

## Calendar of Events

### DECEMBER CHAPTER 41 MEETING

PLACE **STONE CREEK INN, JOHNSTON**  
DATE **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2002**  
TIME **2:30 P.M.**

### REGION 3 FORUM

PLACE **KANSAS CITY**  
DATE **APRIL 18, 2003 (SEE PAGE 4)**

### DEADLINES TO NOTE

NOVEMBER 15 – **COURSE INFO TO EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE (SEE PAGE 5)**

NOVEMBER 21 – **RSVP FOR CHAPTER BANQUET  
(SEE PAGE 8)**

DECEMBER 1 – **INSTRUCTOR'S CLINIC  
APPLICATIONS (SEE PAGE 4)**



*After narrowing  
27 suggestions for  
a Chapter Name...  
Iowa Chapter 41 is  
now known as...*

### **The Spirit of the Heartland**

*Thanks to all who submitted names...*

*Winner of the \$100*

*"Name the Chapter Contest" is...*

*Shellv Whiteina*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## President's Message

President Bernard B. Banker, SR/WA

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another busy year for Chapter 41. The year has passed by so rapidly, it's hard to believe we're in November already and I've only shared one quote from, [Andy Rooney](#), my favorite "60 Minutes" character. Maybe it's because we're both considered curmudgeons, but I have several lined up for this message, so watch out.

Our chapter membership was static this year but we did gain a new SR/WA in Fred Cirksena. In addition, Don Corrigan and Shelly Whiteing received their IRWA Certifications in Relocation Assistance. Congratulations Fred, Don and Shelly.

It is important that you read Page 5 of this newsletter and let the Education Committee know what courses the chapter can provide for you. We did sponsor four courses this year and would like to do at least that many in 2003.

Since we have a number of members who are SRWA candidates and people new to our chapter, we need to know how we can serve your education/training needs. **"Opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss".**

The Fall Forum was held in Bismarck, North Dakota, on October 11<sup>th</sup>. I was unable to attend, but Nancy Halvorson did and provides a brief synopsis on page 4, I'm sure she will fill us in on more specifics at our December meeting.

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Al Kay, SR/WA, contacted me and asked that I let everyone know that Leonard W. Dierking, SR/WA (retired), from Sioux City, passed away on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. Leonard was an active member of our chapter for many years and served as president of Chapter 41 in 1968. **"The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person".**

President's Message Continued on Page 3



## Amy Walter

Education Committee Co-Chair



Amy began her Right of Way career in 1998 as an Acquisition Agent with the Iowa DOT. After two years in Right of Way, she transferred to Corridor Development. While there she was involved in planning Public Hearings and Public Information Meetings as well as reviewing condemnation laws.

“Unable to deny my continued interest in the acquisition field—I left the DOT for the world of consulting.”

She has been a consultant ROW Agent with Snyder & Associates, Inc. since June 2001. Amy has been able to utilize the skills learned in ROW and in Corridor Development while working on various State, County, and City projects. She has also had the opportunity to cross-train and learn some of the basics of Relocation.

“Although I have only been a member of IRWA for a year, I am grateful for the many opportunities my membership has allowed me this past year. I have found the classes and quarterly seminars very interesting and useful and appreciate the opportunity of networking to gain more knowledge from my

peers.

On the home front—I am married and have one child—four-legged that is! If you ever need a laugh, I usually have good “Blue” stories. Blue is our 3-year old Weimaraner. He is a true delight and handful—a good trial run before we start a family of two-legged babies. I also enjoy gardening and have an ongoing list of redecorating and remodeling projects for our house that seems to go on forever—just ask my husband.”

## Fred Cirksena, SR/WA

Education Committee



Fred Cirksena has been an IRWA member for 15 years. Fred is Past President with Chapter 41, as well as past newsletter editor. Currently he is serving on the Education Committee.

He has been involved in Right of Way for 32 years. His current position with the Iowa Department of Transportation is as Automation Coordinator for the Office of Right of Way.

Fred has this to say regarding IRWA and the Chapter: “Over the years, I’ve enjoyed my involvement with IRWA. I continue to work in the right of way field but my focus has been on the use of computers. My involvement has decreased the past few years. Last year, though, I had the opportunity to complete the requirements for the SRWA so I went for it. Thank you all.”

Fred’s hobbies include riding motorcycle and “preparing for retirement from the DOT”.

*Editor’s note: Thank you Fred for coaching me on the “ins and outs of newsletter preparation”.*

## PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



**Rita Rasmussen**

Rita Rasmussen, was unanimously selected as Chapter 41's Professional of the Year at the September meeting. Rita has been an active IRWA member since 1993.

Following her Chapter Presidency in 2001, she now serves as an International Director, as well as Region 3's representative on the Local Public Agency Committee. She is also currently serving as a Co-Chair of the 2003 Annual Seminar Auction Committee.

Rita's past IRWA involvements have included 1998-1999 representative for the Young Leadership Council and Region Representative on the Transportation Committee.

Rita's professionalism, as well as her positive direction as President were some of the reasons for being nominated and selected as the Chapter's Professional of the Year.

Rita is employed by the City of Cedar Rapids as the Property Acquisition Supervisor.

The Region 3 Professional of the Year will be announced at the Spring Forum in Kansas City.

Congratulations Rita, and Good Luck!

As we approach 2003 I have several goals that, if they happen, I believe, will enhance our chapter's recognition and allow us to grow.

1. Increase our membership at least 15 percent. We can do this by continuing to offer interesting programs and field trips that appeal to potential members.
2. Provide the opportunities through class offerings and mentoring so that our chapter will have at least four *new SRWA's and three new IRWA Certifications*.
3. Annual budgets for our chapter that will enable us to better plan our quarterly meetings and long-range activities.
4. Establish a Chapter 41 website where we can post our newsletter, course dates and other items of interest to our current and potential membership.
5. A strong representation at the International Convention in Kansas City and specifically, our sponsorship of the educational auction.

Maybe this is a bit ambitious, but with involvement from the entire Chapter 41 membership it can become a reality. *"Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it"*.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the chapter for their support and with special thanks to the other officers and committee members. Each year we have a few committee vacancies and I hope members will consider volunteering, or.....participating, if asked. Feel free to contact me if you are interested.

Two last parting quotes:

*"A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour"*.

*"If you smile when no one else is around, you really mean it"*.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our December business meeting and banquet on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston.

## REGION 3 FALL FORUM

**BISMARCK, North Dakota**

**OCTOBER 11, 2002**

Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC,  
Region 3 Vice-Chair

- ?? Membership is now at 10,210; part of this large increase is the addition of the Japanese Affiliate
- ?? *Discussion of the Chapter's donating to the Educational Fund Golf Tournament held during the Annual Conference.* All Chapter's are being asked to discuss this well before the Spring Forum so they will be prepared to let the Region know if they will be contributing. The Region runs on a very tight budget and if a single Chapter decides last minute to not donate, it leaves us in the hole. It was discussed and noted that this is not about playing golf – it is about supporting the tournament that is a huge moneymaker for the Educational Foundation.
- ?? *Discussion on the "rotation" of Region Officers.* In the past it has always been rotated to Chapter's to nominate one of their members to be next in succession to Secretary-Treasurer for the Region and then to move up through the offices. It was decided, as is promoted by International, that any Chapter, at any time, may nominate one of their members to serve as any Region Officer. Usually, the succession through the steps will occur, but a hard working, committed member should not have to wait 6 – 8 years until it is their Chapter's term to put someone forward. At this time, Chapter's should be considering if they have someone they wish to put up for Regional Secretary-Treasurer or other Office to begin in June 2003.
- ?? In the same vein, it was discussed that Chapter Officers should NOT automatically move up; especially in cases where their available time or commitment to the organization has perhaps changed or is less that is desired to be effective as part of the Association Leadership.

Some Chapters are having their Nominations Committee actually interview the current and proposed slate of officers to determine if their commitment matches the goals of the Chapter. It was pointed out by some Chapters that they are very distressed at the folks who look upon being a Chapter officer as something to put on their resume or they are only willing to do it if there is no cost to their personal time or resources. All Chapters were encouraged to start looking more carefully at their slate of officers and making any needed changes.

Nominations are in for **REGION 3 PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**. All are very deserving candidates for this honor. A committee of Jack Borgmeyer, SR/WA, J. Patrick Cairns, SR/WA and myself will be reviewing these and the winner will be announced at the Spring Forum in April in Kansas City. The Candidates are:

CHAPTER 5	BRUCE REED, SR/WA
CHAPTER 20	SUE PARISEAU, SR/WA
CHAPTER 37	DARYL KNOBBE
CHAPTER 41	RITA RASMUSSEN
CHAPTER 72	ROBERT LARSON
CHAPTER 78	JUDI SORENSEN, SR/WA

The **Instructor's Clinic** will be held in Kansas City the weekend AFTER the Seminar. Applications are available on the IRWA Web site. Our Region can recommend one or two people to attend this course. You are responsible for your own tuition and expenses. We had a couple Chapter members interested last year but applications were incomplete and not on time. I do not keep your information from year to year, so if you are interested in being recommended for this course you must submit again. **Fully completed and timely applications must be to me by December 1, 2002 without exception.**

**Spring Forum** location yet to be announced. **As many as possible who plan to work the auction should try to attend this meeting and get a "sneak preview" of the Annual Conference location etc.** I hope to have the location information by our December meeting.

Phone: 515-239-1359 FAX 515-239-1247  
Email: [nancy.halvorson@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:nancy.halvorson@dot.state.ia.us)

## Featured Columnist

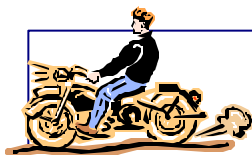


### Negotiation Tip

Edward Opstein, SR/WA, MPA

Getting a person to move their position on an issue is related to the combination of issue-relevant fact and the personal-relevant value that you provide to them. The facts of a situation are not perceived in objective terms. They all contain emotional value. Try to get in touch with the facts from the other person's value perspective and you will be better able to communicate with that person and provide to them the information that is an incentive to positive action. Ask open ended questions to learn their needs and values, first. Then, give valued information. Good luck!

## Congratulations...



### RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

*Bill Stoner*

*Retired from the Iowa DOT  
on August 15, 2002 after 40 years!!!*

***Congratulations, Bill!!!***

*(Don't be a stranger!)*



### CONGRATULATIONS

*\$50 Door Prize Winner*

*September Meeting*

***Ken Boatright***

## How May We Help You?

-- Education Committee



The Education Committee's aim is to assist you in obtaining your Educational Goals...in order for us to do that your input is imperative.

We are interested in which Courses you need to obtain your SR/WA designation or your Certification, or which ones would be most helpful to you.

- ?? **Are you interested in attending either the SRWA Review or Course 100? Where would your preference be for a location for either course to be held?**
- ?? **What other courses are you most in need of for your personal, as well as professional goals?**

Please let Education Co-Chair, Amy Walter know what courses you need by emailing her at [awalter@snyder-associates.com](mailto:awalter@snyder-associates.com) or calling her at 515-964-2020, Ext. 2676 by **November 15, 2002**.

All courses and descriptions are listed at the IRWA site at: [www.irwaonline.org/education/course](http://www.irwaonline.org/education/course) or in the "IRWA Right of Way Magazine.

Our Educational Offerings can only be beneficial to you if we know what courses you are interested in attending...Your assistance and prompt response is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Amy, Jana, Fred and Nancy



**Welcome!**

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Chair Timothy Greenwood

#### NEW MEMBERS

Mary Beth Kiner, Iowa DOT

#### TRANSFERRED MEMBER

Welcome--

We look forward to your membership.

## International Right of Way Association

### "Spirit of the Heartland" - Iowa Chapter 41



Minutes of Business Meeting – September 12, 2002

AmericInn Motel and Suites – Ames, Iowa

President Bernie Banker called the meeting to order at 3:34pm. Nineteen members were in attendance.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the June business meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ed Opstein. Motion seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report indicated a total net balance of \$22,817.61. A motion to approve the report was made by Sue Albright. Motion seconded and approved.

### **Committee Reports**

Newsletter Committee: Thanks to Shelly Whiteing for another great newsletter this quarter! If you have not been receiving the newsletter via email, call Shelly to confirm that she has the correct address for you.

Asset Management Committee: Bernie shared an email from Judy Sorensen recapping the semi-annual meeting of the International Asset Management Committee (IAMC). The Committee is planning a few presentations for the 2003 Education Conference in Kansas City, with subject matter covering disposition of surplus properties, policies unique to public agencies, redevelopment of Omaha and Kansas City stockyard sites, and a field trip to tour an underground storage cavern.

Membership Committee: IRWA's website ([www.irwaonline.org](http://www.irwaonline.org)) continues to evolve into a more useful tool for members. Members may want to visit the site to confirm the information in their individual member profile, or to view a history of the IRWA courses they have taken.

Education Committee: We are sponsoring Course 505 (Advanced Relocation Assistance I) and Course 504 (Computing Replacement Housing Payments) scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Des Moines. Rita Rasmussen is coordinating Course 800 (Principles of Real Estate Law), which is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> in Ames.

Program Committee: Ideas were bantered regarding topics, formats, and locations of upcoming chapter business meetings. If you have ideas, please share them with Jim Deimer or Patti Simons.

### **Old Business**

2003 International Education Conference in Kansas City: Planning for the auction continues. We should be finding about our auction budget and other details soon. Many volunteers from our chapter will be needed to help with the auction.

The following motion was made by Nancy Halvorson: For any Chapter 41 member that agrees to attend the 2003 Educational Conference in Kansas City and assist with the auction, the chapter will pay the "early" registration fee for that member, and also provide a shirt. Motion seconded and approved.

Slate of Officers for 2003: The slate of chapter officers for the upcoming year was published in the August edition of our chapter newsletter. A motion was made by Nancy to approve the slate as published. Motion seconded and approved.

Our chapter officers for 2003 are:

President: Bernie Banker  
President-Elect: Shelly Whiteing  
Vice-President: Dan Shiflett  
Secretary: Joe Anderson  
Treasurer: Steve Chapman  
Director (1-year): Rita Rasmussen  
Director (2-year): Bernie Banker

Two-Year Terms for Chapter Officers: A resolution to amend chapter by-laws, for the purpose of allowing chapter officers to serve two-year terms instead of one-year terms, was distributed and discussed. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Gerry Kennedy. Motion seconded and approved.

Recognition of Members Earning Designations: There was further discussion about purchasing plaques to recognize our members that earn professional designations from IRWA. Nancy volunteered to explore options and report back to the chapter.

Recognition/Gift for Guest Speakers: Several options are being considered.

**New Business**

Executive Vice-President's (EVP) Report: The Annual Education Seminar has been renamed. It will now be known as the Annual Education Conference. Bernie shared several other tidbits from the EVP report.

Chapter Nickname: "Spirit of the Heartland" will be the official nickname of our chapter, as chosen by a vote of the members attending today's meeting. The winning idea, and therefore the \$100 prize, belongs to Shelly Whiteing.

Chapter Professional of the Year: Rita Rasmussen was the unanimous choice as our chapter's Professional of the Year. Congratulations, Rita!


December meeting and annual banquet: Ideas were bantered for the next quarterly meeting and annual banquet. Jim and Patti are working out the details.

Ken Boatwright 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 \$1000 Grand Prize and the "free membership" Second Prize at the banquet in December.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Anderson  
Chapter 41 Secretary

	<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>	
	Treasurer Steve Chapman, SR/WA	
<b><u>Fourth Quarter Report</u></b>		
Income	\$	1,327.39
Expenses		<u>1,890.97</u>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>(\$ 563.58)</b>
Current Cash Balance	\$25,593.34	
Long Term Obligations	<u>2,850.00</u>	
<b>Net Balance</b>		<b>\$22,698.34</b>

# DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

*Stoney Creek Inn and Convention Center, Johnston*

*(Green Acres Room)*



**Saturday, December 14, 2002**

*2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Business Meeting*

*4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Happy Hour*

*6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner \* (\$10/per person)*

*\*Installation of Officers will follow dinner*

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*\$5-10 Gift Exchange*

*If each person attending (spouses and guest included) brings one gift no one will go home "empty handed".*

*If you do not wish to participate in the exchange we won't put your name in the "hat".*

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**Reservations REQUIRED** - Please RSVP by Thursday November 21

Jim Diemer [JPDiemer@midamerican.com](mailto:JPDiemer@midamerican.com) or Patti Simons [patricia.simons@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:patricia.simons@dot.state.ia.us)



## Stoney Creek Inn

I-80 & I-35, Johnston

**\*For Reservations...  
515-334-9000**

**Mention "IRWA"  
for \$67.00 Rate.**

## CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

### Officers for 2002

#### Chapter 41

*PRESIDENT:* Bernard B. Banker, SR/WA  
[bernard.banker@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:bernard.banker@dot.state.ia.us)

*PRESIDENT-ELECT:* Shelly J. Whiteing, SR/WA  
[shelly.whiteing@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:shelly.whiteing@dot.state.ia.us)

*VICE-PRESIDENT:* Dan Shiflett  
[dans@cbpower.com](mailto:dans@cbpower.com)

*SECRETARY:* Joe Anderson  
[joe.anderson@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:joe.anderson@dot.state.ia.us)

*TREASURER:* Steve Chapman, SR/WA  
[steven.chapman@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:steven.chapman@dot.state.ia.us)

Newsletter Editor: Shelly J. Whiteing, SR/WA, R/W-RAC  
[shelly.whiteing@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:shelly.whiteing@dot.state.ia.us), 515.239.1753

#### Contributing Columnists:

Edward Opstein, SR/WA, [www.negotiationguy.com](http://www.negotiationguy.com), 515.282.8838

Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, R/W, RAC, Region 3 Vice-Chair  
[Nancy.halvorson@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:Nancy.halvorson@dot.state.ia.us), 515.239.1675

#### DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE

**January 15, 2003**

Your articles and/or suggestions are always welcomed.

### CHAPTER 41

## COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT DAHLGREN, SR/WA, CHAIR

GERALD KENNEDY, SR/WA

SHELLY WHITEING, SR/WA

PROGRAM PATTI SIMONS, CO-CHAIR

JIM DIEMER, CO-CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP TIM GREENWOOD

EDUCATION JANA JONES, CO-CHAIR

AMY WALTER, CO-CHAIR

DON CORRIGAN

FRED CIRKSENA, SR/WA

NANCY HALVORSON, SR/WA

#### NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS

ED OPSTEIN, SR/WA

ROBERT DAHLGREN, SR/WA

#### ASSET MANAGEMENT

JIM WILLS

#### LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY

RITA RASMUSSEN

RELOCATION SHELLY WHITEING, SR/WA (AT LARGE)

VALUATION JOE ANDERSON

DEANE DAVENPORT

#### TRANSPORTATION

SURVEY DAN SHIFLETT

UTILITIES DAVE HINGTGEN

#### YOUNG LEADERSHIP

DAN SHIFLETT

LINDA POOL

NEWSLETTER SHELLY WHITEING, SR/WA

DIRECTORS DAN SHIFLETT, ONE YEAR

RITA RASMUSSEN, TWO YEAR