



Region 3

June 8, 2009

Greetings Region 3!

Well, it's nearly here. My final days as a Region 3 officer are racing past. I don't find myself at all wondering what I've accomplished, as one person alone doesn't accomplish anything in an organization like the IRWA. Rather, I look back at what *Region 3* has accomplished - and that's you! The chapters in Region 3 have come so far and accomplished so much in the past six years that I couldn't (and wouldn't) even attempt to list all that you've achieved.

But, here's an attempt to thank those that encouraged me along the way. Thanks to **Pat Cairns**, my mentor and former supervisor at Great River Energy, for nominating me for Region Secretary-Treasurer, way back in 2003, and to those that elected me! I also have to thank **Gary Ostrom**, my good friend and current supervisor at Great River Energy, for his support and encouragement, for without employer support and lots of it, it's very difficult to be involved in the IRWA. And, of course, thank you to Joanie for her support, for understanding, the donated quilts, for putting up with the travel, and for being involved in her chapter and region as well. Region 3 got a "two for one."

Being involved at the Region level for a number of years (dating back to the previous millennium), I've had several Region Chairs to observe and learn from. But for those Region 3 Chairs that I served with - **Nancy Halvorson** and **Jack Holt**, and for the current Region officers - **Rita Rasmussen** and **Randy De George** - thank you all for your dedication and service to your Region. And best of luck to **Mike Murray** in *his* next six years of service.

Although I said I wouldn't attempt to list all the accomplishments of our chapters and members, a few things need mentioning right now. The highlights of 2009:

- **Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, has announced that she's been asked to be the Vice Chair of the International Nominations and Elections Committee for the coming year.**
- **Dakotas Chapter 72 will receive the Gene L. Land Award at the International Education Conference in Indianapolis**
- **Otter Tail Power Company will be recognized as the 2008 Employer of the Year (with fewer than 20 right of way employees) at the Conference.**
- **Joanie Miller, SR/WA, has been appointed to the International Professional Development Committee.**

Is there more that we haven't heard about? Congratulations and best of luck to all of you! For a small region, we're one of the most active and most respected in the IRWA for all we do and all we've achieved. As Nancy has called us in the past - "the little Region that could."

By now you've read about big changes in the [credentialing](#) area. A new, better organized, and more sequential method of achieving your SR/WA designation and certifications will soon be implemented. For those of you that are pursuing your designation or certification, [take a look](#), and if you need assistance at all, see your Chapter Professional Development Chair or Region 3 Vice Chair [Rita Rasmussen](#). The new credentialing is indicative of the enhanced degree of professionalism that is the IRWA.

There will also be the budget to approve and two bylaws amendments submitted at the [Board of Directors meeting](#) on July 1st, so please read about them, consult with your Chapter Board members, and make an informed decision. And on that note - DIRECTORS - PLEASE be sure to check in with [Randy De George](#) at the Region 3 Caucus at 6:45 a.m. on June 29th, and you must also **sign in for the Board of Directors meeting by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1st!**

There has been a lot of change the past few years, and it's happening *fast*. However, these changes are all going to make us well-positioned for the next 75 years and I look forward to it with anticipation. It's been fun to be a part of it.

Congratulations and thank you to all the past and present chapter presidents and board members, Professionals of the Year, committee chairs and representatives, Region 3 officers, Balfour finalists, Employers of the Year, golf outing planners, region forum hosts, International Directors, and every Region 3 member!

Best Wishes to all and thank you again for a memorable six years!



Craig Poorker, SR/WA, R/W-NAC
Region 3 Chair