

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Special Points of Interest | 1 |
| President's Message | 2 |
| Committee Update | 3 |
| Education | 4-6 |
| Events | 7-9 |
| Membership | 10 |
| Professional Development | 11 |
| Career Hotline | 12-14 |
| Chapter Website Sponsorship | 15-16 |



IRWA
 BLUEBONNET
 CHAPTER 74

December 2014

About our Chapter

Bluebonnet Chapter No. 74, is the Austin, TX, 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, to 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 at the Chevy Chase Building. All are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please contact a Chapter 74 Officer.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Don Toner, SR/WA
 TxDOT—Strategic Project Division
 512-531-5904
don.toner@txdot.gov

President Elect

Patti Bell-Clark, SR/WA
 Allegiant Group, PLLC
 512-826-1333
patti@allegiantgrp.com

Vice President

Maggie Schedler, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC
 Contract Land Staff, LLC
 512-346-6518
maggie.schedler@contractlandstaff.com

Secretary

Virginia Pompa, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
 Aria Consulting Management Group, Inc.
 512-221-3798
virginia@aria-cmg.com

Treasurer

Alex Gale, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC
 HDR Engineering, Inc.
 512-239-9750
alex.gale@hdrinc.com

Director / 2 Year

Denise Skinner, SR/WA
 NuStar Energy
 210-918-2119
denise.skinner@nustarenergy.com

Director / 1 Year

Teri Morgan, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
 HDR Engineering, Inc.
 512-431-2742
t.morgan@hdrinc.com



Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

Place: Casa Chapala
 9041 Research Blvd. Ste. 100,
 Austin, TX 78758

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

Cost: \$15/person

Special points of interest:

- 2015 Education Courses
- 2015 Spring Forum in Austin, TX (March 4-6)
- Annual Holiday Event (RSVP by November 23)
- Membership Drive Update
- Career Hotline **New Postings**

President's Message

Dear Chapter 74 Members,

I look forward to spending some time with you and your guests at the annual Holiday Event Saturday, December 6th. We will celebrate a great year and enjoy dinner, cocktails and dancing to the Kent Mayhew Band. We will be collecting presents for Blue Santa so please bring an unwrapped toy to donate. You can also contribute to this organization by bidding on themed gift baskets and compete for the Highest Bid honor.

There will not be a chapter luncheon or continuing education classes this month. Both will resume in January.

Don't forget about these upcoming events:

January 27th – 30th, Course 421 – The Valuation of Partial Acquisitions

March 5th – 6th, The 2015 Spring Forum will be held at the Radisson on Caesar Chavez. A block of rooms is available so call or go online to make your reservation.

Also, please check the newsletter or contact the education committee about upcoming classes and seminars. According to the most recent list, Chapter 74 will be sponsoring 10 different classes this next year. One of our goals as an IRWA Chapter and as an Association is to provide training and education for our members. Our chapter wants to make sure that we deliver the training that you need. If you need a class then there are several others that may need it as well. Let our Education Committee know what classes are desired and we may be able to deliver them locally and save you the travel costs.

This chapter continues to grow and provide many connections and networking opportunities. The monthly luncheons are a great way to connect with your peers and meet someone new. Please plan on attending the January 6th Luncheon at Casa Chapala from 12:00 until 1:00. It is located at the intersection of US 183 and Burnett.

I look forward to seeing you at the holiday event. I wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a very prosperous new year.

Please be safe in your travels.



Sincerely,

Chapter 74 - President

Don Toner, SR/WA

TxDOT—Strategic Project Division

512-531-5904

don.toner@txdot.gov



Committee Updates

Monthly Luncheons are typically held on the second Tuesday of each month. Please check the website each month as locations may change.



DISTINGUISH YOURSELF WITH AN IRWA CERTIFICATION

GENERALIST

SPECIALIST

Asset Management

Ron Olderog, MAI, SR/WA
City of Austin, (512) 974-7193

Communication

Michelle Hawkins, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC
HDR Engineering, Inc., (512) 531-5915

Barbara Price
Capital Metro, (512) 389-7438

Education

Luanne Dunn, R/W-RAC
City of Austin, (512) 453-5501

Cathy Thomas
Allegiant Group, PLLC, (512) 355-7197 ext. 104

Matthew Eckmann
Contract Land Staff, LLC, (512) 346-6518

Local Public Agency

John Reed, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC
Compliant Relocation Services, LLC, (512) 468-5097

Sheila Mills
Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 832-7018

Membership

Wade McNeill, SR/WA
Integra Realty Resources-Austin, (512) 459-3440

Nominations

Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
Cintra U.S., (512) 371-4816

Teri Morgan, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
HDR Engineering, Inc., (512) 431-2742

Denise Skinner, SR/WA
NuStar Energy, (210) 918-2119

Professional Development

Cheryl Speaker, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
(512) 415-5778

Programs

Susan Dwyer
(512) 658-8508

Tara O'Neal
Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 416-2946

Lori Bible, SR/WA
Lockwood, Andrews & Newman Inc., (512) 338-2754

Relocation

David Harrah, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC
Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 416-2962

September Eminent Domain Seminar

Elizabeth Norris
Atkins, (512) 342-3443

Surveying and Engineering

Jesse Cooper
Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 416-2874

Transportation

Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
Cintra U.S., (512) 371-4816

Utilities

Kerry Fulton, SR/WA
TxDOT-Strategic Project Division, (512) 531-5905
Harsh Doshy
Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 416-2869

Valuation

Chris Hornsby
Paul Hornsby & Company, (512) 381-5510

Young Professionals

Mark Mendez, RWA
Aria Consulting Management Group, Inc., (512) 351-2774

Harsh Doshy
Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 416-2869



IT'S THE LAST 2014 Course being Offered in Austin, Texas

| COURSE | TITLE | DATE | CLASS COORDINATOR |
|--------|--|-------------|-------------------|
| 207 | Practical Negotiations for US Federal Funded Land Acquisitions | 11/13-11/14 | Luanne Dunn |

Are you ready for 2015?

| COURSE | TITLE | DATE | CLASS COORDINATOR |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 421 | The Valuation of Partial Acquisitions | 01/27-01/30 | Luanne Dunn |
| 800 | Principals of Real Estate Law | 02/19-02/20 | TBA |

If you need additional information on courses, [click here](#) or contact:

Luanne Dunn, R/W-RAC @ (512) 453-5501

Cathy Thomas @ (512) 355-7197 ext. 104

Matthew Eckmann @ (512) 346-6518



**2015 Spring Forum
will be held in Austin, Texas**

March 4-6, 2015

The room block for the 2015 Winter Forum in Austin is opened!

Radisson
111 E. Cesar Chavez Street
Austin, TX 78701

[Click here](#) to make your hotel reservation or call toll free 800-333-3333

Rate is \$175 plus tax.

Self parking has been discounted for our group at \$8 per day.



JUNE 14-17 2015

Conference Location:

Hilton San Diego Bayfront
1 Park Blvd.
San Diego, California, 92101
Tel: (860) 249-8000
[Hilton San Diego Bayfront Website](#)

Registration Rates (all rates are listed in US\$)

| | By March 13 | March 14 - May 1 | After May 1 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Member - Full Registration | \$525 | \$625 | \$700 |
| Non-Member - Full Registration | \$625 | \$725 | \$800 |
| Daily Registration (per day) | \$225 | \$250 | \$275 |
| Companion | \$250 | \$250 | \$300 |



Go exploring.

Your IRWA learning experience awaits...

Event News

[Right of Way Professionals of Texas](#) hosted the Annual Twin Rivers ED Golf Tournament benefiting Make-A-Wish.



Although the tournament was a small turn-out this year, the kindness of the sponsors and golfers made up for the turn-out.

We are happy to say that we raised \$9,700.00 and just lacking one payment from a sponsor. Once all payments received, the grand total will be \$10,000.00

Thanks to all of our Sponsors and the generosity of the players.

With your support this tournament was a HUGE success.

Event News

IRWA Chapter 74 Cordially invites you and a guest to our ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

*Saturday, December 6th
6:00 p.m. to Midnight.*

Theme: Austin Texas Chic

*Place: Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Road, Austin TX
(Valet parking is available)*

Meet & Mingle with Cocktails 6-6:45 PM

Dinner 7 PM to 8 PM

Blue Santa arrival 7:30 to 8 PM

Dancing and Merriment until Midnight

Midnight & beyond ~ downtown Austin awaits

Entertainment Provided by the Kent Mayhew Band

*Sponsors: Allegiant Group, PLLC; Crossland Acquisitions, Inc.; National Valuation Group; Rutherford Real Estate; Sendero Acquisitions, LP;
More Sponsors are welcome, contact **Patti Bell-Clark***

Hyatt Room Block: Currently 10 rooms are blocked (6 Double Bed Rooms & 4 Standard King Rooms) Cut-off date November 5th for reservations. Reservations are for the evening of December 6th only. Room rates are \$159 for single & double occupancy, \$184 for triple occupancy, & \$209 for quadruple occupancy; 15% tax is additional. Contact Patti Bell-Clark if additional assistance is needed

*Additional party host: **Blue Santa** ~ Please bring unwrapped toys of \$10 or greater to donate to this wonderful organization. IRWA Chapter 74 has continued to be one of their largest supporters year after year, and your participation is greatly appreciated by many young smiles.*

*Please R.S.V.P. by November 23rd to **Patti Bell-Clark***

Event News



Greetings!

The 2014 Holiday Party for IRWA Chapter 74 of Austin is scheduled for Saturday, December 6th at 6:00 pm.

Over the years there has been tremendous enthusiasm and participation in our friendly themed-basket competition. As part of our Operation *Blue Santa* fundraiser, we're doing it again. As a reminder, we invite individuals, groups, or companies to participate by contributing a gift basket for auction as a *Blue Santa* donation. The winning bidders will write a check directly to *Blue Santa*. There is a \$100 cap on product value in the basket so the competition is based on creativity with all other things being equal. Remember...*Blue Santa* is watching.

We will accept donations of multiple baskets of lesser value if you prefer to provide options for the auction participants. Last year **HDR Engineering, Inc.** won *Highest Bid*. We'll be judging for Highest Bid and Most Creative this year and the winners carry bragging rights and recognition until next year's holiday party.

Please respond via email at hilda.correa@txdot.gov or contact me at 512-983-6475 and let me know if you would like to participate in the *Blue Santa* basket competition.

Baskets **must** be delivered to me by **noon on December 5th** to allow sufficient time for set up prior to the holiday event. We hope you plan to join us as well for friends, food, and merriment.

Looking forward to the fun and oozing creativity!

Hilda Correa - Elf



Membership News

Chapter 74 will continue with the membership drive this year. The company with the most members who join during this year will receive a free year of advertising in our newsletter as well as on the website, which is a value of \$300.00.

Company leading the drive is:

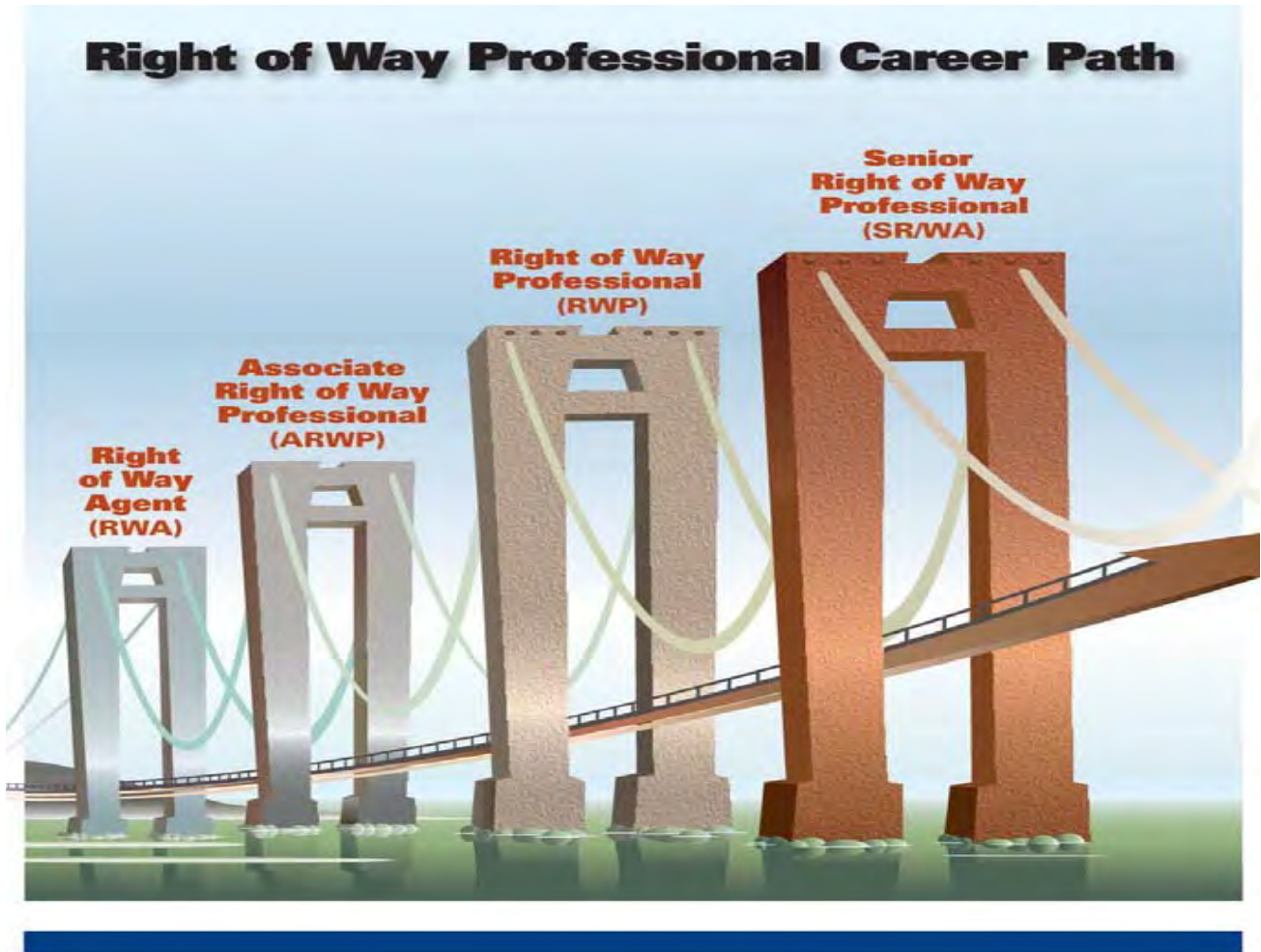


LET'S KEEP OUR CHAPTER GROWING!!!

Visit www.irwa74austin.org to submit your application electronically and become a member of Chapter 74!

Past Presidents >>>

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2012 Teri J. Morgan, SR/WA | 2003 Elizabeth Norris | 1994 Mary Jane Amezquita |
| 2011 Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA | 2002 Elisa Garcia | 1993 Larry O'Neal, SR/WA |
| 2010 Lory R. Johnson, MAI, SR/WA | 2001 Randall Kopfer, IFA, SR/WA | 1992 Sandra Bishop |
| 2009 Ron Olderog, MAI, SR/WA | 2000 Laurie Park, SR/WA | 1991 John Baylor |
| 2008 John Reed, SR/WA | 1999 George Schlemeyer, SR/WA | 1990 Cheryl Bennett |
| 2007 Connie Real, PMP, SR/WA | 1998 Lauraine Rizer, SR/WA | 1989 Rayburn Corbitt, MAI |
| 2006 Tinker Cotton, SR/WA | 1997 Randy Williams, MAI, SR/WA | 1988 Josie Wiltzius, SR/WA |
| 2005 Steve Bohuslav, SR/WA | 1996 Margie Hamby, SR/WA | 1987 Greg Althoff, SR/WA |
| 2004 Steve Beck, MAI, SR/WA | 1995 Dean Harris, SR/WA | 1986 Richard Steubing |
| | | 1985 Charles Clinger, SR/WA |



If you have any Professional Development questions, please contact [Cheryl Speaker](#)

Texas Department of Transportation

ROW Division has **various job openings**
[click here](#) to view job details.

Strategic Projects Division has **various job openings**
[click here](#) to view job details.

We are the IRWA

Learn. Lead. Advance.

Contact Land Staff, LLC has **various job openings**.
[click here](#) to view job details.

HDR Engineering, Inc. has **various job openings**.
Right of Way Agent
Senior Right of Way Agent

Atrium Real Estate Services is seeking to add an additional Texas Certified General Appraiser for commercial and eminent domain appraisals to our firm. Our office is located in Austin, Texas, serving areas throughout the state. A majority of work completed is for condemning authorities for right of way and easement acquisitions with additional work completed for banks and private entities. Experience within eminent domain projects is not required but preferred. This is a commission-based position, which will be discussed based on experience. Please contact Lory Johnson at ljohnson@atriumrealestate.com



Stateside is seeking a qualified entry level right of way agent. The applicant should be able to work independently and support other office staff and agents in the field by maintaining data, tracking, the parcel status database, client reports and communication flow. The agent must have strong computer, organizational, editorial and verbal skills. The agent will often perform property research, order title, complete document preparation and administrative support, as needed. This role requires attention to detail and organization. We are looking for someone who is willing and able to learn quickly, is motivated to meet deadlines and handles stressful situations well. The ideal applicant will desire a long term commitment for an advancing career with Stateside.

Please send all resumes to: CarrieW@statesiderow.com



Universal is seeking a qualified Acquisition Agent to work in El Paso, TX area. Must have at least 3 years of acquisition experience, be licensed as Texas real estate salesman or broker, be familiar with appraisal and appraisal report review, and be familiar with the Uniform Act and applicable laws of the State of Texas. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team, please submit a resume via email to Stacey Cook at SCook@ufsrw.com, and one of our staffing specialists will get back to you for an interview and more information. Universal is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.



Universal Field Services, Inc.

Various Right of Way Acquisition Positions

Location: Texas- Dallas / El Paso

We are looking for candidates to fill various right of way positions at multiple levels to support Texas DOT Projects and TXDOT Special Projects Delivery Projects. Must be able to work within a team environment to accomplish organizational goals, be an effective communicator and have strong time management skills with the ability to establish priorities and meet project deadlines. Participate in project team and client meetings; prepare clear and concise documentation of communications. Technical experience will vary dependent on the position to be filled including Quality Assurance/Quality Control, Acquisition Negotiations and Relocation Assistance services.

Positions:

Quality Assurance / Quality Control Agent

Experienced Right of Way professional proficient in preparing and reviewing Texas DOT and TXDOT Special Projects Delivery forms for Acquisition, Relocation and Title packages. Must be able to review other agents prepared documents and settlement packages to assure compliance with TXDOT requirements. Acquisition Experience a plus.

Senior Acquisition Specialist

Right of Way acquisition agent with a minimum of 3 years project experience with Texas DOT and TXDOT Special Project Delivery forms and procedures. Applicant should possess a Texas Real Estate license. Bilingual Spanish and English a plus. Relocation experience a plus.

Bilingual Acquisition Agent

Right of Way acquisition agent fluent in Spanish with experience acquiring right of way using TXDOT forms and procedures. Texas Real Estate license or ability to acquire Texas Real Estate license in a short period of time required.

Minimal Requirements:

- ✓ Must have excellent computer skills (MS word / Excel)
- ✓ Understanding of right of way acquisition process
- ✓ Completion of IRWA course work preferred
- ✓ Texas Real Estate license
- ✓ Texas Notary Public

Please submit your resume to Stacey Cook, Senior Staffing Specialist, at scook@ufsrw.com and include a brief introduction of yourself to be considered for any opportunities.

In accordance with federal and state laws, we have established a policy of providing EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT for all qualified employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability not related to job requirements or previous military service, or other characteristics protected by applicable law.

Chapter 74 Website Sponsors

Thank you to the following sponsors for supporting Chapter 74 website:



Chapter 74 Website Sponsors

Perks of being a sponsor:

You will have your logo displayed on the home page and linked to your company URL as well as your contact information on the Sponsor tab.

This elite sponsorship gives you access to have upcoming jobs posted to the webpage, in the monthly newsletter and email blasted to all Chapter 74 members.



Website Sponsor Information or Questions , please contact:

Barbara Price
Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority
(512) 389-7438

or

Michelle Hawkins, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
HDR Engineering, Inc.
(512) 531-5915

Chapter 74 Bluebonnet is a publication of the International Right of Way Association.