

North Texas News



International Right-of-Way Association

Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas

Chapter 36 December 2009

Volume 2009, Issue 12

Who says there are no free lunches?

Who do you know that would be an interesting speaker for our monthly chapter luncheons? Just send their name, topic and contact information to kdangelo@half.com. If your speaker is booked, you get a free lunch!

Come & Celebrate Another
Wonderful Year at our
Annual Chapter Festive Luncheon

December 8th

11:30am - 1:30pm

Receptions on the Main

109 South Main Street

Irving, Texas 75060

parking available from the Bell Tower at Rock Island
to Heritage Park at Second St. all within 1/2 to 1 block

from Receptions and across the street at Big State parking lot)

Menu: Pot Roast with potatoes, carrots, celery, a colorful corn medley
with roasted red/yellow bell peppers, slow rise yeast rolls, corn bread &
butter, buffet Garden Salad, bread pudding with whiskey sauce & your
choice of Iced Tea, water, and Gourmet AHH coffee.

Cost: RSVP \$15 per person or \$20 at the door (tax & gratuity included)

Featuring:

Right of Way Wheel of Fortune

Over \$3,000 in prizes and gift cards

Jewelry, Electronics, Bass Pro Shop, unique one-of-a-kind items,

Brighton, cameras, tools, golf items, food & wine!

Old Fashioned Photo Booth presented by Integra Realty Resources

Event limited to the first 130 members.

Please be kind to your program Committee and RSVP to
reservations@irwchapter36.org OR

Fonda Reynolds 214.342.9842 no later than

NOON Friday, December 4th.

Although guests are free their 1st time, please remember
to register them for an accurate count.



CHAPTER OFFICERS 2010

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817-332-5522

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INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT

By Denise Perez



As we prepare to enter the new year 2010, I sat down to visit with our new incoming Chapter 36 President, Greg Cook. Many of you already know Greg as he has been very active in our chapter having served and volunteered throughout.

Here is what he had to say:

What is your experience/education in the Right of Way/Appraisal field?

Since graduating from Texas A&M in 1995 with my Masters in Land Economics and Real Estate, I have been involved in right of way and easement valuation. In 2007, I earned my SR/WA designation.

Who is your current employer?

Integra Realty Resources, DFW. I'm located in the Fort Worth office.

How long have you been working with Integra?

15 years. I started with Sherwood & Associates in 1995. After two mergers, Integra Realty Resources, DFW (IRR DFW) was formed in 1999. IRR DFW is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

Can you describe your scope of work & duties with your current employer?

My responsibilities include origination of work, mentoring younger appraisers, managing projects, performing appraisals, and testifying as an expert witness.

How did you get started in this field?

A summer internship was a requirement of my Masters Degree program. I did my internship with Donnie Sherwood. Somehow, I convinced Donnie to hire me full time once I graduated. As they say, the rest is history. I've been working with Donnie ever since and am fortunate to have him as a mentor.

What did you first want to be when you were growing up?

A Dallas Cowboy!

What do you do when you're not working?

Hopefully playing golf!

With regard to IRWA Chapter 36, what leadership goal would you like to accomplish throughout 2010? I would like to encourage our membership to become designated or certified. Due to the hard work of the chapter's Professional Development Committee, we have a large number of candidates. I would like to see these candidates complete their requirements for education in 2010. We are very fortunate to have an extremely active Education Committee. A candidate can usually take all of their courses locally within two to three years.

Many of us have had the pleasure of meeting your wife, Shannon, as she has volunteered at various events, including Spring Seminar, over the last few years, but tell us a little more:

I married my college sweetheart, Shannon, in 1995 a day before my 25th birthday. I was told I was getting the best birthday present in the world...which I totally agree with!

Where were you born and raised?

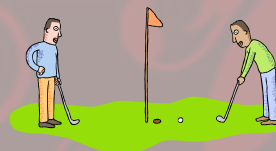
Amarillo, Texas on lots of meat and potatoes...no surprise there!

Where do you live now?

Fort Worth, Texas

Do you have any hobbies or interests?

Golf, hunting, and college football! Gig'em Aggies!





Member Spotlight

Interview by Christi Glendinning

Regina G. Barber

City of Dallas

Job/Title/Responsibilities: Relocation Specialist for the Trinity Watershed Management Department.

Current Project(s): Trinity River Corridor Project, Trinity Parkway, Dallas Floodway Extension, Baker Pump Station, Riverfront Boulevard and the Oncor Transition Facility/Sylvan Bridge,

Where else have you worked? Prior to working for the City of Dallas I worked as a medical Social Worker for South Dallas Health Access Center as a HIV/AIDS worker and before that I worked for Kages Home Health as a medical Social Worker as well as with Texas Department of Human Services and North Texas Area Agency on Aging.

Education/Professional Certifications: Bachelor of Arts and Science Degree in Social Work and Minor in Criminal Justice. Preparing to take exam for RW-RAC.

How did you get started in the right of way industry? The Former Manager of the Relocation Division - Billye Crockett who is now deceased, introduced me to the right of way industry by hiring me over 6 years ago. She had been involved with Relocation for over 30 years and knew it like the back of her hand. She continued to educate her staff with all of her first hand knowledge until she retired. The greatest legacy she left with me was if you are serious about Relocation, you should study, study and study some more.

What motivated you to join IRWA? My desire to become more knowledgeable about Relocation was my number one motivation for joining IRWA.

Current home city: Dallas

Home town: Dallas, (Oak Cliff)

Family: My immediate family consists of my handsome husband of 8.5 years, Regis C. Barber, my very lively 7 year old son, Regis "Scooter" Barber, and my step-daughter, Antoinette Mason, who resides in Shreveport, LA.

Hobbies: I love to sing, teach vegetarian cooking and temperance classes, travel and conduct Bible studies.

Nobody knows that I: I once worked in a Sanitarium as a Medial Missionary in Elgin, Oregon, caring for sick people using herbal medicines.

Favorite place to travel: Cancun, Mexico

Other professional, community or personal affiliations: School Board Member for Southwest Adventist Junior Academy

Thing(s) you are most proud of: Both my immediate family and my church family. My husband whom dedicates his life to make both myself and my son happy, and my son inspires me daily with the amazingly kind things he says and does for people he hardly knows.

Person(s) who has influenced you the most: My parents Thomas and Mary Hughes are my greatest influences. My dad with his kind and gentle spirit has always been my greatest fan. Even to this day, he has never allowed me to procrastinate and has always taught me to dream. My mother is such a dynamic person. She has shown me by her almost flawless example how to be an honest God-fearing person, woman and mother. Her motto, was and still is, don't just talk about, do it! She still continues to run rings around me today!

Favorite Quotes: "A good character is more precious than worldly possessions, and the work of forming it is the noblest in which mankind can engage." Ellen G. White

Best advise you have received: Cherish the preciousness of each new day and live life in such a way, that you have no regrets!

Largest hurdle you have had to overcome: Having to quit competing in collegiate track and field and having had multiple miscarriages in the past.

Your advice to someone starting out in the Right of Way profession: Become affiliated with someone in the business, and ask many questions.

Next time you see me, ask me about: Have I positively impacted someone's life lately?





ASK THE LAWYER

By

R. Scott Moran,

Scott Doggett,

John Baker

and

David Weaver

Attorneys at Law

Burford & Ryburn, L.L.P.

Submit Questions About
Right-of-Way Matters to

Chapter 36 Member,

R. Scott Moran*,

Burford & Ryburn, L.L.P.,

3100 Lincoln Plaza,

500 N. Akard,

Dallas, Tx 75201;

(214) 740-3117

(214)740-2822 (fax) or

by e-mail

to:

smoran@brlaw.com



***DISCLAIMER:** This column is not a substitute for legal counsel, and an attorney should be consulted to answer specific legal issues.

The *Washington Times* recently reported:



The Supreme Court's disastrous 2005 *Kelo v. City of New London* decision sparked a property rights movement across the country about local governments around the nation who seize private property for the reason of "economic development." As a result of the court decision, Susette Kelo's land was given to private developers working on high-end projects in the surrounding area of the corporate facility for the drug manufacturer Pfizer. Ms. Kelo's home and other dwellings were bulldozed over in the end.

Pfizer recently announced, however, it plans to vacate its research and development facility in New London, Connecticut and move to nearby Groton. The *Harford Courant* reports that the pending loss of Pfizer's headquarters "could also complicate New London's efforts to redevelop the Fort Trumbull area..." The *Courant* references the Kelo decision and the so-called redevelopment Fort Trumbull was supposed to have as a result of the high court's decision:

"...an ambition that led to the city's controversial seizure of private homes through eminent domain and to a subsequent bitter legal battle that ended with a U.S. Supreme Court decision in the city's favor in 2005. Pfizer's nearby headquarters was hailed as an attraction that would inspire redevelopment. But meaningful redevelopment at Fort Trumbull remains a dream."

Pfizer, though, refuses to take the blame for the barren area of Fort Trumbull. A spokeswoman for Pfizer sent the *Washington Times* a statement on the eminent domain case and the company's pulling out of New London:

"Eminent domain played no part in the development by Pfizer of its facility in New London, CT. In fact, our offices were built on an industrial "brown field." Pfizer worked with the state on remediation and clean up of the polluted site-formerly an abandoned mill and a scrap yard.

Kelo v. New London concerned an appeal by homeowners of property, located in the nearby Fort Trumbull neighborhood. They objected to the use of eminent domain by the City as part of its redevelopment plan. Pfizer was not a party to that litigation, had no stake in the outcome of the case and has no requirements nor interest in the development of the land that is the subject of the case. Pfizer did not acquire any property here.

We continue to be dismayed to see false and misleading claims appear in the media that suggest Pfizer was involved in the matter."

The Arlington, Virginia based civil liberties law firm, Institute for Justice (IJ), who represented Ms. Kelo in 2005 sees the closing of Pfizer as proof of what they have been saying all along about government and corporate welfare. IJ staffer Christina Walsh wrote to the *Washington Times*:

"The closing of Pfizer in New London demonstrates the folly of government plans that involve massive corporate welfare and the use of eminent domain for private development. The majority in *Kelo* described the Fort Trumbull project as a 'carefully considered' plan, but it has been a complete disaster from start to finish. Local officials nationwide who are tempted to follow in New London's footsteps should take a close look at Fort Trumbull today – barren to all but feral cats and weeds."

Many see that the high court made a bad decision with the Kelo case, and the result in Connecticut is water under the bridge, unfortunately. What has resulted, though, is a greater awareness among Americans regarding how precious individual property rights are. Fort Trumbull homes may not have been saved in 2005, but other localities in forty-three states around the county instituted eminent domain protections for property owners since then. When the American people want something, they can work pretty fast on their own. Government economic development planners should take heed.



Chapter 36 Rocks!!!

By: Greg Althoff, SR/WA

We are ranked in the top 4 in all the categories and first or second in 4 of the 6 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here is How We Stand in 08-09.

IRWA keeps track of all the numbers for each Chapter and I thought it would be instructional to see where we stack up against other Chapters. This data is for fiscal year 2008-2009 ending 6/30/09.

I am sure our numbers are even better since this does not reflect what we have accomplished in the 2nd half of 2009.
(This information can be found on the IRWA home page.)

Number of Chapter Members: Chapter 36 is **2nd** with 364.
Chapter 8 in Houston is 1st. with 452.

Number of Classes: Chapter 36 is **4th** with 12.
Chapter 11 in San Diego was 1st with 18.

Number of SR/WA's: Chapter 36 is **4th** with 71.
Chapter 28 in Phoenix is 1st with 86.

Number of SR/WA Candidates: Chapter 36 is **1st** with 37.
Chapter 28 in Phoenix is 2nd with 16.

Number of R/W Certifications: Chapter 36 is **1st** with 63.
Chapter 24 in Birmingham is 2nd with 50.

Number of R/W Certification Candidates: Chapter 36 is **1st** with 26.
Chapter 26 in Tampa is 2nd. with 10



Meeting Photos

Installation of Officers





SR/WA Review Study Session Update

By Denise Perez

The SR/WA Review Study Session and Exam held in Irving, Texas on November 16th through 18th was a great success! The event was hosted by the City of Irving at their beautiful facility featuring an outdoor waterfall and multiple ponds. The Education Committee secured some terrific facilitators to guide the review sessions covering Engineering, Appraisal, Law, Communications and Relocation Assistance. There were folks from throughout the state, a few from out-of-state and even a lawyer to boot. In typical Chapter 36 fashion there were snacks and drinks a plenty not to mention the warm southern hospitality extended to and from those from our sister chapters.

In the review days before the exam, we each traveled back in time to our school days going over formulas, studying legal definitions, calculating relocation assistance payments, reading engineering plans, identifying elevations, using the funnel technique, and calculating engineering grades just to name a few. Whew!

On the third and final day, we sat quietly with number 2 pencils in hand going over everything in our heads. The exams were handed out, each individually sealed in its own envelope. You could hear the ticking of the wall clock as everyone worked to pencil in their answers on the exam for which we were allotted 3 hours to complete. In the end we each sealed our completed exam and answer sheet in an envelope, signed over the seal and it was returned to International Headquarters for grading. We should know the results in the next 4-6 weeks.

All in all I would highly recommend that anyone considering taking the SR/WA exam seriously consider taking the review study session simply because it covers all the disciplines that you may not be using in your current job and just because you may be a little rusty. Remember, the only requirement to enroll in this class is your SR/WA Candidacy number which indicates that you have applied for SR/WA Candidacy status.

Chapter 36 2009 PDC Committee Members:

Chair - David McCarthy, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC 214-724-4822, dmcc76430@aol.com

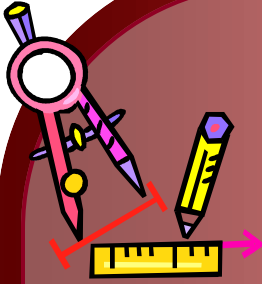
3 year - Marcus Boyd 972.979.2850 mboyd@pinnaclegroup.biz

2 year - Robert Duran, SR/WA 214.217.6401 rduran@halff.com

Mail All SR/WA and R/W Applications to Chapter 36 PDC Chair



IRWA Chapter 36 Education Schedule – 2010



2009 was a great year for Chapter 36 Education thanks to Charles Stearman's lineup of courses and David Harry's follow through as his successor. Chapter 36 is pleased to offer the following Education Schedule for 2010. We look forward to helping our members through another successful year. You will find courses to complete your SR/WA Designation or R/W Certification, and continuing education needs.

January 26 & 28, FAA/PRES – courses offered: 207, 304, 505

Chapter 36 will not schedule classes for this month.

February 3-5, Region 2 Winter Forum – courses offered: 804

Chapter 36 will not schedule classes for this month.

215 ROW Agents Development Program, March 4 & 5, Pete Brown

105 The Uniform Act Executive Summary, March 22, facilitator TBD

Chapter 36 Golf and Spring Seminar, April 8 & 9

800 Principles of R. E. Law, April 19 & 20, Scott Moran

410 Reviewing Appraisals in Eminent Domain, May 10, Donnie Sherwood

803 Law Basics for ROW Professionals, May 17 & 18, Scott Moran

602 Project Development & the Environmental Process, June 7, Kyle Ray, upon course release

603 Understanding Environmental Contamination, June 8, Kyle Ray

504 Computing Replacement Housing Payments, June 14 & 15, Donna Harrison

IRWA Conference, June 27-30

802 Legal Aspects of Easements, July 12, Scott Moran

900 Principles of R. E. Engineering, July 26 & 27, Kyle Ray

August - Region 2 Refresher, Texas A & M

Chapter 36 will not schedule classes for this month.

400 Principles of R.E. Appraisal, September 27, Charles Stearman

804 Skills of Expert Testimony, September 27, Donnie Sherwood

700 Introduction to Property Management, October 4 & 5, Wayne Goss

503 Mobile Home Relocation, October 18, Donna Harrison

701 Property Management Leasing, November 1 & 2, Wayne Goss

703 Real Property Asset Management, November 3, Wayne Goss

Please contact your Education Committee for more information:

Karen Gnuse, Ann Scruggs, or Lily Khan

- Karen Gnuse, 2010 Education Committee Chair (972) 966-2809.



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Committee Page

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the International Right-of-Way Association is to unite the efforts of its members toward individual development, improved service to employers and the public and improvement in the body of knowledge related to the professional tasks of its members. To achieve these goals, the Association provides a Code of Ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct, a forum for the exchange and advancement of ideas, education courses and seminars, and a program of professional development.



Have a Job Opportunity you'd like to post?

Please submit all Right of Way Industry related job opportunities to:

Denise Perez at dperez@cityofirving.org

Are you a writer disguised as a Right-of-Way Agent?

Those of you interested in writing an Industry Related article for an upcoming newsletter, please provide ideas and articles to the Newsletter Editor at dperez@cityofirving.org