

## THE INTERNATIONAL UTILITIES COMMITTEE



David Hingtgen, Chair of the International Utilities Committee receives recognition from Past President Dan Beardsly, SR/WA, at the 2006 Annual Education Conference in Denver, CO.

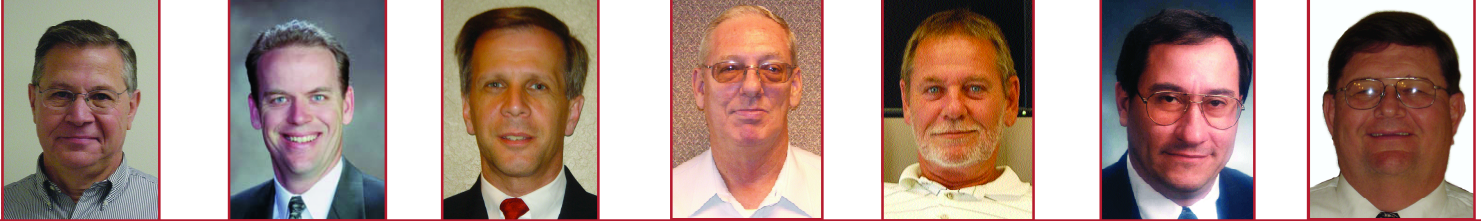
Since our inception as a non-profit association in 1934, the International Right of Way Association (IRWA) has united the efforts of its members and fostered excellence in professional development. We attribute our Association's history of success to the many selfless volunteers that comprise the IRWA chapters, regions and committees. Representing every right of way sector throughout the United States and Canada, these dedicated professionals have devoted countless hours to advancing IRWA's core purpose: to be the worldwide leader in education and professional development.

"The greatest benefits ... are the relationships and contacts that I have made over the years at both a local and national level."

The International Utilities Committee (IUC) covers a lot of ground. From energy and power companies to municipalities and right of way consultants— even at first glance, it is obvious their committee membership epitomizes professional diversity.

As Chair of the International Utilities Committee, David Hingtgen expresses a sincere desire to serve the diverse informational needs of our members. The committee members are eager and willing to share their knowledge and experience and hope to develop new IRWA courses over the coming year.

**BY BARBARA BILLITZER**



Committee Members: Dave Hingtgen, Clark Andrew, SR/WA; Kevin Angel, MAI; Mike Burns, SR/WA; Bill Childress, SR/WA; Randy DeGeorge, SR/WA; and Larry Griffin, SR/WA

### How would you describe your committee's overall mission?

**Dave:** The mission of the International Utilities Committee (IUC) is to provide advice and assistance to the Association on matters related to the acquisition, use, management and disposal of rights of way for the utility industry. This encompasses a diverse mix of utilities, including gas, electric, steam, cable TV, broadband, telecommunications (land line and wireless), data, water, wastewater and drainage.

It is also our responsibility to monitor new legislation or changes in existing legislation, court decisions, statutory and/or regulatory changes, methods or practices pertaining to any matters affecting utility rights of way.

### What are the major responsibilities of your committee?

**Dave:** We report on general and specific problems relating to the use, or multi-use, of rights of way by public and/or private facilities together with special attention to areas of coordination, cooperation and advanced planning in the effective use of rights of way for utilities.

### What are some of your current activities?

**Dave:** Several years ago, the IRWA International Executive Committee (IEC) decided to merge the Wireless Committee with the Utilities Committee. The committee is currently addressing the impact of this decision, membership and issues that need to be tackled. For the past two years, the committee has attempted to develop a right of way fundamentals course for those right of way professionals working in the utility industry.

As an offshoot of this effort, the committee has developed a program on the benefits of Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE). Pending funding approval, this could become an IRWA course. In addition to developing programs for the IRWA Annual Education Conference, we are also evaluating our current committee membership and structure. The committee is dedicated to having active regional representatives and at-large members who participate in all committee initiatives. Once this is accomplished, we will focus on committee structure. In addition, we have also developed numerous articles for this magazine.

### What is your most recent accomplishment?

**Dave:** We are constantly looking to improve our committee. Most recently, we developed a formalized document outlining the committee's roles and responsibilities. We feel confident that this will assist us in building a strong foundation, which in turn will help us better serve utilities professionals.

### What are some major obstacles you face?

**Dave:** The greatest obstacle we face is getting active and involved members. Committee leadership has and will continue to develop goals and objectives, but without dedicated members, these goals cannot be achieved.

### What made you originally decide to join this committee?

**Dave:** I have been involved in the utility industry for over 30 years. I felt I had significant knowledge and experience in utility right of way that I could contribute to IRWA and its members. Additionally, it has always been my experience that volunteering is a two way street. The rewards of my committee involvement have been immeasurable.



Cheryl Lee, SR/WA; Bruce MacFarlane; Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA; Patti Morris; J.E. Parker; Fred Rasmussen, SR/WA; and Ana Rausch, SR/WA

### How would you describe your committee membership?

**Dave:** The IUC has a great team of members. A number of these individuals make significant contributions to the committee on a continual basis. One of the committee's goals has been to strengthen our membership. In the past year, we have made great strides in this area with the addition of a number of dedicated at-large members and several new regional representatives.

### What would you say is your committee's greatest strength?

**Dave:** I would say it is our committee's dedication to furthering the understanding of the utilities industry among IRWA members. The committee devotes a significant amount of time to organizing and presenting relevant educational sessions at the Annual Education Conference. Additionally, the IUC members share their knowledge and experience through magazine articles and meetings where the discussions are centered on project challenges and solutions.

### How does your employer feel about your committee involvement?

**Dave:** My employer is very supportive of my involvement and sees this as an opportunity to assist the Association and its members while benefiting from the numerous contacts and relationships that we develop. It is a "win-win" situation.

### What have you gained from your participation?

**Dave:** The greatest benefits that I have received from my participation on the committee are the relationships and contacts that I have made over the years at both a local and national level. I have profited from these affiliations on both a personal and professional level.

### How many members do you have?

**Dave:** The committee currently has 28 members comprised of regional representatives and at-large members and an IEC representative.

### What goals do you have for the immediate future?

**Dave:** Our goals are centered around providing support to IRWA and the membership. They include:

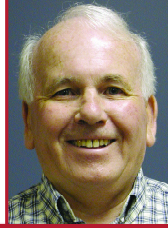
- Completing efforts to strengthen membership
- Developing an effective committee structure
- Creating an effective and informative committee website
- Developing utility industry courses
- Providing informative and stimulating sessions at the Annual Education Conference
- Ensuring the wireless industry within IRWA is effectively served by the IUC
- Strengthening committee communication both internally and with other IRWA committees

### How often do you meet?

**Dave:** We typically meet three times each year. Beginning in February 2007, we will hold one of our meetings in conjunction with IRWA's Public Real Estate Education Symposium to be held in Dallas, TX. We also meet during the IRWA Annual Education Conference every June and hold our final meeting during September in Chicago.

### How would someone interested get involved in this committee?

**Dave:** I encourage anyone interested in getting involved to contact me at [dthingtgen@glaa.com](mailto:dthingtgen@glaa.com). Let me know whether you are interested in being a regional representative or an at-large member. We will send you a committee membership application, which is reviewed and acted on by the committee and the Region Chair.



Faith Roland, SR/WA, Paul Scott; Linda Streissguth, SR/WA; Derek Stuart, SR/WA; Mike Williams; Dave Whitlock, SR/WA; and Kevin Winner, SR/WA

## International Utilities Committee Members:

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