



The Communiqué

Newsletter for North Star Chapter 20
International Right of Way Association (IRWA)

September 2006

2006

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President's Notes

By: Lisa Beckman, SR/WA

WELCOME BACK! I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer☺ It is September already and we are preparing for our meeting on the 20th. It will be held at Midland Hills Country Club and we look forward to seeing every member at this meeting.

PRESENTATION! We have Mr. Tim Worke from Transportation Alliance as our guest speaker. The presentation focus is on the need to pass the constitutional amendment to dedicate all of the motor vehicle sales tax to transportation and the tactics and organization of their campaign - Minnesotan's for better roads and transit.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE! Those that attended the Annual Conference in Denver had a wonderful time and it is always a great learning experience. Several issues were discussed and voted upon. We are sad to announce that Nancy Halvorson, IEC candidate, was not elected; nor did Joanie Miller or Bruce Reed receive the Balfour award☺ CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL – THE COMPETITION WAS TOUGH.

GET INVOLVED! Region 3 Fall Forum will be held October 19-20 in Kansas City, MO., if you are interested in attending please contact a board member for more information. Also, the International Local Public Agency Committee is also looking for volunteers to help staff a booth for the 2006 International Public Works Congress and Exposition in Kansas City, MO, September 10-13.

Mn/DOT 2006 RIGHT OF WAY PROFESSIONAL'S WORKSHOP OCTOBER 4TH-6TH! The schedule is almost final and the registration count is ahead of last year's total; to date there are more than 250 right of way professionals signed up. As always, there are many great sessions being offered and the networking and camaraderie that takes place is fantastic. You can find the registration information at: http://rocky.dot.state.mn.us/Conferences/2006_right_of_way_Professional/posted.pdf. We also need volunteers to hand out membership information on Wednesday evening. Our Chapter hosts this event and a good showing at the table would be great. Please let me know if you have an hour to volunteer.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE ON THE 20TH.

September Membership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2006

Time: 10:00 - Board of Directors Meeting
Everyone is welcome.
Noon - Member Luncheon

Location: **Midland Hills Country Club**
2001 Fulham Street
Roseville, MN 55113

Cost: \$15.00

Speaker: **Mr. Tim Worke**
Director, Highways & Transportation
Division, Associated General
Contractors of Minnesota

Topic: “Minnesotan's for better roads
and transit” campaign.



Tim Worke

**Director, Highways & Transportation Division
Associated General Contractors of Minnesota**

Tim Worke currently serves as the Highway and Transportation Division Director of the Minnesota Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America. Tim has been employed at AGC since 2003. He spends the majority of his time representing the interests of AGC members at the state legislature and with MN/DOT. Prior to his coming to AGC, Tim spent 17 years with the Minnesota Department of Transportation working in the areas of legislative relations and policy development. He has extensive experience in the federal transportation funding arena having served as the DOT's Director of Federal Relations for most of the 1990s. Tim was the Director of the MN/DOT Office of Government Relations from 1999-2003 overseeing both state and federal legislative issues. He is proud to claim service under five different MN/DOT Commissioners representing Republican, Democratic and Independence Party allegiances. Tim graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1985 with B.A Degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice. Tim and his wife Karen reside in Eagan. They have two children - Jessica 20 and Logan 14.

For reservations, please email Joanie Miller at jmiller@grenergy.com or call Joanie at 763-241-5764 No later than Friday, September 15, 2006.

Visit this link to view the map to this location:

YAHOO! Maps
[Map of 2001 Fulham St
Roseville, MN 55113-5111](#)



Igor Lenzner, Rinke Noonan Law Firm, guest speaker at our May membership meeting, held at Michael's Restaurant in St. Cloud. Mr. Lenzner delivered a fascinating presentation on "Mitigation".

Chapter 20 Advertising

If anyone is interested in advertising in our Chapter Communiqué or Chapter Directory please contact the following people:

Chapter 20 Directory:	Mark Hudson, Membership Chair 218-625-3862
Chapter 20 Communiqué:	Debbie Tyler, Newsletter Editor 763-323-2619

We offer space for $\frac{1}{4}$ page ads in our Communiqué at \$25 per year (six issues) and space for $\frac{1}{2}$ page ads in the directory at \$50 per year.

Hot Topics

Here's what the Industry is talking about.

Attention Chapter 20 members! This section of the newsletter will be dedicated to industry news. If you read an article of interest, why not share it with the rest of the chapter? Please email the article and the source (where you found it), to Debbie Tyler, Newsletter Editor, at debbiet@connexusenergy.com. Remember to send it by the 20th of the month, preceding the newsletter's distribution. We publish the newsletter about the 5th of the following months: January, March, May, September, October, and November.

Wild Parsnip

There is a relatively new non-native noxious plant invading Minnesota called wild parsnip. Everyone should learn to recognize this plant that is spreading northward from southern Minnesota. Contact with the plant and its sap causes extreme sensitivity to ultra-violet light, resulting in burning and blistering, even on cloudy days. Unlike poison ivy, everyone can get burned by this plant. The burn involves an itching sensation for a day or two, then blistering resulting in skin discoloration that can last for years.

The best treatment is prevention – being able to recognize the plant and avoid it. More information on this hazardous plant invading ditches throughout southern Minnesota can be found on these web sites.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/wildparsnip.html>

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/ee/veg/plants/wildparsnip.htm>

Membership Report

By: Mark Hudson

I am pleased to report that we continue to receive new members. Since our last newsletter, we have had the following people join Chapter 20.

Ceann Haluptzak with Powerhouse Title LLC in Lino Lakes
Cynthia LaVenture with SRF Consulting in Minneapolis
Jason D. Alt with Prosource Technologies, Inc. in Minneapolis, MN
Gregory S. Johnson with Foundation Appraisal, Inc in Cambridge, MN
Bob Koehler with Xcel Energy in Minneapolis

For those new to Chapter 20, please try to attend one of our lunch meetings and meet some of our members. It is a great opportunity to meet people engaged in many aspects of the right of way profession.

Along with the news of new members, I also regret to report the recent passing of one of our Chapter 20 members. Karen Johnson Adams passed away in July. In looking at my membership records she had been a member since 1991 and although I did not know her well, I had visited with her at numerous meetings since I joined Chapter 20 in 1995. Karen's husband, Paul S. Johnson, also a member of Chapter 20 had notified the Chapter and sent a copy of her obituary. Please keep Karen's family in your thoughts.

As I reflect on the past year and the changes that have taken place in my life both personally and professionally I am reminded of the saying "don't sweat the small stuff".



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On-Line Membership Update

International Headquarters has requested that ALL members update their membership information on-line. If you have changed your employment, telephone number, address or email address, it is imperative that you do this immediately. If you have problems with accessing the website or with your password please contact Sergey Yushkevich at yushkevich@irwaonline.org.

Members Only Website

Information was in the last newsletter but please take time to check out the **IRWA WEBSITE** and the information available.

As the IRWA fall season get under way with our first lunch meeting I am reminded how much I had hoped to accomplish on a number of responsibilities including duties as Chapter 20 membership chair. It seems as if the past 12 months have flown by. My mother passed away in September of 2005, my longtime Co-Worker and the reason I became involved with the IRWA David T. Johnson, retired from St. Louis County in December of 2005. In June of 2006, John McKay, Chapter 20 Personnel Development Chair left St. Louis County to begin work with Enbridge Pipeline Company in Superior Wisconsin. To date, those positions remain vacant providing the remaining staff with new challenges. I wish I had the market cornered on sympathy but this appears to be the state of many professions including ours as Right of Way Professionals. My oldest daughter graduated from high school and is soon to start college; my younger daughter will begin high school next week. Does this sound like some of your lives, action packed and never boring? It is more important than ever to maintain contact with others in our profession to remind us that we all have the same challenges both professionally and personally. My apologies for the last rambling paragraph, I hope to meet some of you at a future meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 218-625-3862 or by email at HUDSONM@CO.ST-LOUIS.MN.US

If you would like to introduce yourself to the membership with a short biography and picture please email them to me and we will run them in a future newsletter.

APPRAISAL

- Narrative Appraisals
- Short form Appraisals
- Residential Appraisals
- Review Appraisals

ACQUISITION

- Route & Site Selection
- Title Services
- Document Preparation
- Negotiation

RELOCATION

- Assist Displaced Occupants
- Conduct Comparable Studies
- Provide Referrals
- Prepare Claims for Final Payment



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Toll Free: 1-888-411-1134

Website: www.elsco.net

Email: karik@elsco.net

Meet our newest members...



Jason D. Alt

ProSource Technologies, Inc.
Senior Project Manager
Acquisition / Relocation Specialist

Jason Alt recently joined ProSource Technologies, Inc. (ProSource) as Senior Project Manager and Acquisition/Relocation Specialist. He previously worked for WD Schock Company, Inc. where he performed as Regional Vice President/Project Director for Los Angeles International Airport's (LAWA) Residential Acquisition Division. He served as a technical and operational advisor to LAWA in support of its acquisition and relocation program quality assurance. Jason is experienced in providing professional consulting services related to property management, property disposal, and land acquisition and relocation. His primary areas of expertise consist of training right of way (ROW) staff for public agencies, establishing policies and procedures for agencies to oversee ROW consultant firms, acting as a representative for public agencies in relocation appeals, managing complex or politically sensitive acquisition or relocation projects, and assembling teams to implement ROW projects.

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Email:
home@loucksmclagan.com

IRWA Region 3 News Briefs

You are invited to attend...

Region 3 Fall Forum

October 19 & 20, 2006

Hosted by Chapter 5

Accommodations

Quarterage Hotel located in the historic Westport District

560 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO 64111

816.931.0001 or 800.942.4233

www.quarterage.com

Rate: \$89.00 plus tax

A block of rooms have been set aside for the Fall Forum. Please be sure to mention IRWA when placing your reservation.

IRWA COURSE 901-Engineering Plan and Development

October 19, 2006, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Location: Quarterage Hotel

Contact Bill Wright at 816.513.0507 or William.Wright@kcmo.org

Thursday Night Social – BBQ & Drinks!

Thursday, October 19, 2006

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 +/- p.m.

KC Trolley Ride – Tour of City 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Remembering

Karen Johnson Adams, 54, Maple Grove. Survived by husband Paul Steven Johnson; sons Justin Ratzlaff and Brian Ratzlaff; sisters, Luetta Enns of Hillsboro, KS and Lorraine Gates of Tulsa, OK; 2 grand-daughters, Brooke Ratzlaff of Tulsa, OK and Jamie Ratzlaff of Colorado Springs, CO. Karen was a known real estate appraiser and consultant with association in the Appraisal Institute, International Right of Way Assoc. and National Assoc. of Independent fee Appraisers, operated an appraisal firm known as Adams Appraisals Inc. in both Minnesota and Colorado. Funeral Services were held in Minneapolis with internment in Hillsboro, KS.

Richard Wurtz, longtime IRWA member, past IPDC Chair, past Region 3 Chair, and past Chapter 5 President passed away August 22. Rick fought a valiant fight in dealing with recent strokes and poor health over the past few years. Rick was nominated for the Balfour Award three times during his IRWA career and ran Phoenix title Company in Mound City, Kansas for many years before retiring in 2000.

Professional Development

By John J. McKay, SR/WA, PDC Chair

Mikah Harris (left) accepts recognition from John McKay (right) for completing his SR/WA designation at the May membership meeting.

Congratulations!



Hunters & Seekers

This section is available for all members. If you would like to have an ad posted please contact the editor debbiet@connexusenergy.com one month prior to the publish date.



Real Estate Specialist Advanced

3550 Mormon Coulee Rd, LaCrosse

Deadline to Apply: September 22, 2006

The Department of Transportation, Division of Transportation System Development, Southwest Region, LaCrosse is seeking an individual who will perform advanced real estate duties.

The starting pay is between \$42,800 and \$66,449 annually depending upon experience and qualifications, plus **Amazing benefits and Continuous training.**

For a complete job announcement and application instructions, visit the WiscJobs website at <http://wiscjobs.state.wi.us>, refer to job announcement 06-02896. Questions or a request for the job announcement can be directed to Jane Hinline at (608) 266-7321.

Join Our Team

Great River Energy (GRE) Great River Energy (GRE) is on the front lines of the energy industry, supplying electricity to 28 customer-owned electric co-ops across the state while being environmentally conscientious. Minnesota's population is growing and we're staffing up to meet its energy needs. We have a lot to offer including competitive salaries, continued education, performance rewards, flexible schedules, an on-site workout facility, cafeteria, generous 401K and bonus plans along with many more benefits. Please note we will be moving to a new headquarters building in **Maple Grove** during the first quarter of 2008.

Field Representative (Right of Way Agent)

The position will acquire governmental approvals and land rights necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of Great River Energy's transmission and communications system and generation facilities. The person will assist in other land rights and real estate functions as well.

Our preferred candidate would have a Bachelor's Degree in business, real estate, or a related field and/or four years of right of way experience. Experience in the various facets of land acquisition including easements, fee acquisition, land titles, leases, and permits, along with knowledge of real estate law, governmental policies, land use planning and eminent domain. This position will include travel throughout GRE's service territory with some evening and weekend work as projects dictate.

Land Rights Technician

This position will assist in land rights and real estate acquisition functions by preparing and administering necessary drawings, records, permits, easements, agreements, assignments and other documents relating to the acquisition, sale or transfer of Great River Energy's properties and rights of way. To qualify, you should have a two year technical degree in engineering, drafting, civil technology or surveying plus some experience related to the field of real estate or land rights acquisition.

Our preferred candidate should have knowledge and experience in interpreting and writing legal descriptions, interpreting surveys, survey notes and engineering drawings, preparing parcel maps, easements and a variety of permits and land use agreements as well as partial and complete release of easements. AutoCAD experience or the ability to learn AutoCAD is required.

For more information regarding Great River Energy please visit our website at www.greatriverenergy.com. We offer a competitive salary/ benefits package and opportunity for professional growth. To apply, please send, fax, or e-mail your resume with salary requirements to: Human Resources, Attn: S. Miller, Great River Energy, 17845 East Hwy 10, Elk River, MN 55330-0800. Fax: 763-241-6390. smiller@greenergy.com EEO/AA Employer.



Chapter 20 Education

In January 2006, IRWA introduced a major membership enhancement - monthly online **e-Seminars**. In the "**Members Only**" section of the website, members will have access to a one-hour online seminar that features streaming audio, PowerPoint presentations and downloads of any handouts referred to in the presentation.

The initial series of workshops will be adapted from the recent Uniform Act Symposium sessions on November 7-9. New online seminars will be added throughout the year, including workshops from the 2006 Annual Educational Conference to be held in Denver, CO.

Members will have special access to view these online programs at no charge. For members seeking to apply the online seminar for recertification credits toward IRWA designations, they may take a written online exam and obtain course credit for only \$20.00. The new online system will automatically grade the exam and e-mail a completion certificate to those who pass.

2006 Education Calendar

October 4-6, 2006 MnDOT Right of Way Professionals Conference

October, 2006 **Course 602 - Project Development & the Eng Process**
2 days
Location: TBD
Coordinator: Lois Wells 651-480-3908
lois.wells@kochpipeline.com
Instructor: Rick Dickson

Nov 8 & 9, 2006 **Course 801 - Land Titles**
2 days
Location: Ulteig Engineers, Minneapolis, MN
Coordinator: Jamie McIntyre 763-277-6254
jamie.mcintyre@ulteig.com
Instructor: Bill Rottschaefter

January, 2007 **Course 100 - Principles of Land Acquisition**
4 days
Location: TBD
Coordinator: TBD

IRWA cancellation policy on classes:

Written notification of cancellation must be received by the class coordinator 15 days prior to start of class. A 75% refund will be made if written notification is received less than 15 days prior to start of class. No refund will be made after the start of class.

Attention course attendees:

Please contact the Course Coordinator prior to attending a course for information on Real Estate, Appraisal or Legal continuing education credits. **PLEASE, DO NOT** assume that all classes offer continuing education credits.

North Star Chapter 20 Int'l Right of Way Association

September Membership Meeting

Date: **Wednesday, September 20, 2006**


Time: 10:00 - Board of Directors Meeting
Everyone is welcome
Noon - Member Luncheon

Location: **Midland Hills Country Club**
2001 Fulham Street
Roseville, MN 55113

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- October 4-6 MnDOT Right of Way
Professionals Conference
- October Course 602 - Project Development
& the Eng Process
- October 18 Chapter 20 Membership meeting
- November 15 Chapter 20 Membership meeting

Please RSVP to Joanie Miller at
jmiller@grenergy.com or call Joanie at 763-241-5764
NO LATER THAN Friday, September 15, 2006
to make reservations for the luncheon.



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