



We are excited to announce that **Member Spotlight** is now published in *Right of Way Magazine*, IRWA's official publication. Previously published every month in our Leader's Edge eblast, this column recognizes the dedicated individuals who make up the IRWA by showcasing the talent and expertise they bring to the Association.

This is a wonderful place to introduce yourself or to celebrate a fellow member's contributions to our purpose of improving the quality of life through infrastructure development.

For more information or to submit a member for consideration, please contact Ethel Navales at [navales@irwaonline.org](mailto:navales@irwaonline.org).

## This month, we spotlight IRWA's Chapter 4 President, Dawn Fletcher

I have been an active IRWA member of Chapter 4 since 2013, and I was first elected to the Executive Board in 2015 as Treasurer. Since then, I have consecutively served on the Executive Board. In 2016, I was elected as Vice-President and in 2017, I was elected as President-Elect and International Director. Finally, in 2018, I was elected to serve as Chapter President. Next year, I have been asked to serve as a Region 7 representative on the Transportation Committee, and I am looking forward to continuing my involvement with IRWA.

My main goal as Chapter President was to increase communication to all Chapter members, and I feel I have done everything I can to accomplish this. Attendance at our Chapter meetings this year was noticeably higher. I have been doing a monthly President's message since July, which is sent to our 700+

email list and published on our Chapter 4 website. The purpose of the message is to inform our members about what is happening at all levels in the IRWA, including governance, budget, education, Conference, Region Forums, IEC/IGC meetings, International Directors meetings, etc. I feel it's my obligation as Chapter President to keep our members informed. I have taken each oath of office seriously and have done everything required to fulfil the duties as described to the best of my ability. Serving as a volunteer to our Association has been both challenging and rewarding. I am blessed to collaborate with a great Executive Board, Region



Leadership and Headquarters staff. It is truly a team effort and I would strongly encourage any member to step up and get involved.

I believe my participation in IRWA is paramount to the work I do in State government, and it has certainly provided an amazing amount of growth professionally. My employer has been very supportive and encouraged my participation on the Board. Likewise, I intend to encourage my co-workers to get involved, as I believe the connection is important.

Currently, I am a Right of Way Coordinator with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Local Programs Office. With over 30 years of experience in public service, I have managed governmental real property transactions for three different Washington State agencies.

After spending half of my career managing land for Natural Resources and State Parks, I decided to shift to the transportation sector in 2005, specializing in eminent domain acquisition, relocation, property management and project management for right of way. I currently work in the Right of Way Services Program, where my primary responsibility is to provide technical assistance, guidance, oversight and training regarding the provisions of the Uniform Act to local public agencies involved in federally funded transportation projects. I routinely coordinate with WSDOT staff to produce annual, state-wide training on technical and relevant right of way topics for local agencies and consultants, where I also serve as a panelist.



Additionally, I serve on the AASHTO Relocation Technical Council and I have taken part in a number of speaking engagements. Most recently, I presented a session on Sufficient Property Rights at the IRWA Chapter 3 IRWA Symposium in Portland, Oregon.

Outside of work, I'm a lifelong small-town girl from Rochester, Washington. I have been married for 34 years and we currently have two horses and one cat. I have a married son who is a transportation design engineer and father to a toddler boy. I now understand the complete joy of grandchildren. While my professional passion is right of way, my personal passion (other than my grandson) is barrel racing. I have been blessed to have horses my entire life, and I have had the good fortune to compete all of my adult life. Although I haven't competed professionally since 2014, I have high hopes that my young up-and-coming horse will be competitive at the professional rodeo level in the near future. ✪



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