Follow IRWA on Twitter:
@IRWA_Network
#rightofwaynews

New Pathways to the SR/WA

Creating competitive advantages

MARK RIECK, IRWA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

For the past three years, IRWA has been working to respond to the industries we serve with a well-defined pathway to the SR/WA Designation. And we have a plan!

In October, the International Governing Council approved three pathways for the Oil & Gas Pipeline, Transportation and Electric & Utilities communities, in addition to our Industry Generalist pathway for members who work across those industries.

With three new paths, each with a maximum of 256 education units, members can select which pathway works best to demonstrate their industry-specific expertise to the users of right of way services. Education requirements, work experience and capstone exams are being developed for release beginning in the spring of 2015.

Building a Strong Foundation

IRWA also offers two certifications that serve as a stepping stones toward the SR/WA Designation. The Right of Way Agent (RWA) program is the first step and provides members with a solid foundation for career development. The Right of Way Professional (RWP) program is designed to demonstrate industry knowledge and experience and has the strongest qualifying education requirements. The Senior Right of Way Member (SR/WA) Designation program is where you show employers your leadership experience as a right of way professional. Each pathway is now fully defined, taking the guesswork out of attaining your professional credential.

IRWA DESIGNATED MEMBER

Industry Committees and Communities of Practice are being engaged by the International Professional Development Committee to create a partnership for developing the exercises, test questions and capstone exams for each industry. This ensures that members can plan with certainty, knowing in advance which classes are required, how much they will cost and where they will be offered. The RWA and RWP programs can be challenged by members who meet the experience and education requirements, and IRWA is working on a credentialing module that will help you track your progress.

Unprecedented Member Value

Members with IRWA's industry-centric credentials will be able to market their qualifications with confidence, and the users of right of way services will recognize the caliber of employee they are getting — a strong member value that will set IRWA certified professionals apart from non-members. We are also developing a pilot project with Region 6 leadership to offer the courses required to achieve IRWA's new credentials without leaving the region, another value-added member benefit.

Credentialed IRWA members have a real advantage in the marketplace. Look for more updates as our program rolls out this calendar year. Onward! ✪