

IN GOOD HANDS

The YPG Region Chair reflects on a remarkable year

BY CARMELITA DELGADO, R/W-NAC, RWA

The Young Professionals Group (YPG) has been such a big part of my life and has meant so much to me. Each Young Professional has played a key role in this group and has influenced the YPG in one way or another. Our experience and moments within the YPG are what we will all reflect on as we continue to grow upward.

I recently asked the YPG why they want to be part of this group and why they want to be part of the IRWA. Several of them spoke up and passionately expressed how YPG is a "yes" group in which all their ideas can be heard. And most importantly, we all work together to make those ideas become reality.

This conversation helped me truly understand why we all continue to be part of this group, enduring trials and errors together. The YPG continues to have so much influence on the Young Professionals in the IRWA and being the YPG Region Chair has been such an honor. Together, we have experienced many challenges and accomplishments, which has brought us to where we are today. As Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Nothing in this world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty."

I could not be prouder of all the YPG Region Representatives and all the Young Professionals that have played an active role in these accomplishments.

This includes a continual YP voice in the Right of Way Magazine, the Mentor/Mentee Match Program, New Region YP Representation, as well as our YPG Webinar Training, YPG Scholarships and our new website.

As I move on in my career, I know that the YPG is left in great hands with Nikki Bestgen as the incoming Chair, Matthew Eckmann as the incoming Vice Chair and Derrick Roma as the incoming Secretary. I am extremely proud and thankful to all the Young Professionals who continue to make this group possible, and I would like to personally thank all the sponsors and mentors that support this group year after year. ☀

Carmelita, I know I speak for the entire group when I say thank for everything you have done, everything you have been through and everything you continue to do. Your ability to inspire, your unwavering dedication and your energy for change will leave giant shoes to fill. You will be missed but not forgotten—because we are still going to expect you to stay involved! Good luck in your next steps and we will do our very best to continue your efforts. Thank you!

-Nikki Bestgen
Incoming YPG Chair



Carmelita and Young Professionals at the YPG exhibit booth during IRWA's 2017 Annual Education Conference.



The YPG during the 2017 Leadership Reception.