



# Volunteer Vibes

Tennessee Chapter 32 - International Right of Way Association

January-February 2014

[www.irwachapter32.org](http://www.irwachapter32.org)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Fellow Members,  
As we ring in a chilly new year, this woman from the Deep South is continuously amazed by the seasonal changes occurring all

around me.

Gone are the luscious green trees, colorful blooms, swirling winds, and clear blue skies of late fall, replaced by steely gray skies, barren trees and plummeting mercury readings of winter. Still, life experience has taught me that the cold stillness of winter is necessary if we are to enjoy Mother Nature's joyful rebirth in the spring.

My wish for each of you is a new year filled with faith to sustain you, hope to strengthen your heart and mind, a deep resolve to embrace the inevitable changes that come our way, and a determination to work diligently to find new solutions for the challenges that lie ahead.

Please know that serving as President of IRWA Chapter 32 continues to be my privilege.

Brenda Walsh, R/W-NAC

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** If you plan to renew your IRWA membership, please do so by January 31<sup>st</sup>. A 93% renewal rate will earn us a **free** registration to the 2014 International Education Conference in June.

**FALL FORUM:** Thanks to Chapter 26 for hosting the Fall Forum in sunny Tampa, Florida, last October. Listed below is an overview of items discussed:

### ***IRWA'S Four Key Objectives for 2014:***

1. Increase IRWA membership
2. Increase relevance of IRWA education/credentials
3. Increase IRWA marketing outreach
4. Strengthen the infrastructure of the Association

***Alignment Project:*** IRWA has established a new communication model that focuses on the four primary industries it serves and the Communities of Practice within those industries in order to expand its ability to deliver value and industry relevance in the marketplace.

## **The four Industry Committees are:**

1. Electric and Utilities
2. Local Public Agencies
3. Oil and Gas Pipelines
4. Transportation

## **Communities of Practice within those committees are defined as:**

1. Acquisition
2. Asset Management
3. Environmental
4. Relocation
5. Surveying/Engineering
6. Title
7. Valuation

Wayne Goss, SR/WA and International VP, will be explaining the details at the April 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting in Nashville (Time-6:30/Place TBA)

***Young Professionals:*** IRWA will no longer use this moniker. Topics for future discussion include:

1. Defining what it means to be a YP, avoiding age and experience limitations
2. Clarifying what IRWA hopes to achieve with this group and how to go about achieving its goals
3. Incorporating this group into existing initiatives rather than establishing a separate entity

***RWIEF:*** The IEC unveiled a new 5-year plan to develop 50 new educational products at a cost of \$1,200,000. To achieve this goal, the IEC proposed that each chapter contribute \$4,000/yr for the next 5 years to the Right of Way International Education Foundation.

## **IRWA-TAC EDUCATION SEMINAR & GOLF**

**TOURNAMENT:** Chapter 32 will raise funds for the RWIEF at our annual spring event to be held May 5-6. *This is a great way to accrue those all-important CEU's, socialize AND support a good cause!* (Details to follow.)

## **REGION 6 SPRING FORUM & EDUC. CONFERENCE**

May 9-10, Embassy Suites, 267 Marietta Street, Atlanta, GA (404-223-2300) All are invited!