

IRWA Region 2 2005 Winter Forum

February 3 & 4, 2005

February 3, 2005

Renaissance Worthington Hotel
Ft. Worth, TX

Region Chair John McLerran called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 P.M.

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

Chapter **51** (AR) was not represented.

(Roster available upon request)

Dan Wright, of host Chapter 36, welcomed all attendees to Ft. Worth and advised of a Hot Topics Seminar to be presented by Chapter 36 with proceeds to be donated to Hospice. Steve Kunkel also added his welcome to the participants and advised of plans for the evening after adjournment. He also reminded attendees of the Chapter 36 Spring Seminar and invited all to attend.

Minutes of the Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar held at Texas A&M University in August of 2004 were distributed and, upon motion by Rick Doehne and second by Steve Beck, approved as written.

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

Chapter 8 – With 360 members, the largest chapter in IRWA, chapter 8 has 57 SRWA's and 47 candidates. 15 courses were presented in '04, along with a donation of \$10,000 to the Arc of Greater Houston and \$2,500.00 to the "Toys for Tots" program. They have an accumulated bank balance of approximately \$75,000.00 so the chapter funds its President to attend the International Conference.

Chapter 33 - Has approximately 140 members, including 4 past IRWA Int'l Presidents. They have an average chapter meeting attendance of 20-25, with 5 meetings/year and a bank balance in excess of \$15,000.

Chapter 35 – Rick Doehne reported a chapter treasury balance of approximately \$13,000. They also have a scholarship program in place.

Chapter 36 – Dan Wright gave a brief report for Chapter 36. The chapter has around 207 members, with about 55 SRWA's and another 35-40 as SRWA candidates. The chapter presents about 10 courses per year with a discounted course fee for Chapter 36 members as well as SRWA candidates.

Chapter 39 – Renee Mayer reported that Chapter 39 has about 94 members, with 15 SRWA's

and 12 candidates. They presented 4 courses in '04 and plan 5 in '05. They average around 45-50 members at their meetings.

Chapter 43 – Mike Dowell reported that they had 141 members, a loss of nine in the last year. They do, however, have 25 pending applications, with 19 SRWA's and 22 candidates. Their website is operational, advertising 6 meetings per year with an average attendance of 25-30. Chapter checking account balance of approximately \$10,000.00

Chapter 74 – Steve Bohuslav reports that his chapter has 162 members with 45 SRWA's and 30 candidates. They sponsor about 5 courses/year and have around \$34,000 in the bank. Average attendance is 55. They made a \$1,000 donation to the "Make-A-Wish" foundation. Making plans for the IRWA 2008 Int'l Conference is a major undertaking.

Chapter 75 - Has 27 members, averaging about 8-10 per monthly meeting. Sponsored a course at the A&M Education seminar. Bank balance of approximately \$6,000.

John requested the chapters to promptly submit their chapter reports to the Region Secretary.

Int'l Committee Reports:

Valuation Committee: Chair Donnie Sherwood, SRWA, presented a PowerPoint show for the valuation committee that was prepared and shown at the Committee Chair/Vice-Chair meeting in Washington, DC in January, 2005.

Professional Development Committee: Kyle Ray, Region 2 IPDC representative, spoke briefly on a Headquarters initiative to revise and update a number of IRWA courses.

Relocation Committee: John Reed, SRWA, reported that the Region is doing well with relocation courses and that all relocation courses will soon be revised to reflect the NPRM affecting the Uniform Act.

Utilities Committee: Members Clark Andrew and Ana Rausch gave a brief report on activity by the Utility committee

Local Public Agency Committee: Chair Wayne Goss reported progress in promoting activities on the committee and the development of sessions for the Toronto Conference. Also reported that the Region 3 representatives were developing an LPA-oriented mini-seminar to be presented in IA as a prototype for a canned program that can be modified to educate LPA's. Next ILPAC meeting will be held in New Orleans later in the month.

IEC Update:

Howard, SRWA, IR/WA International President-Elect, brought greetings from the IEC and presented a video presentation on Leadership Development. He also informed us that IRWA membership was increasing at this point over last year, that the Federal Update would be held in '06 in Washington, DC the fourth Thursday in January of each year and mentioned several government-related issues. Howard spoke about development of the upcoming URA Seminar, to be held in Anaheim, CA, in November, inviting potential attendees to offer assistance in session development.

Education Report:

Region Vice-Chair Randy Williams, SRWA, and Dan Wright, SRWA, reported on Education developments affecting the Region.

A hand-out of Region 2 courses was distributed, TREC requirements were discussed, Dan reported on the finalization of a 3-year course calendar in which all core courses would be offered within the Region., encouraging chapter Education Chairs to call their SRWA candidates to see what courses should be scheduled.

Randy Williams, SRWA, solicited candidates for the Region 2 Professional of the Year, with the candidates to be considered for **all** prior service to the Association.

INEC Report:

Steve Benson, SRWA, Region 2 rep to the INEC, spoke requesting submission of nominations for Chapter Newsletter (both over 100 & less than 100 members), Employer of the Year, Balfour Award, SARPA scholarship, etc.,. He also reported that Chapter 39 member, Juan Zaragosa, SRWA, had entered the race for IEC member.

Steve advised that every chapter should take steps to have two Directors at the Monday morning Caucus in Toronto and that both voting Directors at the BOD meeting Thursday afternoon **MUST** be members of the chapter that they are representing.

Austin '08:

Randy Williams, SRWA, co-Chair of the "Austin '08" Committee, reported plans progressing well and that Chapter 74 wanted to involve and credit chapters able to assist in this production. Dallas, Chapter 36, will assist in the auction and Chapter 8, Houston, has volunteered to arrange a keynote speaker for the event. Chapter 74 requested ideas for tokens that could be passed out at the booth to promote the Austin Conference. Randy also asked for a liaison from each chapter to coordinate action with.

There being no more new business to discuss the meeting was adjourned until 8:30 A.M. Friday, Feb. 4, 2005.

IRWA Region 2 2004 Winter Forum

February 3 & 4, 2005

Feb. 4, 2005
Renaissance Worthington Hotel
Ft. Worth, TX

Region Chair John McLerran called a resumption of the meeting at approximately 8:30 A.M.

After discussion, Hot Springs, AR, was selected to host the 2006 IRWA Region 2 Winter Forum. The Region with assistance from Housman & Associates will make the necessary arrangements for hotel and meeting accommodations. This proposal was approved by a voice vote of the attending members.

2005 Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar

Suggestions for the 2004 Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar theme were made & discussed. After a poll of the attending representatives,

“Education – Ride the Change”

was chosen as the theme for the 2005 Education Refresher Seminar

New Business

An election was held for 2005-2006 Region 2 Officers. Elected were:

Randy Williams, SRWA, Region Chair

Wayne Goss, Region Vice-Chair

Steve Beck, SRWA, Region Secretary

IRWA Education Foundation President David Sinclair, SRWA, reported that the Foundation was in sound financial condition, with assets in excess of \$1.51M and would be contributing toward several course revisions in the near future.

June Housman, of Housman & Associates went over attendance, costs, etc., for the 2004 Education Seminar with the result being a satisfactory experience and a decision was announced that, according to '04's results, no increase in registration fee would be required for 2005.

H&A also announced that the dates for the 2005 Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar will be August 3, 4, & 5, 2005. She will be working directly with the individual chapters, with any requested or required assistance from the Region officers to compile information to produce the program for the event.

After several suggestions and much discussion, the decision was made to structure registration for the '05 A&M Seminar in a completely electronic, on-line format. Multiple e-mail blasts will advise members of the seminar dates and sites at which to register for the event. We will study the results of this action at the de-briefing session after the Seminar to decide whether to continue e-only registration or if we need to supplement it with hard copy mail-outs.

Her email address is: June@housmanandassociates.com

Her phone number is: (512) 918-8657, cell phone: (512) 413-0953

Sue Findley, Region Course Coordinator, announced that Chapter 35 and Chapter 75 will sponsor course numbers 902 and 103, respectively, on Wednesday in College Station in conjunction with the Seminar.

A brief discussion of sponsorship of the golf tournament was held, with a decision to let June structure registration materials to allow for hole, cart and/or snack sponsorship.

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

June reminded chapters to provide accurate membership mailing list by mid-February.

.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned to Toronto, ON, CA, in June.

Wayne Goss
Region 2 Secretary