

MOVING FORWARD

Addressing current issues and moving in a positive direction

BY JEFFREY JONES, SR/WA

When I concluded my presentation at the Closing Gala during IRWA's Annual Education Conference in Edmonton, I asked that we all work together for what is best for the International Right of Way Association. After a challenging beginning to the year, the International Governing Council (IGC) came together with the Region Vice Chairs to begin our work as a team.

Governance Task Force

With a number of new members on the IGC, we began with a closed session meeting—a gathering of just our elected officials to allow the IGC to openly discuss the issues that are being brought forward. The first and most important was the communication of the Governance Project. I want to apologize for any miscommunication and the perception that the discussion and participants were to remain private. That was in no way the intent of any of the meetings of the Governance Project. The participants and the discussion should have been communicated and that falls on me. I will own it and we will correct that.

We began that process at our September IGC meeting when, after much discussion, the IGC

unanimously passed the motion to pause the Governance Project and to postpone the vote that was on track to take place in Portland. The motion also created a Governance Task Force that will include one representative from each Region, the IEC as ex officio members and a Staff Liaison. IEC Vice President Sharon Slauenwhite, SR/WA, will lead the task force and I look forward to the outcome of their hard work.

IRWA Education

A second item that has come up as a concern is the Education Program. This also developed into a lengthy discussion. One of the topics discussed was whether or not we are committed to a learner centered program versus an instructor led program. Are we raising the bar? Another topic included users of our education services outside of the Association.

I'll say it right off the top—I am a firm believer in the learner centered program. I have been a Chapter Education Co-Chair and Course Coordinator since 2000 until I began on the IEC. I thoroughly enjoy the interaction provided in our newer classes. Having attended all of the CLIMB Instructor program presentations, I know that our



current instructors use the tools that are taught and contained in the Instructor Toolbox. They may not use all of them, but they use what is comfortable for them. I have sat in a few of the new classes and I can say the participants have embraced the learner centered class style as well.

To address the concerns that have been brought forward, the IGC will be creating an Education Task Force. The task force will look at the issues and bring their report back to the IGC. Region 9 Chair Fred Easton, SR/WA, will be leading the Education Task Force. Additionally, as we look at our credentialing, the IGC passed a motion to add Course 235 to the Canadian SR/WA pathway.

Taking the Right Steps

As we move forward from our rough start, I know the IGC is committed to move the International Right of Way Association in a positive direction. I would like to ask that you all work with us as we build a great IRWA. 🌟