



Calendar of Events

CHAPTER 41 QUARTERLY MEETING

PLACE PRAIRIE MEADOWS, ALTOONA
DATE & TIME SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2006 - 3 P.M.

REGION 3 SPRING FORUM

PLACE OMAHA, NEBRASKA
DATE APRIL 21, 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 18-22, 2006 - INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
CONFERENCE, ADAM'S MARK HOTEL, DENVER,
COLORADO

Officers for 2006

Bernard B. Banker, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
Nominations & Elections Chair

At our September 9th meeting the following Officers were elected for 2006:

President – Dan Shiflett, SR/WA, R/W-NAC
President-Elect – James Diemer, SR/WA
Vice President/Secretary – Bernard Banker,
SR/WA, R/W-RAC
Treasurer – Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC
Director 2 Years -- Dan Shiflett, SR/WA, R/W-NAC
Director 1 Year -- James Diemer, SR/WA

Congratulations, and best of luck!

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President's Message

President Shelly J. Whiteing, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

When the temps are in the 70's one week with tornados, and the next week we are scooping snow we are definitely reminded that this IS Iowa!

Following the hustle and bustle of the holidays we will be having our Annual Installation Banquet. The festivities will be held on January 21 at Prairie Meadows in Altoona (see page 9). That evening I will turn over the Presidential "reins" to our incoming President, Dan Shiflett, SR/WA, R/W-NAC; I know he is going to do great things for our Chapter and will represent us well.

I would like to wish the entire 2006 Leadership Team all of the best and let them know that they have my support and I will assist them in whatever ways that I am able to. Most of our incoming officers are "veterans in IRWA leadership", but, they still need the support and participation of each and every member for the continued growth and prosperity of our Chapter.

It has been an enjoyable two years and I thank all of you who have supported me during my tenure. There have been some challenges along the way, and, at times I grew discouraged, especially by the economic times that have definitely taken a toll on our Chapter. But, through it all, our membership numbers have remained steady, and the dedication of many of you was so appreciated.

Thank you to all of the officers who have served with me these past few years...Dan, you have been there to assist anytime I needed it, Joe (and Deane Davenport before him) have always been able to get me out of a bind when I couldn't remember specifics of chapter meetings (they did impeccable minutes); and, Steve, thank you for always taking a conscientious interest in our chapter coffers. Thank you also to Past Presidents Bernie Banker, Nancy Halvorson and Rita Rasmussen for your guidance when I needed it.

Shelly



In The
.....
Spotlight



Jayne De Coste

Jayne DeCoste, PE is one of Chapter 41's newest members. Jayne joined IRWA following the Right of Way Best Practices Seminar this past April.

Jayne is a Project Engineer with Anderson-Bogert Engineers and Surveyors, Inc. in Cedar Rapids. She has worked as an engineer for 15 years with many projects that required right of way and easement acquisitions. Recently she has been working on a land acquisition project for the Muscatine Airport with responsibilities including the coordination of appraisals and negotiations with property owners.

Just prior to attending the Best Practices Seminar she received FAA approval for the Airport Project. She says she is "sure the information that I learned at the seminar will be very useful to me within the next few months".

Jayne and her husband, Dave, an electrical engineer at RF MicroDevices in Cedar Rapids have two children, Nicole, age 7 and, Justin, age 4. Both Jayne and Dave grew up in Illinois and attended the University of Illinois. They have lived in Cedar Rapids since 1991. In her spare time Jayne enjoys playing golf, tennis and the piano.



Mary Brunssen

Mary Brunssen is another new face in 2005. Mary is a Property Acquisition Agent with the City of Cedar Rapids Engineering Department. She has 16 years of right of way experience.

Mary says she joined IRWA for the educational opportunities available to further her "knowledge in the right of way field". She feels the Relocation Courses she has attended (502, 504 and 505) have provided the most benefit for her as her department has been handling the relocation on smaller city projects.

Mary and fellow IRWA member Rita Rasmussen handle the right of way process from start to finish on all projects so it is important that they have knowledge of all aspects of the Acquisition Process.

Mary started in the Engineering Department 24 years ago as a Drafter and Engineering Tech before becoming a Senior Drafter and Acquisition Agent. She says that engineering background has helped her significantly with reading and understanding plans and writing legal descriptions.

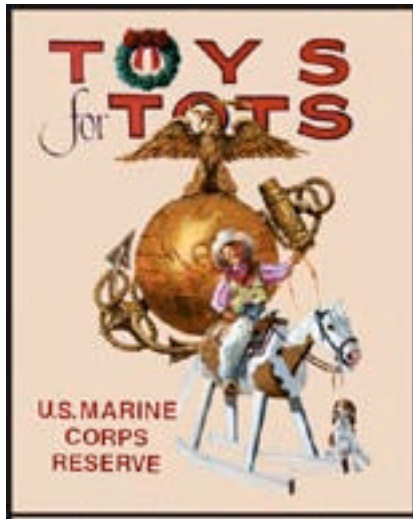
Mary has a 17-year old daughter and a 13-year old son, along with a 130-pound dog named Zeus. Her hobbies include her children's school and sports activities and in her "spare time" she enjoys making jewelry, scrapbooking, personal card making, painting on canvas, henna temporary tattooing and the "joys of owning her own home".



Did you know?

In 1969 Iowa set a State record for having 52" of accumulated snow!

Chapter News



TOYS FOR TOTS DONATIONS TO BE ACCEPTED

Help Us Meet our \$500 GOAL!!!

Our involvement last year with Toys for Tots was met with much enthusiasm, so we have elected to continue. However, since we will not be meeting as a Chapter until January we are asking that Chapter Members who wish to contribute send individual contributions to Vicki Elscott, Program Co-Chair.

Our Goal is to raise \$500, and with 68 members this should be easy to achieve – please help with what you can!!

Please make checks payable to IRWA Chapter 41 noting it is for Toys for Tots. These funds will then be combined and the total amount will be contributed directly to this fine organization that helps make Christmas more special for children who may not otherwise receive many toys. Vicki will give us a report of the donation in January.

Mail your contributions before December 12 to Vicki Elscott at 550 Parkwood Blvd., Pleasant Hill, IA 50327. If you have any questions, please call her at 515.239.1700.



\$1000 Grand Prize Drawing



This is a reminder that you **must be present at our January 21 Chapter Installation Banquet to win the entire \$1,000 Grand Prize.** If the winner is not present at the banquet, they will be awarded \$500, and another name will be drawn for the remaining \$500. If that member is not present, subsequent names will be drawn until the name of a member who is present is drawn.

There will be an additional drawing for free membership dues as well...you need not be present to win this prize...but, we sure hope you are!

Message from President-Elect

In looking forward to my term as Chapter 41 President. I realize that I have some high standards to live up to. The quality of people and their professionalism that have preceded me in this office is the reason I enjoy being a member of this organization. I know that I will be relying heavily on past presidents for their insight and expertise.

I would hope that you would join with me in thanking Shelly for being a great president these last two years. Her leadership and commitment to this Chapter have served as an example for me to continue.

I have started going through the Chapter Committees and will be calling on members in the following weeks. I hope to get some new members involved, as well as maintain the excellent contributions from members currently on these committees.

I am excited about the next two years and I know with the help of our members, we will continue to represent this Chapter as a leader in Region 3 and IRWA.

*Dan Shiflett, SR/WA, R/W-NAC
President-Elect*

IEC Candidacy Announced



As many of you know, I have announced my desire and intention to run for one of the "at-large" positions on the International Executive Committee. I have given this much thought and consideration and do not take on this task lightly. I have enjoyed serving at a Chapter and Regional level in various positions for the past 14 years and know I have more to contribute.

Since we are an obviously aging organization, we must focus our efforts at continuing to update and upgrade the IRWA courses to ensure that they provide value to our younger members. We must ensure that our courses provide the tools, including the increasing use of technology, that they need to be successful in their professions. Tighter personal and organizational budgets require that we provide value for every penny spent on a course. We need to promote the SRWA Certification. A potential employer needs to know that a candidate possessing the SRWA or other specialized certification has already demonstrated professionalism, commitment and qualification. We must have a strategic plan so that non-members will see the value of not only the educational elements of our courses, but that there is "value-added" in the associated networking opportunities.

In order to attract and retain quality professionals, we must promote and enforce our Code of Ethics. Individuals looking for a professional club to list on their resumes are not the members we need. In order to attract the highest caliber persons for membership, leaders need to be role models for what this Association is and should be, the only real organization for right of way professionals.

I can actively promote these goals by being accessible to the membership and working as part of the IEC Leadership team.

I need your support. I am asking for ideas for fund raising and for any volunteers who will be attending the Conference who would be willing to "beat the bushes" for votes! Thanks.

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

Chapter 41's Professional of the Year

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



At our September Chapter Meeting, Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC was selected as Chapter 41's Professional of the Year.

The following is a summary of the nomination submitted on her behalf:

"...She has served the Chapter in every elected office with the exception of Treasurer. She has always been willing to serve the Chapter and the Organization with her presence and her enthusiasm.

She was a Region officer for six years... has attended the past 10 Annual Education Conferences.

I believe organizations like ours run and improve on the efforts, enthusiasm, and willingness to spend one's own time and money. I can think of no better candidate for Professional of the Year."

National Partnership for Highway Quality Award Announced

Many of you will remember our Chapter Meeting held in Hardin County (June 2003) when we were able to view the Iowa River Bridge prior to it being opened for traffic. For those of you that do, you may find this interesting:

The **Iowa Department of Transportation, HNTB Corporation** and **Jensen Corporation** team have earned the 2005 National Achievement Award for the innovative and environmentally sensitive design and construction of the first incrementally "launched" steel bridge of its kind and magnitude in the United States for this bridge.

Member Information:



SR/WA RE-CERTIFIED

L. Robert Dahlgren, SR/WA

Congratulations, Bob !

CONGRATULATIONS

\$50 Door Prize Winner

September Meeting

Vicki Elscott



EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Dave Hingtgen is now with Graham Land Acquisition Associates in Nevada as their Vice President of Business Development. His new email is dhingtgen@glaa.com and his telephone number is 515.382.1698.

Ed Opstein, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC has recently been promoted with Universal Field Services at their Tulsa, Oklahoma office. Ed's email is UFSEDO@cs.com and telephone number is 515.360.2000.

In Memory

Robert L. Stumbo, SR/WA
1975 Iowa-Nebraska Chapter 41 President

Past President (1975) of Iowa-Nebraska Chapter 41, Robert L. Stumbo passed away on November 4, 2005. In addition to serving as Chapter President, Bob also served "unofficially" as the Chapter's Chaplain. Bob's obituary is available online at : http://www.zwire.com/site/tab1.cfm?newsid=15525686&BRD=2700&PAG=461&dept_id=554317&rfti=6

Memories from those who knew Bob:

Ray Callahan – *"Bob...assisted several people achieve their SR/WA designation when he served in the Chapter Professional Development Committee. I was a grateful recipient of his assistance."*

Don Shirley – *"He was a kind thoughtful person who could be counted upon to lend his expertise and leadership to meetings, committees and general discussions. He will be missed."*

The Uniform Act Symposium

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



The Uniform Act Symposium was held November 7-9 in Anaheim California. The Symposium featured three of Chapter 41's own as moderators, Rita Rassmussen, Ed Opstein and Don Corrigan. In addition, Ed was the speaker for the session, *Communication Skills/Updated Strategies for Negotiators*, which was very well received.

The Symposium offered 70 sessions that covered 57 topics. The topics were selected and sessions put together by the International Valuation, Local Public Agency, Relocation and Transportation Committees. Sessions included topics such as, *Move Planners-Their New Role, Displaces That Refuse to Move, Moves That Don't Move, Strippers, Clippers and More, Proximity Damage Studies* and on the lighter side the ever popular relocation "game shows."

Speakers included the usual "suspects" from state, local, federal and consulting firms along with some speakers with a different background. Such as the Private Property Rights Ombudsman from the state of Utah, the vice chair of the Appraisal Standards Board, an attorney or two for the "other side," a tax preparer, and even a couple of engineers.

The symposium provided lots of good information and still demonstrated not everyone views the Uniform Act quite the same way.



Chapter 41 Website:

www.irwa41.org

Questions or Comments,
contact Webmaster
vicki@ipublishers.com

International Right of Way Association

"Spirit of the Heartland" - Iowa Chapter 41



Minutes of Business Meeting – September 9, 2005 Science Center of Iowa – Des Moines, Iowa

The meeting was called to order at 9:13am. Twenty-two members were present.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the June 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 \$9,855.65. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and approved.

Membership Committee: The new member's certificate and pin were presented to Vern Rash. Our membership count currently stands at 68.

Education Committee: The August presentation of Course 200 in Cedar Rapids was cancelled due to low enrollment. We may try to reschedule it for early 2006.

LPA Conference attendees expressed interest in another program, perhaps with an emphasis on appraisal and/or relocation assistance. Could this be done in conjunction with a future chapter business meeting?

Nancy Halvorson reported that funds are available from Headquarters to help chapters deal with losses from course presentations.

Program Committee: Jim Diemer and Vicki Elscott reminded members of the upcoming chapter installation meeting/banquet to be held January 21st at Prairie Meadows in Altoona. More information will be coming soon.

Last year's Toys for Tots campaign was popular with our members. Ideas for continuing our participation were discussed. Having the meeting/banquet post-Christmas may cause the chapter to rethink its strategy for contributing. Perhaps a cash gift from the chapter instead of toys?

Legislative Review: Susan Albright anticipates a lot of legislative activity in reaction to the recent Kelo Supreme Court ruling. If anyone comes across any news tidbits, please forward them to the rest of the chapter membership.

Newsletter: Bob Dahlgren will be assisting Shelly with future issues of "The Heartlander".

2005 Annual Education Conference in Toronto: Over 1,000 registrants participated. The auction raised over \$18,000 for the Education Fund. Our chapter's items (a custom-made jeweled necklace and a Waterford Crystal vase) were well received. It was announced that the 2010 Conference will be held in Calgary.

2005 Region 3 Fall Forum: The Fall Forum is October 14th in Bloomington, Minnesota. Course 603 will be presented on the 13th.

Paws For Life: Our Region's contribution, made in memory of Howard Armstrong, was recognized in a letter from Paws For Life.

Chapter Bylaws: No objections were expressed about posting our chapter's bylaws on our website.

Election of Chapter Officers: The following slate of nominees was presented to the chapter by the Nominations and Elections Committee:

President: Dan Shiflett
President-Elect: Jim Diemer
Vice President/Secretary: Bernie Banker

Treasurer: Nancy Halvorson
2-year Director: Dan Shiflett
1-year Director: Jim Diemer

No further nominations were received from the floor. By a unanimous vote the slate of officers was approved.

2005 Chapter Professional of the Year: Nancy Halvorson was chosen as the Chapter 41 Professional of the Year for 2005. Other nominees included Shelly Whiteing, Rita Rasmussen, and Don Corrigan.

Nancy announced her candidacy for the International Executive Committee (IEC). Even though Nancy is not asking for financial assistance from the chapter to do this, several members expressed a desire to help in some way. The matter will be discussed again at a future chapter business meeting.


Bring-a-Member Contest: Mary Beth Kiner was the winner this time. Shelly indicated the contest may be offered again for January's meeting, so stay tuned!

Door Prize Drawing: Vicki Elscott 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 January of 2006.

At 10:37am 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, RW-RAC	
	<i>Third Quarter Report</i>	
	Income	\$ 1,236.80
	Expenses	<u>2,460.60</u>
	Net Loss	(\$ 1,223.80)
	Current Cash Balance	\$9,855.65
	Net Balance	\$9,855.65

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS,

Science Center of Iowa - Des Moines



Ken Boatwright & Russ Manternach



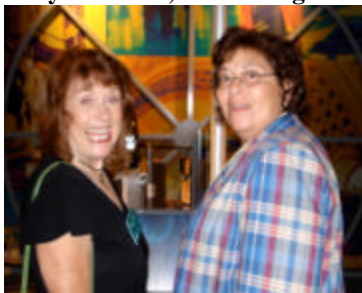
Bob Dahlgren



Jay Peterson, Anne King & Paige Norris



Jim Diemer



Mary Beth Kiner & Gwen Ballard



Ken Boatwright



Paige Norris



**President Whiteing and
New Member, Vern Rash**



JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING

PRAIRIE MEADOWS RACETRACK & CASINO

Prairie Rose Room (4th Floor)

Altoona

Saturday, January 21, 2006

3:00 Chapter Business Meeting (all members are welcomed)

5:00 – 6:00 Social Hour

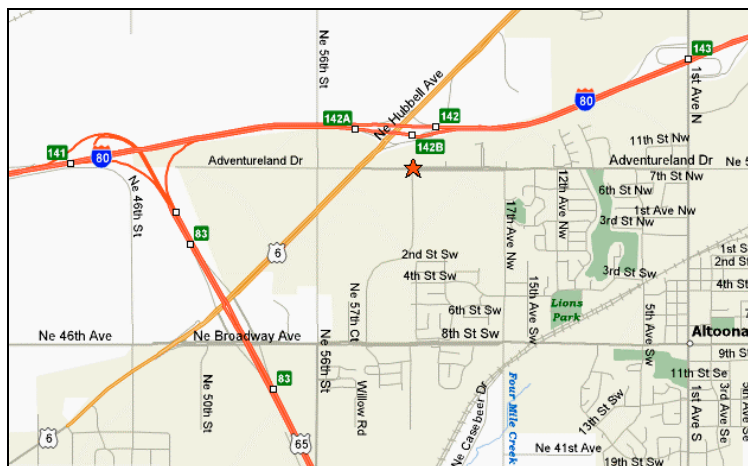
6:00 Dinner and Officer Installation

The Chapter will be subsidizing the cost of the meal for the banquet...
Cost to you is only \$10 per person

A delicious full buffet (including desserts!) will be served – watch your email for the menu!

Reservations must be received by January 13, 2006

jpdiemer@midamerican.com or 515.281.2305



Officers for 2005

Chapter 41

PRESIDENT: SHELLY J. WHITEING, SR/WA R/W-RAC

SHELLY.WHITEING@DOT.IOWA.GOV

PRESIDENT-ELECT: DAN SHIFLETT, SR/WA R/W-NAC

DANS@CBPOWER.COM

VICE-PRESIDENT: JOE ANDERSON

JOE.ANDERSON@DOT.IOWA.GOV

SECRETARY: JOE ANDERSON

JOE.ANDERSON@DOT.IOWA.GOV

TREASURER: STEVE CHAPMAN, SR/WA R/W-RAC

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DIRECTOR (1- YRS): SHELLY J. WHITEING, SR/WA R/W-RAC

SHELLY.WHITEING@DOT.STATE.IA.US

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

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Region 3 Website:



www.irwaregion3.org

Questions or Comments,
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Do you have a new email address?

Are you moving?

Notify:

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

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE

February 15, 2006

Your articles and/or suggestions are always welcomed.

COMMITTEES

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JIM DIEMER, SR/WA

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RITA RASMUSSEN, SR/WA & DAN SHIFLETT, SR/WA

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BERNARD BANKER, SR/WA & DENNIS CLARK E

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