



Volunteer Vibes

International Right of Way Association - Tennessee Chapter 32

December 2012

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Bill Medley would like to invite ALL MEMBERS to come and hear about our GOLF TOURNAMENT!!!!

Message from our President

The State of the Chapter Address

Hello Everyone!

Since my last message, a lot has happened in the Tennessee Chapter. I asked Amanda McDevitt to represent me and my position at the Fall Forum in Mississippi. She and Dan Gill (voting members), as well as several others attended from the Chapter. I will leave the explanation of the events at the Forum to Mandy and Dan.



Also, we had a nice Meeting and Christmas party at the Ruth Chris Steak House on December 1st. I believe a good time was had by everyone in attendance. I would like to express my thanks to Mandy McDevitt and Marc Headden for setting it up. During the meeting, Bill Medley reminded everyone about the golf tournament that our Chapter is co-hosting in the Spring. Our part of the proceeds will go to the Education Foundation. Marc Headden and Bill Medley said that they are working diligently to set up a series of classes for next year that will benefit as many members as possible. They have been meeting with Metro Nashville and TDOT to maintain the good relationship that we have with them in providing their education needs. Please let Bill or Marc know if you need a particular class to get a certification or SR/WA.

Finally, I appreciate the way everyone on the Executive Committee has worked together during the past few months. Your suggestions and comments have been welcomed by me. I'm looking forward to the new year and what it brings. Remember that Tennessee is hosting the Spring Forum here in Nashville. Also, remember to check out our chapter's website at www.irwachapter32.org often to see when and where our events are being held, and let us know how we can better serve you. A Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all!

Sincerely,
John Boynton, President

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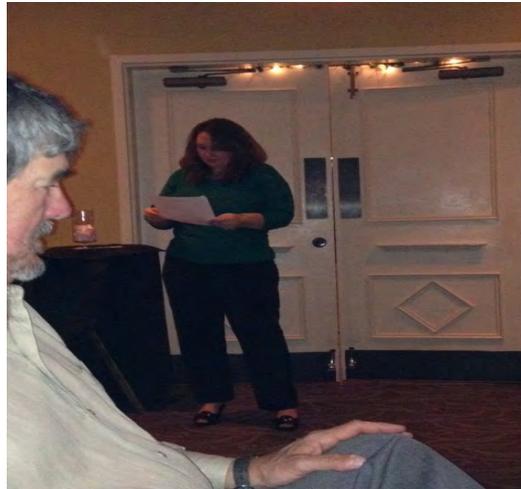


IRWA Chapter 32 Meeting Overview Month, Day, Year

Our next chapter meeting will be held in **January** (Date to be announced) at the **Two Rivers Grille** in the **Marriott Airport Hotel**, 600 Marriott Drive, Nashville, 37214

- 5:30pm—Exec. Committee Meeting**
- 6:00pm-Dinner for Chapter Members**
- 7:00pm-Chapter Meeting**

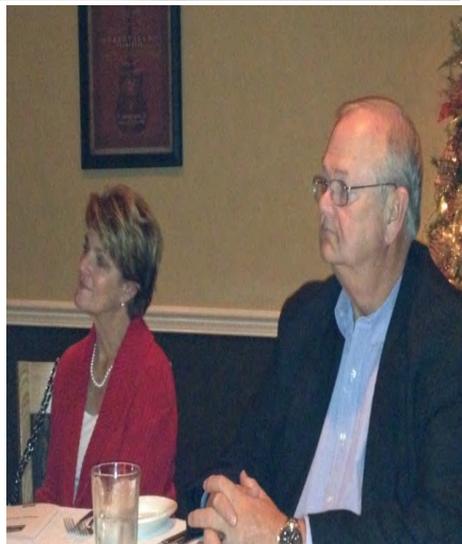
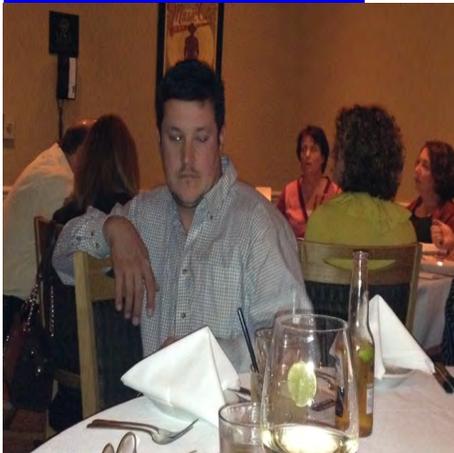
Chapter 32 PHOTOS



SAVE THE DATE

The Region 6 Spring Forum is scheduled for **March 22, 2013** in **Nashville, TN!**

The IRWA Education Conference is scheduled for **June 23** thru the **26th** in **Charleston, WV**



Editorial: Long-term federal highway funding bill needed

The U.S. House last week passed a surface transportation bill that extends federal funding for highways and other transportation projects for 90 days, through Sept. 30. The current bill expires June 30.

The House action represents just the latest in a series of short-term extensions in federal transportation funding, which have created uncertainty among the states and made highway construction planning a nightmare. However, because the Senate has passed a two-year funding bill, the House vote raises hopes that House-Senate conferees will be able to craft an acceptable long-term bill.

The last long-term highway funding bill, authored by Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe, was passed in 2005 and expired in 2009. Since 2009, highway funds have been allocated to the states through short-term extensions, which is bad policy.

Both the House and Senate versions reportedly contain provisions that aim to reduce red tape involved in moving federal funds to the states, which should help the states plan projects more accurately and efficiently.

Oklahoma receives about \$600 million a year in federal highway funds, although that amount could drop if threatened cuts in transportation funding become law.

Advocates for the two-year Senate measure say it will create 1 million new jobs and save 1.8 million existing jobs nationally.

Conducting the federal surface transportation program with year-after-year funding extensions is no way to run a railroad. Congress should put aside partisan politics to the extent possible and downplay election-year gamesmanship long enough to pass a long-term funding measure. That would let Oklahoma and the other states move ahead with their highway programs with some confidence that the that funds will be available.



Report for 2012 Region 6 Spring Forum Transportation:

Recent discussion on the Federal Highway Bill has caused a lot of indecision on Right of Way Projects within the states. Prior to this latest discussion lies a different approach to how the money allocated to the states is distributed within their prospective DOTs. Prior to this discussion the funding was allocated between the three divisions of the Department of Transportation within the states. First, was the PE (engineering) then the ROW (right of way) and finally Construction with money allocated for each as provided by the funds allocated by the FHWA. The **current bill will allow the money to come to the DOTs in a lump sum for each DOT to decide how to spend it.** I spoke with the assistant director of TDOT ROW and he informed me that TDOT had already spent the allocated monies for this fiscal year and many planned projects had to be put on hold or cancelled. The new funding bill will allow the incoming funds to be distributed to the needs of each of the divisions rather than be tied to one or the other. The delay in passing a long term solution has hindered the state legislatures from passing matching funding for the projects.

There is a move nationally to get right of way funding tied to certifications, designations or brokers. It was reported there are 38 states that have passed legislation to confront this movement. Please support your states in this endeavor.

Billy R. Medley, SR/WA, CG # 822

Region 6 Transportation Representative

Chapter 32



Committee Focus

The Intricacies of Course Revisions

BY JANET WALKER, SR/WA, R/W-NAC

I am often asked why it takes so long to develop or revamp an IRWA course. The fact is, there are many steps involved in the process, and skipping any one of them is not an option. The International Professional Development Committee (IPDC) has a complex role, so to better acquaint members with the committee's roles, responsibilities and processes, this is the first of three articles that will explain who we are and what we do.

The IPDC has a multi-tiered purpose: to oversee the development of course curriculum that trains right of way practitioners, while maintaining high standards of competency through a professional development program. This is a monumental task which entails an enormous amount of oversight. Here are just a few of our responsibilities:

- Monitor members' educational needs through market research
- Identify new professional development opportunities
- Recommend education and certification programs and policies
- Provide subject matter expertise in reviewing course content
- Select and manage individuals to develop and revise courses
- Administer certification and SR/WA designation programs
- Serve as liaisons with chapters, committees and regions
 - Assist in developing instructor and participant manuals
 - Monitor and approve courses proposed by outside sources for inclusion in IRWA's educational and professional development curricula



Managing the Variables

The Intricacies of Course Revision Continued

Most members believe a course revamping is a simple process, however, incorporating even minor revisions to course materials can be quite complex. It begins when a course instructor submits a change to IRWA headquarters. Staff at headquarters reviews the requested changes, and if revisions are required, passes the proposal along to the IPDC, which determines the level of change. If only minor changes are needed, the proposal is sent to an adult learning consultant, who incorporates the changes and sends the finished revisions back to the IPDC, which then either approves the changes or sends the proposal back to the consultant for further work. Once approved, graphics are added, the copy is edited thoroughly and a printed proof is created for final approval by the IPDC. Once the proof is accepted, IRWA headquarters officially activates the new content, which is then included when manuals are produced for the next time the course is presented.

Typically, this revision process takes six months or longer to complete. The schedule depends on many variables, such as the level of interest and response to a request for proposal, budget, availability of the developer and their ability to revise course materials, quality of revisions, unexpected delays, project management and oversight. Another variable is the availability of the subject matter experts, often our international committee members, as well as the opportunity to pilot the revised course and integrate any necessary changes.

Our committee members are continuously assessing the quality and relevance of IRWA's courses based on feedback and formal requests from committees, instructors, participants and developers. This feedback helps us determine the need and level of urgency based on the nature and extent of the revisions.

Janet Walker, SR/WA, R/W-NAC

With more than 20 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, Janet serves as Chair of the International Professional Development Committee. She works for ConocoPhillips Canada as the Surface Access Manager, Consultation and Complex Applications. Previously, Janet was a Right of Way and Land Specialist for the National Energy Board. She holds a Master's Degree in Integrated Studies with an Adult Education major, a Bachelor's Degree in General Studies with a minor in Workplace Learning, a Certificate in Project Management and continues to take Justice Institute Negotiation/Mediation courses through the University of Calgary.





INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

Tennessee Chapter 32

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