



The Communiqué

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

May 2006

2006

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President's Notes

By: Lisa Beckman, SR/WA

May 1, 2006

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May showers bring? Mosquitoes? Well, at least it is not snowing. Enough with the weather....

It is hard to believe that we are thinking of the final spring meeting already. The luncheon presentation scheduled for May 17, 2006 is "Mitigation - A Bridge between Acquisition & Relocation of Businesses for a Regional Project." Mr. Igor Lenzner, will share his knowledge and experience on what could happen to a community severely impacted by a proposed bridge construction project. This should be a very interesting presentation. **Remember that this meeting is being held in St. Cloud, look for details within this newsletter.** Thanks go out to Greg Cooley for coordinating the spring meeting.

The Spring Forum was on April 21, in Omaha. Attendance was very good, ideas were flowing, and the auction that was held on Thursday evening contributed approximately \$4,000 to Nancy Halvorson's run for the International Executive Committee seat. Good Luck Nancy!

The IRWA's 52nd Annual International Education Conference is in Denver, Colorado this year. The educational opportunities as well as the networking opportunities are sensational.

I would also like to mention that the MnDOT Annual Right of Way Workshop will be held October 4th through the 6th. The web site is set up for registration; please look for more details at <http://rocky.dot.state.mn.us>.

Have a great summer☺

May Membership Meeting

Date: **Wednesday, May 17, 2006**

Time: **Noon** - Member Luncheon
There will not be a Board of Directors meeting this month.

Location: **Michael's Restaurant - Best Western/Americanna Inn**
520 Highway 10 S.
St. Cloud, MN
320-252-8700

Cost: \$15.00

Speaker: **Mr. Igor Lenzner**
Rinke Noonan Law Firm
St. Cloud, MN

Topic: **"Mitigation - A Bridge Between Acquisition & Relocation of Businesses For A Regional Project."**



Igor S. Lenzner

Mark your calendar for an exciting presentation at our May 17 membership meeting to be held in St. Cloud, MN. Our speaker, Mr. Igor Lenzner, will share his knowledge and experience on what could happen to a community severely impacted by a proposed Bridge Construction Project. Mr. Lenzner is affiliated with Rinke Noonan Law Firm in St. Cloud, MN and has been working in the areas of Eminent Domain, General Municipal Law and Real Estate for the last past 13 years. He is currently working with Stearns County and the City of Sauk Rapids on the acquisitions and relocations required for the Stearns County/City of Sauk Rapids Regional Bridge Project."

Listed below is a link for a map that shows the meeting location, address and directions coming from the metro through Monticello eventually to St. Cloud. (Michael's Rest. - Best Western/Americanna Inn, 520 Highway 10 S, St. Cloud, MN, 320-252-8700).

Details to find location of IRWA meeting held on 05-17-06.

Visit this link to view the directions:

<http://urlgen.rmservers.com/cgi-bin/emap.cgi?uniqueid=R3JH0PTr6FSu3AUL&fromRoutePage=true>

Visit www.anywho.com to search for businesses or people or to get maps and driving directions.

For reservations, please email Joanie Miller at jmiller@grenergy.com or call Joanie at 763-241-5764 NO LATER THAN Friday, May 12, 2006.

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 Communique:	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 at least a week before the newsletter is distributed. We publish the newsletter about the 5th of the following months: January, March, May, September, October, and November.

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Matthew S. Storm, SR/WA Principal Acquisition Manager	evergreen LAND SERVICES COMPANY Acquisition and Relocation Specialists

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:

Michelle L. Lommel with Great River Energy in Elk River
Gene Kubesh a Certified General Real Property Appraiser located in Spicer
Lara R.M. Nygaard with Maki & Overom located in Duluth
Steven J. Firmhaber with Nordic Pipeline Services in Rogers
David B. Jursik with McKinzie Metro Appraisal in Vadnais Heights
Kodi Jean Church with Great River Energy in Elk River

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.

Please remember that there is a lot of information on the IRWA website including the ability to update your member information. In case you haven't looked at this here are the instructions.

Congratulations to Joanie Miller, SR/WA for winning the Member Appreciation Program Award (MAP) with 17 new members.

The individual sponsoring the most new members between July 1, 2005 to May 1, 2006, will not only receive \$25 in IRWA MAP credits for every new member recruited, *but also will receive a complimentary registration to IRWA's Annual International Education Conference in Denver!*

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.

To begin the process, go to www.irwaonline.org. Once on the IRWA website, go to **1) Resources**, then **2) Online Membership Directory** then to **3) Update Member Profile**. It is necessary at this time to enter your user ID which is your Membership ID number. Next, you will need to enter your password which is your last name. Because the program is case sensitive, you should ALWAYS use uppercase for the first letter of your last name. The remaining letters should be lower case. Submit.

Your new screen should be titled **Individual Profile Update**. Verify the provided information. If it is incorrect, please update. Once the necessary changes have been made, Submit.

This database is updated twice per month. If you experience any difficulties, please contact your Membership Committee or International headquarters

Members Only Website

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.

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

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IRWA Region 3 *News Briefs*

Region 3 Spring Forum April 21-22, 2006

Omaha, Nebraska was the gathering spot for the IRWA Region 3 Spring Forum on April 21. Those attending from Chapter 20 were Lisa Beckman, SR/WA, Craig Knudsen, SR/WA, Craig Poorker, SR/WA, and Joanie Miller, SR/WA.

Thursday evening began with a social hour at the Hilton Hotel across the street from the new Omaha Convention Center and was followed by an auction to benefit the campaign of Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, an IEC candidate. All proceeds from the auction were donated to Nancy for her IEC campaign. \$4,100 was raised during this event with items donated by each chapter and by individuals. At times, the competition and bidding was fierce for items such as the pink flamingo, food baskets, wildlife prints, even an autographed photograph of Jack Borgmeyer, SR/WA and finally - the much awaited cheesecake.

Friday morning found us settling in for the business meeting with Region Chair Jack Holt, bringing the meeting to order. Jim Struble, International Vice President, was on hand to update our region on the latest news from Headquarters and an update on the newly revised Denver conference - "Education with Altitude" - schedule. Nancy Halvorson spoke of her commitment for the IEC run and of her appreciation for all the support she has received from our Region. Go Nancy Go!

Announcements were made by Jack Holt for the following Region 3 categories:

Basin Electric	Employer of the Year
Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA	IEC Candidate
Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA	Professional of the Year
Bruce Reed, SR/WA	Balfour Award Finalist
Joanie Miller, SR/WA	Balfour Award Finalist

Chapter and Committee Reports were read by each chapter representative, followed by Craig Poorker, Region Vice Chair, who gave a Region education update. Course enrollment is down and Craig can assist chapters in increasing course attendance. It was stressed the importance of not settling for a course to break even, but to recruit more participants for classes offered.

Bruce Reed discussed the impact of rewriting all IRWA courses and how it will greatly reduce the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) funds. He encouraged all chapters to make donations to this foundation to help restore its balance.

Once again, the annual conference in June will host a Children's Hospital Book Drive. Anyone wanting to donate new or gently used books may do so by contacting Lisa Beckman at 763-475-0010 for details. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Chapters within Region 3 will collectively sponsor a hole at the 2006 Mile High Classic Denver Golf Tournament again this year. This has become an annual event for our chapter and a way to contribute to the RWIEF. Last year's donation by Chapter 20 was \$300. This year, each chapter has been challenged to match Omaha Chapter 78's donation of \$500. This will be discussed at our next Board of Directors meeting and voted on at that time.

It was another intense but exciting and fun forum. Kansas City will be hosting the fall forum in October and it was suggested that it be held in Branson, Missouri. More details will follow.

Thank you to host Chapter 78 for a first-class event and please plan to attend the fall forum in October!



Jim Struble, International Vice President, as he addressed the Region 3 Forum.

Region 3 - Professional of the Year



Congratulations Nancy Halvorson!

During the Region 3, Spring Forum, **Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA**, was presented with the 2005 Region 3 Professional of the Year Award.

Nancy is also a candidate for the International Executive Committee.
Good luck Nancy!

Nancy is pictured, accepting her award from Region Chair, **Jack Holt, SR/WA**, from Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

**Congratulations to Basin Electric Power Cooperative,
recently named the 2005 IRWA Employer of the Year!**

Region 3 - IRWA Balfour Award Finalists



Bruce Reed and **Joanie Miller**, finalists for the prestigious IRWA Balfour Award, which is the award for the International Professional of the Year. We believe that this is the first time that Region 3 has had TWO candidates at the same time!



Region - 3 Secretary **Rita Rasmussen** and **Chris Pawloski** from host Chapter 78.

A special thanks...

“I would like to thank each of the chapter treasurers for having completed their tax information. We were the only region on the last list to come from headquarters that was fully complete. I will again mention this at the forum and continue to be proud of this region. Thanks again.”

Jack Holt

Region 3 Chair

Remembering

The members of Chapter 20 wish to acknowledge the passing of Ester Watson on March 24. For 56 years, Ester was a devoted wife to our longtime Chapter 20 colleague Malcolm Watson. Our sincere condolences to Malcolm and his family.

Professional Development

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

Congratulations to Mike J. Harris Chapter 20's newest SR/WA

Mike is currently employed by Enbridge Pipelines, Inc, in their Superior, Wisconsin office. He was recently promoted to Senior Lands & Right of Way Specialist. Mike has been working with Enbridge since 1996. He holds a degree in Supervisory Management from Lake Superior College where he graduated with honors. In addition to his SR/WA, Mike holds certifications in Acquisition and Environment from the International Right of Way Association.

Previous to working at Enbridge, Mike was employed at the Assessors office in Albemarle County, Virginia and in Right-of-Way for the Virginia Department of Transportation. He has also worked as a contract Right-of-Way Agent for Great Lakes Gas Transmission Company. Mike has held a Real Estate Salesperson License in MN and been involved in property management for 15 years.



Other Development News:

Update on Candidates, Designations, and Certifications:

It has been a very busy year for certifications, re-certifications and designations. If you have a certification in one of the various right of way disciplines, make sure you keep up-to-date on continuing education credits and recertification deadlines. It is sometimes hard to make up a large number of credits and receive approval from headquarters for non-IR/WA courses in a short period of time. Since there are many Chapter members who attend the Fall MnDOT R/W Conference, we are in the process of seeking pre-approved IR/WA credits for this seminar. Here is some information on our Chapter's professional development.

SR/WA Candidates

The following 10 people within Chapter 20 are listed as candidates for the SR/WA designation: Kaye Anderson, Dale Aukee, Elizabeth Babcock, Dennis Conlin, Melissa Janssen, Steven Johnson, Mark Olson, William Rottschaefer, Jr, and Dennis Sandberg.

There is no time limit on completing your SR/WA. A candidate who does not complete his or her SR/WA requirements within five years is required to resubmit a supplemental candidacy application for an additional five years.

Chapter 20 SR/WAs

Chapter 20 currently has 31 individuals with the SR/WA designation. They are: Karen Adams, Lisa Beckman, Robert Brokopp, J. Patrick Cairns, David Callahan, Gregory Cooley, Marvin DeJear, George Eckenroth, Mike Harris, Eric Holm, Carol Johnson, David Johnson, Douglas Johnson, Tanya Johnson, Craig Knudsen, Leigh Lenzmeier, Leland Mann, Larry Martin, John McKay, Joanie Miller, Bradley Moe, Charles Norell, Gary Ostrom, Susan Pariseau, Craig Poorker, Brian Quinlan, Matthew Storm, Stuart (Bud) Storm, Cary Weber, Bradley Weidenfeller, and Harold Wilsie.

Chapter 20 Certifications

Additionally, Chapter 20 has 12 individuals with one or more individual certifications. They are: Mike Harris, Environmental and Negotiation; Eric Holm, Environmental; Craig Knudsen, Environmental and Negotiation; Joanie Miller, Environmental; Susan Pariseau, Environmental and Negotiation; Lisa Beckman, Negotiation; Carol Johnson, Negotiation; Craig Poorker, Negotiation; Penny Spicer, Negotiation; Matthew Storm, Negotiation; Tanya Johnson, Relocation; Bonnie Zavadil, Relocation.

If someone is missing from this list, I apologize. However, please let me know so that I can update headquarters. Also, please visit the IR/WA website at: <http://www.irwaonline.org/> to update your course history and review professional development options within our organization. If you have any questions, please contact me at 218-625-3865 or by email at mckayj@co.st-louis.mn.us

Congratulations to all of you that have worked so hard this past year on your professional development. Have a great summer!

Hunters & Seekers

Abstractor/Right of Way Agent

Abstractor/Right of Way Agent wanted for abstracting duties, title research and analysis, document preparation and negotiation activities within the real estate group of an engineering consulting firm. Real Estate license and right of way acquisition experience a plus. Excellent communication skills a must.

SRF Consulting Group, Inc. is a locally owned and well-established civil engineering, transportation and planning firm. We offer competitive salary and benefits, 401(k) & profit sharing. For immediate consideration, send your cover letter and resume to SRF Consulting Group, Inc., One Carlson Pkwy. N., #150, Plymouth, MN 55447; fax to 763-475-2429, or e-mail to jobs@srfconsulting.com; EOE

Administrative Manager – Right of Way

Hennepin County Transportation Department
Masters degree or Bachelors degree plus five years experience.
Salary: \$54,648 to \$81,924
See County web site for complete details: www.hennepin.us

Chapter 20 Education

Principles of Real Estate Negotiation

Course 200

July 19-20, 2006, in Mendota Heights, MN

[Double-click here for course brochure and registration form.](#)



C200 July 19-20
2006 Mendota Height

Attend IRWA's 52nd Annual International Education Conference June 18-21, in Denver, Colorado



It just got more affordable:

- It **starts on Sunday** and ends on Wednesday
- This means a **reduction in travel-related expenses** — without a reduction of quality educational sessions
- This also means **one less day away from the office**

For all the details, Just go to www.irwaonline.org and visit our [Annual Conference Page](#), where you can find all the forms and links to programs, packages and companion tours.

2006 Education Calendar

July 19 - 20, 2006 **Course 200 - Principles of Real Estate Negotiation**
2 days
Location: Yaggy Colby, Mendota Heights, MN
Coordinator: Penny Rolf 651-681-9040 prolf@yaggy.com
Instructor: Ed Opstein, SR/WA

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 Rottschaefer

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.

STERN & ANDERSON, P.A.

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North Star Chapter 20 Int'l Right of Way Association

May Membership Meeting

Date: **Wednesday, May 17, 2006**


Time: **Noon** - Member Luncheon
No Board of Directors meeting this month.

Location: **Michael's Restaurant -
Best Western/Americanna Inn**
520 Highway 10 S.
St. Cloud, MN
320-252-8700

Please RSVP to Joanie Miller at
jmiller@grenergy.com or call Joanie at 763-241-5764
NO LATER THAN Friday, May 12, 2006
to make reservations for the luncheon.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

June 18-21	IRWA 52 nd Annual International Education Conference Denver, CO
July 19 - 20	Course 200 - Principles of Real Estate Negotiation
October	MnDOT Right of Way Professionals Conference
October	Course 602 - Project Development & the Eng Process



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