

# The Centerline

October typically signals the beginning of fall. Cooler weather is slowly making its way to the Houston area. Although as residents of the gulf coast we know there are only two seasons for us; winter and summer. We don't have the privilege of watching the foliage of the trees turning hues of orange and red like our northern neighbors get to enjoy.



*Ken Vacek, SR/WA  
IRWA Chapter 8 President*

Nevertheless, there's a lot of things going on in October. Football season is well underway. Baseball is in the playoffs leading to the World Series and, believe it or not, the Rockets are already playing basketball games. Didn't their last season just end? Seems like yesterday!

Anyway, while the adults are enjoying watching their favorite teams play, the children are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Halloween with all the costumes and trick or treating. Most importantly during this busy time, let us not forget to spend quality time with the ones we love. Whether it be cheering at a sporting event or simply enjoying the great outdoors, we can all benefit from family and friend time away from the hustle and bustle of the world around us. Making memories with the ones you love are the most cherished memories of all.

*Ken Vacek, SR/WA*

## In This Issue

- **Officers**
- **Calendar of Events**
- **Member Spotlight**
- **Monthly Meeting Recap**
- **Yo Pro's**
- **Passing It On**
- **Toys For Tots**
- **Educational Brochures**
- **Industry Acronyms**
- **New SR/WA Requirements**
- **Fun & Games**
- **New Members**
- **Educational Milestones**

# Chapter 8 Officers and Committees

## Officers

### President

#### Ken Vacek

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## Committees

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## Young Professionals

### Co-Chair

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### Co-Chair

Kelly Simmons  
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Phone: 713-661-7777





**Ready.  
Set.  
Learn.**

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

## October 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

October 7 - Chapter 8 Monthly Luncheon

Hess Club

October 20 - 3rd Annual SETXDPC Safety Day

Pasadena Municipal Fairgrounds

October 26 - Yo Pro Halloween Bash

The Center

**CLASSES:**



# Calendar of Events

## November 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			

November 4 - Chapter 8 Monthly Luncheon

Hess Club

November 9-10 - C417—The Valuation of Environmentally

CenterPoint Energy

Contaminated Real Estate

November 15, 11:15am-12:30pm - YP Educational Luncheon

Spectra Energy

### CLASSES:

NOVEMBER 9-10 - C-417 - THE VALUATION OF

CENTERPOINT ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONTAMINATED REAL ESTATE



# Member Spotlight



## Ken Vacek

Ken Vacek is the Supervisory—Property Rights at CenterPoint Energy. He is responsible for records management and all land issues relating to existing rights for the company's electric and gas distribution system.

### **How did you first get into the right of way business?**

After graduation from college with a business degree, I began to search for a more professional position. There was an internal job posting for a right of way agent while I was working at Houston Lighting & Power. Having a few real estate classes in college and personally dabbling in some real estate holdings, I applied for the position and, as they say, the rest is history.

**What advice would you give to someone new in the industry?** Find yourself an experienced mentor. Join the IRWA and take advantage of every educational opportunity possible. Get involved in the young professionals group and try to gain as much experience as possible. Hone your networking skills. It's a sometimes neglected skill but oh so important for forming work relationships that will come in handy in your future.

**Which of your accomplishments (career or personal) makes you the proudest?** Getting my bachelor's degree after 11 years of night school. Raising 3 kids into successful, well rounded and strong individuals.

**Who is the person or persons who have had the greatest influence on your life (again career or personal) and why?** In my younger years, my high school football coach. Army boot camp had nothing on our summer two-a-day training camps. If you could survive that, you could survive anything. He taught me that hard work and dedication are lessons that will serve you well for the rest of your life. In my work career, Aisha Currie was an important mentor of mine when I was breaking into the business. She taught me not only the technical skills but the people skills that are necessary to be successful in this field.

**What one word would you use to describe yourself?** Dedicated.

**What are you currently reading?** Who has time to read? I read lots and lots of land documents. When I get home, I just want to veg in front of the TV and decompress.

## Member Spotlight

**Tell us something about yourself that would surprise people.** I placed third in my age bracket in Tae Kwon Do at the AAU Nationals way back in my younger years. I'm a native Texan that has never lived outside Fort Bend County.

**If you could be any animal what would you be and why?** I'd be my cat. What a life! Just lay around and sleep all day and couldn't care less what anyone else wants it to do.

**Do you have any personal life quotes that you use to aid you in the workplace or at home?** It is what it is. Just keep on go'in. KISS—Keep it Simple, Stupid.

**What is your favorite past time? Hobby?** In my younger days it used to be participation by now my body tells me it's better to watch and attend sporting events. Especially football and those in which my grandkids are participating.

**What kinds of music do you listen to?** I have an eclectic taste in music. Anything from classic rock to classical depending on my mood.

**What are some qualities that you value in a friend? Coworker?** Loyalty, dependability, trustworthiness and a sense of humor.



# Member Spotlight



## Kelly Simmons

Kelly is the Regional Coordinator for Paragon Partners' Mid-Continent. She creates marketing material, maintains client relations, prepares project proposals and assists the Vice President in staffing.

**What advice would you give another Young Professional who is trying to “break into” the right of way industry?** Above all, always introduce yourself to everyone! If someone offers to walk you around the room and introduce you to everyone they know, do it! The IRWA is one of the most welcoming organizations - use it to your

advantage.

**How has being involved in the IRWA and in particular Yo Pro's benefited you thus far in your career?** The IRWA and Young Professionals Group has enabled me to meet the other industry professionals at all levels in their careers. What's great about this organization is that everyone is willing to share experiences and help you grow-regardless of what sector of the industry you are in. It is such a close organization where everyone's goal is to better our country's infrastructure, bring awareness to the industry and encourage new professionals to join. Not only have I been able to meet some of the most influential people in our industry, but I'm happy to say that I've made life-long friends.

**Which of your accomplishments (career or personal) makes you the proudest?** I would have to say putting myself through college and graduating from Texas A&M University. WHOOP!

**Who is the person or persons who have had the greatest influence in your life (again career or person ) and why?** I'm blessed to say that I have many influential people in my life, but the person who has influenced my life most recently is my best friend, Travis. He was diagnosed with leukemia a little over two years ago and recently went into remission. In those two years, he not only fought what was probably the toughest battle of his life, but opened his own business. He's such an inspiration, personally and professionally, and always reminds me that I've already made it through every single hard day of my life.

**If you could be any animal what would you be and why?** I would be a giraffe for three reasons:

# Member Spotlight

1. Who wouldn't want to be that tall for a day?
2. Have you ever seen a giraffe take a bad picture?
3. You think these animals are gentle giants until you google "necking" (don't worry, it's safe for work). They can definitely hold their own on the African plains.

**What one word would you use to describe yourself?** Loyal.

**What are you currently reading?** I just finished James Patterson's "The Lifeguard."

**Tell us something about yourself that would surprise people.** I was active in the FFA throughout high school raising rabbits and hogs. I loved the organization so much that I received a degree from Texas A&M in Agricultural Science so that I could teach Ag.

**Do you have any personal life quotes that you use to aid you in the workplace?** I have "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time" taped to my monitor at my desk. When I first started at Paragon, I wanted to learn the entire industry in a day and that's just not possible. If that doesn't work, the Serenity Prayer always keeps me grounded.

**What is your favorite past time? Hobby?** I would say that I've made a hobby out of eating Mexican food.

**What kinds of music do you listen to?** I've been on a Texas Dirt Road kick since College Station.

**What are some qualities that you value in a friend? Coworker?** Honesty, loyalty and reliability are big in my book. You also get bonus points for sarcasm and the ability to understand my sense of humor.



# Chapter 8 Monthly Meeting Recap

IRWA Chapter 8 Meeting Recap – October 7, 2016

by Teri Cameron, Contract Land Staff

**Speakers:** Jay Vincent - Outreach Experts

For our Chapter 8 October luncheon we had the pleasure of listening to Jay Vincent with Outreach Experts talk to us about “Digital and Social Listening.” Social listening is the process of monitoring digital conversations to understand what customers are saying about a brand and industry online. Jay spoke about the opposition groups and how they are utilizing social media to get their messaging out. Jay highlighted the much published case of the Dakota Access Project where The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has been in opposition and actually had construction halted on a portion of the project. These opposition groups have crated videos and other social media that are easily shareable so they can spread quickly. Jay’s firm has successfully helped their clients by developing online and offline stakeholder engagement programs. Bottom line? Jay says “Social and digital media plays a large part in our lives today and it matters because people listen.”



# Chapter 8 Monthly Meeting Recap

## JAY VINCENT

Founder and Chief Engagement Officer

Jay Vincent is a management consultant and corporate citizen coach who advises organizations and businesses on effectively engaging the public and their stakeholders in a world transforming from enhanced connectivity. His core expertise is developing online and offline stakeholder engagements programs for businesses and organizations who must convert key organizational and external stakeholders into meaningful and persuasive advocates. More than anything, he is an Outreach Expert.



Throughout his career, Jay has managed campaigns of many types for political candidates, political parties, corporations, associations and organizations. He has worked for clients across nearly a dozen different industries. Today, he leads at the intersection of business, government and technology, helping clients develop business solutions to navigating the challenges posed by a more active public and stakeholders.

He is a lifetime member and alumni of the American Council of Young Political Leaders having served as delegate to Taiwan and as lead facilitator and representative of a USAID funded program in Moldova for a 14—Nation Eastern European Young Political Leaders Conference. He was also honored to serve as the delegate escort for the U.S. to China 2010 trip.

Jay is a graduate of Marquette University and the Les Aspin Center for Government Studies. He also holds a Masters in Business Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business which recently awarded Jay, the Recent Alumnus Service Award for his work in creating Notre Dame's Conversations on Leadership and Ethics program. He sits on the Board of Governors for the 100 Club of Chicago.

# Young Professionals

Social Networking Event

September 29, 2016 at Mo's Irish Pub



# Young Professionals



## CHAPTER 8 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

### Calling All Volunteers

Join the Chapter 8 YPs in hosting a Halloween Bash! Clients of The Center will get to create spooktacular Halloween masks, participate in a "Monster Mash" Dance Party while gobbling snacks and drinking witch's brew. Costumes are ENCOURAGED for all!

*When:* Wednesday, October 26th  
from 5:30PM-7:00PM

*Where:* The Center - 3550 West Dallas  
Houston, TX 77019

*RSVP:* [irwaypc8@gmail.com](mailto:irwaypc8@gmail.com)



**SPIRIT**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Thank you to Spirit Environmental for providing craft supplies, snacks and drinks!

## **Announcing The 2016-2017**

### **IRWA Chapter 8**

## **Young Professional's Committee**

**Co-Chairs:** Kasy Chambers, Air Liquide

Kelly Simmons, Paragon Partners

**Membership Chair:** Mintra Rickelman, Percheron

**Events Chair:** Courtney Hart, Energy Access Solutions

**Events Committee:** Brittney Christy, Spirit Environmental

Kirby Ewing, Contract Land Staff

**Education Chair:** Eric Alley, Enterprise Products

**Education Committee:** Leonard Thurmond, Enterprise Products

Daniel Shaw, Pinnacle Group

Congratulations to our new IRWA C8 YPG Leadership!

# Young Professionals



Chapter 8 Young Professionals Present ...

## YP Educational Luncheon Series

Tuesday, November 15th, 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Sponsored By:  **Cardno**<sup>®</sup>

## Project Timelines: Make it and Manage it

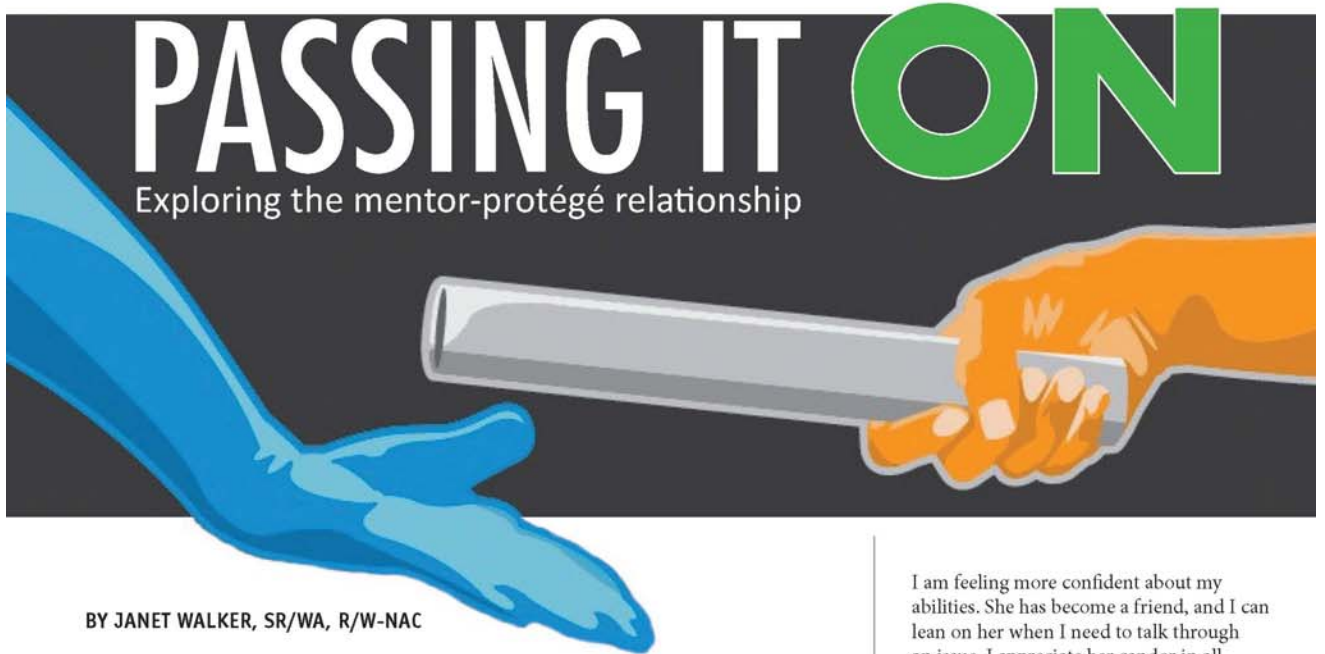
Presented by: **Mark T. Bardwell**

Spectra Energy

Director of Right of Way Acquisition, Engineering & Construction Department

**WHERE:** Spectra Energy-5400 Westheimer Court, Houston, TX 77056  
\*Please arrive by 11:15AM in order to review a required safety video

**RSVP:** In order to accurately prepare for guests, please kindly reserve a seat at [irwaypc8@gmail.com](mailto:irwaypc8@gmail.com) by Friday, November 11, 2016.



BY JANET WALKER, SR/WA, R/W-NAC

Over the years, I have enjoyed many different roles with IRWA—from serving on International committees to developing new courses. However, the opportunity to serve as a mentor to a younger professional had not presented itself. That all changed a few years ago, when I had the good fortune to be matched with Trevor Martens, a relative newcomer who was working to become an IRWA instructor.

At first, I wasn't sure how to get the ball rolling. But once I realized that the mentor's role depends on the needs of the protégé, everything fell into place. I was impressed to see Trevor dive head first into the mentorship program. He told me how much he respected my instruction style and looked forward to learning new teaching strategies. And he made it easy for me by identifying his ultimate goals. Having already taken the IRWA Instructors Clinic, he was ready to co-instruct a class, and he wanted to learn which techniques were most effective in the classroom. Not only was he clear about his interests, he listened and asked questions.

### Tap Into Your Strengths

I appreciated Trevor's ability to really hone in on his objectives. He created an agenda for each of our discussions, and he pushed me to think about professional

development and adult education in different ways. This led me to analyze some of my teaching practices. Sometimes you don't realize how much you know until someone asks for your guidance and perspective. As I began sharing some of my past teaching experiences, it became easier to explain the strategies behind my instruction methods.

When I asked Trevor what he gained from our relationship, he told me that he learned the importance of listening. He had come into the relationship with very little instructor experience, and even though he was anxious to learn quickly, he knew that if he just sat back and listened, he would pick up the tools he needed. By watching closely and taking notes, he was able to see how other instructors tapped into their own particular style and leveraged their talents.

Trevor said, "The most beneficial thing I learned was to be yourself. Everyone has a different style and the key is to utilize your strengths. Janet explained numerous teaching strategies that would have been hard for me to identify on my own. She encouraged me to take the CLIMB Instructor Development program, which she helped to develop, and I'm so glad I did. I gained new insight into course instruction, and with Janet's guidance,

I am feeling more confident about my abilities. She has become a friend, and I can lean on her when I need to talk through an issue. I appreciate her candor in all situations."

### Guiding the Next Generation

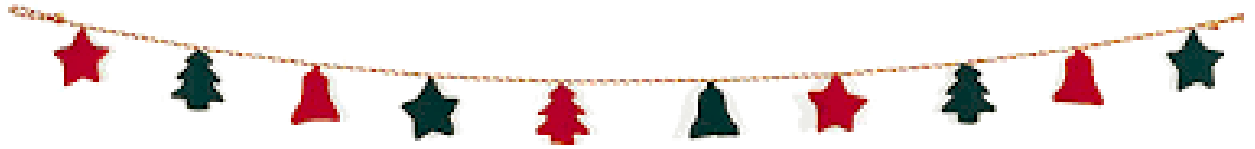
I feel a great sense of pride in Trevor's growth and have a vested interest in his future. I consider him a peer, and I am thrilled to watch as he excels in his IRWA leadership and instructor roles. Trevor and I still keep in touch. We don't often get to see each other in person, but when we do connect, we share our different adventures in instructing—and life in general.

As we welcome younger professionals into the Association, it's becoming increasingly important for us to help them grow in their careers, while preparing them to become the next generation of instructors and leaders. I thoroughly enjoyed the mentoring experience, and I encourage others to give it a try. 🌟



Janet has over 25 years experience in the industry, and previously worked for ConocoPhillips Canada and the National Energy Board. She is the Vice Chair for IRWA's Partnership for Infrastructure Professional Education and a past Chair of the International Professional Development Committee.

# Toys For Tots!



December is almost here!

Please remember to bring an unwrapped toy, cash, check or credit card to December 2nd's Holiday Luncheon for Toys For Tots!



# C417—The Valuation of Environmentally Contaminated Real Estate

**Start Date:** 11/9/2016  
**End Date:** 11/10/2016  
**No. of Days:** 2 Days  
**Course Level:** Advanced  
**CEU Credits:** 16.00  
**Class Time:** 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Daily  
**Tuition:** \$415.00 Member/\$520.00 Non-Member  
**Sponsored By:** Chapter 8

**Course Description:** [C417 The Valuation of Environmentally Contaminated Real Estate](#)

## INSTRUCTOR:

**Orell Anderson, MAI** specializes in real property damage economics and has consulted on some of the world's largest challenges such as Hurricane Katrina, the Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Sites, the World Trade Center and Flight 93 Crash Site; the largest climate, environmental and terrorist cases in the history of today's world. Mr. Anderson recently founded Strategic Property Analytics, Inc. For 15 years prior to this he was a member of Bell Anderson Sanders LLC and before that he helped establish real estate damages practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Mr. Anderson is co-chair of the American Bar Association's Litigation Sub-Committee on Expert Witness Programming, and Co-chair of the ABA's Environmental Committees on Damages and Eminent Domain. He was the immediate past Chair of the International Right of Way Association's Valuation Community of Practice, and holds the MAI designation from the Appraisal Institute. As a qualified expert, Mr. Anderson has testified in Federal and state courts and volunteers on a special taskforce real estate fraud for the Los Angeles district attorney's office. He is dedicated to his practice in real property damage economics and strategic analytics. He is a frequent speaker, instructor and writer, as well as an enthusiastic artist. Mr. Anderson is the contributing author of Real Estate Damages and is also a developer and instructor of courses and continuing education offerings for the American Bar Association, the Appraisal Institute, the International Right of Way Association, and the American Society of Appraisers among others. The Ap-



praisal of Real Estate sites Mr. Anderson as the source for further reading of USPAP's Advisory Opinion 9: The Appraisal of Real Property That May Be Impacted By Environmental Contamination. Mr. Anderson was the recipient of the IRWA's Mark A. Green Award for Journalistic Excellence and Outstanding Contribution to Right of Way in 1999, was recognized as Southern California's first National Volunteer of Distinction by the Appraisal Institute in 2012. He is currently assembling a team of international experts to write a textbook on corridor valuation for the IRWA.

## COURSE REGISTRAR:

Sue Findley, SR/WA  
1904 W Grand Parkway N, STE 200  
Katy, TX 77449  
Phone: (713) 724-0857  
Fax: (832) 300-6404  
Email: [sue.findley@percheronllc.com](mailto:sue.findley@percheronllc.com)

## COURSE COORDINATOR:

Sheila Agee, SR/WA  
CenterPoint Energy, Surveying & Right of Way, 7th Floor  
PO Box 1700  
Houston, TX 77251-1700  
Phone: (713) 207-6349  
Email: [Sheila.agee@centerpointenergy.com](mailto:Sheila.agee@centerpointenergy.com)

## CLASS FACILITY LOCATION:

CenterPoint Energy Tower  
1100 Louisiana St, Room 1355  
Houston, TX 77002

## SUGGESTED HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Participants are responsible for their own accommodations



## **Industry Acronyms You Need To Know!**

IRWA – International Right of Way Association

ROW – Right of Way

RWA – Right of Way Agent

RWP – Right of Way Professional

SR / WA – Senior Right of Way Professional

RWIEF – Right of Way International Educational Foundation

CRWIEF – Canadian Right of Way International Educational Foundation

ROWCC – Right of Way Consultants Council

YPG, YP's or YoPro's – IRWA Young Professionals Group

CLIMB – Content knowledge and communication, Leadership, Instruction, Methodology and Behaviors

# New Requirements for Filing for SR/WA Candidacy

## Transitioning Options Update

Transitioning your current certification from the old program to the new Industry Certification Program:

Pathway certification levels available under the new Industry Certification Program are:

<b>Generalist</b>	<b>O&amp;G Pipeline</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Electric-Utilities</b>
RWA	RWA	RWA	RWA
RWP-GN	RWP-OG	RWP-TN	RWP-EU
SR/WA-GN	SR/WA-OG	SR/WA-TN	SR/WA-EU

Anyone who held an RWA certification prior to January 14, 2016 is automatically an RWA under the new Industry Certification Program in any of the -GN, -OG, -TN & EU pathways.

Anyone who held an RWP certification prior to January 14, 2016 is automatically an RWP-GN under the new Industry Certification Program.

Anyone who held an SR/WA certification prior to January 14, 2016 is automatically an SR/WA-GN under the new Industry Certification Program.

Anyone who held an RWA, RWP or SR/WA certification prior to January 14, 2016 is automatically granted credit for RWA level coursework under all of the pathways (-GN, -OG, -TN & EU) within the new Industry Certification Program.

**Transitioning options for those partially through the old program (the pre-2016 RWA, RWP or SR/WA program):**

You will have until December 31, 2016 to earn 64 or more credits hours of IRWA course work to qualify for SR/WA candidacy

- and -

You will have until December 31, 2016 to apply for SR/WA candidacy.

Approved candidates must complete the requirements within the 5-year candidacy time frame. Candidates who complete this certification under the pre-2016 program will be granted SR/WA-GN certification.

# 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)



# Fun & Games

*"Life is more fun if you play games." ~ Roald Dahl*

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

APPLES

SCREAM

BATS

GHOSTS

SKELETON

BLACK CAT

GHOULS

SKULL

BROOMSTICK

GOBLINS

SPIDERS

CANDLE

GRAVEYARD

TOMBSTONE

CANDY

JACK O LANTERN

VAMPIRE

CEMETERY

MASK

WEREWOLF

COFFIN

MUMMY

WITCHES

COSTUME

NIGHT

ZOMBIE

DRACULA

PUMPKIN

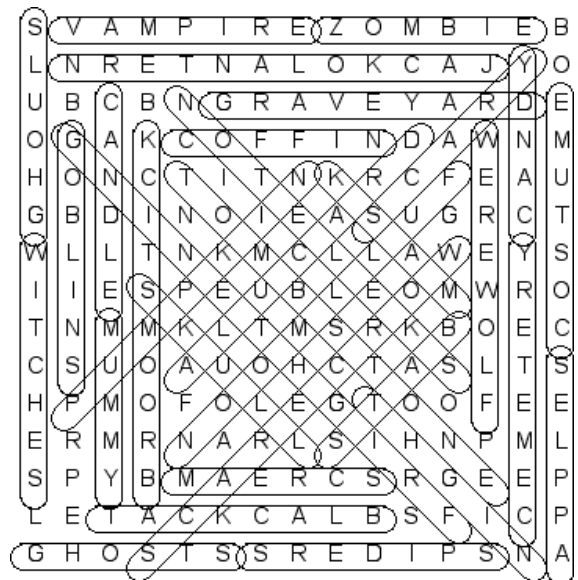
FRIGHTENING SCARECROW

FULL MOON

SCARY

*Answers are on the next page!*

# Fun & Games



## 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:



Dustin Miller  
Ashley Soape

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

### Right of Way Agent Certification

Jason Reece R/W-AC

### SR/WA Recertification's

Glenda Briggs SR/WA

Steve Voss SR/WA

### R/W Recertification's

Glenda Briggs SR/WA, R/W-AMC & NAC

Virginia Robledo R/W-RAC

### Declaration of Candidacy

Jorge Cavazos, R/W-RAC

Norman Henenberg SR/WA

Crystal Shrader R/W-NAC, SR/WA

### SR/WA Certified

Kasy Chambers SR/WA

## Meet Your Communications Committee:

Teri Cameron  
VP Marketing  
Contract Land Staff

Karla Breiterger  
Sr. Land Analyst  
Enterprise Products

Allison Wurtz  
Kinder Morgan

Rachel Bricout  
Regional Lead  
Paragon Partners

**Contact:**  
Teri.Cameron@  
contractlandstaff.com

We're on the web!

[www.irwachapter8.org](http://www.irwachapter8.org)

