

IRWA Region 2 2006 Winter Forum

February 9 & 10, 2006

February 9, 2006

Arlington Hotel
Hot Springs, AR

Region Chair Randy Williams called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 P.M.

Chapters **8** (Houston), **33** (Oklahoma), **35** (El Paso/Midland), **36** (Dallas/Ft. Worth), **39** (San Antonio), **43** (So. LA), **51** (Arkansas), **74** (Austin) & **75** (Shreveport) were represented at the meeting.

(Roster available upon request)

Randy Williams introduced special guest Nancy Halvorson SR/WA, R/W-RAC from Iowa. She stated she will be running for an IEC position and asked for support.

Steve Beck passed out the Minutes of the Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar held at Texas A&M University in August of 2005.

Attendees introduced themselves to the assembly and the President of each Chapter made mention of significant information regarding their respective chapters.

Chapter 8 – Allen Wagers reported the chapter has 337 members. This is the largest chapter in IRWA. Chapter 8 has 55 SR/WA's, 16 certifications, and 16 candidates. 12 courses were presented by the chapter plus one course with Chapter 36 and one course with Chapter 74. They have accumulated a large bank balance and the chapter reports being financially strong. The chapter conducts an annual golf tournament which will be held May 10th this year.

Chapter 33 – Tamara Benson reported they have approximately 148 members which is down approximately 30 members. They have 36 SR/WA's, 22 certifications, and 10 candidates. They held 3 courses in 2005 and have 7 scheduled courses for 2006-2007. To increase chapter meeting attendance they will have a random drawing worth \$1,500 to be applied to go to Sacramento for the 2007 International meeting. They reported the chapter was financially strong. They have a golf tournament scheduled for October 2006.

Chapter 35 – Chris Martin reported the chapter has 50 members (lost 1 member). They have 6 SR/WA's and 1 candidate. They held 1 course and 1 seminar in 2005. Their golf tournament is in October.

Chapter 36 – Jan Whatley reported the chapter has 236 members. They have 55 SR/WA's. They will be holding 10 courses in 2006 along with their Spring Seminar to be held April 7th. They also have a summer boat trip with 80-90 people attending. Their golf tournament will be held April 6th at Tierra Verde Golf Club and will benefit East Texas Hospice.

Chapter 39 – Yvonne Long reported that Chapter 39 has 89 members which is an increase of 23 members. They have 16 SRWA's. They presented 3 courses in '05 along with a joint seminar with the Austin Chapter. They hold 7 meetings per year. The chapter has switched to a fiscal year beginning July 1st and ending June 31st to coincide with International. They will have their installation banquet this May.

Chapter 43 – Mike Dowell reported that they had 143 members, a gain of two in the last year. They held 4 courses in 2005 before the hurricane. One positive from the hurricane is during the clean-up the chapter found a bank cd from 1988 that was worth approximately \$3,000. They hold 6 meetings per year.

Chapter 51 – David Blakeney reported that the chapter has very low numbers. He thanked the region for coming to Hot Springs.

Chapter 74 – Tinker Cotton reports that the chapter has 30 SRWA's, 22 certifications, and 40 candidates. They held 6 courses in 2005 along with a joint seminar in September. They will hold 7 courses in 2006. They hold 11 meeting per year along with an installation party. The chapter has been nominated for Chapter of the Year this year and has a Balfour candidate in Randy Williams. They are making plans for the IRWA International Conference in 2008.

Chapter 75 – Melanie Porter Cooper reported the chapter has approximately 20 members with 0 SR/WA's and 1 certification. They held 1 course in 2005 and will hold 1 course in 2006.

Wayne Goss requested the chapters to promptly submit their chapter reports.

Int'l Committee Reports:

LPA Committee: Claude Harding, SR/WA reported he has yet to attend a meeting, however, he will be attending an ILPAC meeting in Las Vegas on February 25th. Rita Rasmussen initiated the 1st Right of Way Best Practices seminar in Iowa last April and it was a great success. Claude and Georgia Snodgrass, SR/WA will co-chair a Right of Way Best Practices seminar in San Antonio tentatively scheduled for March, 2007.

Membership Committee: Gus Cannon will be attending a meeting in Chicago scheduled for

March and has participated in 2 conference calls. He stated there will be several website innovations making it easier to navigate the site and hopefully attract new members. Gus also announced there will be a national membership drive to increase membership. Also discussed was the Pre-certification for relocation/acquisition in Texas.

Pipeline Committee: The pipeline committee met in Las Vegas in January, 2006. Also reported was the BLM Short course to be held in May in Durango, Colorado.

IPDC Committee: Kyle Ray, SR/WA reported a gain of 100 members in 2005 with 78 of those new members being from Region 2. The committee met in San Diego and he reported about the following courses:

- 203 – ready to go
- 401 – new material
- 407 – revision approved
- 600 – pilot in Denver
- 601 – received proposals
- 603 – presented in January, 2nd pilot to be presented in February in Oregon
- 700 – no proposals for rewrite
- 701 – ready to go
- 801 – contract with developer fell through
- 211 – gone
- 301 – gone
- 302 – gone

New course proposals for Urban Design, Survey Fundamentals, and Damage, Prevention, & Public Awareness. No proposals for these courses so far. There has been a proposal for a Subsurface Engineering course.

Lane Consulting Services has been hired to revamp 59 courses by October, 2007. So far, 3 or 4 courses have been completed.

Instructors clinic in Denver will have Gus Cannon (Chapter 74) and Andy Anderson (Chapter 33) attending.

Relocation Committee: John Reed, SRWA, reported the committee held a winter meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. One topic discussed was the recertification of instructors. He also reported that all but 1 relocation course was offered in Region 2 for the coming year.

Transportation Committee: David Blakeney thanked the Region for bringing the Winter Forum to Arkansas. He reported the Mid South States/FHWA Right of Way and Utilities Conference will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas March 15-17, 2006.

Utilities Committee: Ana Rausch reported the committee was meeting in February in Denver, Colorado.

Valuation Committee: Chair Donnie Sherwood, SR/WA, reported the committee met in Washington D.C. He stated that course 401 was being revised and would most likely use Eaton's book (currently used by the Appraisal Institute) as a guide. Speakers for valuation in Denver would include Jim Amarin, MAI and Paul Bierschwale, ARA. Randall Kopfer reported there would be a mock case in Denver as well. Donnie talked about the 12 session Uniform Act Symposium. Randall Kopfer stated the Valuation Committee was looking into having a website. Donnie stated only the Chair and Vice Chair were funded and the committee could receive more support.

IEC Committee: Juan Zaragosa, SR/WA talked about funding more International Committee Members in Region 2.

There was a motion to approve the Minutes of the Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar held at Texas A&M University in August of 2005 and they were approved as written.

Education Report:

Region Chair Randy Williams, SR/WA, and Secretary Steve Beck, SR/WA discussed helping smaller chapters by holding courses for their membership and helping their members work towards the SR/WA designation.

Randy also stated that some courses in the Region were cancelled due to scheduling. Sue Findley, SR/WA with Chapter 8 stated she doesn't have the schedule of classes yet due to conflicts. She noted that Houston and Dallas have been putting on the core courses every 3 years for people seeking the SR/WA designation.

Dan Wright talked about MCE/CLE requirements. Currently there are 40 courses approved by TREC at a cost of \$100 per course. There is also a fee of \$400 every 2 years to turn in a providership application. It would cost \$7,000-\$8,000 to get the appraisal courses approved by the AQB. Currently no IRWA appraisal courses are approved by the AQB.

IEC Update:

Jim Finnegan, SR/WA, International President-Elect, gave a power presentation about the state of the IRWA. The presentation covered:

- Membership Trends

- Education & Professional Development
- Annual Conference/Uniform Act Symposium/Federal Agency Update
- Communications/Marketing
- Financial Update
- General Issues/Bylaws Amendments

He noted that membership increased by 100 in 2005. He also noted the Board would vote on a dues increase of \$10. Dues are expected to increase every 2 years thereafter. There will be a proposed change to the IEC makeup in 2007-2008. The IEC will be composed of 5 positions instead of 6. The proposed positions are: 1. President, 2. President Elect, 3. Vice President/Treasurer, 4. Secretary, and 5. IEC Member. He also stated there will be a new conference, the Public Real Estate Education Symposium (PREES) which is a joint effort between the IRWA and its United States Federal Agency partners. PREES will be in a single centralized location beginning in January, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned until 8:30 A.M. Friday, Feb. 10, 2006.

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Region Chair Randy Williams, SR/WA called a resumption of the meeting at approximately 8:30 A.M.

Randy had the participants of the meeting introduce themselves.

Randy asked that each chapter send an education schedule to him for this year and next year.

Randy then discussed our realigning the Region Officer election to get on the same cycle with other even numbered regions. Randy stated he visited with each chapter and they were ok with the idea of extending the current Region officers 1 year to get in the same alignment as other even numbered regions. A motion was made to do this and it passed.

INEC Report:

Steve Benson, SR/WA, Vice Chair, spoke about the slate of officers for the upcoming IEC election in Denver. The Board will be voting for 2 IEC Member positions. Nominees are Sandy Grigg (incumbent), Nancy Halvorson from Region 3, Ronn Carletine from Region 1, and Ken Davis from Region 4.

Steve also requested submissions of nominations for Chapter Newsletter (both over 100 & less than 100 members). He stated we have submissions for Employer of the Year (less than 20 employees) - City of Shreveport, Employer of the Year (more than 20 employees) - Pinnacle, Chapter of the Year (both Chapter 8 and 74), and 3 Balfour nominations (Randy Williams, Donnie Sherwood, and Lisa Harrison). He also noted the SARPA scholarship worth \$3,000 has no nominations.

Steve then presided over the Region 2 officer elections (Randy Williams – Chair, Wayne Goss-Vice Chair, and Steve Beck – Secretary) by acclamation. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

New Business:

Tammi Benson talked about the AASHTO meeting to be held in Oklahoma City in 2009.

David Blakeney talked about the Mid South States/FHWA Right of Way and Utilities Conference will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas March 15-17, 2006.

After discussion, South Padre Island, Texas, was selected to host the 2007 IRWA Region 2 Winter Forum with the hotel to be determined. The South Texas (San Antonio) Chapter will host the forum as they are trying to help establish a satellite chapter in south Texas. Due to the success of the course on Wednesday before this Winter Forum it was decided to try to hold a course the day before the 2007 Winter Forum. (Those of us not wishing to attend the course can play golf!) The 2007 Winter Forum dates will be February 8th and 9th with the course to be held on February 7th. This proposal was approved by a voice vote of the attending members.

Steve Beck asked the attendees if they thought a Region 2 website would be helpful. Everyone thought it would be a good idea. Jim Finnegan stated that the IRWA website was going to be improved and we might be able to piggyback their site. Steve will talk to Dennis Stork about this possibility.

Ernie Cochran, of Housman & Associates went over attendance, costs, etc., for the 2005 Education Seminar. He stated attendance was 273 while there were 70 at the golf tournament. 18 people attended Course 902 and 33 people attended Course 103. Revenue was approximately \$60,000 for the seminar, \$14,525 for the 2 courses, and 5,250 for golf. Total revenue was approximately \$12,000 with a \$2,699 profit for Region 2. He passed out a sample postcard showing the dates for next year's seminar as August 2-4, 2006. This postcard will be in the May/June issue of the Right of Way magazine. He noted that 219 postcards were returned last year as wrong address. He also stated it will be easier to register on the internet this year. Also this year there will be NO sponsorship required for food programs.

Ernie stated that the Hole Sponsorship for the golf tournament would be \$300 per hole. They are also looking for a beverage cart sponsor. Breakfast tacos will be provided again this year.

Ernie was congratulated for doing an outstanding job arranging the seminar and activities.

2005 Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar

Suggestions for the 2004 Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar theme were made & discussed. Some of the suggestions were:

- A&M Survives
- IRWA & Texas A&M On a Winning Trail
- Revival at the Mecca
- Education With A Kick
- 2006 - Educating a United Front
- Go All The Way – Learn & Apply – Be Successful In Right of Way
- ROW – Git-R-Done

After a close vote between Education With A Kick and 2006 – Educating A United Front the winner was:

“Education With A Kick”

provided by Tammi Benson from Chapter 33.

Chair Reception contributions were then solicited from each chapter. They are as follows:

- Chapter 74 \$1,000
- Chapter 35 \$ 200
- Chapter 8 \$1,001
- Chapter 75 \$ 200
- Chapter 33 \$ 501
- Chapter 51 \$ -----
- Chapter 36 \$ 500
- Chapter 39 \$ 500
- Chapter 43 \$1,000 (due to discovery of bank cd after the hurricane)

TOTAL \$4,902

General Discussion:

It was discussed to keep the A&M Seminar the same as the time slots work well. Tammi Benson suggested that the Region 2 Professional of the Year should automatically become a nominee for the Balfour Award. Juan Zaragossa stated that the Region 2 Professional of the Year Awardee may not have the qualifications necessary for the Balfour.

Randy Williams stated that attendance for Day 1 was 50 and for Day 2 it was 40+ which is a large turnout for the Winter Forum. He also reminded the chapters to let the Region know when they are holding a course. Randy then thanked the Arkansas Chapter for their hospitality.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Allen Wagers, seconded by Melanie Porter Cooper, and passed. The meeting was adjourned to Denver, Colorado in June.

Steven M. Beck, MAI, ARA, SR/WA
Region 2 Secretary