

55th Annual International Education Conference

IRWA Commemorates 75th Anniversary at Indy's Education Speedway

Indianapolis was an ideal setting for celebrating IRWA's 75th Anniversary at the 55th Annual International Education Conference. Held on June 28-July 1, 2009, the conference attracted more than 850 right of way professionals from around the globe - from the U.S. and Canada, to as far away as the United Kingdom, Japan, Uganda and Thailand.

Hosted by Indiana Chapter 10, the "Education Speedway" theme permeated the four-day educational event. With more than 55 right of way sessions offered, this annual conference was packed with educational and networking opportunities.

IRWA International President Faith A. Roland, SR/WA took great pride in recognizing the Association's milestone 75th anniversary and emphasized how our ability to treat people fairly in the process of purchasing land has continued to set us apart. "Our foundations have enabled us to continue improvements in educational offerings and keep up with important changes needed. Every year, we continue to implement another initiative that evolved from the Education Summit strategies. We continue to raise the bar in every area. A task force has been charged with looking at career pathways, and we are in the midst of launching a new URA certification program. As we continue to raise awareness of our professionalism, quality and enhancement, we recognize that success breeds success. We thank the foundations for their never-ending commitment - over \$1 million allocated to improve our educational offerings in the last three years. Our new passion will be to grow future leaders, and we're currently developing a new leadership program. The initial Young Leadership program launched by Allen Albert was a great concept, and we're now expanding on it. Educational programs are in high demand, and we are never satisfied with maintaining the status quo."



Executive Vice President, Mark A. Rieck reported on the state of the Association.



Keynote speaker, Frank Abagnale told the heartfelt true story behind the blockbuster movie, "Catch Me if You Can." From left, Gene Land, SR/WA, Wife Camille Benson, Frank Abagnale and Tom Benson, SR/WA.



Representatives from Korea attended the milestone event.

Photography by Carl Krockenberger and Peter Stamenov



IRWA Executive Vice President, Mark Rieck reported on state of the Association and outlined some of the initiatives slated for later in the year. “IRWA is growing, financially solid and more relevant than ever. We have more than six months of operating reserve. Our credentialing programs continue to be strong with 2,000 members holding the SR/WA and 700 with Right of Way Certifications. The Association has become more collaborative with regions and chapters in this past year, and they have hit 100% of the goals established. The IEC has continued to challenge the region chairs to take on more responsibility, and they have risen to the occasion. Much has taken place over the past year, including the celebration of our 75th anniversary. In the future, members can look forward to seeing a new ad campaign, as well as further review of course content, a new leadership institute and stronger involvement in the industry. This summer, IRWA will launch a Facebook page designed to facilitate more online exchange between members. In the future, a downloadable identity kit will be available, designed to make marketing easier at the local level.”



Conference Co-Chairs, John S. Alexander, SR/WA and Cynde Barker, SR/WA and countless volunteers from Chapter 10 “Crossroads of America” hosted the memorable event.



IRWA International President Faith A. Roland, SR/WA recognized the Association’s milestone 75th anniversary.



The Opening Ceremony included a traditional flag presentation.

AWARDS



Each year, the International Nominations and Elections Committee oversees the selection of the Association's annual award winners. Announced at the Annual Awards luncheon on June 29th, INEC Chair Pat Thayer, SR/WA, recognized the award recipients for their commitment and dedication to IRWA and the right of way profession.

NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR

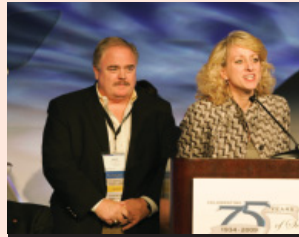


Ron Barker, SR/WA received the Newsletter Award for a chapter with more than 100 members, for his work as Editor on Indiana "Crossroads of America."



The Newsletter Award for a chapter with less than 100 members went to Editor Sharen Willis, SR/WA and Mississippi's "Magnolia Tribute."

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR



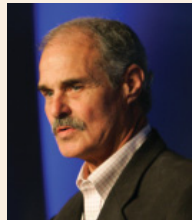
Contract Land Staff, LLC Chairman and COO Brent Leftwich and President and CEO Laurie Markoe, SR/WA, accepted the Employer of the Year Award for companies with more than 20 employees.



Employer of the Year Award for a company with less than 20 employees was accepted by Robert Krava, Otter Tail Power Company's Manager of Asset Management Support.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

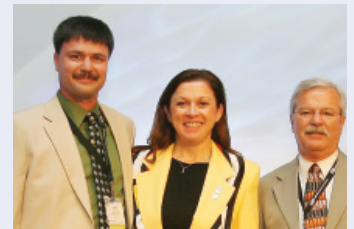
San Diego Chapter 11 President James Anthony, SR/WA accepted this award for the chapter with more than 100 members.



The award for a chapter with less than 100 members was accepted by Mississippi's Magnolia Chapter 6 Director and Newsletter Editor Sharen Willis, SR/WA.

GENE L. LAND AWARD

Chapter 72 President Donald Hellman and Past President Mike Murray, SR/WA accepted the Gene L. Land Award for highest percentage gain in members on behalf of the Dakotas Chapter.



Chapter President Laurie Markoe was honored to accept the Gene L. Land Award for highest numerical gain for Chapter 8 of Houston/McAllen, Texas.



BALFOUR AWARD FINALISTS

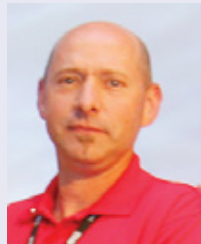
The Frank C. Balfour Award, named for IRWA's founder, honors professionals who have demonstrated exemplary support of the Association during the past year. Nominated by IRWA's local chapters, candidates are submitted to the INEC for consideration, and six finalists are selected. The INEC appoints the winner based on outstanding contributions made through leadership positions in the Chapter, Regional and International levels; fulfillment of educational courses and activities; participation in Association regional and international activities; and achievement of IRWA professional designations.



Jeffrey L. Jones, SR/WA,
R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
Chapter 7, Region 5



Donald J. Sherwood,
MAI, SR/WA, FRICS
Chapter 36, Region 2



Kevin M. Stout,
SR/WA, R/W-NAC
Chapter 33, Region 2



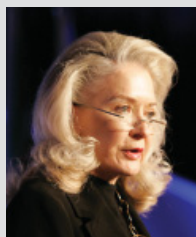
MARK A. GREEN AWARD

Alan C. Morganfield, SR/WA, PLS accepted the award for his article, "The Zigs and Zags of Legal Descriptions," which appeared in the January/February 2008 issue of Right of Way magazine. He wrote the article with the assistance of Charles Carpenter, Esq.

MEMBER APPRECIATION PROGRAM AWARD



Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA received this award for recruiting the most members for her local Michigan Chapter 7.



SARPA SCHOLARSHIP

This year's SARPA Scholarship was awarded to Mason Harry, a student at the Mays School of Business at Texas A&M University. Accepting the award on his behalf is Donna Harrison, SR/WA.

IN APPRECIATION

We are pleased to give special recognition and thanks to the sponsors of IRWA's 55th Annual International Education Conference. Please join us as we extend our sincere appreciation for their gracious and generous contributions.

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



GREEN





At the SR/WA Breakfast, held on Tuesday, June 30th, 31 IRWA members accepted their SR/WA certificates from William Kyle Ray, Chair of the International Professional Development Committee, and posed for photos with then-International President Faith Roland SR/WA. The breakfast featured a presentation by humorist Don McMillan, who delighted the crowd with his light-hearted take on the everyday perils of using PowerPoint and his jokes about IRWA. Faith Roland and Susan Sarandon: separated at birth? Who knew! SR/WA, IRWA, EIEIO!



GOLF

The lush green environs of Indianapolis provided the perfect setting for the beautiful day of golf enjoyed by the participants in the 13th Annual Golf Classic, held at the Eagle Creek Golf Club. This event, sponsored by the Right of Way International Education Foundation and the Canadian Right of Way Foundation raised funds to benefit the educational goals of right of way professionals across the globe.





AUCTION



The Annual Live and Silent Auctions are always entertaining and give conference attendees the opportunity to donate to the Education Foundations, while collecting valuable treasures from all across North America. All items are donated by Chapters, members, and Regions, and always reflect the rich regional and cultural elements that comprise IRWA. This year the auctions raised a significant sum, with all proceeds benefiting the Right of Way Education Foundations.



Photography by Sergey Yushkevich

FINNEGAN FUN RUN



Over a hundred people signed up for this year's Finnegan Fun Run, setting a record for this annual physical pursuit. This crack-of-dawn run is held on the last day of Conference, and this year the location was the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway. As they "raced" around the track, many participants enthusiastically commented that this was truly a "once in a lifetime" experience.



AFFILIATES

On Sunday, June 28th, IRWA hosted the International Affiliates Luncheon. Attending the annual event were representatives from Japan, the United Kingdom and Uganda. International President Faith Roland, SR/WA graciously expressed what a great honor it is to have the opportunity to share some of the challenges facing right of way professionals in our respective countries.



Mr. Yamiguchi of the Japanese Compensation Consultant's Association (JCCA) acknowledged IRWA's major milestone in achieving its 75th anniversary and extended his appreciation for the hospitality shown when their delegates visited the Torrance headquarters in 2008. The JCCA recently celebrated their 30th anniversary and were pleased to have the opportunity to promote their organization, define their membership mission and create a flexible way of thinking and perspective. He wished IRWA much prosperity, success and a continued long-term relationship.



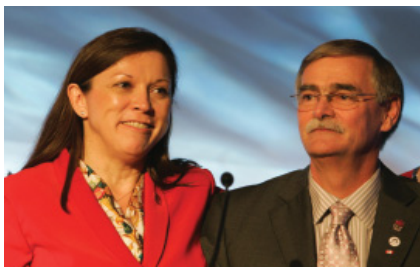
Attending their first conference were delegates from Uganda, who first learned of IRWA from the South African utility company, Eskom. Innocent Kihika from the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company outlined the challenges they face resulting from the old constitution where the land belonged to the people. In their country, 30% of project costs are in the acquisition of right of way. In the next five years, they project transmission lines will double, mainly because government recognizes the need to invest in infrastructure. They realize that the valuers, environmentalists, engineers and lawyers are dealing with many of the same issues as the U.S. and other countries, and believe we would all profit from learning from each other. They are planning a conference later in the year and hope to bring together all right of way disciplines and form their own association.



Colin Smith, FRICS from England's CB Richard Ellis represented the Compulsory Purchases Association (CPA). He noted that, while their organization has been in existence for seven years, they can trace the history of their profession back centuries, when compulsory purchases (known in the U.S. as eminent domain) were first recorded. He stressed the importance of collaborating, even though our terminology separates us. Their organization is comprised primarily of valuers/appraisers, and they have now have roughly 500 members. High-speed railway projects are now active in the UK, so there is an enormous amount of compulsory purchase activity. Proud to be in attendance, he stressed the importance of international cooperation and the ongoing exchange of ideas.



The 2009 Annual Board of Directors Meeting was held on Wednesday, July 1st with 168 voting directors in attendance. Faith Roland, SR/WA called the meeting to order and minutes from the 2008 board meeting were approved. Faith acknowledged the role of both the Right of Way Education Foundation (RWIEF) and the Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation (CRWEF) for their generous support, vision and commitment to IRWA educational initiatives.



The Board of Directors was tasked with two new resolutions to consider. The first, which would establish an IRWA Governing Council, was passed. The second amendment, regarding the Advisory Council lacked

the two-thirds vote required for acceptance. International Vice President/Treasurer Ken Davis, SR/WA gave a financial overview of the Association and announced the approval of the 2009-2010 budget. The INEC announced the slate of officers, including newest IEC member candidate, Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-RAC. The official slate was approved and Dick Melfi, who assumed the role of general council mid-term, agreed to serve for the next term. Randy Williams, SR/WA announced the election of region chairs and vice chairs as presented.



CRWEF President Terry Gamble, SR/WA acknowledged the 50th anniversary of Chapter 29 in Toronto and the CRWEF's 30th anniversary. He noted that their financial condition is strong and recognized the generous donations made by chapters, individuals and companies. They held their

Annual General Meeting on June 28th and ratified decisions made over the past year, including the approval of a new scholarship for high school grads. Terry announced that he was turning over the reigns as President to Sharon Slauenwhite, who came forward to accept donations from the floor. Rick Schatz will become the Vice President and the Secretary/Treasurer is Stuart Anderson.



Hartford, Connecticut Chapter 23 will host the 2014 Annual Conference. Inviting members to attend the educational event, Doug Hummel, SR/WA impersonated Mark Twain, who lived in Hartford from 1874-1891.

RWIEF President David Sinclair, SR/WA introduced the RWIEF trustees for the next fiscal year, provided a financial recap and thanked everyone for their continued support of the golf tournament and annual auction.



Outgoing Treasurer Joe Neighbors, SR/WA accepted checks from chapters, companies and individuals from the floor. It was announced that Clyde Johnson, SR/WA would assume the role of RWIEF Treasurer, and Joe was acknowledged for his many years of service as treasurer and his steady hand in managing the foundation's finances. Dave also announced plans to launch a new website, along with paypal to make it easier to accept donations.

It was also announced that the foundation recently approved IRWA's request to fund development of additional online courses.



Cynde Barker, SR/WA gave an official conference report, noting that 880 total registrants were in attendance. Rupert Bonham of Rupert's Kids accepted the donations of books and gift cards totaling \$14,900 and thanked the Association for its generosity. For 20 years, Rupert's Kids have helped troubled youth by providing mentoring, changing expectations, sharing knowledge, teaching skills and enhancing self esteem.



AMERICAN CONGRESS ON SURVEYING AND MAPPING



Curt Summer

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF APPRAISERS



Robert Schegel and Peter Campbell

APPRAISAL INSTITUTE



Cameron Scholtes and Allan Dickens

BURNS & MCDONNELL ENGINEERING



Bruce Reed and Chuck Bell

BUSINESS TRAINING LIBRARY



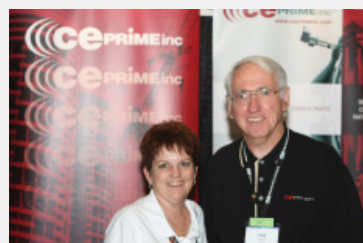
Angie Stevens

CALGARY PRAIRIE CHAPTER 48



Justian Wylie, SR/WA and Bill Giese, SR/WA

CE PRIME



Dana Abney, SR/WA and Fred Clark, SR/WA

CANADIAN RIGHT OF WAY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Orest Rojik, SR/WA; Karen Carswell, SR/WA; Sharon Slauenwhite, SR/WA and Brenda Becker, SR/WA

COATES FIELD SERVICES, INC.



John Coates and Joe Coates

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER 23



Doug Hummel, SR/WA; Stu Clark and Gordon Gibson, SR/WA

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HDR/PHAROS



Linda Wallard and Patti Bell



INTEGRA REALTY RESOURCES



Donnie Sherwood, SR/WA; Mike Lady; Lisa Spees, SR/WA and Randy Williams, SR/WA

INTERNATIONAL NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE



Charles Anderson, SR/WA; Patricia Thayer, SR/WA and Terry Gamble, SR/WA

INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION



Sergey Yushkevich; Nathan Cruzado; Jade Yoong; Valerie Fries; Barbara Billitzer; Kate Shirley; Nikki Adams and Daniel Stekol

LANDWORKS, INC.



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O.R. COLAN ASSOCIATES, INC.



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PARAGON PARTNERS LTD.



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PERCHERON ACQUISITIONS



Alan Wurtz, SR/WA; Kristen Mayfield; Chris Dinkler and Trent Oglesby

RIGHT OF WAY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Joe Neighbors, SR/WA; Clyde Johnson, SR/WA; Bernard Lea, SR/WA; Mike Pattison, SR/WA; Carol Croft, SR/WA; David Sinclair, SR/WA and Bruce Reed, SR/WA

SMART DATA STRATEGIES



John Hume and Matt Smith

STANLEY MCDONALD AGENCY



Sara Wroblewski and Paul Gurtler

TRANSYSTEMS



Bill Pixley; Jim Fisher and Bob Campbell

WATSON, STEVENS, RUTTER & ROY, LLP



Christine Roy and Mark Stevens

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International Professional Development Committee



Local Public Agency



Nominations & Elections



Pipeline



Relocation



Surveying & Engineering



Transportation



Utilities



Valuation



COUNCILS

Advisory Council



Right of Way Consultants Council





Each year IRWA endeavors to present the most up to date and informative sessions to all Conference attendees, regardless of their specialty in right of way, and this year was no exception. Over 50 course offerings covered topics such as green building requirements and wind energy to tips on how to read faces, be an expert witness and advice for up and coming leaders in the profession, as well as much, much more. The volunteer speakers who donate their time continue to demonstrate why IRWA has been the leader in educational opportunities for right of way professionals for 75 years.





Jeffrey L. Jones, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC was named the 2008 Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year, the Association's highest honor bestowed upon an IRWA member. Jeff is the Right of Way Supervisor for the Road Commission for Oakland County in Waterford, MI, where he has been employed since 1978. Jeff currently serves as Chair of IRWA's International Local Public Agency and is actively involved in region and chapter leadership roles.

"It is truly an honor to have been chosen as this year's recipient of the Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award. While this honor is given to an individual, it takes more than individual effort to make it happen. This award reflects the many people who have given so generously through their leadership, guidance and assistance. I am blessed to be part of an Association with such knowledgeable and dedicated members. It's the efforts of these members who have made IRWA the leader in the right of way profession."



The 2009-2010 International Executive Committee: Mark A. Rieck, Patricia Petitto, SR/WA, Randy Williams, SR/WA, Sandy Grigg, SR/WA, Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, Kenneth Davis, SR/WA and Dick Melfi (not pictured).



Faith Roland, SR/WA receives her Past President's pin and a congratulatory hug from husband Rich.



Region 7 gathered for a celebratory toast before the Installation Banquet.



The conference festivities concluded with the Installation Banquet, held on Wednesday, July 1st. Assuming the role of IRWA International President for the 2009-2010 term, Sandy Grigg, SR/WA graciously accepted the leadership baton.

Sandy is a right of way consultant specializing in public sector real estate and related management services in Scarborough, Ontario Canada. He previously worked for Ontario Power Generation, formerly Ontario Hydro, for over 30 years. His background includes the full spectrum of real estate activities, including appraisal, acquisition, property and asset management, disposal, leasing, environmental, project planning and management. He also has expertise in the areas of alternative dispute resolution, First Nations negotiations, utility, municipal and provincial infrastructure projects.

"Looking forward, we will continue to stay focused on our current initiatives: governance, education, leadership development, partnering and professionalism. As we evaluate our committees and focus on horizontal integration, we will intensify our leadership investment, including modules for chapters and regions so that we can all become better leaders. We will continue our partnering strategy and expect the world coming to us, as we are considered the experts in how to partner with others."



Receiving his President's pin, Sandy Grigg share the spotlight with his wife and best friend, Susan.



2010 conference hosts, Troy Dashkewych and Justian Wylie, SR/WA, R/W-AMC, invite members to attend next year's educational event in Calgary.



Faith Roland receives an honorary plaque from Sandy Grigg for her dedicated service to the Association.



Incoming Region Chairs, Vice Chairs and the International Executive Committee for 2009-2010 are sworn in by past President, James H. Finnegan, SR/WA.

Region 1



Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada

Region 2



Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

Region 3



Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota

Region 4



Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island

Region 5



Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Region 6



Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Region 7



Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

Region 8



Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Prince Edward Island

Region 9



Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

Region 10



Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Saskatchewan

