

IRWA Region 2 2007 Winter Forum

February 8 & 9, 2007

February 8, 2007

Radisson Hotel
South Padre Island, TX

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), **74** (Austin) & **75** (Shreveport) were represented at the meeting. Chapter **51** (Arkansas) did not have a representative.
(Roster available upon request)

Randy had the participants of the meeting stand and introduce themselves.

Randy Williams introduced Jim Struble and Juan Zaragosa with the IEC.

Steve Beck passed out the Minutes of the Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar held at Texas A&M University in August of 2006.

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 SRWA'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 8th this year.

Chapter 33 – Donna Roche reported they have approximately 182 members which is an increase of approximately 34 members. They held 8 courses in 2006 and have several scheduled courses for 2007-2008. They hold 5 meetings a year and average 30-40 people with 2 guests. They have an annual golf tournament and are proposing a 9 hole ladies tournament in 2007.

Chapter 35 – Doc Weathers reported the chapter has 48 members (lost 2 members). They have 5 SR/WA's and 1 candidate. They held 1 course in 2006 and are planning to hold another course in 2007. They have 6 meeting per year. They had a great fall seminar with over 70 attendees. In conjunction they had a good golf tournament with proceeds going towards scholarships. Their golf tournament is in October.

Chapter 36 – Bill Stoll reported the chapter has 267 members an increase of 33 members. They have 62 SR/WA's, 39 members hold certificates, and 33 candidates. They will be holding 9 courses in 2007 along with their Spring Seminar to be held April 27th. They also have a summer social. Their golf tournament will be held April 26th at Tierra Verde Golf Club and will benefit East Texas Hospice.

Chapter 39 – Renee Mayer reported that Chapter 39 has 64 members which is an increase of 5 members. They have 15 SRWA's, 8 with certificates, and 8 candidates. They will hold a Best Practices Seminar in the fall, as well as, hold the joint seminar with the Austin Chapter in September. They hold 7 meetings per year with approximately 40 people attending. They also will give 2 scholarships per year in the amount of \$1,500 per scholarship.

Chapter 43 – They reported that they had 141 members, a gain of 6 in the last year. They have 14 SR/WA's and 7 candidates. They held 6 courses in 2006 with an average attendance of 30. They have scheduled 1 course in 2007. The chapter holds 6 meetings per year with approximately 25 attending. Louisiana DOT has been highly supportive of the chapter in the last year.

Chapter 51 – Wayne Goss reported the chapter is still there (which is good news). They increased their membership 25% in 2006 (3 new members).

Chapter 74 – Connie Real reports that the chapter has 30 SRWA's, 22 certifications, and 40 candidates. They held 8 courses in 2006 along with a joint seminar in September. They will hold 8 courses in 2007. They hold 11 meetings per year (averaging 27 in attendance) along with an installation party. Their annual golf tournament netted \$7,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. They are making plans for the IRWA International Conference in 2008.

Chapter 75 – Wayne Goss reported the chapter is still alive. He wasn't sure of the numbers. In 2005 the chapter reported they had approximately 20 members with 0 SR/WA's and 1 certification. They now have 1 SR/WA in 2006.

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

Int'l Committee Reports:

LPA Committee: Claude Harding, SR/WA reported the 2nd Right of Way Best Practices seminar will be held in San Antonio this fall. Claude and Georgia Snodgrass, SR/WA will co-chair the Right of Way Best Practices.

Membership Committee: No Report

Pipeline Committee: Connie Williford reported “it’s doing fine”. The pipeline committee will meet in Galveston in April.

IPDC Committee: Kyle Ray, SR/WA could not be in attendance, however, he made copies of his report to hand out. 13 courses have been revamped. There were several action items stemming from the “Education Summit”. Course materials will not be in 3 ring binders anymore.

Relocation Committee: Lisa Harrison, SRWA, reported 2 new instructors were approved. She also reported on the upcoming PRES conference in Dallas.

Transportation Committee: No Report

Utilities Committee: Ana Rausch reported they will have a meeting the Friday after the PRES conference. They are gearing up for Sacramento.

Valuation Committee: Chair Donnie Sherwood, SR/WA, reported the committee will meet the Friday after the PRES Conference. He also reported that course 401 is brand new and improved.

Education Report:

Dan Wright talked about MCE/CLE requirements. He stated the process in Texas has gone well. Currently there are 40-50 courses approved by TREC. The courses expire every 2 years. 2007 courses in Texas are already approved by TREC. He stated the TALCB approved courses will see significant changes due to the Appraisal Foundation. Starting in January, 2008 the bar will be raised significantly. Courses 400 and 403 are approved for appraisal credits. Dan stated that the IEC needs to push heavily for IRWA courses to be approved by the Appraisal Qualifications Board (AQB).

INEC Report:

Steve Benson, SR/WA, Vice Chair, reminded everyone that applications are due by November 1st for those wishing to run for the IEC. He also spoke about the current process in which the INEC recommends the slate of officers for the upcoming IEC election. The INEC would like to see this process continue. The IEC wishes to change the process so that anyone qualified will be presented as a nominee. Steve stated that the INEC needs comments from the membership regarding this process. Jim Struble commented that the IEC would rather see a vote instead of having a slate of officers. He wants comments from the general membership as well.

Steve stated that last week was the deadline for awards. He said the SARPA scholarship needs more entries. Also, 16 to 18 newsletters were submitted for Newsletter of the Year. Chapter 74 submitted their newsletter.

IEC Update:

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

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

He noted that membership increased by 364 in 2006. The organization has +/- 8,800 total members. There is a video membership on-line and new this year is the ability to renew your membership on-line. Another goal is to get new members reported to International right away (a pun). The Principle of ROW textbook is now on-line. Education makes up 41% of the income for the association. We are up from 343 to 370 courses, up to 500 class participants, and average a little over 17 students per course. Course coordinators can now take their training on-line. There will be NO 3 ring binders anymore.

The IEC dissolved the membership committee and started the communications and marketing committee. Strategic planning is working on many issues. Dennis Stork will be resigning in November, 2007. The IEC is currently conducting a search for a new EVP to replace Dennis. The IRWA is financially doing well. Jim also reminded chapters to report financial information to Fred Nasri by March 15, 2007. Last year was a good year and financials were up \$127,000.

Open Forum

It was brought up that there were some computer glitches with the international website. Jim Struble stated that the website was improving every day and to contact Dennis Stork if you have any problems.

Cheryl Speaker brought up that candidates applications can be done on-line as an option to speed up the process.

The New Orleans chapter mentioned they were holding meeting every other month and getting really good support.

Dan Wright stated there were still 11 moderator slots left to fill for the PREES Conference.

The meeting was adjourned until 8:30 A.M. Friday, Feb. 9, 2007.

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

Randy thanked the San Antonio Chapter for hosting the forum. He also mentioned that the Rio Grande Valley was moving towards affiliate chapter status.

Wayne Goss stated that we need nominations for Professional of the Year for Region 2. Nominations are due July 1st.

New Business:

Wayne asked if there was any new business that needed to be discussed.

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

Donna Roche from Chapter 33 mentioned that the chapter had discussed that the Region 2 Professional of the Year automatically be entered by the Region for the upcoming Balfour Award. After some discussion Georgia Snodgrass made a motion, Donnie Sherwood seconded, and the motion passed.

Dennis Sedlachek stated he thought \$300 was too high for hole sponsorship at the Region 2 golf tournament in August. After some discussion it was agreed to leave the price at \$300 as it returned the most revenue. He also stated that TxDOT employees had a meeting that day and couldn't play golf. Discussion revealed there was no way around that.

Steve Beck discussed having a Region 2 website. Everyone agreed it was a good idea. Lori Keeter will get Steve in touch with Chapter 8's website provider. Juan Zaragosa talked about doing an award for best website.

Randy Williams suggested holding the 2008 Winter Forum in Austin. It was agreed that this was a good idea since the International Conference will be held there in 2008. Randy also suggested moving the forum to the last week in January so as to not conflict with the PREES Conference. The 2008 Winter Forum dates will be January 24th and 25th. This proposal was approved by a voice vote of the attending members.

June Housman, of Housman & Associates went over attendance, costs, etc., for the 2006 Education Seminar. She stated attendance was 301 while there were 60 at the golf tournament. 17 people attended Course 104 and 24 people attended the 200 level course. She stated that revenue figures were still not complete due to checks still not in and she would get those figures to us when completed. She passed out a sample postcard showing the dates for next year's seminar as August 1-3, 2007. This postcard will be in the May/June issue of the Right of Way magazine. She also stated people will again register on the internet this year. Like last year, there will be NO sponsorship required for food programs, however, sponsorships are available for the programs. Prices are \$300 for a ¼ page, \$600 for a ½ page, and \$1,100 for a full page.

June stated that the Hole Sponsorship for the golf tournament would be \$300 per hole. They had 3 or 4 hole sponsors last year. They are also looking for a beverage cart sponsor. Breakfast tacos will be provided again this year.

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

2007 Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar

Suggestions for the 2007 Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar theme were made & discussed. Some of the suggestions were:

- I Don't Care
- Time Is Not On Your Side, We're Busier Than Hell
- We've Upped Our Standards, So Up Yours
- Leave, Follow, or Get Out of the Right-Of-Way
- Don't Bump the Grump (with a picture of Steve Benson)
- Today's Knowledge, Yesterday's Values, and Tomorrow's Standards
- Do We All Know The Right-Of-Way

After a vote the winner was:

“Today's Knowledge, Yesterday's Values, and Tomorrow's Standards”

provided by John Reed from Chapter 74.

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

- Chapter 74 \$ 500
- Chapter 35 \$ 250
- Chapter 8 \$1,002 + Steve Benson won't sing
- Chapter 75 \$ 250
- Chapter 33 \$ 500 + Steve Benson will sing
- Chapter 51 \$ -----
- Chapter 36 \$ 500
- Chapter 39 \$ 750
- Chapter 43 \$ 750

TOTAL \$4,502

General Discussion:

It was discussed to keep the A&M Seminar the same as the time slots work well. John Eaves stated the de-briefing luncheon went well. There was discussion to move the reception from Rudder to Room 201. Also, clip on microphones for the front table was suggested. It was suggested that we have nametag ribbons for sponsors and people with certifications. Radio's for workshop leaders was discussed, however, using cell phones would be more cost beneficial. Another suggestion was to have a list of participants on the Housman website. John also stated that bios and speaker information is due by April 1st. The following is a list of the workshops by each chapter.

Thursday (starts at 1:30 PM)

Chapter 35	Relocation
Chapter 36	Highways
Chapter 33	Telecom & Utilities
Chapter 74	Environmental

Friday (starts at 8:30 AM)

Chapter 43	Valuation
Chapter 39	LPA
Chapters 51 & 75	Pipeline

Chapter 8 will again provide the Keynote Speaker

Randall Kopfer stated that the issues with the TALCB are being worked out this week.

Randy Williams passed out a handout showing the 2008 International Conference theme of "Come and Take It". He also stated he is the head of the Appraisal Day committee which is new to the conference. He reminded people that there will be a raffle booth and we need items. We also need auction items for the 2007 Conference that people will be able to use in the Austin area. The Oklahoma chapter had a suggestion which won't be mentioned in these notes ;-)

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Doc Weathers, seconded by Tinker Cotton, and passed. The meeting was adjourned to Sacramento, California in June.

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