



Calendar of Events

CHAPTER 41 QUARTERLY MEETING

PLACE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC WORKS BLDG.
DATE & TIME MARCH 10, 2006 - 10 A.M. (SEE PAGE 10)

REGION 3 SPRING FORUM

PLACE HILTON, OMAHA - OMAHA, NEBRASKA
DATE APRIL 21, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 10-11, 2006 - COURSE 700 INTRODUCTION TO
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, COUNTRY INNS AND
SUITES, AMES

MAY 15-17, 2006 - COURSE 202 INTERPERSONAL
RELATIONS TO REAL ESTATE, COUNTRY INNS AND
SUITES, AMES

JUNE 2, 2006 - CHAPTER 41 MEETING, AMES

JUNE 18-21, 2006 - INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
CONFERENCE, ADAM'S MARK HOTEL, DENVER,
COLORADO

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006 - CHAPTER 41 MEETING,
URBANDALE

FALL 2006 -- COURSE 214 SKILLS OF EXPERT TESTIMONY,
TENTATIVE (SEE PAGE 4)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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President's Message

President Bernard B. Banker, SR/WA, R/W-RC

When I left this position in December, 2003, I did not anticipate that, as Arnold Schwarzenegger said in *The Terminator*, "I'll be back", but ta-da, here I am. Like the proverbial bad penny, like a toothache, like the eccentric uncle, like.....well, you get the point.

Last September, I agreed to serve as the chapter secretary, a position I held back before the turn of the century. Through circumstances, I agreed to serve as president of our great chapter for another go-round. I appreciate the opportunity to continue to carry our collective torch for the next two years, god willing. I promise to put forth my best effort to gain your trust, to make our meetings and functions interesting and represent your interests to Region and International.

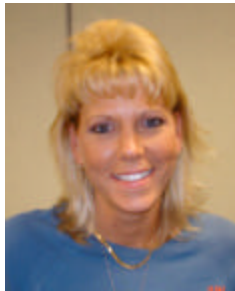
Our January meeting, dinner and officer installation held at Prairie Meadows in Altoona was well attended and the dining was fabulous. The little éclairs and cheesecakes were, as they say "to die for".

We had the opportunity to have our Region 3 Vice-Chair Craig Poorker and his wife Joanie Miller, both from Minnesota Chapter 20, attend our business meeting and the installation banquet. Both Joanie and Craig gave brief presentations at our business meeting and Craig swore in our new chapter officers at the installation banquet. Yes, this is the same Joanie who has written a very good article for our January/February 2006 *Right of Way* magazine. If you have not yet done so, please read it.

When I wrote my first President's Message in early 2002, I conveyed my interest in quoting Andy Rooney and I will continue to do that from time to time and maybe throw in some wisdom from Ben Franklin. So, humor me as we take this two year journey.

I want to thank everyone who graciously volunteered (or were drafted) to serve on our chapter committees.

Continued on Page 3



Vicki Elscott

Vicki Elscott joined IRWA in 2003, shortly after she began her career in the Right of Way field at the Iowa DOT. Vicki is employed in the Office of Traffic and Safety with the Advertising Management Section.

Vicki is serving her second year as Program Co-Chair for Chapter 41. In addition, she utilized her expertise with website development with developing and maintaining websites for Chapter 41 (www.irwa41.org), Region 3 (www.irwaregion3.org), and Chapter 5. (If you haven't checked out these websites, please do so - she does a terrific job!)

Vicki and her husband of 13 years, Brent, have a ten-year old daughter, Breanna. Vicki also has a 24-year old stepson, Joel. She has coached Breanna's soccer team for three seasons. They enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, volleyball, biking and playing games.

Vicki became a member of IRWA because of her mother, Nancy Halvorson, who has been a member for several years. Vicki has accompanied Nancy to many IRWA events and meetings since 1998. "Through this experience I have seen that IRWA offers members the education and experience for both personal and professional growth."



Leo Smith

Leo H. Smith, a Certified General Appraiser specializing in farms and small commercial appraisals became a member of Chapter 41 in 2005.

Leo is self-employed with Ag Lender Consulting in Red Oak, Iowa. He has been appraising real estate since 1999.

Leo says he initially joined IRWA to take a class on Partial Acquisitions. "I have since discovered IRWA provides opportunities to take many interesting classes. The IRWA magazine has some very informative articles on diverse subjects."

In addition to appraising, Leo is also a real estate associate with CENTURY 21 Rubey Realty at Red Oak. In his free moments, he coordinates the custom farming of his farmland and does some farm management.

Leo and his wife, Sarah (the center director at Southwestern Community College at Red Oak) have three grown sons. His hobbies are collecting Cushman Motor Scooters, motorcycling, old agriculture and automotive books, "old interesting stuff" and reading.

*Have You Looked at the Website ...
Lately?*



Have you looked at the Chapter 41 Website lately? If not, take the time to stop by at www.irwa41.org to see the latest improvements our Webmaster, Vicki Elscott has made.

Remember, the Chapter is paying to keep this website active and, it is **for your benefit**...latest information is posted there regularly. It is only of benefit if it is being used.

Chapter News



TOYS FOR TOTS

Vicki Elscott, Program Co-Chair

In 2005, Chapter 41 collected \$315 that was donated to Toys for Tots to help provide toys for children who otherwise would not have them.

At the annual meeting on January 21 it was decided that donations will be accepted for the entire year for our "Toys for Tots" annual donation. If you would like to donate, you can either donate at a Chapter Meeting, Region Meeting, or send a check.

For more information on where to send a check, please email Vicki Elscott vicki.elscott@dot.iowa.gov or Jim Diemer jpdiemer@midamerican.com Thank you for your continued generosity.

Editor's Note: We received a thank you letter from Major William J. Grein, U.S. Marine Corp Retired on behalf of the Toys for Tots Foundation.



Bernard B. Banker, SR/WA, R/W-RAC Installed as Chapter 41 President

Due to a job promotion, Dan Shiflett, SR/WA, R/W-NAC President-Elect has declined the office of IRWA Chapter 41 President.

After a special election Bernard B. Banker, SR/WA, R/W-RAC was sworn in as 2006 Chapter President at our Installation of Officers on January 21.

With Bernie's election that left the Secretary-Vice President office open for election and that position was filled by Linda Martens.

Congratulations to Dan, Bernie and Linda!!

\$1000 Grand Prize Winner



At our Annual Installation Banquet on January 21 we had two drawings. The winner of the \$1000 to be used toward any IRWA related expenses was Robert Dahlgren, SR/WA. The winner of free membership dues was Amy Walter.

Each time a member attends a Chapter Meeting they get their name in a Meeting drawing for \$50 cash. Our January winner was Paige Norris.

Then, all entries are thrown in for the annual drawings. In order to be eligible to win the entire \$1000 you must be present to win. If you aren't present you will be awarded \$500.

Congratulations, Bob and Amy!

CONGRATULATIONS



\$50 Door Prize Winner

December Meeting

Paige Norris

President's Message Continued from Page 1

If you don't remember if you were or were not affected, our new committees are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. And, there is still room for more participants.

To all of you who did agree to serve my feelings are best expressed in the Andy Rooney quote:

"I've learned that the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am"

And, yes, this is the same quote I used in my first message in the February, 2002, newsletter. To a person, this quote sums up my feelings about you, the members of our chapter.

Bernie

Education Report

Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, Chair

Course 700

Introduction to Property Management

Instructor: David Layne, SR/WA*

April 10-11, 2006

Ames Country Inn and Suites

Course Coordinators:

Bernie Banker (bernard.banker@dot.iowa.gov)
515.239.1258; or

Nancy Halvorson (nancy.halvorson@dot.iowa.gov)
515.239.1359 or FAX: 515.239.1247

Course 700 will satisfy part of the Core Course Requirements for Asset Management Certification, and can be applied toward the Courses required for SR/WA!

Course 202

Interpersonal Relations in Real Estate

Instructor: David Layne, SR/WA*

May 15-17, 2006

Ames Country Inn and Suites

Course Coordinator:

Patti Simons (patricia.simons@dot.iowa.gov)
515.239.1562 or FAX 515.239.1247

Course 202 will satisfy three days of the 200 - Series Course Requirement for SR/WA designation.

If you are working toward your Certification these two courses combined will satisfy the **200 level course requirements**.

Course 214

Skills of Expert Testimony

*Proposed for **Fall, 2006***

We Need a Course Coordinator...Attend the course for FREE!!!

Contact Education Chair, Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC if you are interested.

You can register for either of these courses at:
<http://www.irwaonline.org/education/register.cfm>

David Layne, SR/WA is the owner of Layne Consulting Services, Inc. He has 30+ years experience in all phases of ROW. He was the recipient of the 1991 Frank Balfour Professional of the Year Award.

Region 3 Spring Forum

April 20-21, 2006

Hosted by Platte River Chapter 78



Hilton Omaha
1001 Cass Street
Omaha, Nebraska
402-998-4300

Please refer to the Region 3 Website www.irwaregion3.org for further specific details.

April 20 – Live Auction

April 21 – Region 3 Business Meeting

A block of rooms being held at a \$129.00 rate – you must mention IRWA, Chapter 78 when making reservation.

The proceeds from the Live Auction on Thursday night will be donated to Nancy Halvorson's run for the International Executive Committee. If you would like to donate items please contact Chris Pawloski at pawloskic@midwestrow.com or call (402) 955-2900. Check out the Region Website frequently as (some) items for the auction are being posted there.

Course 302, "Team Building" will be held at the Hilton on Thursday, April 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The instructor for this course is Mazie Leftwich.

HAVE YOU PAID YOU'RE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Chair Don Corrigan, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

Please remember to pay your dues NOW to avoid the 10% delinquent fee and \$50.00 reinstatement fee.

If you have not already paid your dues, you should have received a 2nd Notice.

A 10% late fee will be added on February 28 then on April 15 there is also a \$50 reinstatement fee.

Membership discounts on classes and seminars alone will save you the cost of your annual dues.

Member Information:



CERTIFICATIONS

Mary Beth Kiner, R/W-RAC

Linda Martens, R/W-RAC

Certified in Relocation Assistance

Congratulations, Mary Beth and Linda!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Chair Don Corrigan, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

NEW MEMBERS

Corrie Erickson, Corn Belt Power Cooperative

Martin J. Sankey, Iowa DOT

Welcome—We look forward to your membership.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Dan Shiflett, SR/WA, R/W-NAC has recently been promoted with Corn Belt Power Cooperative in Humboldt. Dan's new title is Right of Way and Construction Superintendent.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Submitted by Paige Norris



James P. Diemer, SR/WA

March 31, 2006 will be Jim Diemer's last day as a Right of Way agent for MidAmerican Energy Company. Jim has worked 37 years for the company, 34 of those years in the Right of Way Department. His colleagues are sad to see him go. Not only will they miss the invaluable source of vast experience and knowledge of the art of land acquisition that Jim has provided, but also his numerous accounts of creative negotiations, unusual personalities, and of the projects, big and small, that gradually shaped the gas and electric infrastructure that exists throughout central Iowa today.

The "Ice Storm" of 1991 provided Jim with one of his most gratifying professional experiences. He loved the opportunity to work with a team of engineers and construction contractors fully committed to quickly

restoring power to thousands of customers after 98 miles of 345kv transmission line from Lehigh to Johnston collapsed. Jim worked hard and quickly with property owners to find access to fallen towers in difficult terrain. In some cases, he actually leased land in the easement from property owners to avoid paying excessive damages for crops that would have been lost due to construction and repairs in the easement area. After the complete restoration of the line, he made sure property owners received fair compensation for damage to property that his company was unable to restore to original condition.

In this project, as in all his work, Jim served as a wonderful liaison between his company and property owners. In fact, his emphasis has always been addressing concerns of property owners, dealing fairly and honestly with them and resolving their issues with the company. He believed it important to foster good public opinion of his company and of the right-of-way profession. His hard work in creating that trust over the years has been an asset for succeeding agents as they negotiate right-of way acquisitions for current and future projects.

In contemplating retirement, Jim looks forward to spending more time with his wife Sherry and their grandchildren. He also happily anticipates lots of fishing and relaxing at his vacation house on Stony Lake in Minnesota.

For those of us saddened by his departure, chins up. Jim hopes to continue in the Right-of Way business, possibly doing some contract work. He plans to remain active in the IRWA and may pursue a Real Estate Brokers License.

Congratulations for a job well done and sincere thanks for all your encouragement and mentoring.

In Memory



**Jack C. Jensen,
1994 Chapter 41 President**

Jack C. Jensen passed away November 24, 2005 at his home in Tucson, Arizona. Jack was President of Chapter 41 in 1994. His obituary is available at <http://www.legacy.com/tucson/LegacySubPage2.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonID=15807139>

Condolences may be sent to his wife, Ellie at 3140 South Imagination Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85730 or emailed at Elliejack2000@aol.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT

International Right of Way Association

"Spirit of the Heartland" - Iowa Chapter 41 Minutes of Business Meeting – January 21, 2006 Prairie Meadows, Altoona, Iowa

The meeting was called to order at 3:12pm.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the September business meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report indicated a total net balance of \$9,653.99. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and approved.

Membership Committee: Our membership count currently stands at 68. Membership Chair Don Corrigan shared a few tidbits from a recent meeting of the International Membership Committee. Don also reminded members of important deadlines regarding the payment of 2006 membership dues.

Education Committee: Chapter 41 plans to sponsor the following courses for 2006:

- Course 700/Introduction to Property Management, April 10-11 in Ames.
- Course 202/Interpersonal Relations in Real Estate, May 15-17 in Des Moines.
- Course 214/Skills of Expert Testimony, dates and location TBA.

A coordinator is needed for Course 214. Contact Nancy Halvorson if you are interested in attending this course for free as coordinator.

Program Committee: The March meeting of Chapter 41 will be held in Cedar Rapids. It will include a presentation from our own Tim Bunkers on Mid American Energy's Grimes to Council Bluffs transmission line project. Watch *The Heartlander* for more details.

Program Committee Co-Chairs Jim Diemer and Vicki Elscott are putting together a mock condemnation for a future chapter meeting.

Professional Development Committee: PDC Chair Bernie Banker provided a summary of recent committee activities:

- Bob Dahlgren: Approved by headquarters for SR/WA recertification.
- Anne King: Approved by headquarters for SR/WA candidacy; passed SR/WA exam.
- Mary Beth Kiner: Approved by headquarters for R/W-RAC.
- Linda Martens: Submitted application to headquarters for R/W-RAC.

Congratulations to Bob, Anne, Mary Beth, and Linda!

Marketing and Mentoring Committee: Committee Chair Tim Bunkers is working to match future chapter leaders with incoming officers for mentoring purposes.

Utility Committee: Jim Diemer reported that there is a movement at the International level toward developing a utility course. More information to come later this year.

Right of Way magazine subscriptions for Universities: Bernie has been working to clarify this long-standing issue. He reported that Iowa State University's collection is up to date, and that there is a desire from ISU to continue the subscription. So far Bernie has been unable to elicit a response from our state's other institutions of higher learning, the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa.

Toys for Tots: So far \$315 has been collected from Chapter 41 members in support of our 2005 Toys for Tots campaign. Beginning in 2006 we will be collecting donations throughout the year instead of just during the Christmas season. Please contact Vicki Elscott or attend a future chapter meeting for information on how to donate.

2005 Region 3 Fall Forum: The Fall Forum was October 14th in Bloomington, Minnesota. Dan Shiflett reported that fun was had by all. It was also reported that approximately \$3,000-\$3,500 has been raised/donated so far for Nancy Halvorson's campaign for International Executive Committee (IEC).

Directors for 2006 Education Conference in Denver: Bernie agreed to represent Chapter 41 as a Director at the 2006 Conference. He will take the place of Dan Shiflett. Our other Director is Jim Diemer.

Chapter Leadership Manual: When it comes to chapter business...who does what, and when do they do it? Chapter 20's Joanie Miller shared an example of what a chapter leadership manual could include. This served as a good reminder for outgoing

Chapter 41 officers to follow through on Shelly's initiative to create and maintain leadership manuals for future Chapter 41 officers.

Region 3 Update: Region 3 Vice-Chair and Chapter 20 member Craig Poorker provided an update of happenings around the region and at headquarters.

- Online presentations for course coordinators, chapter education committee chairs, and chapter membership committee chairs are available at www.irwaonline.org. IRWA's membership directory will soon be available online.
- Overall, IRWA membership numbers are up. However, course attendance is down.
- The Region 3 Spring Forum will be April 21st in Omaha.
- Region 3 remains very well represented on several committees at the International level.

Chapter 41 members should also keep in mind that our turn to host a region forum is approaching (Fall 2007).

Nancy Halvorson's bid for IEC: Nancy updated the chapter on her campaign for election to IRWA's International Executive Committee. Nancy will be hitting the road in upcoming months to promote her candidacy, including trips to attend regional forums in Wisconsin and Arkansas. Other plans include a mass mailing and a "meet and greet" at the Education Conference in Denver. Rita Rasmussen is helping manage the financial matters related to Nancy's campaign.

A motion was made, and seconded, to provide \$1,000 of Chapter 41 funds for Nancy's IEC campaign, with the understanding that the chapter would consider providing additional funding, if needed, at the chapter's March business meeting. The motion passed.

The Heartlander Chapter 41 newsletter: Producing an award-winning newsletter is a great challenge. Members are encouraged to help out our editor, Shelly Whiteing, in her efforts to maintain the high standard of quality we have come to know and expect from The Heartlander.

Remarks from our incoming President: Bernie Banker shared words of inspiration and optimism for the chapter during his upcoming two-year term as President.

Door Prize Drawing: Paige Norris was the winner of the drawing for the \$50 door prize. The names of the members attending today's meeting will be included in the drawing for the \$1,000 Grand Prize and the "free membership" Second Prize at the banquet in December/January of 2007.

At 4:24pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Anderson
Vice President/Secretary
Spirit of the Heartland - Iowa Chapter 41

TREASURER'S REPORT	
Treasurer Steve Chapman, SR/WA, R/W-RAC	
<u>Fourth Quarter Report</u>	
Income	\$ 666.65
Expenses	<u>868.31</u>
Net Loss	(\$ 201.66)
Current Cash Balance	\$9,653.99
Net Balance	\$ 9,653.99

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS,

Prairie Meadows – Altoona



2006 Officers

President/Director Bernard Banker, SR/WA, R/W-RAC; President-Elect/Director James Diemer, SR/WA;
Secretary/Vice President Linda Martens; Treasurer Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

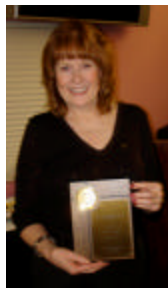


2005 Officers

Treasurer Steve Chapman, SR/WA, R/W-RAC; Vice-President/Secretary Joe Anderson;
President/Director Shelly Whiteing, SR/WA, R/W-RAC;
President-Elect Dan Shiflett, SR/WA, R/W-NAC; Director James Diemer, SR/WA



Chapter Meeting



Mary Beth Kiner
R/W-RAC
New Certification



Nancy Halvorson
SR/WA, R/W-RAC
Professional of the Year



Gerald Kennedy
SR/WA
“Outstanding Dedication,
Leadership and Service”

Chapter 41 Past Presidents (In Attendance)



Susan Albright (1996); Bob Dahgren (1993); Bernie Banker, (2002-2003); Shelly Whiteing (2004-2005); Nancy Halvorson (2000); Jim Diemer (1997); and Gerry Kennedy (1992)



2004-2005 President Shelly Whiteing, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
Receiving "Past President" Plaque from Region 3 Vice Chair Craig Poorker, SR/WA, R/W-NAC



Special Guests: Joanie Miller, SR/WA, R/W-NAC Chapter 20 and
Region 3 Vice Chair Craig Poorker, SR/WA, R/W-NAC



Lucinda and Joe Anderson & Mary Ann Carnock



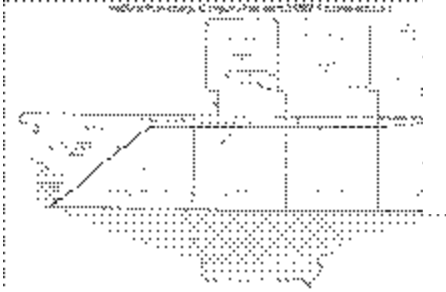
Sandy and Bob Dahlgren



Bob and Ann Kirby, Ken and Jo Boatright



Paige Norris, Dan Shepherd, Dan Shiflett & Don Corrigan



MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

City of Cedar Rapids – Public Works Bldg.

1201 6th St SW, Cedar Rapids

Friday, March 10, 2006

**10:00 a.m. Mid American Energy 345 kv Transmission Line Project
from Grimes to Council Bluffs**

**Presented by Tim Bunkers, ROW Project Manager
Steve Harrison, Mid American Energy Project Engineer**

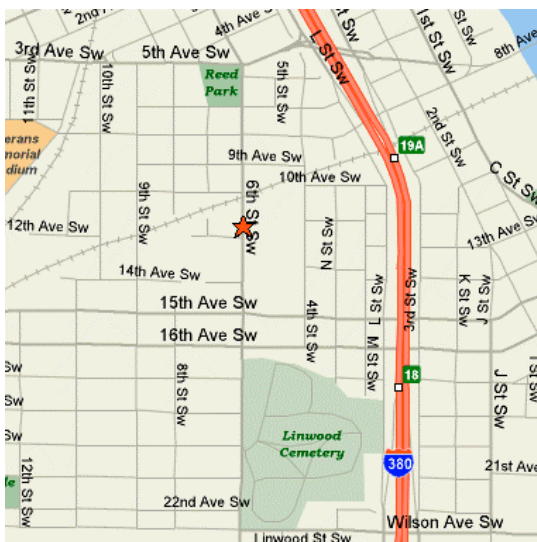
Followed by Lunch and Business Meeting

(Should be concluded by early afternoon)

Please RSVP by March 6, 2006

jpdiemer@midamerican.com or 515.281.2305

vicki.elscott@dot.iowa.gov or 515.239.1700



From I-380

Exit 18 (Wilson Avenue). West on Wilson Avenue to 6th Street.

North (right) on 6th Street SW through 2 signal lights.

Public Works building is on the right (1201 6th Street SW).

Access through the middle set of doors - second floor to the Engineering Department.

Follow signs.

Officers for 2005

Chapter 41

PRESIDENT: BERNARD B. BANKER, SRWA, R/W-RAC

BERNARD.BANKER@DOT.IOWA.GOV

PRESIDENT-ELECT: JAMES DIEMER, SR/WA

JPDIEREMER@MIDAMERICAN.COM

VICE-PRESIDENT/SECRETARY: LINDA MARTENS,
R/W-RAC LINDA.MARTENS@DOT.IOWA.GOV

TREASURER: NANCY HALVORSON, SR/WA R/W-RAC

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DIRECTOR (2-YRS): JAMES DIEMER, SR/WA

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Region 3 Website:



www.irwaregion3.org

Questions or Comments,
contact Webmaster

vicki@ipublishers.com

Do you have a new email address?

Are you moving?

Notify:

Shelly Whiteing

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Tim Bunkers, SR/WA, R/W-NAC

DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE

May 15, 2006

Your articles and/or suggestions are always welcomed.

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS

SHELLY WHITEING, SR/WA R/W-RAC, CHAIR

SHELLY.WHITEING@DOT.IOWA.GOV

NANCY HALVORSON, SR/WA R/W-RAC AND JAMES DIEMER, SR/WA

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AMY WALTER, RITA RASMUSSEN, SR/WA

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JIM DIEMER, SR/WA & TIM BUNKERS, SR/WA,

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RUSS MANTERNACH MANTERNACH@CAIOWA.COM

FRED LOCK FREDLOCK@IOWAAPPRAISAL.COM AND

CHRIS JENKINS CHRISJENKINS@IOWAAPPRAISAL.COM

The State of Iowa AMBER Alert Plan supports and encourages all users of cell phones with text messaging capability to subscribe to this free service. Since the state of Iowa has a state-wide AMBER Alert Plan you will only need to enter one zip code to receive all alerts in the state of Iowa. You can also subscribe via www.iowaamberalert.org by clicking on the Wireless AMBER Alerts logo.

www.wirelessfoundation.org

Wireless phones
do almost everything
these days.

Now they can even
help find
abducted children.



The wireless industry, in partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, proudly provides Wireless AMBER Alerts™, a free public service that adds critical eyes and ears to the search for an abducted child.

Wireless subscribers can now opt in to receive Wireless AMBER Alerts as text messages on their cell phones by visiting www.wirelessamberalerts.org or their wireless carrier's web site.

CTIA The Wireless Foundation

www.wirelessfoundation.org