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Have news to share? Email Daniel at dkann@valbridge.com

Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

Chapter 20 Minnesota will be hosting the International Education Conference in the summer of 2020 and is looking for volunteers from Region 3 to help out. If you would like to help, contact Mindy Leadholm at

**Mindy.Leadholm@co.washington.mn.us
651-430-4361 or Dan Leshner at
dlesher@GREnergy.com. It is not too early to sign up!**

From the President's Pen



Chapter 5 members and friends. It is hard to believe that 2018 is quickly coming to an end. I hope that you will plan to join us on November 30, for our last chapter meeting of the year at Hereford House, 17244 Midland Drive in Shawnee, Kansas, where we will be celebrating our Chapter's 65th Anniversary.

In June, I represented Chapter 5 at the International Education Conference in Edmonton, Canada, and I was educated on what is happening with IRWA on the International level. This year much discussion at the conference focused on redesigning the way IRWA governance is organized. This discussion included determining the best way to add other countries into the current chapter and region format including voting representation. The director's meeting discussion and leadership speeches also focused on how to make decisions coming from IRWA Headquarters more transparent in operations and financial reporting. These are not easy issues to change overnight, so I believe that we will be discussing and learning more about both of these topics over the next year.

Chapter 5 hosted a successful Fall Forum in September at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in KCMO. We started the forum with a BBQ Taste Off at the home of Dennis Keegan. Thank you, Dennis for opening your home to us. At the Taste Off we voted BB's Backyard BBQ as having the best burnt ends in Kansas City! At the Fall Forum, our guest speaker, Jason Waldren, from the City of Kansas City, Missouri, enlightened us on the success of the first two years of the Kansas City Streetcar and the plans for extending the route in the future. The Region 3 Fall Forum Business Meeting focused its discussion on Remodeling the IRWA Governance Model. The Region elected Carrol McCracken from Chapter 41 in Iowa to represent our region at future meetings regarding changing the IRWA governance model.

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Meeting November 30, 2018 at Hereford House

17244 Midland Drive in Shawnee, Kansas

The meeting schedule is as follows:

- 10:00 am: Networking & Announcements
- 11:00 am: Guest Speaker
- 12:00 pm: Lunch & 65th Anniversary Celebration
- 1:00 pm: Business Meeting

Member Spotlight



Natalie Meighan



Natalie Meighan has been in IRWA and our chapter for a number of years! She is our latest member spotlight.

- Where do you work, what do you do, and how long have you been there?

I work for Boone County (near Columbia, MO). I am the only right of way agent on staff for the County. I have worked for the County since 2000 (13 of those years in right of way).

- Tell us about your family.

I have been married to Mark since 2003. We are proud aunt and uncle to eight nephews. Two are in Blue Hill, Nebraska with my sister. The other six are in Belfast, Northern Ireland with Mark's family. We do not have our own children but take very good care of two spoiled cats.

- When not working, what hobbies do you enjoy?
When not working for the County I spend much of my time involved with martial arts. I have been training in and teaching martial arts for more than 20 years. My husband and I currently oversee 9 school locations in northern Missouri, one in Gardner, Kansas, and one in Portland, Oregon.

My husband and I own another company called Omnia Imprints. It is primarily Mark's endeavor, but I assist when I can. He helps businesses and individuals market themselves and their events – through printed apparel and products, promotional products, signage, and vehicle graphics. He can put your name or logo on anything you can imagine!

We also love watching live music and traveling. We spend a few weeks in Ireland every other year with Mark's family and try to visit somewhere new in the U.S. every year if possible! I lost count of how many concerts we attended this year.

- Who introduced you to IRWA and how long have you been a member?

Wendy Lister introduced me to the IRWA. I have been a member for 12 years.

- Tell us about your most difficult ROW project.

Most of the projects I work on are very small, simple projects. The County I work for only does eminent domain as a last resort for projects, and I get the bulk of my easements by donation.

Several years back we were working on a federally funded bridge project. We had completed all the necessary hearings and notifications. All the adjacent landowners were on board and willing to cooperate (so I thought). One owner told me multiple times that he had no concerns with the project, the plans, or how it affected his property.

Once we had come to an agreement with the neighbor he and his wife would sign all the documents. A couple of months went by while we were hashing out details with the neighbor who was much more impacted by the project. (All of those changes having to go back through MoDOT for approval.) We finally got the neighbor satisfied and settled. In the meantime, the first owner told me he and his wife would not sign after all

“The folks I have met in IRWA have been so supportive through my time in this profession.”

– we ended up having to file condemnation to finish the project and it was delayed nearly two months. I will never forget him telling me that he was sorry, but he'd much rather I be mad at him than his wife be mad at him. It was my first condemnation, and I felt like such a failure. It all turned out fine EVENTUALLY, but it was so frustrating at the time! These same folks own a lot of property in the County and I have worked with them on three projects since this one and have been able to get all the easements donated.

- When you were a little girl what did you want to be?

I grew up on a farm in Northern Missouri and planned to be a large animal vet.

- If you had to spend 2 years on a deserted island, what book, CD and movie would you bring?

Today this is my answer - Book: Gichin Funakoshi: Karate-Do: My Way of Life; CD: Brandi Carlile – Give Up the Ghost; Movie: The Man from Snowy River

- If Hollywood made a movie about you, what actress would you want to represent you?

I think Janeane Garofalo would be more likely to be the right choice. While I don't always agree with her politics I find her to be super funny and share her enjoyment of dark, sarcastic humor!

- What advice would you give to someone starting out in the ROW profession?

While no project is identical there are people who have dealt with similar problems before you – I guarantee it. Find a mentor (or mentors) you trust to help you and offer support through times of frustration. The folks I have met in IRWA have been so supportive through my time in this profession. I have learned a lot through the education required to reach my SRWA, but knowing I have a group of contacts who will answer a question and also understand my frustrations has been the most valuable part of the experience.



Education News

See below for a proposed list of classes to be offered in 2019. Please let Richard Snedegar know if you have any suggestions for additional classes. You can contact Richard at: Richard.Snedegar@kcmo.org

Proposed classes for 2019:

C100: Principles of Land Acquisition

Duration: Two Days

C200: Principles of Real Estate Negotiation

Duration: Two Days

C213: Conflict Management

Duration: One Day

C400: Principles of Real Estate Appraisal

Duration: Two Days

C600: Conflict Management

Duration: One Day

C604: Environmental Due Diligence

Duration: One Day

C703: C703 Real Property/Asset Management

Duration: One Day

C801: United States Land Titles

Duration: Two Days

C802: Legal Aspects of Easements

Duration: One Day

Any chapter member who is interested in the chapter budget, profit/loss and balance sheet information is welcome to email [Bill Wright](mailto:Bill.Wright88@hotmail.com) for more details at wwright88@hotmail.com

President's Message (cont.)

If you have questions or concerns about how IRWA is governed feel free to let me know your concerns or you can contact Carrol directly at 515-382-1698 carrol.mccracken@jcglad.com

Evening activities at the forum included a Taste of Kansas City streetcar dinner and history tour. The streetcar tour was fun, filling and educational. Richard Snedegar hosted Course C902 Property Descriptions, which ended the fall forum activities. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Fall Forum in Kansas City. It was great success.

I want to encourage all our members to find an area within IRWA that interests you and get more involved. Each committee is looking for additional members and leadership. The International Committees are always seeking new members to identify current issues within the industry and to organize speakers for the Education Conference held each summer. I encourage you to share your experience with others by getting involved and being a part of an industry or educational team.

Sincerely,
Claudia Vines
IRWA Chapter 5
President



Documents from Mark Rieck

- [Governance Project Overview and Actions IRWA](#)
- [Remodeling Discussion Advantages and Disadvantages](#)
- [IRWA Notes](#)

**Happy 65 years IRWA
Chapter 5!**



Letter from Mark Rieck



In Edmonton during our leadership session on June 27, 2018 we focused on IRWA's Governance Project. As we continue with new deliverables, your officers thought it was important to provide a project overview, along with the milestone phases completed and communicated to this point. *That overview is in the lower left box.

Your officers also wanted everyone to have a current draft copy of our new strategic plan. *The draft plan represents the strategic thinking of nearly 300 IRWA leaders and members. The plan outlines our core ideology, describes a desired future with conditions, trends and assumptions that will impact it, along with key drivers of change.

The document takes the Association in a new direction as an outward facing organization for possibly the first time, with a Public goal. It also outlines goals for The Profession & Professionals, IRWA Members, Chapters and The IRWA as an Organization. Finally, it notes Mega-Issues and Unsatisfactory Conditions that should be addressed over the next ten years.

The plan provides a road map for short-term, mid-range and long-term direction for the Association. The International Governing Council will take up approval of the plan during its fall meeting schedule.

Another deliverable of our Governance Project is a set of possible structures to support IRWA's desired future state and strategic plan. During our Edmonton leadership session, it was asked that the document and original feedback forms of the pros and cons of each model captured during the session be distributed. Those documents are in the lower left box.

Finally, leadership requested a survey collecting the pros and cons of IRWA's current structure also be conducted. That survey will be distributed through the Member Network group, along with a chart depicting our current structure. Those results will be shared without edit, through this group as well.

Any potential changes to IRWA's current structure will first be considered by the International Governing Council, communicated through this group, vetted at spring forums and presented for action, if any, at the Board of Directors meeting in Portland next June.

Thank you for your leadership, at all levels of the Association. Your time and talents are appreciated.

Onward

Mark Rieck
Chief Executive Officer
International Right of Way
Association

**document links in box to the left*

Professional Development

At our last chapter meeting, Paul Blees, Professional Development Chair reported that on August 1, 2017, the IRWA announced the launch of the **Credentialing Concierge** that removes the guess work from gaining your next credential by telling you exactly which IRWA certification is within your reach based upon your course history. Go to irwaonline.org and click on the **Credentialing Concierge** under Member Resources for more information.

Congratulations to our members who are continuing their education:

Natalie Meighan received her SRWA

Fred Abernathy just received word that his application was accepted to receive his SR/WA

Bill Copeland received his RWA

James Gray received his RWA

Erin Quintanilla is working toward her RWP

Jared Barta is working toward his R/W-NAC

Paul Blees was recertified for another 5 years with his SR/WA

Contact Paul Blees, Chapter 5 Professional Development Chair, with any questions regarding certification requirements at pblees@springfieldmo.gov.

IRWA Region 3 Fall Forum September 23-25, 2018

Thank you to everyone that made Fall Forum a success!



Thank you again to our Fall Forum Sponsors!

