



INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

Region 3 Newsletter
Spring 2009

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

Greetings Region 3!

Hopefully you've all ATTEMPTED to enjoy this winter; it has been a brutally cold one. As one who usually enjoys the outdoors in winter, it's been difficult dragging myself out this year. It's finally warmer, and now we can look forward to spring.

2008 was an excellent year for the chapters in Region 3, and I know that 2009 will be just as successful for all of you. Region 3 (really, the *chapters* in Region 3) is well-known in our organization as one of the most active and productive in the IRWA. Why is that? It's because so many of you step up to serve your chapters, your committees, your industry, and your organization. Because of the level of involvement by so many of you, we again have many award opportunities at the upcoming conference in Indianapolis:

- Otter Tail Power has been nominated as International Employer of the Year
- Dakotas Chapter 72 is pursuing the Chapter of the Year Award for chapters with fewer than 100 members.
- North Star Chapter 20 is pursuing the Chapter of the Year Award for chapters with more than 100 members.
- Chapter 20's newsletter (the *Communiqué*) has been submitted for Newsletter of the Year.

There may be others in the Region that have applied for or been nominated for awards that I may not know about. Good luck to all and keep up the great work!

PLEASE – do all you can to attend the [Spring Forum](http://www.irwaregion3.org) on Thursday and Friday, March 26th and 27th in Overland Park, Kansas. See the details at www.irwaregion3.org. There will be two bylaws amendments for the Board of Directors to vote on at the conference, and we'll be discussing these at the Region Forum. One bylaws amendment pertains to a governance issue establishing an International Governing Council (IGC) which would consist of the IEC and the Region Chairs. It would give the Region Chairs not only voice, but a vote on the IGC as well. This would represent a strong voice of the chapters at the IEC level.

The other bylaws amendment concerns the Advisory Council (made up of past International Presidents) and their required participation in at least one Board of Directors meeting every three years. This will be discussed more at the Region Forum too, but call me if you have questions on these.

One vote that will NOT take place at the Board of Directors meeting has to do with the “region realignment.” At our last Region Chair/IEC meeting in January, we agreed that this needs to be discussed more fully and more thoroughly. The issue is not going away, but we do need to continue discussion of best practices and the criteria of a region, and what a region’s purpose and goals are, and how we serve our chapters.

It’s coming fast – register NOW for the [Annual Conference](#) in Indianapolis. As you well know, we’ll be celebrating 75 years of the International Right of Way Association! Register by March 1st for significant savings on registration.

Finally – congratulations to our Chapter Professionals of the Year!

- Chapter 5 – Nancy Greer, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-AMC
- Chapter 20 – Jason Alt
- Chapter 37 – Gerald Johnson
- Chapter 41 – Don Corrigan, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
- Chapter 72 – John Boheman, RW-NAC
- Chapter 78 – Jake Farrell and David Lane, SR/WA

Having known these folks for years, I can attest to their professionalism. The choice for Region Professional of the Year will again be very difficult and very close. We wish you all the best, and the winner will be announced at the [Spring Forum](#).

This is my last Region 3 newsletter article as your Region 3 Chair. Words cannot describe the experience of the last six years of service to the region and the chapters, and to the International Executive Committee. I particularly enjoy working with Rita Rasmussen and Randy De George and their service to the IRWA is certainly notable. Thank you both! And thank you to all that I’ve had the experience of working with the last six years. I’ve had so many mentors and so many friends that made my six years very enjoyable. It’s a significant commitment of time, but certainly rewarding. The last year and a half have been a considerable challenge for me after being assigned a work project that is extremely time consuming and doesn’t allow for much extracurricular activity. THANK YOU – all of you – that I’ve known during my tenure as a region officer. I have nothing but fond memories....

Mike Murray, SR/WA, of Chapter 72, has announced his candidacy for Region 3 Secretary Treasurer, and I urge the Chapter Directors to support Mike in this endeavor. Knowing Mike for many years, I can assure you that Region 3 will be well represented with Mike’s service. As a Chapter officer, Mike has done an outstanding job for their members for several years. Rita Rasmussen, SR/WA, has announced her candidacy for Region 3 Chair and Randy De George, SR/WA, has announced that he will run for Region 3 Vice Chair. Please support them as well. Best of luck to you all!

May you all have an extraordinary 2009. See you in Overland Park!

At Your Service,



Craig Poorker
Region 3 Chair



IRWA Region 3 2009 Spring Forum

FRIDAY MARCH 27TH, 2009 at:

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Overland Park-West
8787 Reeder Road (69 Hwy & 87th St)
Overland Park, KS 66214
913-888-8440**

Ask for a special rate of (\$84.00 + tax) for IRWA members for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday nights. (It can probably be extended to Sat as well)

Make your room reservations early as the block of rooms will be held only till early March.

SOCIAL / MIXER / MEET & GREET Thursday, March 26th, 5:30 pm to 7:30pm

Hosted & Sponsored by: (at 95th St. location below)

Twin Peaks, Inc
20527 West 95th Street
Lenexa, Kansas 66220

Educational Offering: 200 Principles of R.E. Negotiation Wed March 25th, Thurs March 26th

KCPL (Kansas City Power & Light) Services Center
16215 W. 108th
Lenexa, KS 66219
913-894-3000

Lodging rates available at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, see above for information

Class Coordinator: William Wright, william_wright@kcmo.org 816-513-0507

Golf Outing

A "Golf Outing" has been set up for Thursday, March 26th at Falcon Ridge Golf Course in Lenexa, Kansas. Falcon Ridge has been voted as the "Best Public Golf Course in the Kansas City area". This unique course has numerous elevation changes with quality manicured fairways & greens and was the host golf course for the 2003 IRWA Education Conference held in Kansas City. Tee times will be established around 10:30 AM or after. Cost for the round of golf at this professionally designed course will be \$51.00 and includes cart. Those golfers wishing to play, please e-mail Bruce Reed at: breed@burnsmcd.com Anyone interested in looking over the course can checkout the Falcon Ridge web site at: www.falconridgegolf.com

If you plan to attend the 2009 Spring Forum, please RSVP to
matt.armfield@westarenergy.com



Meeting Minutes
IRWA Region 3 Fall Forum
Friday, October 10, 2008
Bloomington, MN

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Craig Poorker, SR/WA, Region 3 Chair
Welcome remarks from Joanie Miller, Chapter 20 President.

Introductions Mark Rieck, EVP from Member Services Center, and attending members roll call was taken and all chapters were represented with Chapter Officers.

Region Secretary/Treasurer Report – Randy De George, SR/WA

The Treasurers report showed a balance of \$3,542.51 in the Region account, and a motion to approve was submitted by Bruce Reed, SR/WA and seconded by Chris Pawloski, SR/WA, with the motion being approved. Minutes from the Region Caucus held in Austin at the Education Seminar were read and a motion to accept the minutes as written was submitted by Bernie Banker and seconded by Gerald Johnson, motion was approved.

Chapter Reports:

Chapter 5, Kansas & Missouri: Chapter membership has grown from 107 to 117, free lunches for meetings help getting members to attend. They are still trying to recruit more new members and will be having a joint Chapter meeting with Chapter 27. Specifics for the upcoming Spring Forum were given with a date to be March 27th, 2009 in the Kansas City area.

Chapter 20 Minnesota: They celebrated their 50th Anniversary in May with 100 attendees and also held a seminar about the Twins stadium with 80 people in attendance. Classes have been really good and meeting lunches with speakers bring an average attendance of 50 people.

Chapter 37 Missouri: Membership is stable around 70 they attend a St. Louis Baseball game every year and have 30 in attendance. Their website is being revised and a newsletter is in the works. 9 people from their chapter were recognized at the seminar in Austin as new SR/WA, they have not put on many classes this year as in the past are looking to bolster their efforts.

Chapter 41 Iowa: Currently 76 members which are down a little due to mergers and buyouts. Utilities seem to be cutting back so they are members in the Chapter but are not taking an active role. Have 15 to 18 people show at a meeting and have put on Courses 802 & 803 which were a big success. A lot of wind farms are going up in the area as a source of alternate utilities.

Chapter 72 North & South Dakota: Chapter continues to have a membership drive after losing 4 members due to retirement they have gained 12 making their membership 73. The Chapter is financially sound, and spent \$1,500 dollars at the Education Seminar and then re-auctions these items at their Chapter meetings. They have revised their Chapter By-Laws as well bringing them up to date.

Chapter 78, Nebraska: Currently 99 members & have a new transfer with ¼ of the members holding their SR/Was. The Chapter is financially strong with 40 members attending quarterly Chapter meetings. As the host Chapter for 2009 Fall Forum a location of the Riverside Grill has been selected with not a firm date yet. The Chapter website is good and in the capable hands of Vicki Elscott. The Chapter by-laws have been revised and sent to Member Services Center for approval. Chapter is to put on Courses 409 & 410 in October with an enrollment of 30 students each, and also cosponsoring a course 403 with the Ag Farmers Association in January. The SRWA exams will be held December 8, 9, 10 with David Layne as the facilitator.

Chair Craig Poorker asked if anyone new Butch Rossetti who was to run for the IEC this past year but unfortunately passed away unexpectedly. Bruce Reed, SR/WA talked about how they were excited that Butch was going to join Burns and McDonald but they never got a chance to have him aboard. Member Services and the RWIEF have asked Chapters to donate to a memorial fund in Butch's name, and asked if the Region would also be willing to donate, and with that Craig asked the Region Treasurer to provide a check in the amount of \$250.00 to Bruce Reed who is asking if the Region Chapters would donate as well, most Chapter Presidents stated they would have to gain approval from their members. All donations are to be sent directly to Bruce Reed.

Region 3 Vice -Chair report on Education by Rita Rasmussen, SR/WA

Rita asked all chapters for their upcoming schedule of classes and said that education was up 14%. Rita asked that all Chapters get their Education Chairs to the Forums. Rita also discussed webinars that Member Services is trying to setup with the Education Chairs as a way to communicate as well. Courses that need revision are only a few with 105, 407, and 604. The Facilitator Clinic is held twice a year for those who want to become facilitators and would need to attend a clinic either in January this year in Las Vegas or in June in Indianapolis at the Education Seminar. Those wishing to become one need to contact Rita soon as there are only 12 seats available. Course 103 is online and if you take it before the end of the year 2008 the Chapters would receive \$110.00 back. Members asked if there was a way to know what courses will go online versus face to face. Rita was not aware of which ones would be just yet but would be asking Members Services. Rita thanked all the Education Chairs for all their hard work and helping to put on so many courses throughout the Region.

International Executive Committee and Region Chair Report by Craig Poorker, SR/WA

Craig talked about several things to promote the 75th Anniversary of the IRWA for the coming year in 2009.

Member Services is hoping to get a 25% increase in membership over the next 2 years.

Governance of the Association is now made up of the IEC, Region Chairs, and the (International Directors) now known as the International Board of Assembly.

October will be known as National Right of Way month. The Association was formed in 1934.

Executive Vice President's report: Mark Rieck, talked about some of the upcoming events for the 75th Anniversary seminar in Indianapolis and hoped to see us all there. He also gave an update on where the Association is and some changes that have been made at Member Services.

Education Foundation Issues: When renewing your dues, the check-off for RWIEF will now be \$15.00. Everyone is encouraged to donate.

International Committee Reports (view reports on line at (www.irwaregion3.org))

Asset Management – Report given by Jack Holt, SR/WA stating that they had just had a conference call to discuss all their upcoming sessions for Indianapolis seminar.

Environment – Craig reported that they discussed their upcoming sessions for Indianapolis as well and will hold a joint session with the Utilities committee.

LPA – Report given by Rita Rasmussen, SR/WA.

The ILPAC met in is planning its sessions for the Indianapolis Seminar with 8 sessions this year. Some of the topics include When Agencies Collide and Eminent Domain, and Best Practices and Procedures. They again will have a booth for the APWA Conference.

Nominations and Elections – Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA

Nancy reminded everyone that there are awards out there that this Region should apply for. She was very proud that we had won so many of the top awards this last year and asked that we submit again. There is a discussion by the INEC about a Government Agency Award; she asked the Chapters their opinion with most agreeing that there should be such an award. Nancy read all the Chapters Professional of the Year nominees for the Region award though some Chapters did not have someone picked yet. She reminded them that they must submit their paperwork by mid December for this award.

Nancy opened the floor for the slate of Region Officers. Rita Rasmussen, SR/WA for Region Chair, Randy De George, SR/WA R/W-NAC for Vice Chair, and Mike Murray, SR/WA for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Chris Pawloski had withdrawn his candidacy for Secretary/Treasurer and asked the Region support Mike in the position.

Pipeline: – Report available at www.irwaregion3.org

Relocation: – Report available at www.irwaregion3.org

Professional Development: – No report given.

Survey: – Report available at www.irwaregion3.org.

Transportation: – Chris Pawloski, SR/WA reported that they plan to put on 9 sessions in Indianapolis. Chris also asked for the Chapters Transportation Chairs for contacts.

Utilities: – Report given by Larry Hagan, SR/WA

Committee to put on 5 sessions which would include Wind Generation, Use of Utility Corridors, and Rebuilding after having a catastrophe.

Valuation: – Report given by Bernie Banker, SR/WA

The committee discussed what sessions they want to present in Indianapolis but had not finalized all their sessions as of yet.

Education Foundation: – Report given by Bruce Reed, SR/WA

The RWIEF is again hoping to get the support again from members donating on their renewals for membership. They received 54,979 by using the check off on the dues and Bruce thanked everyone for their support. The RWIEF received \$19,000 from the sold out golf tournament in Austin and received \$21,000 from the auction items. They have a commitment of \$629,000 for classes that are to be rewritten and upgraded. 5 new courses are being reviewed and the RWIEF will be 35 years old in 2009.

Region Chair Talking Points - by Craig Poorker, SR/WA

Discussion was had about realignment of the Regions and asked that the Chapters take a look at and send him some ideas that he can take to the next meeting with the IEC. See region website for all of the talking points.

Spring Forum update – by Matt Armfield President-Elect for Chapter 5

The next forum will be held at Holiday Inn in Overland Park, Kansas on March 26th and 27th. See Region web site for flyer and other information for this great event that is coming up. (www.irwaregion3.org)

Open Forum Roundtable:

Questions were asked of Craig of what brought on the idea of restructuring the Regions and what criteria would need to be used to look at this. Craig asked if there were any more questions or discussion and with none being heard asked for a motion to adjourn. Bruce Reed made the motion with Chris Pawloski seconding, meeting adjourned.

**Minutes submitted by Randy De George, SR/WA, R/W - NAC
Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer**



Follow this link to the information [IRWA's 55th Annual International Education Conference](#)



INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

IRWA Region 3 Treasury Report
Fall Forum Bloomington, Minnesota
Friday October 10th, 2008

BALANCE AS OF 10/10/2008	\$3,723.51
<u>Income</u>	
Region Dues from Chapter 37	\$ 69.00
Total:	\$3,792.51
<u>Expenses</u>	
Payment for Butch Rossetti Memorial Fund	
Total:	\$ 250.00
BALANCE AS OF 12/26/08 YEAR END:	\$3,542.51
<u>Expenses Starting in 2009:</u>	
Region Chair Plaque	\$ 59.00
Region POTY Plaque	\$ 54.00
Total:	\$ 113.00
BALANCE AS OF February 18, 2009	\$3,429.51

Respectfully Submitted

Randy J. De George

Randy J. De George, SR/WA, R/W-NAC
Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer



INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION
FALL FORUM 2008
MIXER



Chapter 20 President Joanie Miller welcoming guests to the mixer.



Various Chapter members mingling with other members and guests



Plenty of food and fun!



FALL FORUM MEETING



Region Chair Poorker welcoming members to the Forum.



EVP Mark Rieck presenting the status of the Association.



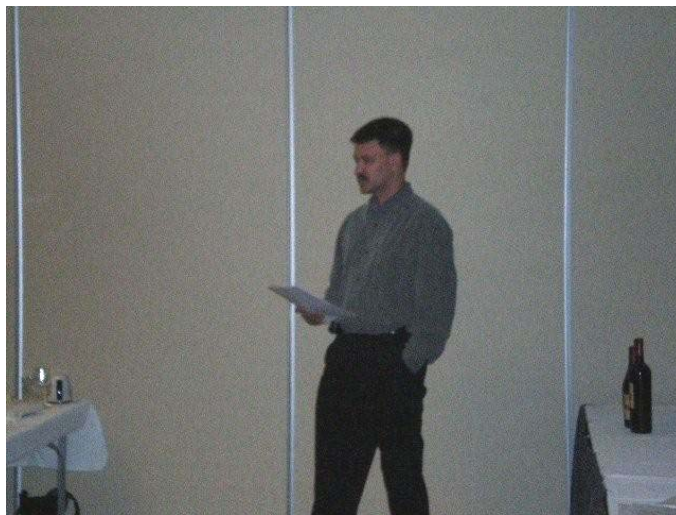
Attending members are mesmerized by Craig and his presentation.



Chapter 5 members Bruce Reed, Melissa Wurtz and Matt Armfield pondering the presentation



Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA giving her presentation for the INEC



Chapter 72 President Mike Murray, SR/WA running for Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer



A found farewell picture with the Region Officers and Chapter 37 President Gerald Johnson.