



INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

**Executive Vice President Report to the Board of Directors
Submitted by Mark Rieck
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Since joining the Association in February of this year, I have been fascinated by the right of way industry, its people, our programs and future plans. I have immersed myself in the business of supporting your organization and am pleased to share the following Association accomplishments:

Membership: As of May 30 of this year, we have 8,264 paid U.S. and Canadian members, an increase of 8% over the same time last year. Of the 7,083 records for which we have gender information, 4,878 (69%) are male and 2,205 (31%) are female. In addition, our affiliate membership is now 1,274 for the Japanese Compensation Consultant Association and 68 for the South African Right of Way Association.

A strong effort has been made to give chapters easier access to their information with a number of enhancements to the membership section of our website. The most important enhancement is that chapter membership count is now available online and we will soon have the capability to view and print online chapter membership rosters, with contact information. Other enhancements include a pending member list that is now available online for review by chapter membership chairs and an electronic membership application that is also available online and transmittable via email. We are enhancing membership directory search options and have made the dues renewal payment process available online - all enhancements that were designed to give members more control of their data and make it easier to manage and update member information.

Education: As of April 30 of this year, we have held 335 courses, compared to 287 during the same period last year, with an average class size of 18.9, compared to 18.6 in 2007. All 53 of our existing IRWA courses have been revamped for consistency and include a standardized format that emphasizes adult learning concepts. In April, we launched an online catalog of 60 continuing education programs, 43 of which offer recertification credits. We will debut our first revamped IRWA online course, *Course 103 The Ethics and the Right of Way Profession* at Conference this year and plan to offer up to six more courses by the end of fiscal year 2008 - 2009.

Now that the course revamp project has been completed, the moratorium that was in place on new course development and course rewrites has been lifted. Many of our committees are prepared to recommend new courses, as well as courses that need

revision, to the IEC for approval. To keep pace with the evolving needs of our members, our goal is to start the process of developing more advanced courses to help them take their skills to an even higher level. All of these course advancements would not be possible without the generous support that we have received from the U.S. and Canadian Education Foundations.

Certifications and Designations: As of April 30, members who hold the SR/WA Designation total 2,136, compared to 2,019 in 2007, an increase of 117. We have received 109 Certification applications and 83 have already been awarded, an increase over last year's 78 for both applications and certifications awarded. We also appointed a task force to review the certification and designations that IRWA offers its members. This task force is chaired by Past President Alan Wurtz, SR/WA. In the near future, we will hear the final results and determinations that the task force will be recommending to the IEC and look forward to considering their work.

PRES: The IRWA's Public Real Estate Symposium held this year in Dallas, Texas, attracted more than 300 attendees. While it may not have been a success in financial terms, new inroads with our Federal partners promise to deliver more course participants and new course development in the future. In addition, I am delighted to share that the Appraisal Institute has agreed to co-sponsor our 2009 symposium in Las Vegas, sharing the cost of the meeting and adding great value to its content.

Annual Conference: This year's Annual Conference promises to be one of our best! As of May 30th, we have more than 1,000 people registered for the conference as well as 3,211 room nights committed in four separate hotels in downtown Austin. This year the IRWA will be offering one day at the Annual Conference for Appraiser recertification. The Appraisal Institute's Regional Directors will also be meeting at the same time as the IRWA in a separate hotel. Their plan is to register for our conference for both Sunday and Monday, so they can take advantage of the recertification credits offered for the Appraisal sessions IRWA has scheduled.

As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary throughout 2009, we will continue to build on the success of this year, making the International Right of Way Association even more accessible, more collaborative and more visible, both within our industry and externally, with the larger community of stakeholders we hope to attract.