



# THE BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

## WHO ARE WE?

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.

## WHO IS IRWA?

The International Right of Way Association (IRWA) is a global organization dedicated to the right of way profession, with nearly 10,000 members across the U.S., Canada, South Africa, and China. Its members include a diverse range of professionals such as engineers, appraisers, property managers, and environmentalists. IRWA serves as the central authority for the profession, focusing on professional development, enhancing services to employers and the public, and promoting right of way as a specialized field. Based in the Los Angeles area, IRWA is a leading provider of educational programs and professional services related to right of way.



WHERE RIGHT OF WAY MEETS TEXAS INNOVATION.





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## EDITOR'S CORNER

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Kimberly Mojica  
Stateside Right of Way Services  
[Communications@IRWChapter74.org](mailto:Communications@IRWChapter74.org)



Welcome back, readers, to the April edition of our newsletter! If you're interested in contributing content, placing an advertisement, sharing feedback, or offering ideas to improve future editions, feel free to reach out – I'd love to hear from you!



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome Spring! With the Spring Equinox comes wildflowers, including our Chapter's namesake bluebonnets, warmer temperatures, the IRWA's spring election season and the International Conference right around the corner.

The Region 2 Spring Forum was held in Houston on April 4, with several Chapter 74 board members in attendance, as well as several current and/or former International Board Members, the IRWA Executive Director and current International President, Denise Skinner, SR/WA. Things look strong for the association, and information was shared regarding numerous initiatives that are underway or pending. Preceding the Spring Forum was the Spring Symposium with the education focusing on Relocation. All told, it was an informative event, and the networking opportunities are always top notch. Both Spring and Fall Symposiums are always a great opportunity for members to take part in great education as well as networking.

As we are now in the time of the Chapter year where we begin looking forward to a change in chapter leadership, the Chapter election cycle has begun. We received nominations for all Chapter Board positions. Early online elections will open on April 18 and continue to May 2. Thereafter, in person voting will be held at the Chapter luncheon on May 8 at Maggiano's, with the opportunity for any member to run from the floor. After the in-person election is completed, the elected officers will be announced.

The officer installation ceremony this year is combined with a YP social event and is scheduled for May 21 5:30-7:30 at Sixty Vines in the Domain. Attendance is free, but registration is requested so the chapter can plan sufficiently for membership attendance. So please come out and enjoy the fellowship and refreshments and show your support for the wonderful folks who volunteer their talents for the benefit of the chapter.

The International Conference is in Virginia Beach, VA from June 1-4 and looks like it will be another fantastic event with plenty of excellent educational sessions and opportunities for networking.

Right after we get back from Virginia, the annual AI-IRWA joint luncheon tradition is scheduled for June 11 at Maggiano's which is always a wonderful networking opportunity.

As always, many thanks to my fellow Chapter 74 officers and committee members for their willingness to serve and their continued hard work. It truly takes a village to conduct the business of the chapter and keep everything running smoothly. I look forward to finishing this fiscal year strong with this fine team of professionals!

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



Meet Shelby, Cathy Thomas's little ray of sunshine.

## OFFICER CANDIDATES FOR 2025-2026 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Secretary: Oscar Rodriguez
- Treasurer: William Gold
- VP: Lisa Cooper
- President: Ray Rials
- Director 1: David Baylor
- Director 2: Cathy Thomas



**Cathy Thomas, R/W-AC**

Chapter 74 2024-2025 President  
Cathy.Thomas@CBRE.com



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## IRWA Chapter 74 Luncheon

### **\*In-Person Voting for Officers\***

Thursday, May 08, 2025'  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Maggiano's at The Domain  
10910 Domain Dr, Austin, TX 78758  
Click [here](#) to register.

## 2025-2025 Officers Induction and YP Social

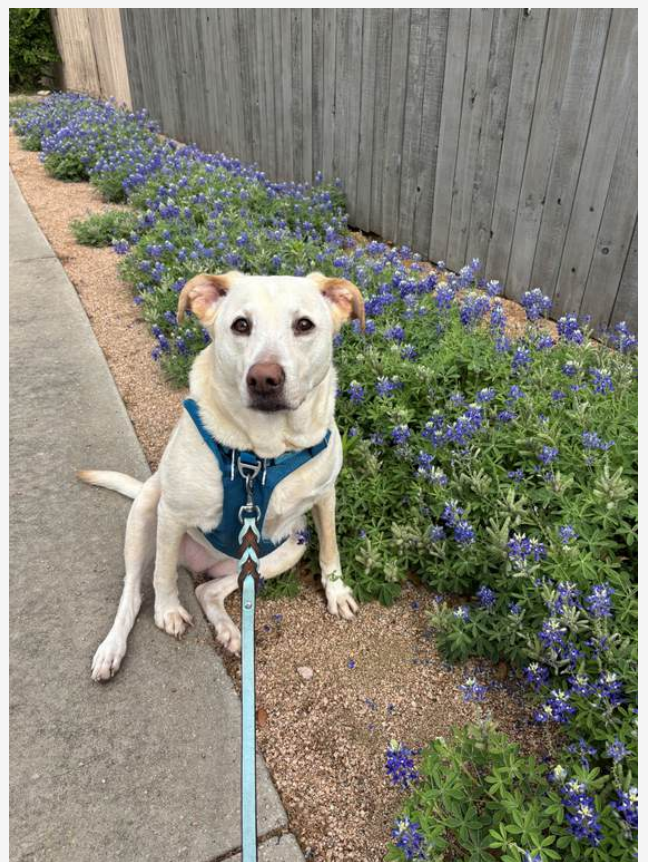
Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Sixty Vines at The Domain  
3401 Esperanza Crossing, Austin, TX  
78758  
Click [here](#) to register.  
**\*Please RSVP by May 14\***

## IRWA Conference

June 01 - 04, 2025  
Virginia Beach, VA  
Click [here](#) for additional details and  
registration.

## Joint IRWA/AI Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 2025  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
10910 Domain Dr, Austin, TX 78758  
Click [here](#) for more details.



Cava, CEO of Cuteness (proudly owned by Richard Scholtz)



Chapter 74 is on LinkedIn!  
Please [follow](#) us here.

# THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



**President**

Catherine A. Thomas, MAI,  
SRA, AI-GRS, R/W-AC



**Vice President**

Ray Rials, MBA, PMP, R/W-AC



**Treasure**

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



**Secretary**

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



**Director 2 Year**

David Baylor, SR/WA



**Director 1 Year**

Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### COMMUNICATIONS

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

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

### 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

### PROGRAMS

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

### EDUCATION

Elizabeth Taylor, SR/WA-GN (Chair)  
Michael Glaros

### SEMINARS

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

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Tori Shrum (Chair)  
Micah Bergman

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!



Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC  
(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 dedicated to the Right of Way industry.**

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Laura Fultz - Hornsby & Company  
Megan Herron - City of Austin  
Rick Hubbell - Actalent  
Rosario Navarro - City of Austin  
Cole Tanner - Hornsby & Company  
Chance Ficher - City of Austin

Amy Bridges - City of Austin  
Julia McHugh - City of Austin  
Laura Seer - City of Austin  
Martine Welch - HDR, Inc.  
Durant Shawaynea - 7 Arrows Land Staff  
Charles Montgomery - Republic Right of Way, LLC



# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

"Not Just Following the Path — We're Creating It."



## *YP Membership...*

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

This group is specifically designed for beginning Right-of-Way professionals who want to become more actively involved in 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 like-minded individuals.



Tori Shrum,  
(Chair)

IRWA Young Professionals must unite and support each other, as well as outsiders, to grow in their profession and to dig deep in their industry. The Young Professionals must aim to be equipped with education, ethics and encouragement. Creating a body of individuals who are close in the likeness of skill level, education, professional & life experiences establishes a trusting atmosphere to allow free flowing questions and professional bonds to form.

If you would like to learn more about IRWA Chapter 74 Bluebonnet Young Professionals, please contact the Young Professional Committee [yp@irwachapter74.org](mailto:yp@irwachapter74.org)

# Education Committee

EVERYWHERE. ANYWHERE.

## BLUEBONNET EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Chapter 74 has committed over \$20,000.00 to your training and credentialing needs!
- Chapter 74 will reimburse members \$200.00 for a 1-day course and \$350.00 for a 2-day course!



### Tuition Reimbursement Enrollment

- 1 Complete enrollment form
- 2 Select Course
- 3 Upload Class Receipt

### Submit Class Certificate

- 1 Complete completion form
- 2 Upload Course Certification

### Reimbursement

- 1 Reimbursement Check mailed to address on enrollment form



**Elizabeth Taylor**  
(Chair)

## UPDATES TO THE PROGRAM:

- 3-day courses are now reimbursable for \$450!
- \$1,000.00 cap per fiscal year for a single member

Click [HERE](#) for the Course Coordinator Certification.

## BECOME A COURSE COORDINATOR!

- It only takes half an hour to become certified.
- You can take any course 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](#) to review the program details.

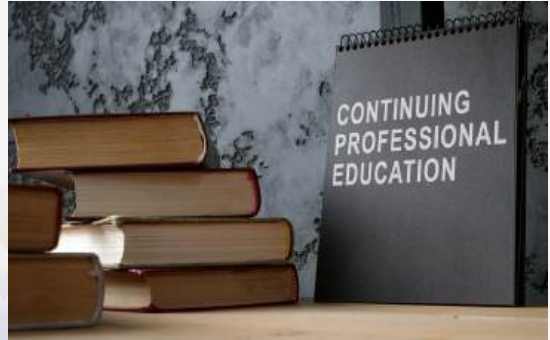
Check out [available courses](#) online today!

# Professional DEVELOPMENT



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.



## 2025 Professional Development Activity

Jaylia Travis, successfully passed the SR/WA Capstone Exam!

Dalton Baker, successfully passed the R/W-NAC Capstone Exam!

Melissa DeLeon, successfully passed the SR/WA Capstone Exam!

Dane Gross, received approval of the declaration of candidacy for RWA!

Toni Reece, received approval of the declaration of candidacy for R/W-NAC!

Tye Siptak, received approval of the declaration of candidacy for R/W-NAC!

# Programs Committee

Control of Access – What You Need to Know

## Join us for our AI Austin & IRWA Joint Meeting!

June 11, 2025 | 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Course Description:** Share real-world examples of properties affected by control or denial of access. They will examine what damages may be considered compensable and discuss best practices for quantifying diminution in value.

### David Dominy, MAI, CRE, FRICS

David Dominy, MAI, CRE, FRICS, serves as an Executive Managing Director of JLL Houston's Valuation Advisory business and leads the National Infrastructure Team. In this role, Mr. Dominy works with the Infrastructure Team to value properties related to Pipelines, Powerlines, Airports, Ports, Solar and Wind Farms, Hydrocarbon and Gas Cavern Storage Facilities and providing Cost Segregation Services. He and has been a guest lecturer at Rice University, CLE International, the Harris County Eminent Domain Seminar, the Harris County Appraisal District and the Texas Association of Assessment Officers.



### W. Cameron Boone, IV, MAI, R/W-AC

W. Cameron Boone, IV, MAI, R/W-AC, is a Managing Director with JLL Value & Risk Advisory. His experience includes expert witness testimony and appraisal and consulting analysis of real property for a variety of purposes, including infrastructure projects, litigation, eminent domain, estate tax planning, and lending. At JLL, Mr. Boone leads a team specializing in the valuation of public infrastructure projects across the United States. Notable clients include the Texas Department of Transportation, NASA, US Department of Justice, and the US Department of the Interior.

June 11, 2025 | 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Maggiano's The Domain  
10910 Domain Dr., Suite 100, Austin, TX, 78758  
[Add to Calendar](#) [Get Directions](#)

Receive 2 Hours of ACE, AI, and MCE Credit!

Cost:  
\$45 Members  
\$55 Guest





# CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Do you have insights, experience, or a story that could benefit others in the right of way profession? We're currently seeking engaging, knowledgeable speakers for upcoming luncheon events. If you—or someone you know—has a topic worth sharing, we'd love to hear from you!

Please email

[programs@irwachapter74.org](mailto:programs@irwachapter74.org)

if you are interested or have suggestions for guest speaker opportunities or topics.



## THE ALAN D. WURTZ, SR/WA SCHOLARSHIP FUND FUNDED BY PERCHERON, LLC



### Objective

The Alan D. Wurtz, SR/WA Scholarship Fund seeks to award a \$1000 scholarship to an active IRWA Young Professional who exemplifies Alan's enthusiasm for learning and his passion for the IRWA. The Alan D. Wurtz, SR/WA Scholarship Fund will reimburse the Scholarship Recipient up to \$1000 for educational courses and seminars sponsored by the IRWA over a 3-year period.

### Eligibility

Percheron, LLC welcomes applicants to apply for the Alan D. Wurtz, SR/WA Scholarship Fund. To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must be (1) a member in good standing of the IRWA for a minimum of one year, (2) a young professional (age 35 or younger) practicing in the right of way profession (3) committed to enhancing their knowledge of the industry, and (4) willing to honor the legacy of Alan D. Wurtz, SR/WA by furthering the IRWA's Purpose and Mission.

### Selection Criteria

Applications may be submitted to [wurtzscholarship@percheronllc.com](mailto:wurtzscholarship@percheronllc.com) between April 1, 2025, and May 2, 2025. The Scholarship Recipient will be notified and will be announced at the IRWA's Annual Conference. The award will begin on July 1, 2025, and may be used for IRWA sponsored courses and seminars through June 30, 2028.

[Apply Now](#)

# 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

**BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY**

# THE BLUEBONNETS

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## BENEFITS

- Company logo featured on the Chapter website homepage and sponsorship page
- Recognition in the Chapter newsletter
- Acknowledgment at Chapter luncheons for all sponsors



## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

As a sponsor, you'll enjoy exclusive perks such as free job postings in our newsletter, on our website, and through email blasts. Additionally, your website link will be featured on the IRWA Chapter 74 website, and your logo will be included in the newsletter.

For your convenience, payments can be made online via our [website](#). If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to "IRWA Chapter 74" and mail it to the address provided at this [link](#).

We are grateful to all of our sponsors, as their support helps sustain our website, social media platforms, education fund, and monthly luncheons, enabling us to stay connected and continue providing valuable resources.

**Sponsorship Cost: \$300.00**

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

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

# JOB POSTINGS



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If your organization is currently hiring, we would appreciate it if you could share any available opportunities with us.

Please feel free to send job postings or relevant details so we can help circulate them to our network. Thank you for supporting our professional community.



Submit to: [Communications@irwachapter74.org](mailto:Communications@irwachapter74.org)



## GET IN TOUCH

[Chapter 74 Website](#) | [Chapter 74 LinkedIn](#)

Website Questions: [Ray Rials](#) | Social Media: [Tanner Taylor](#)

Newsletter Questions/Contributions: [Oscar Rodriguez](#), [Kimberly Mojica](#)