons, there are lots of opportunity to participate, socialize and attend quality education over the next few months. Please make plans to attend our October member luncheon will be Thursday, Oct 10 at Maggiano's in the Domain and the speaker is Scott Fleisher with Horizon Environmental Services speaking about Environmental and Right-of-Way. I'm looking forward to the informative presentation and, as always, socializing with friends and colleagues in IRWA Chapter 74.

The chapter will once again hold our annual membership drive; scheduled for Oct 29 at TopGolf. Please plan to come out and socialize with other members and bring a non-member colleague along, as well. For all applications that are made at the membership drive, the application fee is waived.

I'd also like to remind everyone that registration for the Chapter 39/74 ED Seminar opened on October 1. This is always a great program this year it will be on November 8 at the New Braunfels Convention Center—this is a date and location change from previous years, so please make note and plan to attend. The seminar provides the opportunity to attend in person or virtually and sponsorship opportunities are available. Please see the Chapter website for more information.

Also, later in November the Chapter will be hosting the 8 hour Course 415, USPAP and The Yellow Book: A Guide to Understanding their Relationship, virtually on November 21. Again, information about registration is available on the Chapter website.

Finally, the Chapter will be having our 3rd Annual Jingle and Mingle membership luncheon on December 12; please come celebrate the season with us.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as President this year; it is an honor. I look forward to seeing everyone at the luncheons and upcoming ED Seminar.

Cathy Thomas, R/W-AC  
Chapter 74 2024-2025 President

# Upcoming Events

CHAPTER 74

## **IRWA Chapter Luncheon**

Thursday, October 10, 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.

## **IRWA Chapter Luncheon**

Thursday, November 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.

## **Membership Drive / YP Event**

Wednesday, October 29th, 2024

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Topgolf Austin

2700 Esperanza Crossing, Austin, TX 78758

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

## **IRWA Course 415 – USPAP and the Yellow Book: A Guide to Understanding Their Relationship**

Thursday, November 21, 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

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

## **IRWA Chapter 74 Christmas Luncheon**

Thursday, December 12, 2024

More details forthcoming.

## **IRWA Course 219 – Adult Communication Principles and Methods (In Person)**

Monday & Tuesday, December 16-17, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

HDR Office - Round Rock, TX

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

Attend an IRWA event or conference and have photos to share?  
Please [email](#) for future newsletters!

# IRWA's 70th Annual International Conference

LONG BEACH, CA



**IRWA's 70th  
Annual  
International  
Conference**  
LONG BEACH, CA



**IRWA's 70th  
Annual  
International  
Conference**  
LONG BEACH, CA



**Our Future ROW Agent!**

**Elizabeth Taylor and her daughter, Norah, went to the Monday Night Event at the IRWA's 70 Annual International Conference. Hosted by RWIEF, this family-friendly event took place at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach this year. California's largest aquarium houses 12,000 animals and over 100 exhibits to celebrate the Pacific Ocean.**



# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## 2024 - 2025

### 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

### COMMUNICATIONS

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

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Tori Shrum (Chair)  
Micah Bergman

### SEMINARS

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

**Looking to be more involved?** Reach out to **Cathy Thomas** if you'd like to join a committee for the upcoming year!

# Membership

## Get and Stay Connected

### 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.

Contact our **Membership Chair** to join today!

### Current Membership Status

- 235 Total Members
- 222 Primary
- 21 Associate



**Richard Scholtz,  
Chair**

·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.



WELCOME NEW

*Members*

• HOLLY MORRIS, CITY OF AUSTIN

• CALEB BROWN, CITY OF AUSTIN

# IRWA CHAPTER 74

## *Young Professionals*

**THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING, NETWORKING, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EVENTS FOR THE CHAPTER.**

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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.

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**2024 - 2025 YP CHAIR**  
***TORI SHRUM***

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**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,

## **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.

## **MEET THE COMMITTEE**



**Elizabeth Taylor  
(Chair)**



**Michael Glaros**

## **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.



## **Course 415**

### ***USPAP and the Yellow Book: A Guide to Understanding Their Relationship***

- A 7-hour continuing education course approved through the Appraiser Qualifications Board's Course Approval Program.
- An opportunity to explore and learn more about some of the commonalities and—equally as important—some of the differences between the two most important and significant appraisal standards in the United States.

**November 21, 2024  
8am-5pm (CST)  
VIRTUAL**



#### **INSTRUCTOR**


**William D. Otto Spence  
SR/WA**



## ***Course 219*** ***Adult Communication*** ***Principles and Methods***

- This course introduces three primary methods to communicate effectively with any type of audience you may encounter and provides the necessary tools to improve your daily communication skills.
- Participants will engage in instructional exercises that will empower them to determine which method to employ in different situations, set the stage, and deal with fear of speaking in various situations.
- Moreover, participants will learn about the three types of communication: presentation, instruction, and facilitation; time management; accepting constructive feedback; facilitation preparation; practice and delivery; and handling disruptions and disturbances, including conflict and working toward resolution.

**December 16-17, 2024**  
**8am-5pm (CST)**  
**HDR Office - Round Rock, TX**



### ***INSTRUCTOR***

Lisa Harrison  
SR/WA, R/W-URAC,  
R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC

For more information or questions, please contact  
Course Coordinator:

William Gold, R/W-NAC, R/W-AMC | Project Manager,  
Land Acquisitions  
Pape-Dawson Engineers

P: 210.375.9000 | E: [WGold@pape-dawson.com](mailto:WGold@pape-dawson.com)  
[www.pape-dawson.com](http://www.pape-dawson.com)

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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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.



**Heather Larson, received approval of the declaration of candidacy for the Right of Way Agent (RWP), professional designation.**



**2024 - 2025 CHAIR**  
*J. Sunshine Vanover,*  
**SR/WA**



# Programs

## **JOIN US October Luncheon**

**Thursday, October 10, 2024  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Maggiano's  
at The Domain 10910 Domain Dr.,  
Austin, TX 78758**

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## **SPEAKER**

**Scott Flesher  
Vice President | Ecological Program Manager  
Horizon Environmental Services**





CALL FOR

# Speakers

The Programs Committee is  
always looking for Luncheon  
Guest Speakers

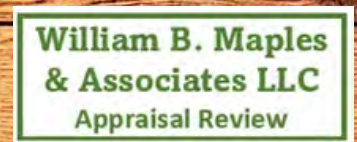
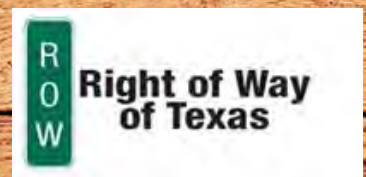
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Please email  
[programs@irwachapter74.org](mailto:programs@irwachapter74.org)  
if you are interested or  
have suggestions for guest  
speaker opportunities or topics.

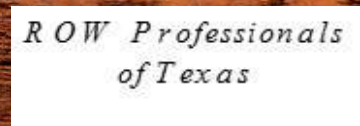
# 2024 CHAPTER SPONSORS

## 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



## DONATION SPONSORS



BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY

# THE BLUEBONNETS

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## CHAPTER 74

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### 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

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### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

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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 OF OUR SPONSORS AS THEY HELP SUPPORT OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, AS WELL AS OUR EDUCATION FUND AND MONTHLY LUNCHEONS SO WE CAN STAY CONNECTED!

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

Send your questions to [sponsor@irwachapter74.org](mailto:sponsor@irwachapter74.org)

## Job Postings

Don't forget to submit your  
job postings to the  
Communications  
Committee!

Okay

Got it!



**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 Rodriquez, Kim Mojica](#)