

Region 3 Spring Newsletter
March 2006

REGION 3 CHAIR MESSAGE

By Jack C. Holt, SR/WA

Hello again, and welcome to a new and exciting year in the region. To start, we have Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA in the race for a position on the International Executive Committee. We also have several other applications into the nominations and elections committee. So far I know of two Chapters running for Chapter of the Year and two Companies for Employer of the Year. We also have Joanie Miller, SR/WA, nominated for the Balfour award. So many things could go our way. There may be even more others that I am not aware of. I truly look forward to the Denver conference.

It is now time to gear up for the spring forum. Faith Roland, SR/WA is our Region 3 Liaison Chair, but is unable to attend due to a conflict. Therefore, Jim Struble, SR/WA will be attending from the IEC in Faith's absence.

Since the last forum there has been a regional representative appointment to the environmental committee. Curt Proud from Chapter 20 has accepted this position.

We recently had the IEC and region chairs meeting in San Antonio, Texas. It happened to be on the coldest weekend they had all year. The weather did not seem to matter due to the fact that we were in meetings most of the time. I don't know of anyone who stayed beyond that. Some of the things covered in the meeting were the new conference schedule format and how we need everyone to know that it starts on Sunday, June 18, 2006 instead of Monday as in previous conferences. The new IRWA web site will be implemented on July 1st of 2006. This is Avector software and should be a great improvement. The course materials will now be done by Relizon as Kinko's will no longer be used. The education summit will meet again in March. The information about the results will be included in the July-August issue of the magazine. The committee is very serious about what needs to be done to improve courses and materials. The summit meetings are funded by the International Education Foundation.

The new IEC structure will go from six to five members. These bylaw amendments will be effective July 1, 2007.

We then went over the budget narrative and talking points to be presented at the spring forums. This was followed by a report from each region. I am again proud to say that we are a strong region and have good attendance at our forums. I brought up some of the concerns that were given to me by chapter members, and these were addressed and will be corrected.

I hope many of you will be able to attend the forum in Omaha. Chapter 78 will be great hosts and the auction should be a fun time as always. I truly believe we are headed in the right direction for the future of the IRWA. Best wishes to all.

REGION 3 SPRING FORUM
April 20 & 21, 2006
Hosted by Platte River Chapter 78

Accommodations
Hilton Omaha
1001 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 998-3400

The block of rooms that were set aside for the Spring Forum at the Hilton Omaha are all booked! If you have not made sleeping room arrangements, please contact the Hilton Gardens Downtown Omaha for reservations:

Hilton Gardens Downtown Omaha
1005 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68102
(402)341-4400 or 1-800-STAY-HGI
\$159.00/per night plus tax

Course 212: Creatively Solving Problems in Groups

Instructor: Dr. Mazie Leftwich
Thursday, April 20, 2006
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Qwest Center Omaha
455 North 10th Street, Room 207
Omaha, NE 68102



C212 April 20, 2006,
Omaha, NE.pdf

REGISTER NOW!!!

IRWA 200 Courses are required for those of you working toward your SR/WA designation.

Thursday Night Social and Auction

Thursday, April 20, 2006
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 +/- p.m.
Hilton Omaha
1001 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68102

www.irwaregion3.org
BID ON A VACATION RETREAT. A week's stay at a vacation retreat in Minnesota will be auctioned from March 8-17th on the Region 3 website. Check it out!

WANTED: Items for the auction to be held during the Thursday night social event. Proceeds will be donated to Nancy's IEC campaign fund. Bring plenty of cash for bidding!

Spring Forum Meeting

Friday, April 21, 2006
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Hilton Omaha
1001 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68102

Chapter Presidents – please remember that your Chapter’s Region 3 dues are due at the Spring Forum. Dues are \$1.00 per member. Checks are to be made payable to IRWA Region 3 and submitted to me at the Region 3 Spring Forum or mailed to:

**Rita Rasmussen
City of Cedar Rapids Engineering Dept.
1201 6th Street SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404**

REGION 3 PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES

Chapter 5 – no nominations
Chapter 20 – Doug Johnson, SR/WA
Chapter 37 – Sarah Hernandez, SR/WA
Chapter 41 – Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA
Chapter 72 – Scott Lang, SR/WA
Chapter 78 – Chris Pawloski

Thank you and see you at the Forum!

**Rita Rasmussen, SR/WA
Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer
319/286-5807
ritar@cedar-rapids.org**

Region 3 Website: www.irwaregion3.org

International Right of Way Association Website: www.irwaonline.org

EDUCATION WITH ALTITUDE

Attend IRWA’s 52nd Annual International Education Conference

June 18-21, in Denver Colorado



Meeting Minutes
IRWA Region 3 Fall Forum
Friday, October 14, 2005
Bloomington, Minnesota

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m., by Jack Holt, SR/WA, Region 3 Chair
Welcome remarks from Craig Knudsen, SR/WA, Chapter 20 President
Officer roll call was taken all chapters were represented.

Region Secretary/Treasurer Report - Rita Rasmussen

Balance of \$4,716.09

Vote to approve

Chapter Reports

Chapter Reports found on line www.irwaregion3.org

Comments from Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA

Nancy Halvorson announced that she is running for the IEC. Goals are education oriented and membership retention.

Pat Cairns proposed financial support from region 3 and chapters for Nancy's campaign. Campaign costs include travel to 4 forums and hosting a hospitality reception at the Annual Conference.

Jack Borgmeyer motioned to support Nancy with a sum of \$2,500.00 from Region funds, second by Chris Pawloski, unanimously in favor.

The Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer, Rita Rasmussen shall track expenses. A 1099 will need to be issued to Nancy if paid over \$600.

Special Recognition

A letter from David Sinclair thanking Region 3 for the \$1,050.00 donation to the RWIEF in memory of Howard Armstrong

International Committee Reports (will be put on line www.irwaregion3.org in the future for viewing)

Asset Management – Report sent by Cynthia Gan

Judi Sorensen from Chapter 78 was Vice Chair of the Committee. Ms. Sorensen sent letter to Region resigning from IRWA due to job promotion.

Environment – No Report

Ethics – No Report

LPA – Report sent by Ashleigh Robison.

Rita Rasmussen provided brief overview of committee. The Committee is receiving interest in Right of Way Best Practices Program by other chapters. Committee last met in Toronto. Sessions in Toronto were well attended and successful. As an outreach, the Committee hosted a membership booth in September at the APWA Conference in Minneapolis with the help of the Minnesota Chapter.

Minutes Cont'd

Membership – Joanie Miller

Discussion on recruiting membership as Chapter 78 recruited Nebraska DOT through education courses. 2006 Land Award is given to the Chapters with the largest percentage increase and largest absolute increase in members. The winners will be presented at the 2006 Conference. The Member Appreciation Program (MAP) recognizes an individual member who recruits the most members in 1 year. Chapters may request mapping of members within the Chapter. It is recommended each chapter have a couple people assigned to the committee.

Nominations and Elections – No Report

Pipeline – Marvin DeJear

Chicken Plucking session in Toronto was very successful.

Professional Development – Ed Opstein

The #1 reason people volunteer is that people believe in the purpose of the organization. Focus is course curriculum, enhance instructors and presentations. Nurture members in our region for instructors. Committee is working to develop more information to help course coordinators and determining education priorities for SR/WA designation. Jack Borgmeyer is the Chair and the committee is doing some great things. Need coordination within the region that the core courses are being held throughout the region. Developing new course. PowerPoint presentation for course coordinator. Quality education, professionalism and how do we enhance that. Like to hear of ideas. The Pipeline course name has been changed to Right of Way Agent Development Course.

Relocation – No Report

Survey – Dan Shiflett

The committee last met in Toronto. They are working on a couple of new courses and looking for authors. Next meeting in Spring of 2006. The Committee is hosting a membership booth at the survey conference.

Transportation - Don Corrigan

The Annual Conference was a land mark for the ITC with 10 breakout sessions in Toronto. The ITC published 2 articles in ROW Magazine.

Utilities – No Report

Valuation – No Report

Region Education Schedules – Craig Poorker

Connie Sanchez has list of classes and senior designation candidates.

No activity recorded for Jan, Feb, or March from Region 3.

Focus on core courses. Put on 1 every 3 years.

Let Craig know when a course is scheduled.

Chapters 41 and 78 must coordinate with each other. Chapters 78 & 5 also need to coordinate because they are close together. Be aware of competing interest.

2004 – 18.1 students per course

2005 – 16.5 students per course

We are down in attendance. Make sure you are advertising the course.

Craig will have the courses downloaded on the Region website. Schedule for region to chapter education chairs and on website.

Course 801 is being put on in the same month by 20 & 78.

The education chair must notify Region VC about cancellations.

Minutes Cont'd

The coordinators need guidance. Encourage them to promote course. Send e-mails to neighboring chapters. Don't rely on e-mail. PowerPoint – education chair and course coordinator information. Interactive website on HQ website. Information for course coordinators getting info to education chairs. Updated.

103 or 104 – Region has not been putting courses on lately, encourage for recertifications of SR/WA.

Region assistance program: Deadline is approaching if you are going to claim any funds for this at the end of the year. Information on website, but application is not. Chapter 41 is having trouble getting people to register for courses because proximity to Nebraska. Iowa DOT staff cannot cross state line. Neb Dept of Roads dictate education schedule.

Report on Region Chair Meeting in Salt Lake City – Jack Holt

Last 2 years the Region Chairs have met with the IEC. Faith Roland is the liaison chair. IEC reviewed talking points with Region Chairs that will be resented this afternoon. Each region presented issues to IEC. Region 3 is a respected region due to the efforts of Nancy, Bruce, Darryl and Jack. We should be proud of Region 3.

2006 Denver Conference

The Annual Conference in Denver will be June 18-21, 2006. The format schedule of the conference has changed as follows:

- Sunday-General Session
- Monday morning-Region Caucus
- Monday evening-Auction
- Tuesday afternoon-Golf
- Wednesday morning-Finnegan Fun Run
- Wednesday afternoon-Board meeting
- Wednesday evening-Banquet

Deadline for 2011 bid to HQ is March 1, 2006

Uniform Act Symposium

- November 7-9, 2005 in Anaheim, California
- Anticipate 500-700 registrants
- 2nd conference similar to the Mesa, Arizona conference

US Federal Update

- January 26, 2006
- The IEC and Int'l Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs to meet on January 27, 2006

US Uniform Act Seminar

- Held in 14 Cities
- Chapters can put on seminar
- Well received by Federal Agencies

Education Summit Report – Jack Borgmeyer

Education fee and tuition will account for 42% of all our revenue. Each region is represented. Course presentation down by 10. Problem is student enrollment.

- In 2004 there were 4,274 students
- In 2005 there were 3,702 students

Minutes Cont'd

Average class size has gone from 18.1-16.5 from 2004-2005. Still need revenue from 18 or more students.

Suggest Chapter put on PowerPoint presentations for course coordinators at chapter meetings.

Along with new price, HQ has revamped invoicing. Course Coordinators can check course registrations online.

Written agreements with course coordinators work good.

40% of course coordinators are first time. IRWA has expanded information for course coordinators.

Initiatives: Change 16 courses and textbooks. Foundation to fund. This is a major revamping of courses. Education Summit is scheduled for November in Chicago to develop a strategic plan for future education and professional development. Follow up meeting in mid March 2006 and will present in Denver.

Region shall plan and guaranty all core courses. Declining class size is a concern. Chapter Assistance is available at \$3,000 per region. Chapter can apply to Region for funding.

Chapter Professional of the Year Selections

Chapter 5 – no nomination

Chapter 20 – Doug Johnson

Chapter 37 – Sarah Hernandez

Chapter 41 – Nancy Halvorson

Chapter 72 – Scott Lang

Chapter 78 – Chris Pawloski

Time Management PowerPoint Presentation

IRWA Talking Points Narrated by Dennis Stork

All of us are volunteers to the association. How can we encourage the volunteers to take on positions?

Presentation available on-line November 15, 2005

Contact Craig Poorker if you want a copy

Fall 2005 Region Forums IRWA Update PowerPoint Presentation

Contact Craig Poorker if you want a copy

Spring Forum 2006 – Chris Pawloski

Chapter 78 will host the Region 3 Spring Forum in Omaha at the downtown Hilton newest hotels across the street from the Qwest Center. A course or motivational speaker will be Thursday and an auction will be Thursday evening.

Meeting Adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

IRWA Region 3 Fall Forum
Holiday Inn Select
Bloomington, MN
Friday, October 14, 2005

Balance 4/15/05	\$4,475.43
Income since 4/15/05	
Armstrong Memorial	1,550.00
Golf	1,500.00
Region Dues	321.00
Auction	1,725.00
Book Drive	350.00
Interest	0.50
Total Income	\$5,446.50
Expense since 4/15/05	
Computer Iowa (Region 3 website)	200.00
Nancy Halvorson (POTY plaque)	12.84
Joanie Miller-IMC (conference reimbursement)	250.00
Craig Poorker (reimburse-Armstrong Memorial-RWIEF)	1,050.00
Craig Poorker (reimburse-Armstrong Memorial-Paws for Life)	1,000.00
Craig Poorker (reimburse-Maple Leaf Classic)	2,000.00
IRWA Chapter 29 (Toronto conference book drive)	350.00
IRWA (Nancy's plaque& pin)	76.00
Don Corrigan (conference reimbursement)	250.00
Craig Poorker (reimburse-Jack's pin)	17.00
Total Expense	\$5,205.84
BALANCE AS OF 10/14/05	\$4,716.09

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita Rasmussen, SR/WA
Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer