

Region 2 Winter Forum Meeting
Thursday, February 10-11, 2011
1:00 PM
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Hard Rock Hotel and Casino

Steven Beck, SR/WA called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm

- Steve introduced Georgia Snodgrass, SR/WA, R/W-NAC as the Region 2 Vice Chair and Ana Rausch, SR/WA, R/W-RAC as Secretary.
- Alex Souder, SR/WA, R/W-RAC welcomed everyone to the forum. There will be a reception tonight at Toby Keith's at 5:30 pm hosted by the Chapter 33.
- Ana called roll for all the chapters in attendance:
Attendees:
 - ✓ Chapter 8 - Houston
 - ✓ Chapter 33 - Oklahoma
 - ✓ Chapter 35 – El Paso/Midland
 - ✓ Chapter 36 – Dallas/ Ft Worth
 - ✓ Chapter 39 – South Texas
 - ✓ Chapter 43 – Baton Rouge
 - ✓ Chapter 74 - Austin
 - ✓ Chapter 75 – Shreveport

Chapters 39A and 51 were not present at the Forum.

There were 40 members in attendance.

- Steve asked the group to approve the Minutes from Calgary and A&M, which were emailed to the Chapter Presidents for their approval. Doc Weathers made a motion to approve the Minutes from Calgary and A&M. Kelli McMahan, SR/WA seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Steve recognized Randy Williams, MAI, SR/WA, FRICS from the International Executive Committee (IEC) and IRWA Past Presidents, Gene Land, SR/WA and Alan Wurtz, SR/WA.
- Steve discussed the Region 2 by-laws. Dean Harris, SR/WA asked what the by-laws currently state regarding the election process. Steve Benson said that the by-laws should state a one two-year term instead of 2 one-year terms for the election of officers. Tami Benson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC made a motion to amend the by-laws to read one-2 year term for the elected region officers. Doc Weathers seconded the motion of the by-laws as amended. Dean wanted to discuss if this will limit the position if someone wanted to run again, and the answer was no. Motion passed.

- Steve asked for a motion to approve the by-laws as amended. John Reed, SR/WA, R/W-RAC made a motion to pass the by-laws as amended. Alex Souder seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Steve introduced Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA and Wayne Goss, SR/WA, R/W-NAC as the two candidates for the IEC in Atlanta.
 - Mary Anne Marr gave a brief description about her background and career in the IRWA industry and her reason for running for the open IEC position.
 - Wayne Goss gave a brief history of his career and why he wants to run for the IEC in Atlanta.
- Steve said that the Chapter reports and the Committee reports will be presented tomorrow morning.
- Steve discussed the current state of International
 - New budget will be approved in Atlanta
 - New by-laws will voted on in Atlanta regarding the time and location of the conference
- Steve introduced Randy Williams, MAI, SR/WA, FRICS with the IEC for an update
 - International is currently in the black
 - There are 18 courses on line
 - They are planning on putting Course 100 along with an Engineering Course on line
 - They had 550 individuals who applied to become SR/WA candidates prior to the deadline before the new changes took effect. These individuals have 5 years to complete their course work to obtain their SR/WA.
 - Our IRWA magazine is online and enables members to send a link to the magazine to other individuals
 - FAU had 150 participants and was successful
 - In 2012 IRWA will host the World Congress – ask foreign countries to come to the US to discuss their best practices. It will be the first week in March.
 - In 2013 there will be a large meeting in DC with all the federal agencies. FAU will be in conjunction with this meeting.
 - Randy wanted to discuss the by-law change which is regarding moving the annual international seminar around to the different regions
 - Headquarter will continue to fund the conference
 - The region will be selected based on how long it's been since they hosted the seminar
 - If selected, the region will decide on the City within the region to host the conference
 - If this is voted on, it will go into effect in 2017
 - A region can pass on the conference when it is their turn to host
 - The next five conferences are Atlanta, GA, Seattle, WA, Charleston, WV, Hartford, CT and San Diego, CA
- Steve asked the Chapters to get their financials and tax information to Fred Nasri with International. They are due February, 15th.
- Steve adjourned for break in the meeting to return at 3:00 pm.

- Steve discussed the Conflict of Interest Statement for each officer in the chapter, which needs to be submitted to Fred Nasri.
- Steve discussed the region finances. The region started 2010 with \$23,550.34 and ended the year with \$23,679.03. Steve will email a financial report to the chapter presidents. The region right now has over \$26,000 in the bank, however, there are a couple of bills that need to be paid for courses in the amount of \$3,500.
- Steve introduced Tami Benson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC to give her presentation “Leaders Pursue the Best” from the Leadership Institute. Tami said that the IRWA has retained Randy Pennington with The Pennington Group to develop a leadership training program for the IRWA leadership. Tami played Randy’s video to the group. Tami facilitated the presentation with group activities on leadership.
- Steve said that the Chapter Presidents and Committee Representatives will give their reports tomorrow.
- Steve asked the Chapter Presidents and Education Chairs to meet with Georgia and Heather Morris with International.
- Heather Morris met with the Chapter presidents and education chairs to discuss courses that are being presented in the region for the coming year.
- Steve adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm and said that we will meet in the morning at 9:00 am.

- Steve called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Chapter Reports

- Chapter 8 – David Bethel
 - 480 members, 400 currently paid
 - 16 courses in 2010, 14 courses scheduled for 2011
 - Chapter 8 golf tournament raised \$15,000 for a local charity -Gracewood
 - 10 meetings for the year with average attendance of 60 members and guests
 - Chapter 8 Christmas lunch raised \$3900 for Toys for Tots, 110 members attended
 - Donated \$10,000 to the education foundation
 - 68 SR/Was, 51 candidates, 34 members with certifications, 11 with 2 or more certifications
 - Sue Findley, SR/WA, R/W-AMC, R/W-NAC mentioned that Pinnacle donated their employees Donna Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC and Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC to serve as facilitators in exchange for a donation to the IRWA education foundation.
- Chapter 33 – Alex Souder, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
 - 183 members, 14 new members
 - 32 SR/WA, 6 candidates, one member has the URAC certification which is Lisa Harrison
 - They are working on a scholarship program for the Chapter- to be approved by the board in March.
 - They have had 14 new members, plus two transfers in 2010
 - They are working on promoting new membership through marketing
- Chapter 35 – Doc Weathers
 - 50 members, large geographic area
 - Chapter 35's golf tournament with 120 players, they gave 2 \$2500 scholarships and 10 \$500 scholarships
 - Their golf tournament was the 50th anniversary for the chapter. They raised \$15,700
 - They have \$36,280 in scholarship fund
 - Rick Doehne, SR/WA, R/W-AMC has recently retired, but will continue to serve as the Chapter Treasurer
 - Doug Damron recently passed away. The board has decided to name the scholarship fund the "Doug Damron Memorial Scholarship Fund"
 - Donna Harrison asked Doc how they make so much money in their golf tournament.
 - Doc said the golf is a big draw along with the dinner after the golf tournament
 - Dean Harris asked Doc to explain the scholarship selection process.

- The chapter has a website which mentions the scholarship – which is offered to graduating High School seniors who are going to college in Texas. They base the scholarship on financial need and scholastics. It is a very subjective process. The money is sent to the school instead of the student directly.
- Chapter 36 - Greg Cook, SR/WA
 - 326 members
 - 16 courses, 11 scheduled for this year
 - Chapter golf tournament raised \$10,000
 - They have 9 monthly meetings
 - They have a summer social each year for their members
 - To encourage new members, they waive chapter fees and asked Headquarters to wave the application fee for a limited time
 - They award existing members for recruiting new members
- Chapter 39 – Martha Dowlearn, SR/WA, R/W-NAC
 - 100 members
 - courses, 4 courses scheduled along with the
 - 2 \$1500 scholarship
 - Co-host September ED seminar with Chapter 74
- Chapter 43- Sharon Yates
 - 125 members
 - 25-30 per meeting
 - 6 meetings a year
 - Goal to increase the membership
 - They want to establish a scholarship fund
 - To increase membership, they have a drawing to pay yearly dues, if a member brings a new member to the meeting
- Chapter 74 – Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA
 - 180 members
 - Co-host September ED seminar with Chapter 39
 - Co-host annual Cont. Education Luncheon with the Appraisal Institute Chapter of Austin
 - 7 courses
 - Chapter 74 golf tournament raised \$4,700 for Make a Wish
 - Host evening river boat cruise on Lake Austin for members
 - They have a toy drive at Christmas meeting “Blue Santa” raised \$2500
 - New ideas – Pay for first time visitors lunch
 - They extend personal invitations by the board members to prospective new members
 - Pay for new members first lunch upon completion of membership
 - Promote social event with members for networking

- Chapter 75 – Wayne Goss, SR/WA, R/W-NAC
 - 20 members
 - They are hoping to add more new members due to Haynesville Shale work

Committee Reports

Asset Management – Dean Harris, SR/WA

- In LA they will be reviewing the textbooks
- They are lining up speakers for Atlanta.
- Sue Findley, the Vice Chair said they will have a round-table to discuss encroachments and title

Environmental – Region Rep not present

Local Public Agency- Region Rep not present

Pipeline – Steve Beck, SR/WA

- Warren Doyle wants to do a one day course on oil and gas. He will put together an outline to present to the committee prior to the meeting in June at Atlanta
- They are proposing a rewrite of Course 215 which David Sinclair is working on. Ron Ellis is going to do the review on the rewrite
- Georgia made a comment to Randy that it will take more than 6 months to review and get the course ready. Randy said that they want to have the course ready asap.

Relocation – Donna Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC

- They are working on some rewrites for the relocation courses.
- They have an RFP out to rewrite Course 505
- They are proposing three new courses, Advisory Service, Relocation for Special Need, and Relocation Calculations
- They want to do a hot topic for HUD
- Bob Merryman, R/W-RAC with OR Colan is reviewing the existing cap for reestablishment with different agencies
- There are some changes to the bill regarding right of way - Senate Bill 18
- The Houston and Dallas chapters alternate on relocation classes
- Tami Benson did a video on carve outs
- 116 certified in relocation in Texas, 9 candidates

- They have a task force to identify the different criteria for relocation experience
- They have a task force to look at equivalent credit through other organizations

Transportation – Liz Norris

- Good representation on the committee from the Region
- They are doing a net meeting for the LA meeting on Feb. 16th
- They will be working on the transportation career path. They already have a draft matrix on this career path
- Dennis asked Liz to poll the group to see if there is an interest for a Project Management certification. Several members in the room raised their hand, showing interest in a project management certification.

Utilities – David Bethel

- There is a conference call next week for the LA meeting on the Feb. 16th

Valuations – Region Rep not present

IPDC- John Reed, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

- They are having a hard time on getting responses for rewrites to several courses
- 120 active facilitators
- Requirements for facilitators to be certified in the discipline they are teaching in
- 95% pass rate for SR/WA exam. They are looking at making it more difficult
- They are working on several pilot courses
- They are meeting next week in LA
- They have revised the facilitator clinic and there will be a facilitator clinic in Atlanta
- They are working on the career path for different specialties.
- They have three task force set up to address education requirements for certification and the SR/WA

Tami said that an agency cannot mandate any one organization to receive your certification. Tami said that the relocation certification from IRWA or an equivalent certification from another organization is sufficient for the federal agencies.

John said the feds wanted to see a certification; it doesn't have to be from IRWA

Ed Opstein, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC said that IRWA needs to look at the lack of evaluations for the facilitators through the online evaluation system.

Sue said the report she is getting is that the class participants don't want worry about the evaluations after the class is over.

Ron Olderog, SR/WA asked if the IPDC has discussed auditing the different classes to evaluate facilitators

Aisha Currie, SR/WA commented on past evaluations and how much better they worked compared to how it is now. It now takes a year to get feed back to the facilitator from a course they presented.

John Reed said that he will take these comments regarding the facilitator reviews back to the IPDC for further discussion

Georgia made a comment regarding the strong leadership within the region

Steve echoed her comments saying that Region 2 is very strong with great leaders in Chapter, Region, IEC, and Committee levels

Steve mentioned that it would be a good idea to encourage candidates to take the SR/WA exam now before they change it and make the exam more difficult.

Steve wanted to discuss the A&M Region Education Seminar. June Housman with Housman and Associates stated:

- College Station Seminar will be moved to August 10 – 12, 2011
- 179 people attended the 2010 seminar
- \$7,430 was the profit from the seminar. We still need to pay headquarters for the courses that were presented at the seminar. Sue Findley is looking at the invoice.
- In 2011, we will still have to walk to Duncan Dining
- Program speaker information must be submitted in a form
 - Key Note Speaker – Chapter 8 - Houston
 - Relocation Workshop – Chapter 74 – Austin
 - Environmental Workshop – Chapter 33- Oklahoma
 - Utilities Workshop – Chapter 39 – San Antonio
 - Highway Workshop – Chapter 43 – Baton Rouge
 - Valuation Workshop – Chapter 36 – Dallas/Ft Worth
 - Texas Real Estate Center Workshop – Chapter 75 – Shreveport
 - Pipeline Workshop – Chapter 35 – El Paso/Midland
 - Local Public Agency Workshop – Chapter 51 – Arkansas
 - Registration is online for \$195.00

Steve asked the chapters to commit their donations for the 2011 Chair Reception at A&M and golf hole sponsorship, which is \$300 per hole

- Chapter 8 – \$1,000 plus one hole sponsor
- Chapter 33 - \$2,200 plus one hole sponsor

- Chapter 35 - \$1,000 plus one hole sponsor
- Chapter 36 - \$1,000 plus one hole sponsor
- Chapter 39- \$250 plus one hole sponsor
- Chapter 39A – Not present
- Chapter 43 - \$250 plus one hole sponsor
- Chapter 51– \$ 250 donation, no hole sponsor
- Chapter 74 - \$1,000 plus one hole sponsor
- Chapter 75 –\$ 250 plus one hole sponsor

Steve asked the members to vote on a theme for A&M

First Vote

Dean Harris- *“Paper Instructor Evaluations Do Work”* -3 votes

Pursue the Best Above all the Rest – 14 votes

John Reed – *“Education, A Winning Investment in Today’s Economy”* – 13 votes

Freddy Lopez – *“Right of Way Education for the Future”* – 3 votes

Second Vote

“Pursue the Best Above all the Rest” – 15 votes

“ Education, A Winning Investment in Today’s Economy “– 19 votes

The theme is “Education a winning investment in today’s economy” for the 2011 Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar at A&M

Site for next years Winter Forum

South Padre – 0 votes

New Orleans – 6 votes

San Antonio – 24 votes

Next years winter forum will be held in San Antonio, Texas

Georgia wanted to ask everyone to see if there is someone in their chapter or organization that is willing to volunteer to take over the TREC certifications for IRWA courses. Right now she is the only one working on it and she needs help. She asked the membership to email her with anyone that might be interested.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm