

Letter From the President

Greetings ROW Family!

Mr. Wayne L. Goss, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, shared a few months ago on his blog regarding the tangible value in IRWA Membership.

“Not only does this organization open you up to a network of over 10,000 industry professionals from over 15 countries around the globe, but it also gives our members the chance to differentiate themselves in the marketplace and advance their careers with specialized education and credentialing opportunities with a focus in any of our four industries (Electric & Utilities, Public Agencies, Oil & Gas Pipeline, and Transportation). Our leadership and staff have continued to take steps towards strengthening our education programming and instructor development this year by creating industry-specific credentialing pathways and launching a new Instructor Development Program in the CLIMB that will establish a world-class faculty and experience for our members.”

Our own IRWA Chapter 8, the largest IRWA chapter, is proof positive that all of you and your companies truly see the benefit in membership, and I am proud to be the president of such great group of professionals! Thank you for being part of a fantastic chapter!

Allison M. Wurtz, SR/WA



*Allison Wurtz, SR/WA
IRWA Chapter 8 President*

In This Issue

- [Officers](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Member Spotlight](#)
- [Monthly Meeting Recap](#)
- [Job Postings](#)
- [Region 2 Forum](#)
- [Fun & Games](#)
- [New Members](#)
- [Educational Milestones](#)

Chapter 8 Officers and Committees

Officers

President

Allison Wurtz

allison_wurtz@kindermorgan.com
Kinder Morgan
1001 Louisiana St, STE 1000
Houston, Texas 77002
Phone: 713-420-3321

President Elect

Ken Vacek

kenneth.vacek@centerpointenergy.com
CenterPoint Energy
PO Box 1700
Houston, TX 77251-1700

Secretary

Bruce Trepl

bruce.trepl@contractlandstaff.com
Contract Land Staff, LLC
2245 Texas Drive STE 200
Sugar Land, TX 77479
Phone: 288-404-6580

2 Year Director

Walter Sass

wsass@weissereng.com
Weisser Engineering Company
PO Box 219315
Houston, TX 77218-9315
Phone: 281-579-7300
Fax: 281-828-0055

Treasurer

Rebecca Curry

recurry@eprod.com
Enterprise Products Company
9420 W. Sam Houston Parkway N.
Houston, TX 77064
Phone: 281-887-3312

International Director

Walter Sass

wsass@weissereng.com
Weisser Engineering Company
PO Box 219315
Houston, TX 77218-9315
Phone: 281-579-7300
Fax: 281-828-0055

Committees

Education

Sue Findley

sue.findley@percheronllc.com
Percheron Acquisitions, LLC
20723 Normandy Forest Dr.
Spring, TX 77388
Phone: 832-300-6400

Membership

Bruce Trepl

Bruce.trepl@contractlandstaff.com
Contract Land Staff, LLC
2245 Texas Drive STE 200
Sugar Land, TX 77479
Phone: 288-404-6580

Professional Development

James Spurgeon

jim.spurgeon@centerpointenergy.com
CenterPoint Energy
PO Box 1700
Houston, TX 77251-1700
Phone: 713-207-6804
Fax: 713-207-9040

Communications

Teri Cameron

teri.cameron@contractlandstaff.com
Contract Land Staff
2245 Texas Drive, Suite 200
Sugar Land, TX 77479
Phone: 281.240.3609
Fax: 281.582.5005

Young Professionals

Co-Chair

Taylor Sass
tsass@weissereng.com
Weisser Engineering & Surveying
19500 Park Row # 100
Houston, TX 77084
Phone: (281) 579-7300

Co-Chair

Kasy Chambers
kasy.chambers@airliquide.com
Air Liquide
3535 West 12th Street
Houston, TX 77008
Phone: 713-438-6404





Harness the leading edge knowledge and skills to excel in your Right of Way career, earn your credential, and enhance your lifelong continuing education journey.

Choose from five categories of professional education that are customized to fit your unique learning needs and wishes! The five categories are:

- VEIT classes- online classes with a classroom feel
- Leadership Institute- online classes for emerging leaders
- On Demand Classes- online audio/ppt classes
- Education-to-Go- mini-enrichment online classes
- Classroom-based classes- traditional in person classes

[IRWA Education Link](#)

Calendar of Events

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jan. 8 - Chapter 8 Monthly Luncheon

Hess Club

CLASSES:



Calendar of Events

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

Feb. 5 - Chapter 8 Monthly Luncheon

Hess Club

CLASSES:



Member Spotlight



Arlene Kaplan

Arlene Kaplan is a Project Relocation Manager for Percheron in its Field Services Division. She oversees Relocation and manages projects occasionally.

How did you first get in the right of way business?

When my husband was seriously ill I was looking for a job that would fill my time with “nothingness” and get me through the days. I took a job as relocation secretary where I learned to process the paperwork of relocation and related right of way work. Ironic, that “nothingness” is my passion today.

What advice would you give to someone new in the industry? In a word: “Network.”

The ability to discuss your work with a variety of people, to see that right of way work may be very different in different parts of the country, and to be open to other ideas about how right of way work may be done differently and still be the same is invaluable. We need to be open to ideas and concepts, think outside the box occasionally, and to know that when we are right, the other person is not necessarily wrong. And finally, to use a term common to all of us in right of way, “it depends.” Embrace that idea and let it work *for* you.

Which of your accomplishments (career or personal) makes you the proudest?

That’s easy: my children and grandchildren. They are what I leave to this world and I am most proud of the kind of people they are and the people they, in turn, are raising today.

Who is the person or persons who have had the greatest influence on your life (career or personal) and why?

In life, my father. He taught me to be accountable and to take responsibility for myself. He always said that when you take responsibility for all of your actions, you also take back the power to change your own life. He was right. In my career, an old, old timer – Tracy Graff. He was my first manager in right of way. He instilled in me the passion for right of way and the ability to see that in right of way there may be as many “right ways” as there are practitioners – as long as you maintain the integrity of the program. Tracy passed away last year well into his 90s – but still young when he talked about relocation.

What one word would you use to describe yourself? Private. I really struggle with the propensity people have these days to put their entire lives out into the universe of Facebook, Twitter, and a multitude of other sources. You really just don’t know who’s out there

Member Spotlight

or what their intentions are. Then too, people see negative feedback, they're offended and wonder why.

What are you currently reading? At the top of my list is James Patterson's *Murder House*.

Tell us something about yourself that would surprise people. I can't think of a thing...most people who know me really do know me.

If you could be any animal what would you be and why? I think a lioness. Laid back. Easy. Going about her business. Unless you mess with her loved ones.

Do you have any personal life quotes that you use to aid you in the work place? *"Attitude is everything. Pick a good one!"* This has served me very well throughout my life and career. Many people don't realize this is really a choice they can make. When you make that choice, everything is more bearable – frequently even pleasurable.

What is your favorite past time? Hobby? I love reading and all sorts of needle craft.



Member Spotlight



Leonard Thurmond

Leonard Thurmond is an employee of Coates Field Services and is currently on assignment as a contract encroachment analyst for Enterprise Products. He reviews and addresses third party crossing requests to ensure that the crossing occurs safely and without incident.

How did you first get in the right of way business? I had a somewhat circular journey into right of way. When I graduated from Baylor Law in July of 2012, I entered a rough legal market but the oil and gas industry was doing well. I looked into opportunities as a landman and a friend introduced me to MJ Harrison with Enterprise Products. Although Enterprise didn't have any openings at the time, MJ saw my interest in the profession and referred me to Mark Roby with Coates Field Services. After touching base with Mark, an opportunity happened to open up with Enterprise's Land Department and I took it.

hough Enterprise didn't have any openings at the time, MJ saw my interest in the profession and referred me to Mark Roby with Coates Field Services. After touching base with Mark, an opportunity happened to open up with Enterprise's Land Department and I took it.

What advice would you give to someone new in the industry? Never be afraid to ask questions. I have found the right-of-way profession to be filled with several knowledgeable people who are willing to share their time and expertise if you just ask for it. If you show your interest and take the initiative, you will be surprised by the wealth of information you will receive.

Which of your accomplishments (career or personal) makes you most proudest? The individual accomplishment I am most proud of is graduating from Baylor Law School. Baylor prided itself as being the boot camp for lawyers and challenging its students to unleash their fullest potential. After getting through Baylor Law, I know that I have the character necessary to take on any challenge. The other accomplishment I am very proud of is a team accomplishment. When I played football for Carroll College, I was part of a team that won the NAIA National Championship three times in five years. I had the opportunity to be a part of a brotherhood, where people worked together in common purpose. I am proud of what we accomplished together and saw how people could accomplish great things if they were willing to work together.

Who is the person(s) who have had the greatest influence on your life (career or personal) and why? This is hard to write because there have been a lot of people who influenced who I am today. at the top of the list would be my parents. They sacrificed a lot

Member Spotlight

to ensure I would receive a quality education, but more importantly, they taught me by their example how to live a character-driven life. This will sound corny, but I am always inspired by the courage and determination my mother exhibits in overcoming any obstacle she faces. I also learned a lot about character from my football coaches, particularly Mike Van Diest and Jim Hogan at Carroll College and my high school position coach Doug Peoples. These people coach not just because they wanted to win games but because they wanted to shape the character of young men. I learned a lot about hard work, discipline, and developing a team-orientated mindset. Most importantly, I learned that people either grow or decline but they never stay the same.

What one word would you use to describe yourself? Striving

What are you currently reading? The Prize by Daniel Yergin.

Tell us something about yourself that would surprise people. I love classic horror movies, especially Vincent Price movies.

If you could be any animal what would you be and why? A bear. I have always been fascinated by how bears could be simultaneously cuddly while epitomizing the awesome fury of nature.

Do you have any personal life quotes that you use to aid you in the workplace? “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” - Aristotle

What is your favorite past time? Hobby? It’s difficult to narrow down because I have a broad range of interests. I love to study history, theology and philosophy. I also enjoy hunting, target shooting and golfing. When I want to relax, I will watch classic movies or play sports video games.

What kinds of music do you listen to? Classic Rock and Classic Country. My favorite group has always been Creedence Clearwater Revival followed by ACDC. As for Country, I enjoy listening to Merle Haggard, George Jones and Waylon Jennings.

What are some qualities that you value in a friend? Coworker? A friend is more than someone with whom you can share fun times. The most important thing a friend can do is challenge us to become a better person, either by advice or example. The qualities I value most in a co-worker are honesty and integrity.

Chapter 8 Monthly Meeting Recap

**IRWA Chapter 8 Meeting Recap – January 8, 2016– by Teri Cameron,
Contract Land Staff**

Speakers: Mike Pakeltis, Director of Transmission Operations for Center-Point Energy “Brazos Valley Connection Project”



IRWA Chapter 8 was pleased to have Mike Pakeltis as our January Speaker. Mike spoke to us about the Brazos Valley Connection Project, a 345 kV transmission line that will run from Limestone County to Harris County. The \$600 million project will create another route for electricity generated outside the region to enter Houston, where demand for power is growing while the capacity to produce it has decreased in recent years.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) identified and confirmed a reliability need to improve the import capability in the Houston area by summer 2018. The project will improve the capacity of our electric grid and strengthen transmission capabilities.



Chapter 8 Monthly Meeting Recap



WHO SAYS THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH?



Chapter 8 Members,

The Chapter 8 Board has decided to offer its members the opportunity to receive a free lunch for the submission, acceptance and publication of a newsletter article.

To Qualify:

1. You must be a current IRWA Chapter 8 member.
(Chapter Chairs and Executive Officers excluded)
2. Submit a newsletter article and have it published in the Award Winning The Centerline.
3. You receive a free lunch voucher for one of the regularly scheduled lunch meetings.

Submit your article today to
[teri.cameron@contractlandstaff.com!](mailto:teri.cameron@contractlandstaff.com)



Job Openings

Job Openings



Real Estate Services Program Manager

The City of Austin is now accepting applications for the Real Estate Services Program Manager position. Under the general direction of the Real Estate Services Officer, or designee, this position is responsible for providing program oversight, planning and recommendations for Council action, real estate acquisitions, dispositions and/or exchanges of property, in support of City of Austin's real estate transactions. This position leads the City's flood buyout and relocation program for the Office of Real Estate Services as well as grant oversight.

Real Estate Services Program Manager Job Description

<http://www.austintexas.gov/hr/jobdesc/jobrptdesc.cfm?codeid=7553&CFID=15176396&CFTOKEN=c696a3f327e902ef-F2E113F7-B06A-61E2-8242446561A7939D>

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with major coursework in Business Administration, Real Estate, or in a field related to the job, plus four (4) years of experience in real estate acquisition, disposition, and leasing of municipal/public property, two (2) years of which were in a lead or supervisory capacity.

Experience may substitute for education up to four (4) years.

Licenses or Certifications

State of Texas Real Estate Licensure

Those interested in applying may do so at the following link

<https://www.austincityjobs.org/postings/51877>

Region 2 Education Forum

Cancun Mexico
March 8-11, 2016



2016 IRWA Region 2 Spring Forum & Educational Courses 200 and 213 March 8-11, 2016 - Cancun

Mexico Westin Resort and Spa

[Two Day Course Offering](#)

Course 200 Negotiation - Two Day Course

March 8-9, 2016 -- Facilitator Ana Rausch, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

[One Day Course Offering](#)

Course 213 - Conflict Resolution - One Day Course

March 10, 2016 - Facilitator Carol Brooks, SR/WA

Register Online at [Housman and Associates](#) for one or both courses -

Registration fees apply to all courses

[Spring Forum - March 11, 2016](#)

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

RSVP for Spring Forum: RSVP - NO CHARGE

at [Housman and Associates](#)

Region 2 Education Forum

Hotel - Westin Resort and Spa - Cancun

The link below will allow you to book your sleeping room for the 2016 IRWA Spring meeting. The available dates on the link are March 7-11, 2016. If you would like to come in earlier or stay later you will have to email June Housman june@housmanandassociates.com

and let her know so she can see if the hotel has availability.

IRWA Region 2

2016 Spring Forum

Westin Resort and Spa -- CANCUN

March 8-11, 2016

[Westin Cancun Resort and Spa](#)

Double Occupancy - \$180 per person / day all inclusive all food, drinks, tips

Single Occupancy \$264 per person / day all inclusive all food, drinks, tips

Group rate for reservations is available until February 1, 2016

To make reservations use the link below or call 1-800-937-8461 - ask for IRWA or International Right of Way block

You will be charged a 2 nights deposit when you make your reservation

Room rate will be honored 3 days before and 3 days after - subject to availability

Go To:

[Housman and Associates](#)

**To RSVP for the Spring Forum at NO CHARGE or
to Register for the Educational Courses - Fees Apply!**

Fun & Games

“Life is more fun if you play games.” ~ Roald Dahl

N E L A S R O F M E C N A R U S N I
 U E T I S O P E D L W O L A G N U B
 T R I P L E X S K Y S C R A P E R V
 D U P L E X T E R I O R L S E L L A
 I L T I B U I L D I N G P O A A S C
 N N O I T A Z I T R O M A R S Q L A
 T O F F E R H E L R L R E S U E I N
 E E I S T T O L P A O T E A E O R C
 R U T T C A U T W F A T R A T X T Y
 I L I D A I S Y I L L E C V L N A L
 O A M E R I E S L D F I A E P T A T
 R V E N T R C O E O E L P R P S O B
 E T S M N T C E O S U R O P I S U R
 D E H E O N D T R A S P C A I Y N Z
 N K A D C E A L T P E M R O I N O I
 E R R N N G O I O R E P E N N N G G
 L A E O E A O S T S P D G N E D E R
 V M I C N N L Y P A Y M E N T C O E

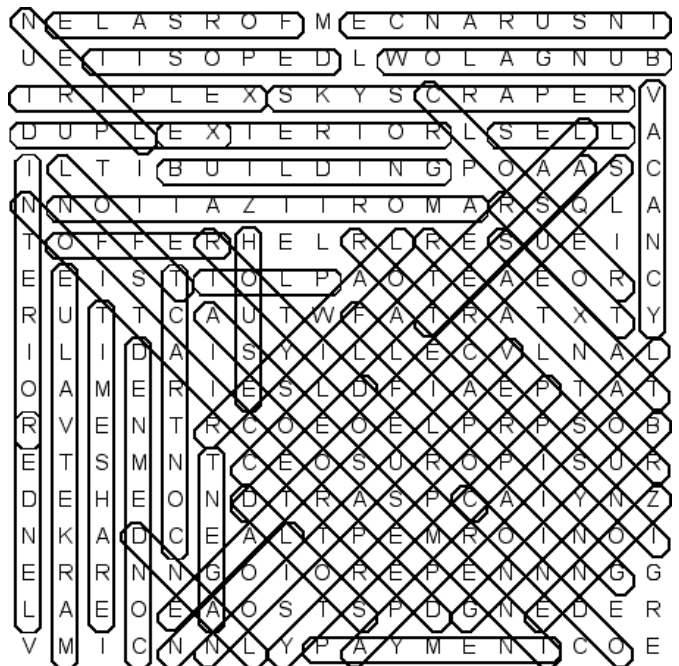
Agent	Contract	Interior	Realtor
Amortization	Creditor	Land	Sell Skyscraper
Appraisal	Deed	Lawyer	Sold
Assessment	Deposit	Lender	Square Footage
Asset	Depreciation	Lien	Taxes
Building	Duplex	Loan	Timeshare
Bungalow	Exterior	Loft	Tour
Buying	Flipping	Market Value	Triplex
Closer	For Sale	Offer	Vacancy
Collateral	House	Payment	Valuation
Condemned	Inspector	Plot	Zone
Condo	Insurance	Property	

Answers are on the next page!

Fun & Games

9	8					4	6	
	6			5	7		8	2
				8		9		
1				2			7	
		6		7		5		
	4			6				9
		5		4				
8	7		2	1			9	
	1	3					5	4

9	8	7	1	3	2	4	6	5
4	6	1	9	5	7	3	8	2
5	3	2	4	8	6	9	1	7
1	5	9	3	2	4	8	7	6
3	2	6	8	7	9	5	4	1
7	4	8	5	6	1	2	3	9
6	9	5	7	4	3	1	2	8
8	7	4	2	1	5	6	9	3
2	1	3	6	9	8	7	5	4



About the IRWA

Since its inception as a not-for-profit association in 1934, the IRWA has united the efforts of its members toward professional development, strong ethics and improved service to employers and the public, along with advancements within the right of way profession. IRWA is the

unsurpassed source of right of way educational programs and professional services worldwide.

Our Members

Dedicated exclusively to the right of way profession, IRWA has nearly 10,000 members throughout the US, Canada and Africa. Our members are multi-disciplined professionals employed by private industry and government agencies as Acquisition Agents, Appraisers, Environment Professionals, Engineers, Lawyers, Property Managers, Relocation Assistance Agents, Surveyors and Title Experts.

Please welcome our newest Chapter Members:



Roderick P Hatch
Jason Miers
William "Tracy" Ratzlaff
Jayme S Weeks

Please help us congratulate the following Educational Milestone, Recertification's and Candidacy's:

New SR/WA's:

New Certifications

New Candidates

Lance Jack SR/WA

Meet Your Communications Committee:

Teri Cameron
VP Marketing
Contract Land Staff

Karla Breitinger
Sr. Land Analyst
Enterprise Products

Kirk Dixon
Dixon Enterprises

Rachel Bricout
Regional Lead
Paragon Partners

Contact:
Teri.Cameron@
contractlandstaff.com

We're on the web!

www.irwachapter8.org

