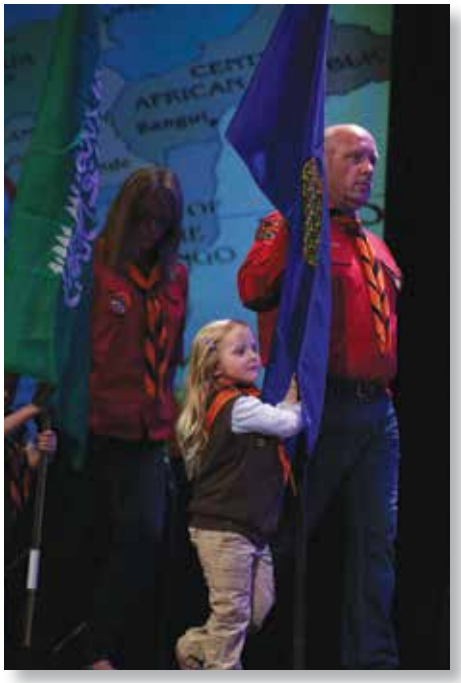
IRWA'S 64TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

BY ETHEL NAVALES



Conference attendees quickly discovered that Edmonton offers even more than the largest mall in North America and an endless supply of ketchup chips. As it turns out, this Canadian province of Alberta was the perfect location for IRWA's 64th Annual International Education Conference. Hundreds of right of way professionals from around the world gathered in the Shaw Conference Centre for a week of educational sessions, networking opportunities and important Association business.

On behalf of Chapter 62, Conference Co-Chairs Brian Taylor, SR/WA, Koby Godwin, SR/WA, and Lauralee Harrison, SR/WA, welcomed over 800 conference attendees and thanked the countless individuals who worked to organize the successful event. They introduced the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the 116th Lynwood Scout group for the presentation of the flags before reminding attendees to download the official IRWA Conference app.

After calling the Annual Meeting of the Members to order, International President Jerry Colburn, SR/WA, kicked off the Conference by recognizing the finalists for IRWA's most prestigious award, the Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year. The finalists—Leslie Finnigan, SR/WA, Brad Krabel, SR/WA, and Patricia Thayer, SR/WA—took the stage to express their sentiments on being given such a recognition.

Our Responsibility

"We help to develop efficient transportation systems, deliver clean water, provide a reliable electric supply and bring natural gas and oil to our homes and industries," Jerry noted. "We help develop communities and provide people with opportunities that were not thought possible. We truly have the ability and the responsibility to improve the quality of people's lives."

Jerry went on to acknowledge the various Association accomplishments including the advancement of the Young Professionals Group, our increased visibility and relevance as an organization, our first batch of recipients for the Forty for Forty Scholarship, an increase in our global influence, the Second Annual Conference for Global Infrastructure Real Estate and the beginning of our Emerging Leaders Program.

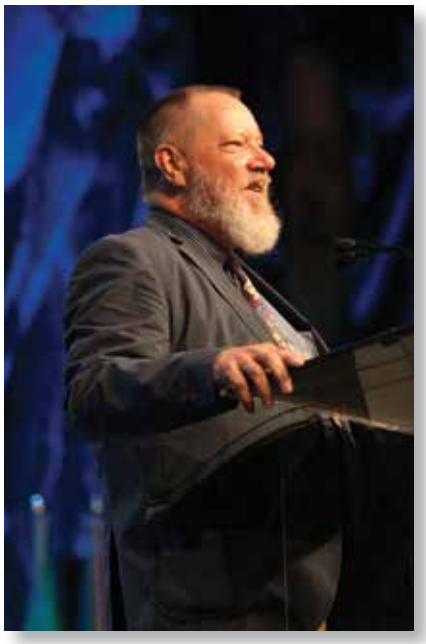
"I want to say how proud I am to be a part of this tremendous organization," Jerry commented. "We've come so far in just the five years that I have been on the IEC—making investments in our future, modernizing the Association and focusing on succession planning. The leadership on the International Executive Committee is incredible and you have made great decisions in electing your leaders."

Building the Future

IRWA's Chief Executive Officer Mark Rieck reported our key performance measures. Membership income stands at $1.715 million with 9,212 members. Education income stands at $1.847 million with 7,654 IRWA classroom and online participants. We have 3,148 certified and designated members, with 34 percent of our membership holding a credential. Mark noted that he is particularly pleased with the collaborative effort demonstrated by Chapters and staff to produce 355 classroom courses this fiscal year.

Mark pointed out that over the last three years, we have worked tirelessly to modernize the IRWA by launching a new website, providing a weekly advocacy report, upgrading the Right of Way Agent curriculum, gaining Non-Government Organization Consultative Status with the United Nations, empowering 40 new IRWA scholars, completing our first-ever congress in Mexico City and creating a learner-centered instructional development program. And as Mark always says, we are just getting started.

"IRWA's body of knowledge and body of experience must be preserved, passed down and built upon in a way that makes right of way work in infrastructure development a deliberate career path, not a mid-career discovery." Mark commented. "The stakes have never been higher and our opportunity for impact in the 17 countries we represent is great. And if you need to hear it again, I have never been more proud of the Association than I am right now."



The Annual Awards Ceremony started on a high note with the introduction of Randall Kopfer, SR/WA, Chair of the International Nominations & Elections Committee (INEC). To begin, Randall congratulated the winners of the 16th Annual Mapping Competition. Randall then invited INEC Vice Chair Jenni Kriner, SR/WA, to announce the Student Scholarship Awardees. The SARPA Scholarship was awarded to Brooke Whelpley and the Canadian Scholarship was awarded to Bridget Willemse.

"The awards presented today symbolize the best of the IRWA and the professionals in this industry," Randall said. "Every recipient and finalist should be proud of their accomplishments."

Tamara Benson, SR/WA, and Janet Walker, SR/WA, were the recipients of The Louise L. & Y.T. Lum Award.

TOP: Winner of the Employer of Year Award with less than 20 employees was Bohannan Huston.

BOTTOM: For the Employer of the Year with more than 20 employees, the award went to HDR Inc.

TOP: Trevor J. Martens, SR/WA, was named the W. Howard Armstrong Instructor of the Year.

BOTTOM: The Alan D. Wurtz Young Professional Scholarship Award was presented to Amanda Vande Vorde.

The Young Professional of the Year Award was presented to Derrick W. Roma, SR/WA.

AWARDS CEREMONY

IRWA's most esteemed honor, the Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year, was awarded to Patricia F. Thayer, SR/WA. This award honors exemplary support and commitment to the Association. "It takes a village," Pat said as she explained the work that IRWA members take part in. "And this group here is amazing."

TOP: Newsletter of the Year was awarded to Chapter 2, Region 1 for "Bayviews."

BOTTOM: Chapter 2, San Francisco received the Chapter of the Year Award.

TOP: Chapter 4, Bellevue/Seattle won the Gene L. Land Award for highest numerical gain.

BOTTOM: Chapter 56, Delaware won the Gene L. Land Award for highest percentage gain.

TOP: Santa Clara Valley Water District was awarded the Government Employer of the Year.

BOTTOM: The Website of the Year Award was presented to Chapter 1, Region 1.

SR/WA
RECOGNITION

For years, the SR/WA Recognition Ceremony has been a beloved conference tradition, bringing participants together to celebrate and support the members who achieved IRWA's highest professional designation over the previous 12 months. The SR/WA designation is granted to right of way practitioners who have achieved professional status through a combination of experience, education and examination. While the SR/WA professional may be a specialist in one area, they must also be familiar with all disciplines associated with the right of way profession.

This year, special guest emcee Carrie Doll took the stage to announce the honorees. Owner and founder of Carrie Doll Consulting, Carrie worked for a variety of stations across Alberta before settling down in Edmonton where she anchored CTV news at 6pm for 13 years. During her career, she has interviewed countless news makers locally and across the country, speaking with key individuals in both the entertainment industry and politics.

Honorees in attendance were asked to come up on stage to accept their certificate before taking their photo with International President Jerry Colburn, SR/WA, Chair for the Partnership for Infrastructure Professional Education Tami Benson, SR/WA, and Chair for the Credentialing Committee Trevor Martens, SR/WA.

IRWA's global expansion continues to thrive. We now have members in 17 countries with our influence shaping regulations, policy and even laws regarding access for infrastructure projects around the globe.

Last year, right of way professionals from around the world gathered in Mexico City for the 2nd Annual Congress for Global Infrastructure Real Estate. This year, we brought that same wealth of knowledge to the Annual Conference with the International Luncheon on Tuesday, June 26th.

Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA, Chair of the Council on International Relations, took the stage to introduce the wonderful speakers, who each presented an update on current right of way matters in their country. Andrea Carolan spoke on behalf of Australia; Jeff Burke spoke on behalf of Canada; Jesus Sandoval and Ale Ceron Guedea spoke on behalf of Mexico; Emmanuel Mark Fnivs spoke on behalf of Nigeria; Marei Mashabela spoke on behalf of South Africa; and Salah Makhaytah spoke on behalf of Saudi Arabia.

INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON

BOARD OF **DIRECTORS**

The Annual Board of Directors Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 27th. International President Jerry Colburn, SR/WA, welcomed the members in attendance and called the meeting to order. Jerry made note that the minutes of the previous Board of Directors meeting, the financial statements and the details of the 2018-2019 budget were all distributed electronically in advance.

Jerry invited International Treasurer Sharon Slauenwhite, SR/WA, to present the proposed 2018-2019 budget. Sharon reported that the Finance Committee met four times this year and provided monthly oversight over the budget of the Association. She noted that the budget proposal aligns with our strategies to increase the visibility of the IRWA, provide for the development and revision of our education programming and deliver a new leadership development program across the Association. The 2018-2019 budget was approved as presented.

Next on the agenda was the International Executive Committee elections. Jerry invited Chair of the International Nominations and Elections Committee Randall Kopfer, SR/WA, to present a report of the committee. Jeff Jones, SR/WA, was confirmed as IRWA's incoming International President. Aimie Mims, SR/WA, and Sharon Slauenwhite, SR/WA, were up for reelection and confirmed. Jake Farrell, SR/WA, joined the IEC as IRWA's incoming International Treasurer. James A. Olschewski, SR/WA, joined the IEC as IRWA's incoming International Secretary. Jerry announced that Brad Kuhn, Esq. will continue to serve as International General Counsel for 2018-2019.

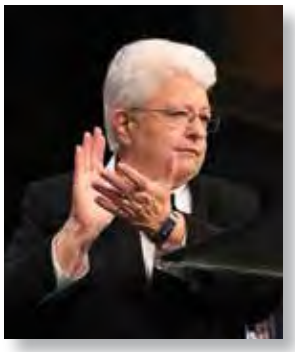
International Secretary Ana Rausch, SR/WA, presented the International Region Officers while President-Elect Jeff Jones, SR/WA, announced the appointments of the 2018-2019 International Service and Industry Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Community Practice of Leaders.

Jerry then invited the slate of 2018-2019 elected officers to come forward in front of the stage to be sworn in by Past International Presidents, Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA, and Pat Petitto, SR/WA.

To continue tradition, Jerry invited Jeff to take the podium and give some insight into his plans as the 2018-2019 International President. Jeff pointed out that in the coming year, we can expect to see more promotion of the IRWA and an enhanced visibility. Working with a marketing and communications team, the Association will look at social media platforms and other routes to put the focus on us. He shared his interest in continuing to work closely with the Industry Committees, Communities of Practice and Young Professionals Group. Jeff also noted that the Association will move forward with a new Leadership Development Program. He highlighted the continued efforts of the Chapters and Regions, as well as the growth of the International Relations Council and the PIPE Committee. "As you can see, we have a lot going on in the organization," Jeff said. "I am honored and excited about being your President in the coming year. I am blessed to be part of the IRWA and to know that throughout the world, we are not only improving people's quality of life through infrastructure development, we are also building a better world together."

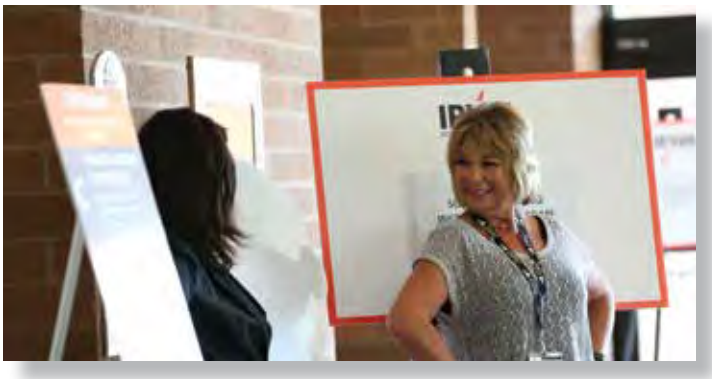
The Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation's board of trustees was called up to the stage for a report presented by CRWEF President Bill Giese, SR/WA. He noted a successful and productive Annual General Meeting and Monday Night Event. He thanked the Conference Co-Chairs and the RWIEF, reporting up to $20,000 in profits during the Monday Night Event. The Right of Way Education Trustees lined the stage. President of the Right of Way International Education Foundation, Carol Croft, SR/WA, provided an overview of the Foundation's efforts, as well as some changes such as the extension of the YP position to a three-year term and five new educational incentives.

"Some in attendance today are new to this boardroom. Some are new to the Annual Conference. Some are new to the profession. And some are new to trying to understand what this Foundation is all about," Carol said before donations began. "They really wonder how in the world we continue to develop new courses and give out scholarships. Friends, it's simple. It's called the ripple effect. So what do you say? Let's begin the ripple effect."



COMMITTEES, COMMUNITIES, **COUNCILS AND REGIONS**

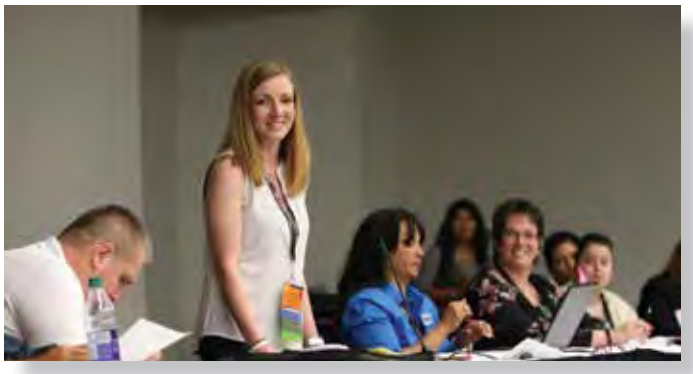
Encompassing All Aspects of the Profession



IRWA's strength is derived from the dedicated right of way professionals who serve on International Committees, Councils and Communities of Practice. The Association credits their participation, leadership and collaboration in advancing important industry initiatives.

The Annual Conference provides a unique opportunity for members to discuss topics, relevant industry changes, trends and upcoming educational initiatives. The Industry Committees focus on issues impacting the core segments associated with the right of way profession. They include Electric & Utilities, Public Agencies, Oil & Gas Pipelines and Transportation. IRWA's Communities of Practice (CoPs) focus on issues related to our major industry disciplines, including Asset Management, Environment, Relocation Assistance, Surveying & Engineering and Valuation. IRWA's Service Committees focus on maintaining and improving quality member value throughout the Association. They include Ethics, Credentialing and the Partnership for Infrastructure Professional Education.

IRWA is also guided and supported by the leadership of its various councils. The International Governing Council represents each of the 10 Regions working in conjunction with the International Executive Committee and Headquarters staff. The Advisory Council is comprised of Past International Presidents, and the International Relations Group focuses on building our international presence. The Right of Way Consultants Council represents the industry's service companies who work to develop standardized practices. And supporting the Association's educational initiatives are the Right of Way International Education Foundation and the Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

In conjunction with the 64th Annual International Education Conference, the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) and the Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation (CRWEF) hosted their 22nd Annual Golf Tournament. The Oil City Classic was held on June 26th at The Ranch Golf and Country Club, giving conference attendees and golf enthusiasts a day outdoors for networking and an opportunity to raise funds for a worthy cause. The event successfully raised approximately $28,000 in donations.

The Foundations would like to thank the participants, as well as the generous sponsors. Special thanks to **Platinum Sponsors:** Allen, Williford & Seale, Inc., CBRE, Croft & Associates, IRWA's International Pipeline Committee, IRWA Region 3, IRWA Region 5, IRWA Region 6; **Diamond Sponsors:** Paragon Partners, Ltd., Altus Group, Coates Field Services, Inc.; **Gold Sponsors:** Twin Peaks Field Services, Duff & Phelps, RWIEF Trustees; **Silver Sponsors:** Percheron, LLC., Pattison & Associates, Inc.; **Bronze Sponsor:** IRWA Chapter 3.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

With the highest attendance of Young Professionals at an IRWA Conference, Edmonton was a great success for the Young Professionals Group (YPG). Over 150 people attended the Saturday Night Annual Conference Networking Reception and through hard work and dedication, the YPG was able to secure over $9,000 in underwriting. A special thanks to our Purposeful Sponsor CBRE, as well as our other wonderful sponsors: Contract Land Staff, Coates, OPC, JCG Land Services, ORC, Clark Land Resources, Birchcliff Energy, SRLS, Santolucito Dore Group, Percheron, IRWA Region 4, IRWA Region 3, IRWA Chapter 13 and IRWA Chapter 54.

The YPG ran three successful educational sessions, including a ROW game show that showcased the group's amazing teamwork and humble attitudes. The entire audience participated in this unique, interactive session. Our panel of experts on YP paths provided valuable insight and our final presentation provided a detailed look at successful PM management from a YPG point of view. For the first time, we were able to successfully live stream all three sessions on social media. Additionally, the YPG was invited to "Meet the IRWA Instructor" session, which was enlightening for all.

As we all continue to invest into our education, we know we need invigorating instructors to keep our organization growing. The YPG is determined to continue forward with purpose in our hearts and dedication in our efforts. We look forward to providing more opportunities for our group to grow and assist in developing our organization. I could not be more proud or blessed to help lead this amazing and talented group of individuals. Portland here we come!

-Nikkiy Bestgen, Chair YPG

YP

The IRWA Young Professionals Group would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsors below.

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CLOSING **GALA**

On Wednesday, June 27th, the Conference concluded with a memorable Closing Gala. This culminating event included the official presidential hand-off. In his farewell remarks, Jerry Colburn, SR/WA, thanked the wonderful people who worked alongside him in the International Executive Committee before reflecting on everything he has gained from the IRWA.

"IRWA is the umbrella that supports the folks that can make a positive difference in other people's lives with the work that we do. This makes us a unique family," Jerry noted. "I've often spoken about building relationships, both in business and in my personal life. The difference between business and personal has become fuzzy because some of my good friends are competitors, clients, partners and employees. This family we call IRWA is the catalyst for relationships that last a lifetime."

To celebrate stepping into the Association's highest elected position, Jeff Jones, SR/WA, was called to the stage for the presentation of the President's pin. "I have a challenge for all of you," Jeff remarked in his speech. "As we move through this year, I would like to ask all of us to open our arms and see if we can each bring one new person into the IRWA. A daunting task but worth a try. Most of all, I would like you to open your minds this year—not to what is best for me, my Chapter or my Region, but what is best for the International Right of Way Association."

EXHIBIT HALL

With hundreds of conference attendees, the Exhibit Hall served as an ideal venue for exhibitors to showcase their products and services to the dedicated right of way professionals in attendance. For a chance to win an iPad, each conference attendee received an Exhibit Hall Passport, which encourages participants to visit each booth to obtain a signature. This created a highly interactive environment among the participants and was a great success in generating traffic.

1) Abacus Datagraphics Ltd. 2) Altus Group 3) Appraisal Institute 4) Associated Right of Way Services 5) Atwell, LLC 6) Aurora Land Consulting Ltd. 7) Allen, Williford & Seale, Inc. 8) Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen 9) CBRE 10) Contract Land Staff 11) Coates Field Service, Inc. 12) CoreLogic 13) CrossingsCloud 14) Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation 15) CWL Energy Management

EXHIBIT HALL

1) Digital Map Products 2) Doyle Land Services, Inc. 3) Duff & Phelps 4) Emerald Energy & Exploration 5) International Electric & Utilities Committee6) Evolve Surface Strategies Inc. 7) Farnsworth Group, Inc. 8) Flairsoft, Ltd. 9) geoAMPS 10) HDR, Inc. 11) JLL Valuation & Advisory Services, LLC 12) LIA Administrators & Insurance Services 13) McElhanney Geomatics Engineering Ltd 14) OPC

1) O.R. Colan Associates 2) Pandell 3) Percheron 4) 2019 Conference Host - Portland, OR 5) ROWE Professional Services Company 6) Right of Way International Education Foundation 7) International Surveying & Engineering Committee 8) Synergy Land Services Ltd. 9) TRC 10) Universal Field Services, Inc. 11) International Transportation Committee 12) Utility Mapping Services, Inc. 13) Valbridge Property Advisors 14) IRWA Young Professionals 15) Western Land Services, Inc.

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IRWA MAPPING CONTEST

Award Winners Announced

BY GARY KENT

The winners of IRWA's 16th Annual Right of Way Mapping Competition were announced recently at the 64th International Education Conference in Edmonton, Alberta.

The competition is sponsored by the IRWA Surveying and Engineering Community of Practice and judged by its members. This Community of Practice promotes and supports the surveying and engineering professions and their interests within the right of way profession.

This year, there were over 20 entries with Bruce Schanz of Jackson, Michigan being awarded overall Grand Prize and free registration to the Annual Conference with his entry in the Industry General category.

Bruce also took second prize with his Transportation entry and Nick Ryan, also of Jackson, captured third prize with his entry in the Oil & Gas category. Each also received complementary memberships in the International Right of Way Association.

Individual category winners were:

- **Transportation**
  Bruce Schanz
  Consumers Energy Company
  Jackson, Michigan, USA

- **Oil & Gas**
  Nick Ryan
  Consumers Energy Company
  Jackson, Michigan, USA

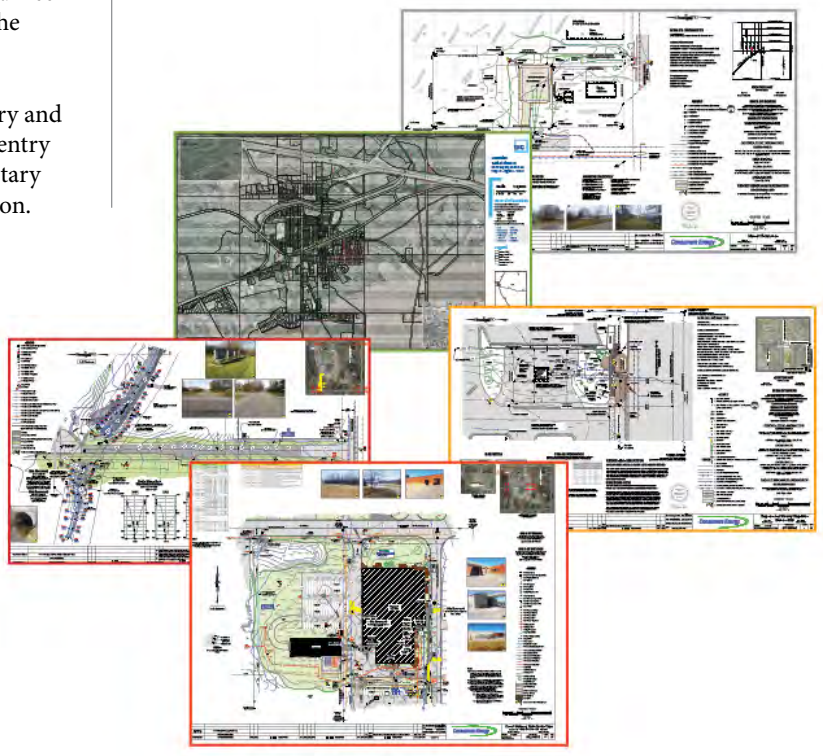
- **Electric & Utility**
  Nick Ryan
  Consumers Energy Company
  Jackson, Michigan, USA

- **GIS**
  Kevin Kleckner
  Information Services Corporation
  Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

- **Industry General**
  Bruce Schanz
  Consumers Energy Company
  Jackson, Michigan, USA

Winning entries received well-deserved recognition by being prominently displayed during the Annual International Education Conference in Edmonton.

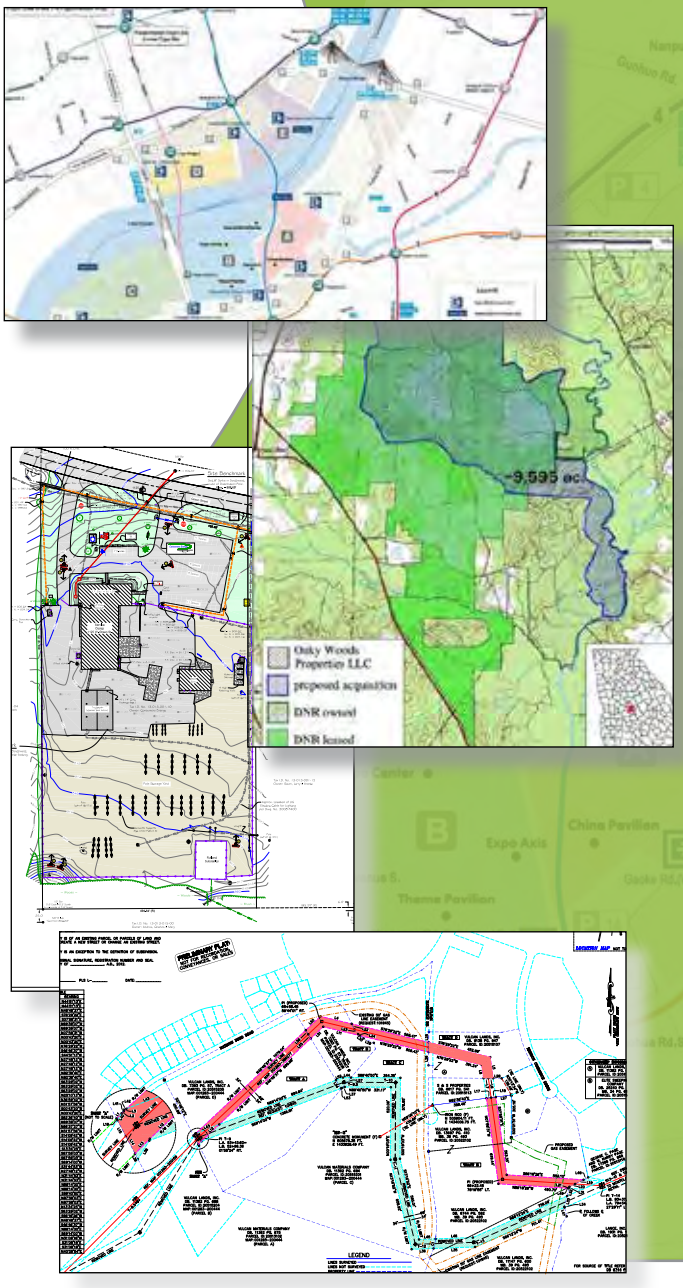
Entries for the 17th Annual Right of Way Mapping Competition must be received by April 5, 2019 and winners will be announced in June 2019 during the 65th Annual International Education Conference in Portland. Submittals may be entered in only one category and must be a stand-alone single sheet submitted as an Adobe pdf file. Anyone can enter a map, but non-members must be sponsored by an IRWA member. More details on the competition will appear in upcoming issues of Right of Way Magazine.



Gary Kent is the Integrated Services Director at Schneider Geomatics in Indianapolis. He is an IRWA Climb-certified instructor for the 900 series courses and has presented programs on surveying, title and leadership topics in all 50 states and three times in Europe.

17TH ANNUAL RIGHT OF WAY MAPPING Competition

Enter your map today!



Sponsored by IRWA's International Surveying & Engineering Community of Practice, this annual competition will be held in conjunction with IRWA's 65th Annual International Education Conference in June 2019 in Portland, Oregon.

Winners will be announced in Right of Way Magazine and at the Annual Education Conference, where winning maps will also be displayed. Winners will receive recognition at a national, regional or local IRWA meeting.

Eligibility: Anyone can enter, however, each entry must be sponsored by an IRWA member. Members may sponsor multiple entries. Maps must be associated with the right of way profession including related disciplines.

Prizes: The Grand place winner will receive a complimentary registration for IRWA's 65th Annual International Education Conference. A cash prize of $250 will be given to the individual winners in the following categories: Transportation, Oil & Gas, Electric & Utility, GIS and Industry General.

Rules: One entry per person in each category. A map may only be entered in one category. Each entry shall be a standalone single sheet. Maps and entry forms must be submitted digitally using Adobe pdf files. Entries under the transportation, oil & gas and electric & utility categories must be maps/ plats prepared for, or in support of, boundary/right of way line retracement or acquisition. This includes, but is not limited to, property or right of way survey maps and plats. Entries under the GIS and industry general categories shall be maps or exhibits related to highways, pipelines, utility lines, telecommunication lines (or associated facilities) prepared for general purposes such as public hearings, presentations, conceptual plans, etc. Examples include, but are not limited to, ownership exhibits and aerial photos (with or without overlays), etc.

Judging: Entries will be judged on overall presentation, orientation and the effective use of graphics, legends, symbols and innovative methods

Disclaimer Information: : If contractual confidentiality precludes submission, the title block can be cleared of all pertinent information and state "Prepared for Competition due to Jurisdictional Confidentiality."

17th Annual Right of Way Mapping Competition

Deadline: April 5, 2019

Official Entry Form (please print or type)

IRWA Sponsor _____

Entrant's Name _____

Company Name or Agency _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State/Province** _____ **Zip/Postal** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Category

❑ Transportation ❑ Oil & Gas ❑ Electric & Utility ❑ GIS ❑ Industry General

Email PDF entries to:
isecop@irwaonline.org