



Trailwinds

SUMMER 2007

Dakota Chapter 72

Presidents Report

Dear Chapter 72 members!

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well during these very busy and exciting times. This year continues to fly by with the blink of an eye.

I recently returned from Sacramento, CA where I attended the 2007 IRWA Annual Education Conference along with fellow Chapter 72 members Bob Larson, Kelly Anderson, Jack Holt, and Kelly Suko. It was another successful conference and a good time was had by all.

During the Region 3 Caucus in Sacramento, we had a change in our leadership. Jack Holt's term as Region 3 Chair came to an end and he has handed the reigns over to Craig Poorker of Chapter 20. For all who know Craig, you know we are still in good hands. The next time you see Jack, thank him for the job that he did as our Region 3 Chair. Jack has represented Region 3 and our chapter very well and is to be commended as this was no easy task.

THANK YOU, JACK, FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

As fall approaches, so does the time for our next chapter meeting which is scheduled for 4:00 PM on August 22nd at the Best Western Doublewood Inn in Bismarck, ND. In conjunction with our meeting we will also be hosting course 209 – Negotiating Effectively with a Diverse Clientele - on August 22nd and 23rd. This course is filling up fast so register early.

Looking further ahead, plans are coming together with our February events in Deadwood, SD. Chapter 20 has agreed to let our chapter host the 2008 Region 3 Spring Forum in conjunction with our annual meeting, class, and the 30th anniversary of Chapter 72. Events begin with the IRWA course on February 27 and 28, and the Chapter 72 meeting followed by the Region 3 Spring Forum on February 29. Final arrangements are being worked on for the course and we will make that announcement soon. The 30th anniversary celebration will require a lot of planning and we could use a team of volunteers to contact our charter members and retirees, research Chapter 72 history, and plan the festivities in Deadwood. I volunteer myself for this team, but can't do it alone. If you can volunteer time or advice, please contact either myself or Valeree King.

Enjoy what's left of this summer and I look forward to seeing you in Bismarck.

Mike Murray, Chapter 72 President



Jack Holt at the 2007 auction in Deadwood

On June 20, 2007, my duties as Region 3 Chair came to an end. Craig Poorker was sworn in for the 2007-2008 term. I spent six years in the regional offices, and the last four years involved a lot of travel and experience. It gave me a new perspective as to how the IRWA works, I got to know leaders from nine other regions, and took part in decision-making on various international issues. It was always an honor to represent a region that had many leaders on the IRWA International Committees.

As a Chapter 72 member, it was an equal honor. Class attendance for our chapter was always something that the other chairs noticed when we got into those discussions. Also, I want to extend my congratulations to those members who have received their SR/WA and other designations while I was in office.

I am still planning to be a region representative on the Asset Management Committee.

One of Craig's duties is to have a region representative for the various committees and he had called to ask me if I was still interested, which I was. Craig Poorker, Rita Rasmussen, and Randy DeGeorge will be our officers for the next few years. I feel very confident in their abilities to keep our region something to be proud of.

It was a pleasure representing Chapter 72 and want to thank my supervisor, Scott Lang, and my employer, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, for the support they have given me. While in office our company received the International Employer of the Year Award which was quite exciting and has contributed to the future membership of our group.

Thanks again to all the members of Chapter 72 for being there for me and I hope to see you at future meetings.

Jack C. Holt, SR/WA

Past Region 3 Chair



Craig Poorker and wife, Joanie Miller

Greetings Chapter 72! As many of you know, I am your new Region 3 Chair, and I want to thank Jack Holt for his many years of service to all the chapters and members of our Region. Jack served us all very well and very professionally, and he'll continue to serve us for the next two years as Region 3 Representative to the Asset Management Committee.

And just as you contacted Jack with any Chapter 72 concerns, please feel free to contact me with the same. As Region Chair, I'm your contact with Headquarters, so if I can help with membership, education or anything else, give me a call.

Chapter 72 was again well represented at the International Conference in Sacramento, and as always it went way too fast, it was busy and we just don't get enough time to visit with each other. Regardless, it was great to see so many of you there.

I'm excited to hear that Chapter 72 will be celebrating their 30th anniversary in February, 2008 as part of the Region 3 Spring Forum. It will be my pleasure and honor to attend this celebration and I'm really looking forward to it.

Best Wishes to you all,

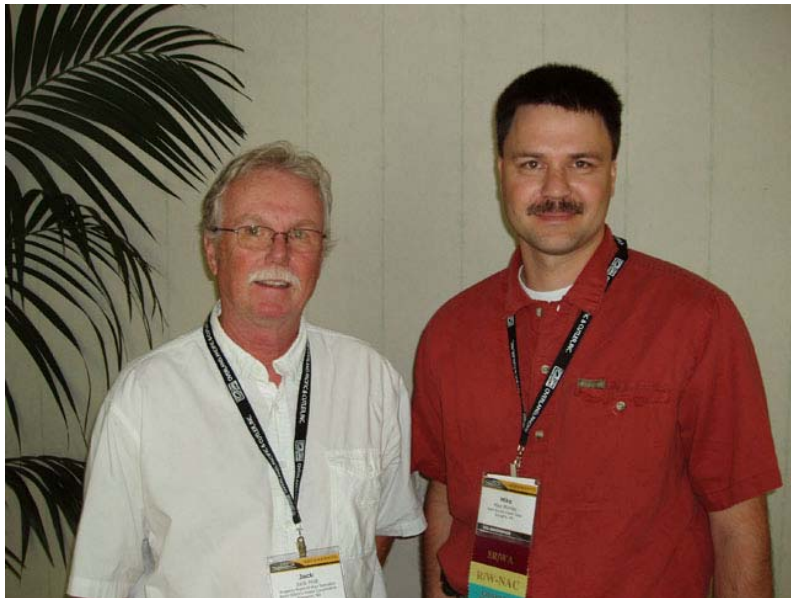
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**Bob and Diane Larson displaying the book collection at the IRWA 53rd Convention.
Thank you, Bob & Diane, for another phenomenal year!**





Congratulations, Mike, on receiving your SR/WA!!!



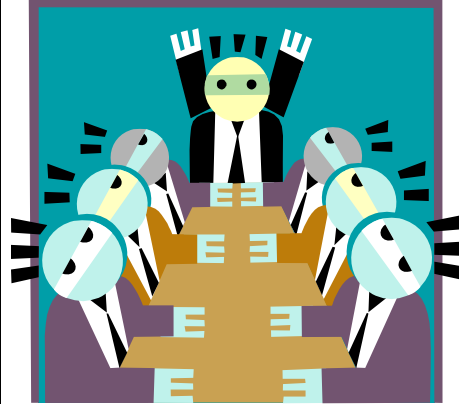
Jack Holt, SR/WA, and Mike Murray, SR/WA, in Sacramento.

CHAPTER 72 OFFICERS

President	Mike Murray
President elect	Paul Mahlen
Vice President	Ron Golden
2nd Vice President	Wayne Aamoth
Secretary/Treasurer	Amy Spilman
Director 1/year	Paul Mahlen
Director 2/year	Mike Murray

COMMITTEES

Asset Management	Jack Holt
Education	Kelly Suko
Environment	Paul Mahlen
Local Public Agency	Kelly Suko
Membership	Bob Larson
Newsletter	Valeree King
Nominations	Bob Krava
PDC	Kenn Haugen
Pipeline	Mike Murray
Program	Don Hellman
Relocation	Ken Brilz
Survey	Russ Nelson
Transportation	Ken Brilz
Utilities	Ronald Golden
Valuation	Valeree King

**IRWA DAKOTAS CHAPTER 72****May 7, 2007**

President Mike Murray called the meeting to order at East River Electric Power Cooperative at Madison, SD at 11:00 a.m. Attendees were: Jack Holt, Scott Lang, Robert Larson, Valeree King, Vicki Severson, Jim Metcalf, Harold Parlet, Chris Haiar, John Boheman, Ron Golden, Kurt Donelan, Curt Beckler, David Kantrud, Bob Krava, Ken Brilz, David Anderson, Kelly Suko, Mike Murray and Amy Spilman.

Employer of the Year Award

Mike presented Jim Edwards of East River Electric Power Cooperative with the Employer of the Year Award.

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Motion by Bob Larson, second by Scott Lang to approve the February 2, 2007 minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ken Brilz, second by Bob Larson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Region 3 Report – Jack Holt

Jack's term as Region Chair will be up in June at the International Convention at Sacramento, CA; at that time Craig Poorker will be Region Chair.

There will be a Region Chair meeting at Dallas when someone will be reviewed to represent all 10 Chairs. There is \$4,000 in the account to help assist Chairs when going to meetings.

Randy DeGeorge was elected as new Secretary/Treasurer for Region 3.

Chapter 72 will host the Fall Forum in 2008. There have been several requests to have it at Deadwood. Bob Krava suggested a trade; our Fall Forum for the Minneapolis Chapter 20 Spring Forum. Have a spring meeting in 2008 at Deadwood, which would be Chapter 72's 30th anniversary. Craig Poorker suggested a joint Chapter 72 and 20 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education – Kelly Suko

Course 901 had a good turn out. Alan Morganfield did a good job as course instructor. Department of Transportation would like a 200 or 800 course in Bismarck; they have a hard time leaving the state for a class. John Boheman needs a 200 course to get certified. Ken Brilz suggested a 200 or 400 class in August at Pierre or Sioux Falls.

Motion by Kelly Suko, second by Bob Krava to offer courses 403 & 410 at Deadwood in February 2008. Motion carried. David Anderson will be class coordinator.

Motion by Kelly Suko, second by Jack Holt to offer course 209 at Bismarck in August. Motion carried. David Anderson will be class coordinator.

Bob commended Kelly for doing a really good job.

Kelly will fill out a continuing education application plus submit \$150 for application approval for Ken Brilz.

Local Public Agency – Kelly Suko

Nothing new to report. Motion by Scott Lang, second by Bob Larson for Kelly to step down from LPA committee. Motion carried. Kurt Donelan will now assume this committee. Someone will talk to George Papacek about keeping him on the LPA (ND) committee.

Membership – Bob Larson

Bob said that we have 71 people on the roster and it is the biggest our chapter has ever been. New members are Chris Haiar and Susan Dawson. Chris introduced himself, he works for SDN Communications. Susan Dawson works for Coates Field Services. International Membership Committee changed the name to International Communications and Marketing Committee. Motion by Bob Larson, second by John Boheman to follow the pattern. Motion carried.

Bob Krava stated it would be a nice gesture if the Chapter paid for retired member's membership. They would still receive the Right-of-Way magazine and retain fellowship. But if they are not truly retired, are working and using the organization for their benefit, not to pay their retired membership. Tabled until next meeting.

Ken Brilz would like to invite founding members to Deadwood for the 30th anniversary meeting.

PDC – No Report

Nominations – Bob Krava

Motion by Bob Krava, second by Ken Brilz to form an Awards Committee, which would be the Chapter President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and 1 member at large.

Newsletter – Valeree King

A newsletter is planned for June and Valeree would like you to send her articles and pictures.

Valuation – No Report

Program – Mike Murray

Chapter 72 is moving their meeting from the Holiday Inn Express to Cadillac Jack's in Deadwood.

Chapter 72 will have their Fall Forum in the spring at Deadwood and Chapter 20 will have their Spring Forum in the fall. The auctioneer for the Silent Auction will be the same person from St. Louis, MO. An invitation will go out to the past Region Chairs for the 30th anniversary at Deadwood.

It was suggested that SR/WA candidates be in the newsletter to keep track of their progress. It is a team effort for all Chapters to assist the applicant.

Environment – No Report

Pipeline – Mike Murray

The pipeline committee has the highest ratio of attendance at their meetings.

El Paso easements have expired on Tribal land and the Tribe wants millions of dollars to renew their easements – El Paso feels they are being held hostage.

Asset Management – Jack Holt

The leader is stepping down a year early and Cynthia Gann will be taking over.

Relocation and Transportation – Ken Brilz

Ken stated that on the Appraisal exam for the SR/WA there are outdated questions.

Region Chair for Transportation was given a task and that was to keep chapters advised.

Survey – No Report

Utilities – Ron Golden

Not much to add.

OLD BUSINESS

Craig Poorker, Chapter 20, is promoting the Regional Education Seminar at Stillwater, MN, August 6 & 7.

As of February 28, 2007, the Chapter taxes are complete.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul Mahlen has stepped down as International Board of Director; Bob Larson will take his place at the International Convention at Sacramento, CA.

Next meeting will be the evening of August 22 at Bismarck, ND.

Motion by Scott Lang, second by Ken Brilz to adjourn. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

August 22, 2007 – Chapter 72 meeting – Doublewood Inn, Bismarck, North Dakota

February 28, 2008 – 30th Anniversary Celebration of Chapter 72 – Cadillac Jacks, Deadwood, South Dakota

February 29, 2008 – Chapter 72 meeting followed by Region 3 Spring Forum – Cadillac Jacks, Deadwood, South Dakota

UPCOMING CLASSES

August 22-23, 2007 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) – C-209 Negotiating Effectively with a Diverse Clientele – Bismarck, North Dakota (Doublewood Inn)

February 27 - 28, 2008 – Course to be determined – Cadillac Jacks, Deadwood, South Dakota



Chatter from the "Chair" ...

I hope you enjoy this issue of "*Trailwinds*" (better late than never, right?)!

I want to give special thanks to Bob and Dianne Larson, Craig Poorker, and Mike Murray for their contributions to this issue.

And to Jack Holt – thanks for everything you do for our Chapter and our Region!

An item for your consideration ... one of our members has suggested that a list of projects and the names of our employers be placed in the "*Trailwinds*". If you would like to see this type of article in the newsletter, please let me know. Thank you for the suggestion, Tim :)

If you have any other suggestions, articles, or pictures you would like to have printed in "*Trailwinds*", please send them to -- vking@bepc.com.