

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.

January 2025 Edition

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President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed friends and family during the holidays and is refreshed for the new year!

The ED Seminar last November was a big success and the holiday celebration at the December luncheon was a great way to enjoy each other's fellowship and support Blue Santa.

With the change in seasons and the new year, it seems as though things will start to pick up speed as we move toward the end of the IRWA end of fiscal year at the end of June.

The Region 2 Spring Symposium and Forum are scheduled for April 3-4 in Houston, so hope to see everyone there. Shortly thereafter, we have chapter elections in May and the International Education Conference June 1-4 in Virginia Beach, VA. The chapter will also be seeking nominations for Professional of the Year, Young Professional of the Year and Employer of the Year. This is an opportunity for each of us to recognize a colleague, coworker or firm in the industry that has excelled in the past year. The Nominations Committee does great work to organize these awards of recognition, but they prefer as many nominations as possible. The process begins in February, so please nominate a worthy professional, young professional or firm.

I want to give a big "thank you" to the elected officers and committee members who continue their hard work during this 24-25 fiscal year and I look forward to finishing the year strong with them. I really appreciate everyone's efforts keeping the chapter running and providing professional development and educational and social opportunities for the membership.

I look forward to serving the chapter for the next six months; please reach out with any ideas or suggestions.

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

Upcoming Events

CHAPTER 74

IRWA Chapter Luncheon

Thursday, February 13, 2025
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Maggiano's at The Domain
10910 Domain Dr, Austin, TX 78758
Click [here](#) to register.

Spring Forum Seminar

Friday & Saturday, April 04-05, 2025
More details forthcoming.

IRWA/AI Joint Luncheon

Thursday, May 08, 2025
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Maggiano's at The Domain
10910 Domain Dr, Austin, TX 78758

IRWA Education Conference

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

IRWA Region 2 Refresher & Fall Forum.

July 2025
More details forthcoming.

Eminent Domain Seminar

Friday, November 07, 2025
More details forthcoming.

IRWA Chapter 74 Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 11, 2025
More details forthcoming.

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

COMMITTEE

Members

2024-2025

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)

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)

MEMBERSHIP

Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC (Chair)

EDUCATION

Elizabeth Taylor (Chair)
Michael Glaros

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Tori Shrum (Chair)
Micah Bergman

SEMINARS

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

PROGRAMS

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

**LOOKING TO BE MORE INVOLVED? REACH OUT TO
CATHY THOMAS IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN A
COMMITTEE FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR!**



Eminent Domain **SEMINAR**



2024



Eminent Domain **SEMINAR**



2024

JINGLE & MINGLE

Holiday Luncheon



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,
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!

Steve Gonzalez - Austin Energy
Kyle Neidhart - Lone Star Right of Way Services, Inc.
David du Menil - 7 Arrows Land Staff, LLC
Martha Reid Lynch - Gayle-Reid Appraisal Services Inc.

IRWA CHAPTER 74 *Young Professionals*

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.



2024-2025 YP CHAIR
Tori Shrum



TOP GOLF

**YOUNG
PROFESSIONAL
JOINT EVENT
- OCT 2024 -**



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!



Meet the Committee



Elizabeth Taylor
(Chair)



Michael Glaros

UPDATES TO THE PROGRAM:

- 3-day courses are now reimburseable 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 takes only half an hours 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.



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

Programs

Join us for our February Luncheon

Thursday, February 13, 2025
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Maggiano's at The Domain
10910 Domain Dr, Austin, TX 78758

Speaker

Ben White, CEO/President
Taylor Economic Development Corporation

Click [here](#) to register.



Call For SPEAKERS

The Programs Committee is
always looking for Luncheon
Guest Speakers

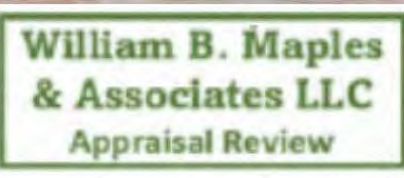


Please email
programs@irwachapter74.org
if you are interested or have
suggestions for guest speaker
opportunities or topics.

2025 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

CHAPTER 74

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: \$300.00

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.

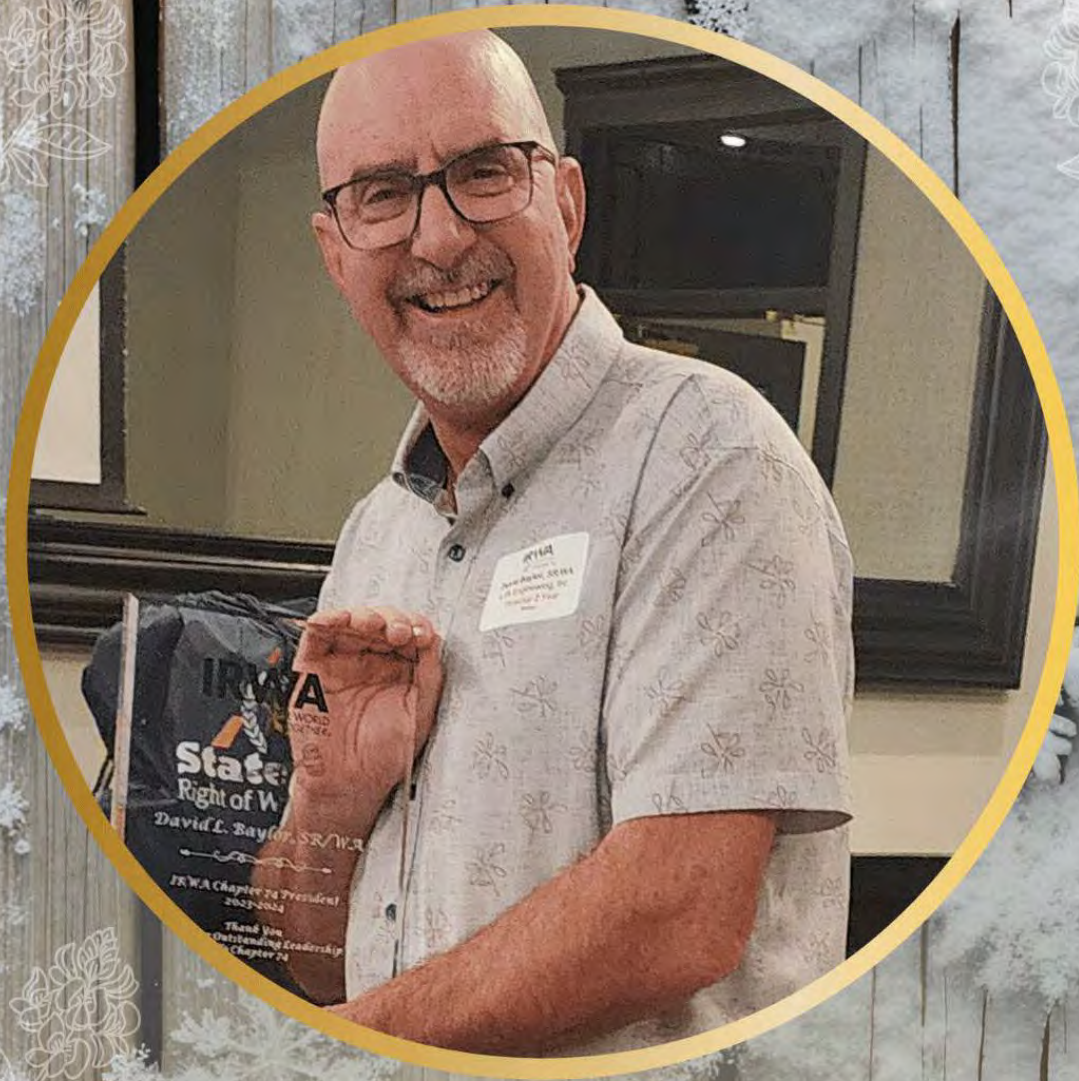
For your convenience, payments can be made online via our website. If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to "IRWA Chapter 74" and mail it to the address provided at this link.

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 PURCHASES ARE NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENSES AND ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Send your questions to sponsor@irwachapter74.org

Congratulations



DAVID BAYLOR

Thank you, for your incredible leadership as past president. Your dedication and hard work have made a lasting impact, and we're so grateful for all you've done!

Job Postings

✦ *Reminder* ✦

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

Okay

Agree



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](#), [Kimberly Mojica](#)