

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

On the path to becoming more outwardly focused

BY JERRY COLBURN, SR/WA, R/W-RAC



It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your International President during these exciting times. In the history of the world, change has never happened as fast as it's happening today. Because of this rapid pace, this new environment offers IRWA an opportunity to have more impact, more quickly than ever before. It is time to act, be bold and make a difference in the world—because we can.

When I tell people that I am involved in the IRWA, they always assume that I'm simply giving back to an organization that has given so much to me. But I'm not just giving back. I'm making a difference. Our purpose statement reads: "We improve the quality of people's lives through infrastructure development." This statement is the backbone of what we accomplish every day, and we are all truly a part of this initiative.

Putting Words Into Action

In order to further our purpose of improving lives, we need to make an impact on people outside of our Association. As your International President, I will be focused on creating a more outward facing organization. We will need to take deliberate actions to engage the outside world, and this effort will require tenacity and purpose.

In order to attract and engage outsiders, our vision needs to embody

a higher purpose that extends beyond our current boundaries. To accomplish this, we are now planning industry roundtables where thought leaders from our core industry segments, public agencies and the consultant community come together to discuss trends, topical issues and best practices. Right of Way Magazine will play a critical role in this endeavor, following these roundtables

Today's Millennials are getting older, buying houses, starting families and moving on with their lives and careers. Generation Z is now on the scene and like the Millennials, they are highly motivated as they pursue their own purpose and life goals. It's amazing to see the drive, commitment and passion that young professionals bring into the workplace on a daily basis. They

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and providing news, analysis, data and insight that keeps all of us updated on relevant industry issues. As this idea gathers momentum, the magazine can take a more active role in sponsoring events, summits and symposiums.

Engaging an Evolving Demographic

As an organization, we need to adapt to change so that we can remain relevant—not only by engaging industry leaders—but by attracting younger professionals who are just now coming into the workforce. How can we achieve this? By giving them opportunities for career growth and leadership opportunities.

are not just interested in a paycheck and a 401k. They also want to improve the quality of other people's lives. I encourage you to help them make a difference. Reach out and show them how this noble objective is possible within the IRWA. Be a friend. Become a mentor. Be inspirational.

As your President, it is my goal to increase the visibility of the IRWA, promote best practices, ensure that we offer training for those coming into our profession and continue to provide a learning experience for all of us. We all are here to make a difference—in our Association, the industries that we serve and in the lives of the people we touch. ✪