

Taking the Association's Vision to New Heights

IRWA's 59th Annual International Education Conference

BY BARBARA BILLITZER

Charleston, West Virginia served as the host city for IRWA's 59th Annual International Education Conference. Kicking off the event were Chapter 21 Conference Co-Chairs Ron Williams, SR/WA and David Griffith, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC, who encouraged the more than 1,000 attendees to maximize their time and take advantage of the educational sessions and networking opportunities being offered.

"I am pleased to report that 2013 has been a busy and productive year," noted International President Patricia Petitto, SR/WA, R/W-RAC in her opening remarks. "The Association is in strong fiscal shape, our new membership ranks are growing, and we're excited about the advancements being made to advance our professional development program."

Pat credited IRWA's 2012-2017 Strategic Plan for keeping the Association consistently focused on key initiatives. She acknowledged

the international committees, regions, chapters, task forces, International Governing Council and Headquarters' staff for working collaboratively to bring so many crucial projects to fruition. As a result of these efforts, IRWA has become the Association of choice among the industry's key stakeholders, as demonstrated by the increased interest in membership and courses coming from agencies, organizations and industry affiliates.

Market Demand is Driving Strategic Changes

To ensure the Association's course offerings and professional development programs are more aligned with market demand, IRWA will be making strategic enhancements to its five-year plan. Findings from an industry research study made it clear that certifications in the areas of pipeline, transportation and utilities would be advantageous to the users of our services.



"We're transforming the way we operate to continuously improve our ability to serve our members and the users of our services," said IRWA International President, Patricia Petitto, SR/WA, R/W-RAC in her opening remarks.

Pat continued, "The Association is also continuing to develop agency agreements similar to those recently signed by some of our Departments of Transportation. A direct marketing campaign was conducted last fall among public agencies to introduce IRWA's course offerings and the Right of Way Agent Certification. As part of our outreach efforts, we have made connections with the Real Estate Department of the U.S. Department of Energy, and we are rapidly expanding our joint efforts with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission," she said.



Opening speaker Joe Malarkey shared humorous stories about goal-setting, affirmations and the opportunities hidden in adversity.



In recognition for a lifelong commitment to advancing the right of way profession, Don Brent, SR/WA was honored with IRWA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Photography by Carl Krockenberger and Peter Stamenov



Conference Co-Chairs Ron Williams, SR/WA, and David Griffith, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC kicked off the event and encouraged attendees to maximize their conference experience.



IRWA Executive Vice President Mark Rieck announced, "You can expect continued growth and innovation across all IRWA program areas as we work to keep members current, credentialed and connected like never before."

IRWA is the final stages of developing a new oil and gas course in partnership with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Association is rolling out a new Pipeline Personnel Training Program. Pat reported that another successful Federal Agency Update was held in March in Washington, DC. This annual meeting brings our members and federal partners together for a collective exchange of ideas. Following the event, members of IRWA's International Executive Committee were able to meet with representatives of the U.S. House and Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committees.

In response to external demand, IRWA is creating a new model for delivering courses on an international level. Pat noted, "The demand for our courses continues to rise and this past year, IRWA instructors travelled to Thailand, South Africa and Saudi Arabia to teach IRWA courses. An International Relations group was formed last fall to provide support and oversight for our Association's growing international footprint, along with consultation on governance issues that IRWA will face going forward. We are proud to have Chapter 83 in South Africa as our first chapter outside of North America, and hope to add several more chapters in the near future. At our Board of Directors meeting, we will be voting on a bylaw revision that will allow us to add regions outside the boundaries of North America."

Fundamental Tools Bring Added Value to Members

In serving as the central authority for the right of way profession, IRWA ramped up its offerings and published its first set of industry white papers. Co-authored by right of way subject matter experts, these fundamental learning tools can be viewed, downloaded and shared with coworkers and colleagues. IRWA continues adding new skill-building videos to its YouTube channel, all designed to help members gain the competitive edge. Pat credited the success of these tools to the Leadership Institute team of volunteers, who graciously devoted their time to ensure IRWA's budding leadership has what it needs to advance. She also credited IRWA's Member Network for making it easy for members to connect, share information, post resources and schedule events within a number of association-specific groups. "We believe we're communicating better than ever before, but we need to find the right balance between in-person meetings, teleconferences, emails and social media," said Pat.

Another important component of the Strategic Plan is leadership succession. "To facilitate this process, an initial framework has been developed," said Pat. "It includes establishing core competencies for IRWA leaders, identifying competency gaps,

creating a formal methodology for managing leadership tools, mentoring to successor leaders and creating an annual plan for attracting new leaders."

Even with our many successes, Pat stressed that we still have many challenges to face. With an aggressive five-year curriculum and course plan, there is an increased need for funding these crucial initiatives. She encouraged members to support the Education Foundations through donations and by participating at the fundraising events. In closing, she noted that, "Through the collaborative effort of our leaders and members, I look forward to witnessing some



Following a tribute to O.R. Colan's founder, Catherine Muth presented a check to the Right of Way International Education Foundation in honor of her father.



major advancements for our Association in the upcoming years. I feel honored to have been part of such a strong leadership team.”

Association Reports Financial Strength

In his state of the Association address, IRWA Executive Vice President Mark Rieck reported on another financially strong fiscal year. “From July 2012 through June 2013, IRWA generated \$1.456 million in membership income. We expect to complete our annual audit on schedule and beat our budget projections. All in all, a tremendous year in continued tumultuous times,” said Mark.

With 9,429 members, the Association welcomed new members through local chapter recruitment, government agency agreements and contacts made in Australia, Mexico, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. Education income reached \$1.470 million, and the number of IRWA classroom and online participants totaled 4,146 and 1,577, respectively. The Association now has 2,939 certified and designated members, meeting a longstanding strategic goal that 30 percent of all members hold a credential.

“And we are just getting started,” Mark continued. “We will develop industry certificate programs in the areas of pipeline, transportation, utilities and local public agencies, further positioning all

credentialed members for success in their chosen field. This is all being driven by the Specialty Certification Survey conducted last year. So far, feedback has been very positive and the International Governing Council just approved the plan, so stay tuned for more details.”

Bringing Innovation to Course Delivery

Showcasing IRWA’s latest innovation, Mark gave a sneak preview of Video Enabled Integrated Technology (VEIT), a blended learning tool that gives online education a classroom feel. IRWA’s Course 213-Conflict Management will be the first VEIT course offered, and a Canadian version of Course 100-Principles of Land Acquisition is scheduled to follow. Launching the Association’s new five-year education plan is a joint effort, and Mark noted that these programs are only made possible because of the strong partnership shared with the Right of Way International Education Foundation and the Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation.

“Going forward, next fiscal year you can expect continued growth and innovation across all IRWA program areas as we work to keep members current, credentialed and connected like never before,” said Mark. “In the area of membership, we have surpassed last year’s numbers thanks to our aggressive chapter membership campaigns.”

With continued demand for IRWA courses coming from outside North America, Mark acknowledged the representatives in attendance from Saudi Arabia, Australia, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, Nigeria, Germany, Japan, China, among others. As the Association continues to grow its international membership, more chapters are expected to form outside North America in the coming years.

“I want to remind each of us that nothing at IRWA happens in a vacuum. Our continued success rides on our ability—as an International Governing Council, Advisory Council, international committees, 76 chapters and 20 of the hardest working staff in association management—to not just communicate, but align. While the world continues to change around us, our member value proposition doesn’t. Current, Credentialed and Connected is our mantra, and we will continue to deliver against that promise again next fiscal year. Together, we are building a better world as we set the standard for right of way professionals, around the globe,” said Mark.



IRWA Acknowledges the Generosity of the 2013 Conference Sponsors

We are pleased to give special recognition and thanks to the sponsors of IRWA's 59th Annual International Education Conference. Please join us as we extend our sincere appreciation for their gracious and generous contributions.

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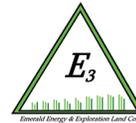
PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



OTHER



Awards Ceremony Salutes Extraordinary Contributions

International Nominations and Elections Committee Chair Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA congratulated all the 2012 award winners for their accomplishments, noting, “Today, we recognize and celebrate those among us who have gone the extra distance to excel, whether as a group effort such as Chapter of the Year or the absolute pinnacle of our awards, the Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year. All of their efforts and service to the IRWA community, singly and jointly, advance the Association’s mission and give credibility and acknowledgement to the right of way profession.”



Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA praised the nominees and winners for their accomplishments.



This year’s W. Howard Armstrong Instructor of the Year was John Rolling, SR/WA, Ph.D. from Chapter 17.



Sharon Gill, Tennessee Chapter 32’s Web Editor, accepted the award for Website of the Year.



Chapter of the Year was Sacramento Chapter 27. Accepting the award was Yoli Matranga, SR/WA.



For excellence in journalism, the Mark A. Green Award went to Nicholas Anitsakis and Edwin Trapp for their article “Shedding Light on Electric Transmission,” published in Right of Way Magazine’s March/April 2012 issue.



The San Diego Water Authority won for Employer of the Year with less than 20 employees. Accepting the award was John Kross, SR/WA.



Employer of the Year with more than 20 employees went to Salt River Project. Rebekah Louis, SR/WA accepted the award.



William Busch, SR/WA received the 2012 Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award from Pat Petitto.

In accepting the Balfour Award, Bill shared, "I feel truly blessed to be part of such a great organization. The Balfour Award is considered the crown jewel in terms of professional recognition. To be recognized by my peers is an inspiring honor and very humbling," he said.



Finalists for the Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year included Vivian D. Howell, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC and C. Wayne Larson, SR/WA, R/W-AC, R/W-URAC.



Michelle Colby, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC, Editor of Chapter 73 "Saguaro Sentinel," received the Chapter Newsletter of the Year Award.



Brett Farner from Chapter 37 was the winner of the inaugural Young Professional award.

This year's SARPA Scholarship was awarded to Alyson Dean, who is pursuing her Ph.D at the University of New Brunswick.



Red Deer College Business Administration student Kelsey Black and college-bound Trevor Coffin were the recipients of the Canadian Scholarship.



Highest numerical gain in members went to Calgary's Prairie Chapter 48. Accepting the Gene L. Land Award was Chapter President Tyler Jans, SR/WA.



Pittsburgh's Allegheny Chapter 55 was recognized as the Gene L. Land Award recipient for highest percentage gain. Jeremy Tingler accepted the award.



Receiving the 2012 Project of the Year Award from Pat Petitto, SR/WA, representatives from San Diego Gas & Electric's Sunrise Powerlink project included from left, Paul Nussbaum, SR/WA, Lida Jimenez, SR/WA, Fred Clark, SR/WA, and Cecilia Echeverria, SR/WA.

Fundraising in Support of Educational Initiatives

This year's Monday Night Event to benefit the Education Foundations was a minor league baseball game featuring food, drinks, the National Anthem sung by Hartford 2014 Conference Co-Chair Doug Hummel, SR/WA and the first pitch thrown out by International President Pat Petitto, SR/WA. The event was a rousing success, and raised almost \$30,000 for the RWIEF and CRWEF.



Conference-Foundation Sponsors

This year, a new joint sponsorship opportunity was offered as a way for small businesses and members to demonstrate their support specifically for IRWA education. The \$2,500 sponsorship was split between the conference and the Education Foundations. Special thanks to the 2013 sponsors: Carol A. Croft & Associates, H.C. Peck & Associates, Greenstar & Associates and Pinnacle Consulting Management Group, Inc. This sponsorship opportunity will be available for the 2014 Annual International Education Conference in Hartford, CT.



The Annual Golf Tournament, which is hosted by the RWIEF, took participants to the charming Berry Hills Country Club. The golf tournament raised almost \$33,000 for the Foundation. The RWIEF would like to extend special thanks to its major sponsors, including Allen Williford & Seale, Contract Land Staff, Integra Realty Resources - Houston, Percheron, IRWA's Region 5, IRWA's Region 3, Steele Land Services, IRWA's International Pipeline Committee, Paragon Partners, Ltd., Roland Resources, Inc., Twin Peaks Field Services, Croft & Associates, G&P Land, Coates Field Service, Inc., Dwight Pattison, SR/WA, Greenstar & Associates, LLC., Eagle Rock Energy Partners, Willbros, the RWIEF Trustees, and Georgia Power.



Janet presented each SR/WA recipient with their certificate as their names were announced.



Homer Hickham, the best-selling author of Rocket Boys, spoke on the simple pleasures of growing up in the Appalachian Mountains as the original rocket boy.

Earning the Esteemed SR/WA Designation

The SR/WA Recognition Breakfast is another annual conference tradition that aims to acknowledge those members who exhibited their commitment to professional development and earned their SR/WA designation over the past year. These individuals were honored during this special event on Tuesday, June 25th.

More than 100 members earned their SR/WA this past year, 20 of whom were in attendance to receive their certificate from Janet Walker, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, Chair of the International Professional Development Committee.



The Annual Finnegan Fun Run is a conference tradition that allows participants a unique view of the host city. This year's runners worked up a sweat along tree-lined streets that boast some of Charleston's best architectural gems and enjoyed scenic views of the Kanawha River.

Board of Directors Convene for Annual Meeting

At IRWA's Annual Board of Directors Meeting, International President Patricia Petitto, SR/WA reported a successful year and projected that the Association would end the fiscal year with a five-figure net income. She expressed appreciation to the Right of Way International Education Foundation and the Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation for their generous support and partnership, enabling IRWA to present updated and new programming to a record number of members and non-members, with a growing international audience.

Treasurer, Wayne Goss, SR/WA presented the proposed 2013-2014 budget, noting its alignment with IRWA's strategies to increase external visibility, develop new education programming and revise current programming. IRWA General Counsel, Eric Finn, Esq. presented three bylaw resolutions. The member conduct resolution was approved, as well as the recommendation to form regions outside north America. The resolution to update the definition of a retired member was tabled.

RWIEF President, Carol Croft, SR/WA thanked IRWA for its support and the Foundation Trustees for their service. She reported revenue of \$1,197,109, supporting \$140,000 in new course commitments and thanked all the donors and golfers for raising \$30,000 in net



RWIEF President, Carol Croft, SR/WA quoted a George Jones song, "Who's Going to Fill Their Shoes," encouraging members to join in supporting the foundation so we can make a difference together.

proceeds. The Monday Night Baseball Game sold 751 tickets and generated \$28,800. She announced that Trustee Bill Milton, SR/WA was resigning, and two-year terms were accepted by Craig Porker, SR/WA, Kevin Winner, SR/WA and Joe Neighbors, SR/WA. Two new trustees, Angel Banks and Steve Benson, SR/WA were also announced. RWIEF officers for 2013-2014 will remain unchanged.

Reminding board members about the importance of supporting their own professional development, CRWEF President Stewart Anderson noted that the CRWEF is taking on new initiatives, updating their bylaws and working to comply with the Canadian Corporations Act to gain charitable status, on top of their non-profit status. The Monday Night Ball Game generated \$6,200 for Canadian initiatives and the foundation approved \$45,000 to develop Course 100 as a VEIT production, making it available to more members and non-members across Canada. New CRWEF officers and board members for 2013-2014 include President, Sandy Grigg, SR/WA, Vice President, Dawn MacDougall and Treasurer, Bill Giese, SR/WA, along with Murray LeGris, SR/WA, Brodie Allen, SR/WA, Sharon Slauenwhite, SR/WA and Brian Taylor,

SR/WA. Encouraging members to step up and support their foundations in the coming year, Stewart concluded with a quote from Henry Ford, "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't - you're right."

Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, Chair of the International Nominations and Elections Committee reported that a slate of International Officers had been vetted, and the INEC recommended Jerry Colburn, SR/WA. The motion carried by unanimous vote, making Jerry Colburn, SR/WA the new International Secretary.

Conference Co-Chair, David Griffith, SR/WA thanked the Board, his committee, Chapter 21 and the strong group of volunteers who supported the conference. He announced that 1,032 paid attendees had participated. In appreciation for serving as the chapter host, Chapter 21 President Steve Light accepted a check from the Association for \$10,000.

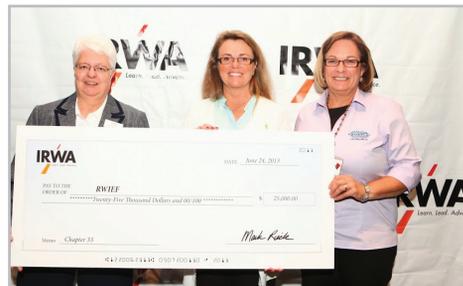
Three chapters competed to host the 2018 Conference: Chapter 62, Edmonton, Canada, Chapter 3, Portland, Oregon, Chapter 52, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Following two rounds of voting, Chapter 62, Edmonton, Canada was selected.



CRWEF Treasurer Dawn McDougal accepted checks on behalf of Canada's educational initiatives.



CRWEF President, Stewart Anderson thanked the Association for the strong partnership enjoyed by our organizations.



Chapter 33 President Lori Vernon, SR/WA, R/W-RAC (right) presented a \$25,000 check to RWIEF President Carol Croft (left) on behalf of Lisa Harrison's donated instructor fees.

New Slate of Officers Take Oath at Installation Banquet

The conference concluded with the Annual Installation Banquet held on Wednesday, June 26th. In receiving her Past Presidents pin, Pat said, "I've always thought that the success of our Association is dependent on the large number of volunteer members that give tirelessly of their time and expertise to help lead our Association. The past five years has confirmed that for me."

Assuming the role as IRWA's 58th International President, Lisa Harrison expressed her plan to see IRWA to grow while increasing value and industry relevance. "Our Association's potential for growth is exciting. Our financial position is strong, and our momentum toward greater industry relevance is significant. We have the opportunity to accomplish some great things together," said Lisa.



For her many contributions to the Association, Patricia Petitto received a commemorative plaque from incoming International President Lisa Harrison.



The 2013-2014 International Executive Committee, from left, Mark Rieck, Jerry Colburn, SR/WA, Mary Ann Marr, SR/WA, Wayne Goss, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC, Lee Hamre, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, and Eric Finn, Esq.



Outgoing International President Pat Petitto showed pure joy at receiving her Past-President pin from her husband John.



Lisa Harrison's father Fred Harrison was invited to the podium to honor his daughter as she assumed the highest position in the Association.



Inviting everyone to attend the 2014 Annual Conference in Hartford, Connecticut were Conference Co-Chairs Richard Allen and Doug Hummel, SR/WA.



IRWA Region Chairs, Vice Chairs and the IEC for 2013-2014 were sworn in by past International President, Randy Williams, SR/WA.

Relocation Project Challenges Take on an International Perspective

Each year, international conference attendees are invited to participate in an interactive roundtable. This year, relocation was the main topic.

IRWA International Vice President Lee Hamre, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC explained that, in the United States, 18 federal agencies provide funding for relocation projects, and it is the Uniform Act that helps ensure the rights and needs of property owners are balanced with infrastructure projects that benefit the public at large. Eric Finn addressed Canadian law, which is based on the principle of a “home for a home” so the market value of the home is not increased, but rather the cost to relocate the displaced party is the sole consideration.

Bert Bosseler shared perspective on Germany’s underground infrastructure, specifically pipelines, cables and utilities. Shifting from nuclear power to renewables has caused many right of way issues to surface, and flooding has become their major challenge. They need innovative solutions and hope to form a cooperative relationship with IRWA. Muzi Shange from South Africa Chapter 83 outlined a relocation process that centers on an 80/20 rule, where 80 percent of the replacement housing is paid up front to facilitate faster moves. The sugarcane industry in South Africa attracts \$1 billion in direct

income annually, so they are particularly challenged when transmission lines must be routed over the fields.

Umar Al-Abdullatif spoke about a relocation project in Saudi Arabia impacting two villages that are located within an oil field. Roughly 6,000 people will be affected, and \$400 million has been allocated for their relocation. Efforts are in place to work with impacted residents and prevent public backlash. Representing Mexico, Jesus Sandoval explained that much of the land is government owned, and the country’s right of way methods are very outdated. The projects related to gas, oil and electricity are quite active, but water system projects are in stagnation. He sees important opportunities and is encouraged to work with IRWA on practical solutions.

Providing perspective on relocation in Nigeria, Peter Ozilli spoke about its alignment with compensation where financial assistance is awarded, but residents relocate themselves. There is no value attached to the land, only the improvements. The Japanese Compensation Consultants Association’s Shinichi Sakai spoke about Japan’s ongoing earthquake recovery efforts, noting that the country is benefitting from a political leadership shift, and new land strengthening policies are expected to follow.



Addressing relocation challenges in their respective countries were representatives from Australia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Germany, Thailand, South Africa, Uganda, Nigeria and China.

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.



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International Committees Serve the Association and its Industry Sectors

The Association's strength is derived from the dedicated right of way professionals who serve in volunteer leadership roles. These International Committees represent the various industries and disciplines that comprise our diverse membership, and they play a vital role in addressing emerging industry issues. IRWA applauds their efforts in advancing the Association and the right of way profession.

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ETHICS

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NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS



PIPELINE



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INTERNATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL



RIGHT OF WAY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION



CANADIAN RIGHT OF WAY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



IRWA's Structural Support Stems from its 10 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