



# Trailwinds

*Winter 2007*

*Dakotas Chapter 72*

## *Message from our President ...*

Dear Chapter 72 Members:

As we approach the time for our annual meeting in Deadwood, South Dakota, I am also approaching the end of my term as chapter president. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Chapter 72 President and I hope I have met the expectations of that position.

Mike Murray from Basin Electric will become Chapter 72 President in February. I am confident Mike will move our chapter forward as he has demonstrated leadership ability and Basin Electric has been a solid supporter of the IRWA.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual meeting in Deadwood on February 2, 2007 and ask you to give Mike your support as our new chapter president.

Thank you,

Ken Brilz  
Chapter 72 President



*Note from Ron Golden, Course Coordinator ...*

Courses 801 and 802 scheduled for January 23, 24 & 25 in Sioux Falls are filled. Thank you for your participation.

**CHAPTER 72 OFFICERS (2007-08)**

President – Mike Murray  
President-elect – Paul Mahlen  
Vice President – Ron Golden  
2nd Vice President – Vacant  
Secretary/Treasurer – Amy Spilman  
Director 2nd Year – Paul Mahlen  
Director 3rd Year – Mike Murray

**CHAPTER 72 COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2007-08)**

Education – Kelly Suko  
Environment – Paul Mahlen  
Liaison – Paul Mahlen  
Local Public Agency – Kelly Suko  
Membership – Bob Larsen  
Newsletter – Valeree King  
Nominations – Bob Krava  
Pipeline – Mike Murray  
Professional Development – Kenn Haugen  
Program – Don Hellman  
Property Management – Jack Holt  
Relocation – Ken Brilz  
Survey – Russ Nelson  
Transportation – Ken Brilz  
Utilities – Ron Golden  
Valuation – Valeree King

**Upcoming classes<sup>1</sup>:**

**Course 802** – Legal Aspects of Easements – Sioux Falls, SD **(FULL)**

**Course 801** – U.S. Land Titles – Sioux Falls, SD **(FULL)**

**Course 803** – Eminent Domain Law Basics – Deadwood, SD **(FULL)**

**Course 901** – Engineering Plan Development & Application – April 17, 2007 – Fargo, ND

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<sup>1</sup> See IRWA website ([www.irwaonline.org](http://www.irwaonline.org)) for course listing and registration.

**Course 803**  
**Eminent Domain Law Basics**

Holiday Inn Express  
22 Lee Street  
Deadwood, South Dakota  
Mystic & Savoy Rooms  
Lower Level

Wednesday, January 31

8:00 a.m. – Noon  
Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Course 803  
Lunch (on your own)  
Course 803 (continued)

Thursday, February 1

8:00 a.m. – Noon  
Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Course 803  
Lunch (on your own)  
Guest Presenters  
Bill Nevin  
Haven Stuck  
Heidi Heitkamp  
Course 803 (continued)  
Social and Live & Silent Auction

Friday, February 2

8:30 a.m. – Noon  
Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. – ???

Chapter 72 Meeting  
Lunch (on your own)  
Chapter 72 Meeting (continued)



**MEETING AGENDA  
IRWA DAKOTA'S CHAPTER 72  
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS  
DEADWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA  
FEBRUARY 2, 2007**

Open meeting ~ 8:30 a.m. Approval of last meeting minutes Approval of Treasurer's Report	Ken Brilz as printed in handout as printed in handout
Nominations and election for Chapter 72 2nd V.P. for 2007/2008 Swearing in of 2007/2008 officers	Bob Krava Jack Holt
Turn meeting over to new President	Ken Brilz
Award Presentations	Mike Murray and Jack Holt
Region 3 Report	Jack Holt
<u>Committee Reports</u>	
Education	Kelly Suko
• Courses 801 & 802	
• Course 803	
• Course 901	
Local Public Agency	Kelly Suko
Membership	Bob Larson
• Introduction of new members	
• Dues	
• Harvey Gabbert's retirement	
• Need for new members due to retirements	
PDC	Kenn Haugen
Nominations	Bob Krava
• Need new Chair for LPA Committee	
Newsletter	Valeree King
Valuation	Valeree King
Program	Don Hellman
• Auction results	
• Next year's meeting	
Environment	Paul Mahlen
Pipeline	Mike Murray
Asset Management	Jack Holt
Relocation	Ken Brilz
Transportation	Ken Brilz
Survey	Russ Nelson
Utilities	Ron Golden

## TRAILWINDS - DAKOTA CHAPTER 72

### Old Business

- Sponsorship of golf hole at International Seminar and other donations Jack Holt
- Course Coordinator training Kelly Suko

### New Business

- Chapter 72 taxes Amy Spilman
- Courses to be offered in 2007 Kelly Suko
- 2007 Annual Conference in Sacramento, CA Mike Murray
- 2007 Chapter 72 Employer of the Year? Bob Krava
- Location for next meeting?
- Additional items?
- \$50 drawing
- Adjourn



**IRWA Dakotas Chapter 72  
December 4, 2006**

President Ken Brilz called the December 4, 2006 meeting to order at the Minnkota Power Cooperative offices in Grand Forks, ND at 11:00 am. Attendees: Kardell Blumhardt, Jack Holt, Mike Murray, Valeree King, Kenn Haugen, Chuck Ames, Daryl Brandt, Scott Lang, Vicki Severson, Kurt Donelan, Bob Krava, Curt Beckler, Ed Schwab, Harvey Gabbert, Wayne Aamoeth, Don Hellman, Kelly Anderson.

Harvey Gabbert's Retirement



Left to right ~ Jack Holt, SR/WA, IRWA Region 3 Chair, Harvey Gabbert, SR/WA, & Dennis Sogard, Minnkota General Counsel

Ottertail presented Harvey with gifts and appreciated his help.

Basin appreciated the communication with Harvey and his expertise.

MDU appreciated Harvey's help over the years.

Paul Mahlen, Minnkota, presented Harvey with gifts and made the following comment: "Right-of-way work is rich with the values of service to the communities in which we practice our profession. While stressful at times, there is satisfaction in a job well done. Right-of-way has an ethic connected to the values and goals we individually and collectively pursue. Sometimes our profession is about hard choices and decisions when controversies present themselves. Nonetheless, to be ultimately effective we must do the right thing, the right way, and for the right reason." Paul said that the last line was a summation of Harvey, always doing the right thing.

**CONGRATULATIONS, HARVEY, ON A JOB WELL DONE!!!  
ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!!!**

## TRAILWINDS - DAKOTA CHAPTER 72



### Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Motion by Bob Krava, second by Scott Lang to approve the August 28, 2006 minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott, second by Bob to approve the August 28, 2006 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

### Region 3 – Jack Holt

Kansas City was the host of the Forum held in October.

Craig Poorker will be the next region chair, taking Jack's place. Craig is working to solve any conflicts between two chapters putting on the same course.

Mike Murray is the Chapter 72 Professional of the Year.

A requirement of the region chair will be to attend the chapter meetings.

The Education Foundation is looking for extra money to help pay off the \$425,000 for revamping the courses, in addition to the money received from the golf tournament.

There is a 45 minute review on the website for class coordinators, with a test at the end. If the class coordinator wants her/his class free, he/she will have to take the review and test.

Dennis Stork will be retiring in a year.

In February, Jack will be attending the Public Real Estate Symposium in Dallas.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Education – Mike Murray for Kelly Suko

All course coordinators, education chairs and chapter leaders must take an online certification exam, about 45 minutes long, effective December, 2006. Certification is good for two years. Coordinators must contact Headquarters one week prior to class to confirm that materials are delivered on time.

All classes must be approved by the region chair so there is no overlap or conflict.

### Local Public Agency – Mike Murray for Kelly Suko

The fall-out from Kelo vs. New London is that many states are looking to change their existing eminent domain laws to tighten the reins on developers and municipalities. There is proposed eminent domain legislation being passed in numerous states.

The new IRWA website to go online in mid July.

Elimination of Liaison and Membership Committees. Creation of the new Marketing and Communications Committee.

Elimination of the Federal Agency Update. Creation of the new Public Real Estate Education Symposium.

## **TRAILWINDS - DAKOTA CHAPTER 72**

### Membership – Ken Brilz

Ken welcomed the new members that were attending the meeting; Kelly Anderson and Curt Beckler.

### PDC – Kenn Haugen

The Public Real Estate Symposium will be in Dallas and part of the conference will be the SR/WA review. The checklist for the review is not found on the website.

### Nominations – Bob Krava

Remind everyone of the next slate of officers:

Mike Murray – President

Paul Mahlen – President Elect

Ron Golden – Vice President

2nd Vice President needs to be filled

PLEASE get nominations to Bob Krava (bkrava@otpc.com) for Employer of the Year by January 26, so it can be put to a vote at Deadwood.

### Newsletter – Valeree King

Any changes or ideas are most welcome.

### Valuation – Valeree King

Easements and Eminent Domain will be discussed in Sacramento.

### Program – Don Hellman

The Program Committee is designed to help course coordinators.

### Environment – Paul Mahlen

Course 601 is new. Materials for courses 600, 602 and 603 are being reviewed.

### Asset Management – Jack Holt

Next meeting in Dallas

### Relocation & Transportation – Ken Brilz

Symposium in Dallas

### Survey – Bob Krava

Bob was questioning a basic survey class, if it was ever put together. No discussion.

### Utilities – No report



## TRAILWINDS - DAKOTA CHAPTER 72

### OLD BUSINESS

2nd Vice President position needs to be filled!

Courses 801 and 802 are being offered in Sioux Falls on January 23, 24 and 25, 2007, class coordinator is Ron Golden. About 8 people have signed up so far.

Report on Course 803. Make sure when you check in at the Holiday Inn Express, you get the IRWA rate, \$55 for a regular room and \$76 for a suite. The Education person at International sending out the brochure for this class made some errors. Valeree has now made the corrections and the brochure should be correct.

Valeree would like to discuss moving the Deadwood course and meetings to Cadillac Jacks. Cadillac Jacks offers larger and cheaper rooms, a restaurant, valet parking and free meeting rooms. To be discussed at the meeting in Deadwood.

The Chapter 72 meeting on Friday, February 2, 2007, will begin at 8:30 am.

### NEW BUSINESS

Courses to be offered in 2007. Other than the Deadwood and Sioux Falls courses, Wayne Aamoht of Ulteig Engineers would like to have Course 901, Engineering Plan Development and Application (1 day) in April.

Need incentives to promote new members. The only time we get new members is when a company hires someone new.

Chapter 72 was the only chapter not to donate to the golf hole sponsorship at the International Seminar in Denver.

Award Nominations. Mike Murray is the Chapter 72 Professional of the Year. Jack nominated East River as the Chapter 72 Employer of the Year. Any other nominations, please contact Bob Krava (bkrava@otpc.com) by the end of January.

Amy volunteered to help set up the Silent Auction in Deadwood.

Harvey commented on the great job on the *Trailwinds* newsletter, put together by Valeree King. Everyone agreed.

Thank you, Paul, for hosting the meeting at Minnkota in Grand Forks and for the lunch.

Kardell Blumhardt won the \$50 drawing.

Next meeting will be in Deadwood on Friday, February 2 at 8:30 am.

Motion by Kenn, second by Harvey to adjourn. Motion carried.

Message from Harvey Gabbert ...

The International Right of Way Association and the Dakota's Chapter 72 have been a part of my career for over 30 years and I have enjoyed the professionalism that this organization brings out in people. We all share a part of a very unique profession where we have the opportunity to carve out the future for a lot of people where we help bring electricity and roads to those homes and businesses that are part of their dreams. The Right of Way Association has given us the tools through the various courses in which to make those dreams come true. Over the years, I have taken several courses through the association that have helped me achieve my SR/WA so that I could better serve my employer and this chapter through the executive chairs as well as on the international level on the International Nomination and Election Committee (INEC). Let the IRWA and Chapter 72 help you achieve your goals now and in the future. You will enjoy the ride.

As I move into retirement, I want to wish all of you the best in the future in whatever direction your profession will lead you. I have worked with a lot of you over the years and have enjoyed it to the fullest. However the time has come to say good-bye and start a new chapter in my life. As the old saying goes ... "Sometimes it's important to work for that pot of gold. But other times it's essential to take time off and to make sure that your most important decision in the day simply consists of choosing which color to slide down on the rainbow". With that, I wish the best to all of you in your future endeavors.

Harvey Gabbert, SR/WA

P.S. This is something that I found when I was cleaning out my files. It was given to me years ago when I first started working right-of-way. I can't remember where I got it from but I thought that I would share it with you...

***An Engineer is a person who knows a great deal about very little and who goes along learning more and more about less and less until he knows practically everything about nothing.***

***A Lawyer, on the other hand, is a person who knows very little about many things and keeps learning less and less about more and more, until he knows practically nothing about everything.***

***A Right-of-Way Agent starts out knowing everything about everything, but ends up knowing nothing about anything due to his association with Engineers and Lawyers.***

TRAILWINDS - DAKOTA CHAPTER 72



**Thank you, Harvey, for all you have done and been to Chapter 72!**

**My first trophy in the world of archery  
by Mike Murray**

On May 19, 2006 I had the opportunity to go on my first black bear hunt in Manitoba, Canada. Being new to the world of archery this would be my first chance to take an animal with my new Hoyt. I was going to hunt black bear of which I have only practiced for by shooting at 3D targets. I was going to hunt with 10 other guys, most of whom I have never met. So needless to say I was both very excited and nervous at the same time.

Well the hunt was more then I could have ever imagined. Not only did I get to encounter my first black bear in the wild, I encountered 17 of them both from the ground and my tree stand. And these other hunters, 7 of whom were complete strangers to me, made me feel so welcome and a part of the group. They greatly added to one of the most amazing experiences of my life with their sense of humor, expertise and knowledge, and their willingness to help everyone.

I can tell this from experience, if you ever want to test out the strength of your heart and nerves, try having a cub up a tree 10 yards from you with the sow on the ground looking right at you, warning you to stay up in that tree until her cub is down and safe. At least that's what I heard her telling me.

And yes, 7 days into the hunt and on my last night I took my first black bear which weighed approximately 200 pounds. With a perfect lung shot the bear was retrieved 50 yards from my stand. Nothing overly large, but still a trophy to me. There will be many more adventures for me in the sport of archery, but none more special as my first trophy and the experience that led up to it.





Picture taken by Wendy Solemsaas while her husband, Guy, and Ken Brilz were deer hunting near Sherwood, North Dakota. The moose are seen quite often hanging around the property.



Lunch at Minnkota Power Cooperative offices in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

*Chatter from the "Chair" ...*

I hope you enjoyed this issue of "*Trailwinds*" as much as I enjoyed putting it together! I want to extend special thanks to Ken Brilz, Harvey Gabbert, Ed Schwab, and Mike Murray for sending me their notes and pictures to share with all of you. I'll have a great letter from Bob Larson in the next issue ~ Bob describes his experience as a volunteer in the Hurricane Katrina clean-up. If you have any articles or pictures you would like to have printed in "*Trailwinds*", please send them to me at [vking@bepc.com](mailto:vking@bepc.com).

