



PLATTE RIVER CHAPTER #78

1st Quarter Edition 2005!!

PLATTE RIVER CURRENTS



Chapter 78 News is a publication of the International Right of Way Association Platte River Chapter #78. Send comments or articles to: Dan Greco, (402) 955-2900

2005 CHAPTER OFFICERS



Chris Pawloski, President & Relocation Committee

Midwest Right of Way Services
(402) 955-2900

Jim Shotkoski, President Elect

Lancaster County Engineering Dept
(402) 441-7681

Joel Walker, Vice President & Education Chair

Nebraska Department of Roads
(402) 479-4472

John Meng-Frecker, Secretary & Survey Committee

E&A Consulting Group
(402) 895-4700

Joey Kramer, Treasurer

Nebraska Department of Roads
(800) 764-0422 Ext. 4466

Paul Farrell, Director & Nominations Chair

Union Pacific Railroad Company
(402) 997-3570

Chapter Committee Chairs

Sarah Crook, Membership Coordinator

Northern Natural Gas Company
(402) 398-7149

Randy De George, Professional Development Coordinator

Omaha Public Power District
(402) 636-3648

Judi Sorensen, Asset Management

Omaha Public Power District
(402) 636-3654

Greg Cade, Environment

Northern Natural Gas Company
(402) 398-7034

Tom Lund, Local Public Agency

The City of Omaha
(402) 444-5237

President's Update

Hello Fellow Members,

As spring draws closer and the grass begins to turn green, it is time to gear up for a very busy year in the IRWA. It will begin with the Platte River Chapter 78 Spring Quarterly meeting, which will be held at Mahoney State Park on March 23, 2005 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. We will be having an Italian Buffet for lunch. Mr. John Meng-Frecker will be presenting Aerial Maps & Right of Way.

I would like to thank all the members that were able to attend the Platte River Chapter 78 Annual Installation luncheon. I think the event was a success and we will be looking for suggestions and comments from the membership on the days events. A survey will soon be forth coming and your participation would be greatly appreciated.

The Region 3 Spring Forum hosted by Chapter 72 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota is right around the corner and the International Education conference is soon to follow. Details for these events are listed below.

Our chapter has had a great year in terms of getting things done. Some of the tasks that were addressed this past year were:

- Implementing the new course pricing system set up by International
- Revised and updated the Chapter 78 By-Laws.
- Created a SR/WA Subsidy program
- Maintained a consistent stream of new members
-

Some of the issues that we would like to address as a chapter in the coming are:

- To get more members to participate in the quarterly meetings.
- Develop more communication between the Chapter Committee Chairs and their Region 3 Representatives.
- To purchase an LCD projector for chapter meeting presentations and IRWA courses.

Chapter 78 is very aggressive in providing educational opportunities for our members. This year we have several interesting courses on the agenda and I would like to ask that each member help market these courses to other members and non-members in our area.

I would like to congratulate Joel Walker, SR/WA on being named Chapter 78 Professional of the Year and wish him luck in his run for Region 3 Professional of the Year. I would also like wish good luck to Jack Borgmeyer, SR/WA on his nomination for the prestigious Balfour Award. Our chapter also has two members that are running for the Region 3 leadership, Randy De George, SR/WA and Judi Sorensen, SR/WA. Good luck to both of you at the Region 3 Spring Forum Elections.

If there are any questions or comments that you like to address, please feel free to drop me a note at pawloskic@midwestrow.com.

Thank you,

Chris A. Pawloski / President
Platte River Chapter 78

Glen Hass, Pipeline

Northern Natural Gas Company
(402) 398-7419

Doris Theil, Transportation

Midwest Right of Way Services, Inc.
(402) 955-2900

David Lane, Utilities

MidAmerican Energy
(712) 277-7574

Dean Hume, Valuation

Nebraska Department of Roads
(402) 479-4479

Stacey Kroeger, Programs

Midwest Right of Way Services, Inc.
(402) 955-2900

Dan Greco, Newsletter Editor

Midwest Right of Way Services, Inc.
(402) 955-2900

Randy De George, Web Site Editor

Omaha Public Power District
(402) 636-3648

Gail Spevak, Historian

Northern Natural Gas Company
(402) 398-7030



Region 3 Spring Forum

April 14-15, 2005

Hosted by Chapter 72

Holiday Inn City Center

100 W 8th Street

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

605.339.2000

Please refer to the Region 3 Website for more details, as they become available:

www.irwaregion3.org

April 14 – Social Hour

April 15 – Forum 8:30 – 4:30

A block of rooms is being held at a \$69 rate. You must mention IRWA when making reservation. The cut off date is April 6th for this rate, but the rooms are going fast so it is recommended that reservations be made NOW.

This will be an eventful meeting as the Election for Region Secretary/Treasurer will be held and the Region Professional of the Year will be announced. We will also review issues to be voted on in Toronto. If you need a class for your SR/WA or recertification credits, Course 902, Property Descriptions will be held at the Holiday Inn on Thursday, April 14. The instructor for this course is Craig Poorker from Chapter 20. Please contact Valeree King for more information; her email is vking@bpec.com



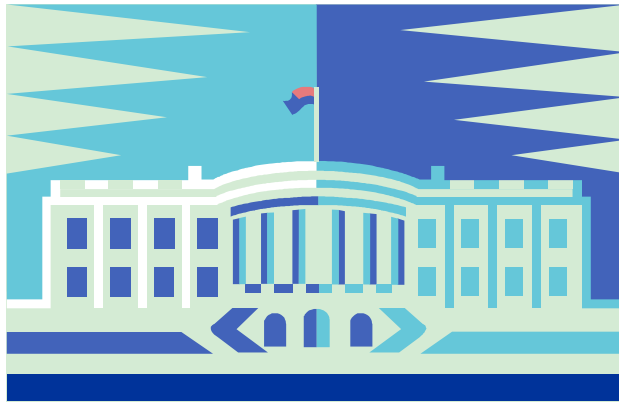
**51st Annual Education Conference
Toronto, Ontario
June 12-16, 2005
“Where The World Meets”**

IRWA’s Annual Education Conference will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto June 12–16, 2005.

Until March 1, 2005 Registration is \$395.00 USD, it will be \$495 after March 1! Your spouse or guest can register for \$195, or youth registration is \$30 until May 20.

Room Rates are \$230 CAD (currently \$187 USD) at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel. This special rate is available only until May 12, 2005. The Host Conference Committee has also provided a list of hotels within an easy walking distance (15minutes)...The Strathcona Hotel (\$129-149 CAD); Fairmont Royal York (\$209-309 CAD); Quality Hotel Downtown (\$139-189 CAD); Courtyard by Marriott Downtown (\$149-245 CAD); Crowne Plaza Hotel Toronto Centre (\$249-269 CAD). Most of these offer special rates for AAA members.

For more information or to make reservations (for the conference or hotel) visit the website at www.irwaonline.org



Revisions to the Uniform Act

As many of you know, the Federal Highway Administration, as lead agency for the Uniform Act, issued a Final Rule on January 4, 2005, revising 49 CFR Part 24, Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs. The Final Rule has an implementation date of February 3, 2005, so the new requirements will need to be followed on properties that have an Initiation of Negotiations date after February 3, 2005. To view the Final Rule online, go to <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-6.pdf>

The International Right of Way Association is sponsoring 13 seminars in various cities throughout the United States which focus on the changes in the regulations. These seminars are one-day seminars presented by four experts on relocation assistance from IRWA. They will be presented in February and March of this year. You should have received a flyer detailing the dates and locations of all the seminars.

IRWA has also appointed a special URA Task Force charged with the responsibility of revising all IRWA courses which are affected by the regulations changes. In addition to the courses, the SR/WA exams and the Principles Text Book will also need to be revised. The Task Force has already met twice and begun work on the revision of the relocation courses. These courses will require the most changes, but a few of the other courses will also need to be revised. This is a major undertaking that requires many hours of time for both volunteers and IRWA staff. For more information about the seminars, contact Jack Borgmeyer at (402) 955-2900.

Article Submitted By:
Jack Borgmeyer, SR/WA





2005 Educational Offerings IRWA Chapter 78
IRWA Chapter 78 Newsletter Report from Education Coordinator

February 2005

The Chapter Education Department is approaching ways to add value and benefit in attending IRWA courses conducted by our chapter. Below are some thoughts.

- Target the needs of chapter members. We are determining what requirements our SR/WA Candidates need. Conducting those courses locally prevents out-of-state travel costs. Creating SR/WA's means creating stakeholders in our organization.
- Obtain continuing education credit hours for our courses from as many entities as possible. In addition to the traditional state appraisal board and real estate commission, there may be opportunities to attract surveyors by obtaining hours of continuing education of our engineering courses through the state surveyor.
- Prompt, concise and organized coordination of our courses.
- Recruit the best instructors from around the country to instruct our courses.

Final adjustments to the Chapter 78 2005 Education Plan were performed in late 2004. Better coordination with neighboring chapters' education plans and additional liaison with chapter members were the main driving forces in our decision making. After publication of the plan, several additional adjustments have been made.

Course 206, Presentation Skills, originally scheduled for March has been cancelled. The course is currently undergoing revisions.

Recent revisions to the Uniform Act have made it necessary to bring several of our courses in line with these revisions. For this reason, the relocation courses 505 and 506 which were scheduled for May have been cancelled. These courses are expected to be ready for instruction sometime late in the year or perhaps spring of next year.

We have replaced the relocation courses of May with Course 214, Skills of Expert Testimony, a one-day course which we have scheduled for 25 May. Our department views this as an excellent choice of replacement for the following reasons.

- Continuing Education for appraisers and real estate brokers and salespersons is very likely to be approved through the Nebraska Board.
- Many of the SR/WA Candidates in our Chapter need to complete their 200-level course requirements.
- Course 214 is also an excellent choice for SR/WA's to attend for IRWA-required re-certification.

Course 214 Coordinator is Ron Marshall SR / WA. < ramarshall@oppd.com > (402) 636-3625

I want to call attention to Course 202, Interpersonal Relations in Real Estate, a 3-day course scheduled for 20 through 22 April. This course is a very good choice for negotiators. Also, any SR / WA candidate who still needs all 4 days of 200 level courses could take this course in April and the 1-day Course 214 in May and have this requirement covered before summer. No out of state travel; don't miss this opportunity!

Course 202 Coordinator is Joel Walker SR / WA. jwalker1@dor.state.ne.us (402) 479-4472.

Course Coordinators are needed for the following courses:

June, 2005 Course 211, Written Communications.

August, 2005 Course 800, Principals of Real Estate Law

November, 2005 Course 602, Project Development and the Environmental Process.

The Course Coordinator attends the course at no charge. These are great opportunities to receive training and to build your course history pursuant to SR/WA Designation or other IRWA certifications. Receive your continuing education hours without the usual cost. Get your name attached to one or more of these courses!

Anyone with suggestions for improvement in the chapter education effort is invited to call, write, or talk with me in person. jwalker1@dor.state.ne.us (402) 479-4472.

IRWA Chapter 78 Education Plan 2005

February 2005

April 20-22, 2005	Course 202 Interpersonal Relations in Real Estate	Coordinator Joel Walker SR/WA	3 days
May 25, 2005	Course 214 Skills of Expert Testimony	Coordinator Ron Marshall SR/WA	1 day
June, 2005	Course 211 Written Communications	Coordinator needed	1 day
August, 2005	Course 800 Principals of Real Estate Law	Coordinator needed	2 days
October, 2005	Course 901 Engineering Plan Development	Coordinator Chris Pawloski	1 day
October, 2005	Course 902 Property Descriptions	Coordinator Dan Greco	1 day
November, 2005	Course 602 Project Development and the Environmental Process	Coordinator needed	2 days



WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

Chapter 78 extends a warm welcome to our newest members:

New member applicant Donald Schulz brings a wealth of experience in the negotiations field, where the rubber meets the road in our business. Don has been working for the Department of Roads for over 40 years, and 32 of those years have been in the Right of Way Division.



Kirk Maxfield is transferring his IRWA membership from Chapter 41 to the Platte River Chapter 78. Kirk has been with MidAmerican Energy for 21 years and in the right of way department of the past 5 years. Kirk is based in the Sioux City, Iowa office and covers Southeast South Dakota, Western Iowa and portions of Northeast Nebraska, providing acquisition, lease, real estate and damage settlement services for MidAmerican. Kirk is a Sioux City, Iowa native and a graduate of Wayne State College. Kirk is actively working on his SR/WA designation and hopes to complete the training in 2006.



So far in 2005 we have 6 new members and one transfer for a total of 117 members.

Congratulations to the Chapters newest SR/WA's:



Chapter Professional Development

By Randy De George, SR/WA , PDC Chair

I am proud to announce that the Chapter has new SR/WA's. Here is the list below:

David A. Lane, SR/WA from MidAmerican Energy

Patricia A. Evans, SR/WA from City of Omaha Planning Department

Mark A. Beethe, SR/WA from Nebraska Department of Roads

Joey Kramer, SR/WA from Nebraska Department of Roads

Awaiting word on James Shotkoski, Manager of Lancaster County Engineering Department, and George Howard, Right of Way Agent II of the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Congratulations to all on your accomplishments and hope to see you all at the next meeting on March 23rd, 2005. It will be my honor to present you with your pins of distinction.



Platte River Chapter 78- Photo Gallery

2005 Officers



Chris Pawloski/President



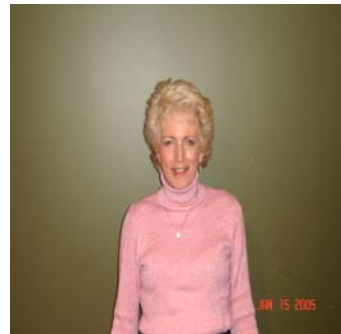
Jim Shotkoski/President Elect



**Joel Walker, SR/WA
Vice President**



John Meng-Frecker/Secretary



Joey Kramer, SR/WA/Treasurer



**2005 Annual Installation Luncheon
At the Upstream Brewery**







Principles of Right of Way Textbook

The newly revised Principles of Right of Way, Third Edition is available. The textbook is composed of 15 chapters and two glossaries, bound separately and assembled into a custom simulated-leather binder. Purchase the textbook and receive any and all updates for up to one year from purchase at NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE including any updates created by the release of the revised regulations to the Uniform Act anticipated in late 2004. Order your copy for \$50 including shipping and handling by visiting the website at: www.irwaonline.org

The tentatively scheduled dates for this years upcoming Chapter Meetings are as follows:

June 8, 2005

September 7, 2005

November 9, 2005



WEB SITE LOCATIONS

For those of you who have internet access, here are a few handy links to various web sites:

Chapter 78's member site: <http://members.cox.net/irwachapter78/Main.html>

Region 3 web site located at: <http://www.irwaregion3.org>

International Headquarters can be reached at <http://www.irwaonline.org>

Should you have any questions, contact me at greco@midwestrow.com or phone at: (402) 955-2900.