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February 2015

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
 Contract Land Staff, LLC
 512-346-6518
virginia.pompa@contractlandstaff.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, February 10, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

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

Speaker: Dr. Mazie Leftwich, Psy.D.

Topic: Body Talk for ROW Professionals —
 Know What They're Really Saying

Special points of interest:

- 2015 Education Courses
- 2015 Spring Forum in Austin, TX (March 4-6)
- Region 2 Young Professionals Event & Sponsorship Opportunities
- Career Hotline **New Postings**

President's Message

Dear Chapter 74 Members,

I hope that everyone has had a safe month. Please be cautious and careful. Remember that Austin has a new ordinance about using only hands free devices within Austin City limits.

The beginning of this year was also the beginning of the 84th Legislative Session. The session which started on January 13th, lasts 140 days and ends on June 1st. So far, approximately 1500 bills have been introduced. Upon approval from the legislature, 70% of the 1.74 billion in funding approved by Proposition 1 last year will be allocated towards two key transportation issues; congestion and connectivity. The Texas Department of Transportation is planning 201 road projects throughout the state with these funds. That is good news for transportation!!!

Chapter 74 is hosting this year's IRWA Region 2 Spring Forum and Educational Course here in Austin. Course 505, Advanced Residential Relocation Assistance will be taught by John Reed on Wednesday, March 4th. The forum begins on Thursday, March 5th at the Radisson Hotel and Suites and a reception will be held at Max's Wine Dive that evening from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. The business meeting is an opportunity for members to discuss goals and visions for Region 2 in the upcoming year. The Young Professionals committee are also hosting a reception and networking event on Thursday evening.

Don't forget about these upcoming events:

February 5th – 6th, Course 501 – Residential Relocation Assistance

February 10th, - Member Luncheon at Casa Chapala at 11:30 am

February 14th – Young Professionals Social at Cover 3 downtown from 5pm-7pm

February 19th – 20th, Course 800 – Principals of Real Estate Law

March 4th – 6th, The 2015 Spring Forum will be held at the Radisson on Caesar Chavez.

I look forward to you attending the spring forum. Everyone is invited. Please coordinate with the committee if you plan on attending.



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

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
Williams McNeill Real Estate Services, (512) 619-0270

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-AC
(512) 415-5778

Programs

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

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

Laura Nelson
Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., (512) 338-2723

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



2015 Courses being Offered in Austin, Texas

COURSE	TITLE	DATE	CLASS COORDINATOR
501	Residential Relocation Assistance	02/05-02/06	Matthew Eckmann
800	Principals of Real Estate Law	02/19-02/20	Luanne Dunn
505	Advanced Residential Relocation <i>*Course Held @ Spring Forum*</i>	03/04	Matthew Eckmann
403	Easement Valuation	04/10	Matthew Eckmann
902	Property Descriptions	05/08	Matthew Eckmann
700	Introduction to Property/Asset Management	08/13-08/14	Luanne Dunn
100	Principles of Land Acquisition	09/22-09/25	TBD
200	Principles of Real Estate Negotiating	11/05-11/06	Matthew Eckmann

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 Spring 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.

Chapter 74 Hosting
2015 Spring Forum Thursday Night Event,
03/05/14 at 6 p.m.



207 San Jacinto Blvd., Ste. 200
Austin, TX 78701



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...

congratulations



Professional of the Year

David Harrah, SR/WA, R/W-RAC,
R/W-URAC



Young Professional of the Year

Harsh Doshy, P.E.



Employer of the Year

Contract Land Staff, LLC



Event News



Event News





Maliyah made this star that will be displayed at Give Kids the World forever.



Membership News



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

If you have any Membership questions, contact Wade McNeill @ (512) 619-0270

Past Presidents >>>

2013 Denise Skinner, SR/WA	2003 Elizabeth Norris	1994 Mary Jane Amezquita
2012 Teri J. Morgan, SR/WA	2002 Elisa Garcia	1993 Larry O'Neal, SR/WA
2011 Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA	2001 Randall Kopfer, IFA, SR/WA	1992 Sandra Bishop
2010 Lory R. Johnson, MAI, SR/WA	2000 Laurie Park, SR/WA	1991 John Baylor
2009 Ron Olderog, MAI, SR/WA	1999 George Schlemeyer, SR/WA	1990 Cheryl Bennett
2008 John Reed, SR/WA	1998 Lauraine Rizer, SR/WA	1989 Rayburn Corbitt, MAI
2007 Connie Real, PMP, SR/WA	1997 Randy Williams, MAI, SR/WA	1988 Josie Wiltzius, SR/WA
2006 Tinker Cotton, SR/WA	1996 Margie Hamby, SR/WA	1987 Greg Althoff, SR/WA
2005 Steve Bohuslav, SR/WA	1995 Dean Harris, SR/WA	1986 Richard Steubing
2004 Steve Beck, MAI, SR/WA		1985 Charles Clinger, SR/WA

CALLING ALL REGION 2 MEMBERS AND GUESTS!

Please join the Region 2 Young Professionals in the heart of beautiful downtown Austin on the rooftop of the Speakeasy. We will have live entertainment as well as delicious refreshments to satisfy your sweet tooth.

When: Thursday March 5th
8:00-11:00 pm

Where: Speakeasy
412 Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701

Price: \$5 per person
(includes 2 drink tickets)



IRWA Region 2 Spring Forum

NETWORKING EVENT

hosted by the Young Professionals



SEVERAL SPONSORSHIP TIERS AVAILABLE!

Email for more information:

Tsass@weissereng.com, or

Matthew.eckmann@contractlandstaff.com

Sponsorships



Demonstrate that your company invests in the Young Professionals of our region by committing to one of the following sponsorship levels

PLATINUM \$500

Company name announced by band throughout event
Logo displayed among Chocolate Fondue/ Candy Bar
Largest logo display on sponsor banner/sign as platinum
5 FREE ENTRIES

GOLD \$300

Logo displayed among Chocolate Fondue/ Candy Bar
Logo identified as gold on banner/signs
4 FREE ENTRIES

SILVER \$200

Logo identified as silver on banner/signs
3 FREE ENTRIES

BRONZE \$100

Logo identified as bronze on banner/signs
2 FREE ENTRIES

Event open to ALL Region 2 members!

LOCK IN YOUR LEVEL EARLY TO BE INCLUDED IN EMAIL BLASTS TO REGION!

GENERAL ADMISSION IS \$5 (includes 2 drink tickets)



IRWA Region 2 Spring Forum

NETWORKING EVENT

hosted by the Young Professionals



THURSDAY MARCH 5th

8:00-11:00 pm

SPEAKEASY ROOFTOP BAR

412 Congress Ave. Austin, TX

Live Music!

Secure your Sponsorship: Tsass@weissereng.com, or
Matthew.eckmann@contractlandstaff.com

Career Hotline

Texas Department of Transportation has **various job openings**.

[click here](#) to view job postings

City of Austin is seeking a qualified individual for an **appraisal position** with the Office of Real Estate Services. The candidate must have experience in appraisal report writing and review and have excellent communication skills. Must have: State Certified General or Residential License and education in related field. Excellent benefit package. Details regarding position tasks, minimum qualifications, benefit package, compensation and general employment, access the city website. www.austincityjobs.org

Contact Land Staff, LLC has **various job openings**.

[click here](#) to view job postings

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

Capital Metro is seeking a **Real Estate Acquisition Agent**. This position reports directly to the Director, Real Estate and Right-of-Way. This position is responsible for acquisitions of real estate for transit purposes for Capital Metro's Capital Projects and Real Estate Department. For more details and to apply: <http://capmetro.peopleadmin.com/postings/738>. For other positions with Capital Metro visit <http://www.capmetro.org/jobs/>. Consider joining the team that keeps one of the best and fastest growing cities in the nation moving!

HDR Engineering, Inc. has **various job openings**.

[click here](#) to view job postings



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



Location: Texas-El Paso

Positions: **Relocation Agent(s)**

Universal is seeking qualified Relocation Agents to work in El Paso, TX area. Must have at least 3 years of relocation experience. Relocation Agent will be fully experienced in all phases and types of relocation assistance and advisory services as well as all phases of Last Resort Housing and comparable replacement housing calculations. Relocation Agent will be required to assist the residential displacees in locating decent, safe and sanitary replacement housing. Relocation Agent should also be familiar with appraisal and appraisal report review, the Uniform Act and applicable laws of the State of Texas. Relocation Agent will be knowledgeable in the relocation assistance for businesses and complicated reestablishment issues for these businesses. TxDOT experience preferred. 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.

Chapter 74 Website Sponsors

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



**CONTRACT
LAND STAFF**



*ROW Professionals
for Make A Wish*



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:

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.