

# Summing Up a Year of Innovative Change

IRWA's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual International Education Conference



Conference Co-Chairs Rich Allen and Doug Hummel, SR/WA kept the energy in the room high with their light-hearted interludes.



LoAnn Weight, SR/WA received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her many contributions to the Association.

**BY KATE SHIRLEY**

As Mark Twain wrote of Hartford, Connecticut, "Of all the beautiful towns it has been my fortune to see, this is the chief." And certainly, it served as an idyllic location for IRWA's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual International Education Conference. On behalf of Region 4 and Host Chapter 23, Conference Co-Chairs Rich Allen and Doug Hummel, SR/WA welcomed the more than 1,000 conference attendees, and encouraged them to take advantage of the educational sessions and global networking opportunities throughout the event.

After calling the Annual Meeting of the Members to order, International President Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC thanked her fellow International Executive Committee members as well as the International Governing Council for their efforts in realigning IRWA's International Committees and creating new discipline Communities of Practice. "With all of these groups working together, we are able to offer nearly 50 educational sessions on the industry's most pressing and timely topics," she said.

Lisa then presented IRWA's 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award to LoAnn Weight, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC, reflecting on their first encounter when LoAnn had just won the Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award, where upon congratulating her, "LoAnn grabbed my hand, looked me in the eyes and said that she had heard good things about me and that I had the potential to be President of the organization someday." LoAnn accepted the award, shared her thoughts with the audience and humbly thanked the Association for the kind recognition.

*Photography by Carl Krockenberger and Peter Stamenov*

## What a Year!

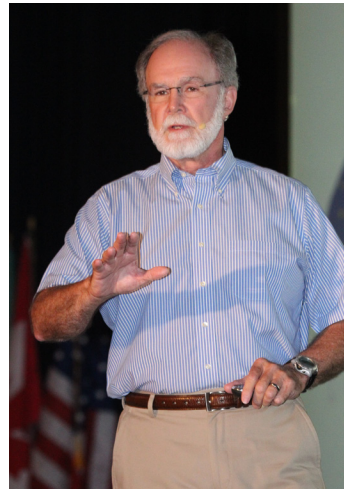
This was a year of significant change for IRWA, and the conference continued this momentum with a number of inventive modifications. In lieu of the traditional International President's speech and the State of the Association address from IRWA's Executive Vice President Mark Rieck, Lisa and Mark opened up the floor to questions. Attendees were given the opportunity to pose questions for clarification, allowing for an unprecedented one-on-one exchange between the members and the leadership. The topics ranged in scope from Headquarters directives regarding Chapter audits and concerns about dues increases, to requests for clarification on the global vision of IRWA's education program and the recent restructuring of the International Committees.

IRWA's expanding global presence was another major theme permeating the event. Altogether, there were attendees from 13 countries, the largest representation at conference to date. Now that two Chapters have been formed in Africa, the Association anticipates more countries to become interested in forming their own chapters in the coming year. In fact, following the international meetings at the conference, our Mexico partners just formed IRWA's new Chapter 85, based outside of Mexico City.

## Standing Room Only

In an effort to align our key industry segments with our core disciplines, this year's sessions were conceived in a truly collaborative fashion. Industry Committees came together with the Communities of Practice to create education offerings that were targeted to multiple industries and disciplines, creating a more holistic educational experience for all attendees. The sessions were segmented by the industry segments we serve – Electric and Utilities, Public Agencies, Oil and Gas Pipeline and Transportation – while maintaining focus on our industry disciplines. In addition, professional development sessions on a variety of subjects were offered, and speakers from outside North America gave presentations on a host of international topics. Judging from the number of standing-room only sessions, as well as the feedback from attendees, this year's educational slate helped move us toward the goal of strengthening IRWA's offerings.

The classrooms weren't the only bustling locations. The enthusiasm was palpable in the exhibit hall, drawing tremendous crowds of right of way professionals looking to network, mingle and participate in various interactive activities. With over 60 exhibit booths, attendees were able to connect with representatives from each company, while getting their Exhibit Hall Passports signed for a chance to win valuable prizes. And the Hartford Conference even set a new record for the largest number of sponsors, with 25 companies, organizations and chapters generously supporting the event.



Steve Uzzell told inspiring tales of his career as a world-renowned photographer, encouraging the use of creative problem solving to see what happens when spontaneity meets preparation.

International attendees recorded and photographed the opening ceremony to share with their colleagues and fellow members back home.



Session presenters kept participants engaged in the learning process – by whatever means necessary!



The Exhibit Hall is always a great place to make new contacts, while learning about the newest products and services.

The Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year finalists were given time to say a few words at the Opening Ceremony. From left, Lara Bailey, SR/WA, Leslie Finnigan, SR/WA, Janet Walker, SR/WA and Sharen Carnell Willis, SR/WA.





## AWARDS CEREMONY

International Nominations and Elections Committee Chair Kevin Paul, SR/WA recognized all this year's award nominees and winners, commenting, "All of us on the INEC feel that we have one of the best jobs because we are able to review your many contributions to this great organization. We also have one of the toughest jobs because so many of you are exceptional at what you do and volunteer so selflessly. I feel truly honored to observe all of your great IRWA work through the award application process. The awards given out today symbolize the very best of IRWA and the professionals in the right of way profession. Every recipient and finalist honored today should be proud of his or her accomplishments."



In acknowledging his decades of membership in the Association, Gene Land, SR/WA received a Lifetime Membership card.



This year's W. Howard Armstrong Instructor of the Year was Dan Beardsley, SR/WA.



Lauralee Harrison, SR/WA accepted the Government Employer of the Year on behalf of Alberta Infrastructure.



Accepting the award for Employer of the Year for companies with over 20 employees was Universal Field Services' Steve Benson, SR/WA and Leslie Finnigan, SR/WA.



Employer of the Year with less than 20 employees went to Commonwealth Associates. James Aiello, SR/WA and Paul Sander were on hand to accept the award.



The Awards Luncheon Master of Ceremonies duties were handled aptly by Conference Co-Chair Doug Hummel, SR/WA (near left) and his "man in the field," Conference Co-Chair Rich Allen (far left, standing). "Congratulations to all the finalists and winners this year. I would also like to specially acknowledge all the members of the International Nominations and Elections Committee who have done an exceptional job choosing this year's honorees. This year's award winners truly represent the pinnacle of service and dedication to the right of way profession," Doug noted.



In accepting the 2013 Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award from previous recipient William Busch, SR/WA, Janet Walker, SR/WA said, "I am honored and humbled to receive the International Right of Way Association's Balfour Award. The IRWA is noted for its incredible leadership and service to its members, the right of way profession and global communities. I am thrilled to be recognized by my peers, and I thank you."



Newsletter of the Year and Website of the Year both went to San Francisco Bay Area Chapter 2. Chapter Education Chair Lisa Hiddleston, SR/WA accepted both awards.



Chapter of the Year went to Michigan Chapter 7. Accepting the award was Region 5 Chair Jeff Jones, SR/WA and Steve Roon, SR/WA.



Young Professional of the Year was Chapter 7 member Laura Stensland, SR/WA.



Highest numerical gain in members went to North/South Carolina Chapter 31. Accepting the Gene L. Land Award was Chapter Director John Yeagley.



Past International President Ken Davis, SR/WA was on hand to accept the Gene L. Land Award for highest percentage gain in members for Pittsburgh Chapter 55.



This year's SARPA Scholarship was given to MBA student Sarah Earls and the CRWEF Scholarship to Engineering student Christopher Sweeney.



Dawn Haecker from the Indiana Department of Transportation was on hand to accept the 2013 Project of the Year Award for INDOT's Louisville-Southern Indiana Bridges Project.

United States



Nigeria

## INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON

The International Luncheon has always featured a fascinating array of speakers from around the globe. This year was no different, except that the once-private lunch was open to all attendees. About 200 conference participants joined the group to get a new perspective on the profession around the globe.

Representing the International Relations Group, Randy Williams, SR/WA introduced speakers from 10 nations. Each representative gave a brief overview on right of way challenges faced in their country, the need for new legislation, and ways to strengthen the profession in areas of the globe where the concept of just compensation is an innovative notion.

Germany



The speaker portion of the event was kicked off by John Sturgeon, a right of way consultant from Australia. With that country experiencing layoffs in the government sector, the need for consultants to keep vital infrastructure projects moving is stronger than ever. He hopes to spearhead IRWA's first Australian Chapter by the 2015 Annual Conference in San Diego. César Cantu from Mexico also spoke of his desire to create a Chapter, a goal that was accomplished in August. That country is experiencing particularly exciting growth ever since the government opened the national oil and mining industries to private investment. Since those resources were previously monopolized by the government, the current challenge is managing the flood of investors who are looking to get in on the considerable action.

Canada



Thailand



Saudi Arabia



Brodie Allen, SR/WA provided perspective on right of way in Canada, detailing the expropriation process, as well as the complicated government red tape that many projects and right of way professionals have to overcome. And across the pond in Germany, the renewable energy sector is exploding. A major issue involves where to store the excess energy to sell to neighboring countries and how to maintain consistent supply during cloudy or windless days. Bert Bosseler, from the Institute for Underground Infrastructure, explained recent German legislation that encourages placing cables into existing underground infrastructure, such as an existing sewer.

From Africa, speakers from Nigeria and South Africa spoke on the need for more qualified right of way professionals in that continent, and how IRWA can help accomplish this through training. Mamokete Mafumo, the first female President of the South African Right of Way Association and IRWA South Africa Chapter 83, revealed SARWA's goal to expand IRWA through a dedicated African region in 2015, and their progress with increasing the number of local, qualified course instructors. Nigeria Chapter 84 President Charles Ebiai described his Chapter's focus on implementing best practices nationwide, as well as the need for expanded legislation to protect property owners and standardize right of way processes.

Australia



IRWA has also expanded its presence to Saudi Arabia, which holds the world's largest crude oil reserves. From Saudi Aramco's Land Affairs Department, Salim Al-Alyani told of his company's goals to strengthen their organization through IRWA education, training and certifications. Nearly 30 employees have joined IRWA and are already working toward the SR/WA Designation. In Thailand, right of way professionals have similar training needs, according to Dr. Sopon Pornchokchai, President of the Thai Appraisal Foundation. Recent IRWA courses held in Thailand attracted participants from across Asia for the educational opportunities

that are currently unavailable elsewhere. With many new infrastructure projects coming down the pike all over Asia, the need for training is becoming increasingly acute.

From the Compulsory Purchase Association in the United Kingdom, Colin Smith described how with the country's increasing population, the resources and capacity of the current infrastructure system, some which were built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, are being seriously strained. The UK has turned to foreign investors to fill their burgeoning needs. And representing the United States, IRWA International President Lisa Harrison spoke on the current state of the nation's infrastructure, and the imperative of raising the safety and security of our infrastructure assets, before they become so compromised that their failure is imminent.

With speakers hailing from countries around the globe, this luncheon put into perspective how despite our distance, we all experience similar challenges. These relationships go a long way toward strengthening the right of way profession, not just in North America, but all over the world.



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year's Education Foundation Golf Tournament was held at the Tower Ridge Country Club, where participants gathered to enjoy lunch, golfing, prizes for top teams and a raffle after the event. The Right of Way International Education Foundation and the Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation would like to thank all the major event sponsors, including Allen, Williford & Seale, Percheron, Contract Land Staff, IRWA's International Pipeline Committee, Steele Land Services, Region 3, Region 5, Paragon Partners, Roland Resources, Croft and Associates, Twin Peaks Field Services, Minnesota Chapter 20, Steve and Tami Benson, Briggs Field Services, the RWIEF Trustees, Surveying and Mapping, LLC, Dwight Pattison, SR/WA, Willbros, Coates Field Service, Sacramento Chapter 27, TransCanada and Georgia Power, as well as numerous hole sponsors. The Constitution Classic pulled in \$31,000 in donations and sponsorships, all of which will go toward furthering the goals of the Education Foundations.

## SR/WA BREAKFAST

At the SR/WA Recognition Breakfast, conference participants gathered to recognize those IRWA members who have exhibited their commitment to professional development by earning the prestigious SR/WA designation over the past year. From June 2013 through May 2014, 127 members achieved the SR/WA Designation, and 17 of those walked across the stage at the breakfast to receive their certificate from Chair of the International Professional Development Committee, Janet Walker, SR/WA, R/W-NAC. Following the recognition segment, speaker Jeanne Robertson shared how we can all use humor to improve our relationships.





CRWEF President Sandy Grigg, SR/WA discussed key initiatives for the coming year.



RWIEF President Carol Croft, SR/WA addressed the IEC, IGC and Board of Directors on the financial standing of the Foundation, as well as its goals and member updates for the coming year.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual Board of Directors meeting, International President Lisa Harrison, SR/WA called the proceedings to order and reported that the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year ended on a high note for the Association. IRWA enjoyed a net surplus of \$73,332 through April, with income of \$3,510,603 and expenses of \$3,437,271. Lisa also thanked the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) and the Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation (CRWEF) for their generous support of the Association's education and leadership development initiatives throughout the year, allowing IRWA to significantly expand its online course program and raising the bar for right of way education throughout the globe.

RWIEF President Carol Croft, SR/WA kicked off the meeting of the RWIEF Board of Directors by praising IRWA for its support and the Foundation Trustees for their dedicated service. She reported assets of \$1,250,711 with \$370,000 committed to IRWA education projects. The foundation presented trustees Clyde Johnson, SR/WA,



Jeff Jones, SR/WA was elected as IRWA's 2014-2015 International Secretary.



For her significant contributions to right of way education, Carol Brooks, SR/WA was this year's recipient of the Louise and Y.T. Lum Award.

Keith Shorey, SR/WA and Carol Croft, SR/WA for re-election, and Richard Pino for election. Next, CRWEF President Sandy Grigg, SR/WA spoke, sharing key initiatives for the coming year, including a new website, working with the Canadian Revenue Association to achieve tax-exempt status and the retention of its non-profit incorporation.

International Secretary Jerry Colburn, SR/WA then took the stage, announcing the 2014-2015 Budget Proposal, which aligns the Association's strategies to increase the external visibility of IRWA's certified and designated members, provide for the development of new education programming and help create leadership development tools. Two resolutions were offered to the Directors, both of which passed by the two-thirds majority requirement. The first resolution called for a pre-determined increase in Association dues over the next two years, and the second vote gave Region Vice Chairs a voice and voting power at International Governing Council meetings, provided the Region Chair is unable to attend.

The next order of business was the International Executive Committee elections. Three candidates competed for the 2014-2015 International Secretary position – Tami Benson, SR/WA, Vivian Howell, SR/WA and Jeff Jones, SR/WA. Jeff won on the first tally, receiving 52 percent of the vote. In his acceptance speech, he thanked the Association for allowing him to serve in so many challenging capacities, and spoke of his desire to grow the Association and help all Chapters succeed.

Three Chapters competed to be the Host Chapter for the 2019 Conference, Portland Chapter 3, Minneapolis Chapter 20, and Las Vegas Chapter 44. After four rounds of dead-heat voting where Portland and Minneapolis each received 50 percent of the vote, the IRWA Board of Directors selected Portland as the 2019 site by a narrow margin of seven votes.

Since half of IRWA's board members selected Minneapolis during four rounds of voting, the IGC was asked to consider naming Minneapolis as the 2020 host location. In light of the timing and immediacy created because the Minneapolis proposal's pricing and dates were only valid until July 31, 2014, the IGC met on July 9 to take up this single-issue item, in accordance with IRWA Bylaws. The IGC approved a motion to make Minneapolis, Minnesota the 2020 host location for the IRWA Annual International Education Conference by a vote of 14 to 1. As a result of this action, there will be no chapter bids presented at the 2015 Board of Directors meeting and bidding will resume at the 2016 Board of Directors meeting.

Incoming International President Lee Hamre, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC closed the meeting with a few words on the changes the Association has implemented in the past 12 months, and the importance of working together toward a common goal, noting "Over the past year, IRWA has made some significant changes to our communication model to better align our goals. These changes were made quickly, and in large bold strokes. The implementation of these new ideas will not be easy to accomplish; nothing worthwhile ever is. We can do it together, as long as we keep rowing together in the same direction."



Incoming International President Lee Hamre, SR/WA shared how recent changes to the IRWA committee structure will make the Association more inclusive.



Chris Mertz, President of Texas Chapter 35 (center), presented RWIEF Treasurer Clyde Johnson, SR/WA, with a check for \$40,000.



## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The IRWA Young Professionals Group is designed for right of way professionals who want to become more actively involved in the Association and are passionate about education and professional development. A Young Professional's Symposium was held in Hartford just prior to the Annual Conference, and featured a program of eight specialized classes targeted toward young people starting a career in the right of way profession. The 35 registered attendees came from a variety of employers in the United States and Canada, including local public agencies, consulting companies, as well as utilities and engineering firms.



Participants heard from a number of diverse speakers, who discussed topics ranging from technology applications in right of way, how to succeed in Association leadership, professional development and information sharing advice, and a session on diversifying electrical generation. The event also featured social events, including a networking reception with IRWA Region and Committee leadership, and offered a unique opportunity for the young attendees to add to their industry network, share knowledge and grow their careers and professional skillset. The Young Professionals Group would like to give special thanks to its generous sponsors, including Evolve Surface Strategies Inc., Pinnacle Consulting Management Group Inc. and Contract Land Staff.



# MONDAY NIGHT FOUNDATIONS EVENT

Every year, the Education Foundations host a Monday night event to benefit right of way education. This year's event was held at the Connecticut Science Center, and featured five floors of interactive exhibits, food and beverages, live entertainment, a live auction, beer and wine tastings, and tons of fun. All proceeds from this evening benefit the Right of Way International Education Foundation and the Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation, and thanks to all the attendees and auction bidders, this successful event took in just over \$46,000.



# INSTALLATION BANQUET

The conference concluded on Wednesday night with the Installation Banquet. A new slate of officers was sworn in, and the official presidential hand-off occurred. In her farewell speech, Lisa Harrison spoke about the importance of getting involved and leaving a legacy, saying, "I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve as IRWA's International President. The experience has been filled with people and lessons that I will treasure for a lifetime. Let me urge you to get involved. Plant your own seeds and watch them grow as you create your own leadership legacy."

In assuming the Association's highest position, Lee Hamre reflected on her "right of way heroes" and finding passion in your work, no matter where your career takes you. "IRWA has helped me to understand that when I traded in my old dream for this new one, I actually traded up. All of us involved in IRWA really are building a better world. And every day I get to be an integral part of this amazing organization, helping others shine, rather than just trying to light up the radio dial myself."



As a gesture of gratitude for all her hard work over the past year, Lee presented Lisa with a commemorative plaque.



The 2014 – 2015 International Executive Committee, from left, Eric Finn, Esq., Jeffrey Jones, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC, Jerry Colburn, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, Lee Hamre, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, Wayne Goss, SR/WA, R/W-NAC and Mark Rieck. Not pictured here is Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA, who was unable to attend the conference due to a family emergency.



The 2015 San Diego Conference Co-Chairs Nick von Gymnich, SR/WA and Joe Currie, SR/WA encouraged the crowd to attend next year's year's conference using a Fantasy Island sketch.



Lisa's daughter Ashley was on hand to do the honors of pinning her mother with the IRWA Past-President's pin.



Lee Hamre enjoyed the moment as her husband Austin presented her with the official Presidential pin.



IRWA Headquarters staff celebrate the completion of another successful conference.



IRWA Region Chairs, Vice Chairs and the IEC for 2014-2015 were sworn in by past International President Jim Struble, SR/WA.

# IRWA ACKNOWLEDGES THE GENEROSITY OF THE 2014 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

We are pleased to give special recognition and thanks to the sponsors of IRWA's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual International Education Conference. Please join us as we extend our sincere appreciation for their gracious and generous contributions.

## EXCLUSIVE HOST SPONSOR



## PLATINUM



## GOLD



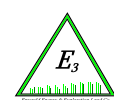
## SILVER



## MESSAGE BOARD



## LOCAL SPONSORS



## RECORD NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS SHOWCASED AT CONFERENCE

With over 1,000 registered attendees, the Exhibit Hall served as an ideal venue for exhibitors to showcase their products and services. For a chance to win an iPad or iPad mini, each conference attendee received an Exhibit Hall Passport and tasked with visiting each booth for a signature. This created a highly interactive environment among the participants and was a great success in generating traffic.

### EXHIBIT HALL

## PASSPORT

Participate in the Passport Contest for a chance to win an iPad and an iPad Mini!

Passport Code	Booth	Exhibitor
	100	HDX Engineering, Inc.
	102	Coates Field Service, Inc.
	103	Paragon Partners Ltd.
	104	LandWorks, Inc.
	105	Digital Map Products
	106	Flatsort, Ltd.
	107	American Society of Appraisers
	109	3D Forensic
	112	CoreLogic
	113	NTB Associates, Inc.
	114	Integrus Realty Resources
	115	geoAMRS, LLC
	202	International Right of Way Association
	203	Associated Right of Way Services, Inc.
	204	Wood Group Munking
	205	Overland, Pacific & Cutler, Inc.
	206	O.E. Colan Associates
	207	Allen, Williford & Seale
	208	ENGlobal
	209	Nassimani
	210	SoundHart
	211	Marilyn Daniel LLC
	212	Universal Field Services, Inc.
	213	Contract Land Staff
	300	Percheron Acquisitions
	304	Synergy Land Services Ltd.
	305	G & P Land
	307	SunCoast Land Services, Inc.
	308	Altus Group Limited
	309	The Shiloh Group
	310	Electrical Consultants, Inc.
	311	Appraisal Institute
	312	Right of Way International Education Foundation
	313	IRWA 2017 Conference Bidder - Edmonton
	314	IRWA 2017 Conference Bidder - Fort Worth
	315	IRWA 2017 Conference Bidder - Anchorage
	317	IRWA 2013 Conference Host - Charleston

at the Exhibit Hall on  
your passport signed at

your passport at the  
to win. The winner  
evening during the  
on Fundraising event.  
to win)

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# EXHIBITORS



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IRWA 2019 CONFERENCE BIDDER -  
MINNEAPOLIS



IRWA 2019 CONFERENCE BIDDER -  
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# COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITIES

The Association's strength is derived from the dedicated right of way professionals who service in volunteer leadership roles. IRWA Committees and Communities are divided into three areas: Service Committees, Industry Committees and Discipline Communities of Practice.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES



ETHICS



NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS



ELECTRIC & UTILITIES



PUBLIC AGENCIES



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



OIL & GAS PIPELINE



TRANSPORTATION

## DISCIPLINE COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE



ASSET MANAGEMENT



RELOCATION ASSISTANCE



SURVEYING & ENGINEERING



VALUATION

## COUNCILS AND FOUNDATIONS



ADVISORY COUNCIL



RIGHT OF WAY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION



CANADIAN RIGHT OF WAY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



INTERNATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL



CONSULTANTS COUNCIL

# REGIONS

## REGION 1

Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada



## REGION 2

Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas



## REGION 3

Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri,  
North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota



## REGION 4

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,  
New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia



## REGION 5

Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio,  
Michigan, West Virginia, Wisconsin



## REGION 6

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi,  
North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee



## REGION 7

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington



## REGION 8

Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland,  
Nova Scotia, Quebec, Prince Edward Island



## REGION 9

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming



## REGION 10

Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba,  
Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Saskatchewan

