



THE
BLUEBONNET
Newsletter

FALL 2025 EDITION



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EDITOR'S CORNER

Kimberly Mojica
Communications@IRWChapter74.org



Welcome back, readers! We're excited to launch our Fall Edition! If you have seasonal stories to share, want to advertise, or have ideas for upcoming issues, we'd love to hear from you! 🍂



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.

“

WHERE RIGHT
OF WAY MEETS
TEXAS
INNOVATION.

”

What is the 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.

President's Message

As Thanksgiving season and year's end approach, this is a fitting time to reflect on the impact made possible through steadfast commitment to our mission. In a year marked by both challenges and progress, the dedication of our members, sponsors, and volunteers has strengthened our capacity to serve and to advance meaningful changes in the Right of Way community.

With deep appreciation, we acknowledge the generosity of those who contribute time, expertise, and resources to this work. Your continued engagement not only sustains vital programs but also affirms the shared values of compassion, equity, and collective responsibility that define IRWA.

On behalf of our board and staff, warm wishes for a peaceful Thanksgiving and a hopeful holiday season, and gratitude for your ongoing partnership in the important work that lies ahead.

We had another successful Eminent Domain Seminar in November, with 223 attendees, great presentations, and networking, along with the countless volunteers from Chapters 39 and 74 who always make this seminar a great event. This year's seminar was bittersweet, as Randy Williams is stepping down as the seminar moderator. Randy has been the driving force behind this seminar for over 30 years. We thank Randy for his leadership.

Accomplishments

- Thanks to Erin Newberry, our new chapter's Professional Development Chair, and to Alexis Vanzura, who is joining our membership committee. William Gold, our new chapter Treasurer, successfully navigated our accounting transition from QuickBooks to Oracle.
- Thanks to the membership and YP committee for arranging another successful annual membership drive. As we move into 2026, we have various events and networking opportunities scheduled.
- Christmas Luncheon. Sponsorship is still available. Sponsorship supports our annual Bluebonnet Education Fund, which provides educational assistance to our membership.
- Annual Chapter Sponsorship Drive.
- Chapter nominations for Professional of the Year, Employer of the Year, and YP of the Year.
- 2026 IEUC Symposium, New Orleans, April 9th, registration is now open at irwaregion2.org.
- 2026 International IRWA Conference, Nebraska. June 26-29th. Registration is now open at irwaonline.org.

We are always looking for members to join our committees. If you are interested, contact me.

Ray Rials, RWA, R/W-AC, PMP
Chapter 74 2025-2026 President

Upcoming Events

IRWA Chapter 74 - 4th Annual Jingle & Mingle

Wednesday, December 10, 2025
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CDT
Maggiano's at The Domain
10910 Domain Drive,
Austin, TX 78758
Click [here](#) to register.

IRWA Chapter 74 Luncheon

Wednesday, January 08, 2026
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CDT
Maggiano's at The Domain
10910 Domain Drive,
Austin, TX 78758
Click [here](#) to register.

IRWA Chapter 74 Luncheon

Wednesday, February 12, 2026
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CDT
Maggiano's at The Domain
10910 Domain Drive,
Austin, TX 78758
Click [here](#) to register.

Sponsorship now open for 2026 Oil and Gas Symposium Sponsorship

Wednesday, March 04, 2026
8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. CST Norris
Conference Center
816 Town and Country Blvd #210
Houston, TX 77024
Click [here](#) to register.

2026 Spring Forum

Transportation Symposium
Margaritaville Beach Report
April 29th - May 1st, 2026
South Padre Island
More details forthcoming.

Save
The
Date

2025-2026

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



President

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



Vice President

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



Treasure

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



Secretary

Oscar Rodriguez, R/W-NAC



Director 2 Year

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



Director 1 Year

David Baylor, SR/WA

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Erin Newberry, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC (Chair)

MEMBERSHIP

Richard Scholtz, R/W-AC (Chair)
Alexis Vanzura

NOMINATIONS

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

PROGRAMS

Lisa Rials, R/W-AC (Chair)
Darrin Ruot, RWA, R/W-AC
Stephanie Ferraris, R/W-AC

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
Max Roach

LOOKING TO BE MORE INVOLVED? REACH OUT TO [RAY RIALS](#) 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

Ashton James – Ross Molina Oliveros, PC
Sandra Moreno – Ross Molina Oliveros, PC
Christy Wink – Arrow Land Group
Hailey Armour – LCRA
Karen Hooper - LCRA

Aaron Pruitt – City of Austin
Rachel Egan – City of Austin
Jordan Sale – City of Austin
Annette Rainey – City of Austin
Randall Fuller – Right of Way of Texas

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

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



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



UP and Membership Drive Event



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

CHAPTER 74

Exciting News! We're offering **FREE** luncheons through January 2026 exclusively for our current Young Professional (YP) members. Simply sign up for the luncheon and choose the option 'Member Young Professional (In-Person) (\$0/each)' to claim your spot!

The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting tickets. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Contact Information, Tickets & Products (active), Review Order, Payment Information, and All Done! Below the tabs, there are two main sections. The left section is titled 'AVAILABLE TICKETS' and lists three options: 'Member (In-person) (\$0/each)', 'Non-Member (In-person) (\$40/each)', and 'Member Young Professional (In-Person) (\$0/each)'. Each option has a quantity input field set to '1' and an 'ADD' button. The 'Member Young Professional' option is circled in red. The right section is titled 'Added Tickets and Products' and contains a table with columns for 'Item', 'QTY', 'Price', and 'Total'. Below the table, it says 'No items have been added'.

FUEL YOUR CAREER WITH FREE LUNCHEONS – YP MEMBERS, DON'T MISS OUT!

If you would like to learn more about IRWA Chapter 74 Bluebonnet Young Professionals, please contact the Young Professional Committee
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 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 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.



Erin K. Newberry
SR/WA, R/W-NAC,
R/W-NAC (Chair)

2025 Professional Development Activity

William R. Gold, received approval of the declaration of candidacy for the SR/WA!

Michael J. Palkowetz, received approval of the declaration of candidacy for the RWA!

Kimberly Mojica, received approval of the declaration of candidacy for the R/W-RAC!

Melissa M. DeLeon, successfully achieved the SR/WA-GN, professional designation!

Ashley Maupin, successfully achieved the R/W-RAC, professional designation!

Dane Gross, received approval of the declaration of candidacy for the SR/WA!

Oscar Rodriguez, received approval of the declaration of candidacy for the RWP!

If you're seeking support in your professional development, please feel free to reach out to us at pd@irwachapter74.org

Programs Committee

Events With Purpose. Planning With Passion

The Programs Committee is the driving force behind planning and coordinating Chapter 74's signature events. Throughout the year, they secure engaging speakers for monthly luncheons, the IRWA/AI Joint Luncheon, and the annual Holiday Lunch. Beyond speaker outreach, the committee manages venue reservations, menus, audiovisual needs, registration, and nametags to ensure smooth event-day operations. They also work closely with the treasurer and webmaster on event payments and keep the Board informed with updates on finances and the speaker schedule. Thanks to their organization and attention to detail, Chapter 74 members enjoy professional events that educate, connect, and strengthen our community.

Join us for our Annual Jingle & Mingle



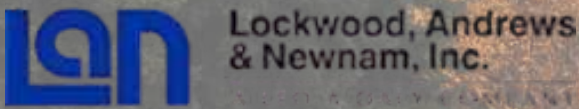
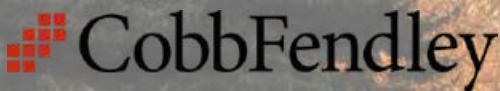
Wednesday, December 10, 2025
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CDT
Maggiano's at The Domain
10910 Domain Drive, Austin, TX 78758
Click [here](#) to register.



Register for our monthly luncheons right [HERE!](#)
Maggiano's The Domain 10910 Domain Dr.,
Suite 100, Austin, TX, 78758

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

CHAPTER SPONSORS



PAST PRESIDENTS

- 2024 Cathy Thomas, R/W-AC
- 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

Partner with Purpose. Sponsor with Impact.

BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY

THE BLUEBONNETS

BENEFITS!

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



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

JOB POSTINGS

CHAPTER 74



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



GET IN TOUCH

[Chapter 74 Website](#) | [Chapter 74 LinkedIn](#) Website
Questions: [Ray Rials](#) Social Media: [Tanner Taylor](#)
Newsletter Questions/Contributions: [Kimberly Mojica](#)