

Presidents Message - Bernard B. Banker, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

My second two-year term as president of Iowa Chapter 41 – “Spirit of the Heartland” comes to an end and the gavel will be passed to Jim Diemer on January 19, 2008 at our biennial installation banquet.

I've gone back through my previous messages and decided I really can't add anything to my December, 2003 message. It conveyed my feelings about this organization and serving as your president. Rather than getting even more maudlin and babbling on and on, here is that message, but with a new name to reflect our new 2008 president:

“As my term as president of this great chapter comes to an end, I ask myself where has the time gone? Andy Rooney's response would be to tell me that *“it goes the same place it's always gone and no one has ever known where that is”*.”

It has been my privilege to have been the president of our chapter “The Spirit of the Heartland” for the past two years. I want to thank everyone who has served on the Executive Board and the many committees, for all the time, effort and hard work you have selflessly given to our chapter. It is **YOU** who make our chapter what it is and has been for the past forty years.

I have been involved with our chapter since 1994. Or should I say “re-involved”? Many of you don't know it, but I was a member of the American Right of Way Association for several years in the mid 1970's. Yes, I remember when Bob Dahlgren, Jim Diemer and Al Kay were young up-and-coming fellers. I, too, was a young staff appraiser with the, then, Iowa State Highway Commission.

I gave up my membership when the dues were increased because I was starting a family and felt that I couldn't afford it. My memory slips me now, but I think the dues went from around \$50, to the “outrageous” sum of around of \$100 per year. At that time I looked at my membership as more of an opportunity to get away from work and, as I recall, my only involvement was publishing a chapter membership booklet. What a mistake! Not the booklet, but rather my selfish attitude toward the chapter.

I missed out on some eighteen years of camaraderie, friendship, networking and the many educational opportunities that were available. While that quantity of time can never be replaced, I can make the effort to spend quality time with and for this organization. I've served in many capacities in the chapter and have enjoyed each and every one. I look forward to my involvement on a number of committees and the region representative to the Valuation Committee.

If you are new to our organization don't be shy about getting involved. You can start by attending our meetings and speaking up on the issues. If you've been a member for many years, come on; jump right in...the water's fine! The vibrancy and growth of our chapter depends on new and fresh ideas.

Since this is my last message and I seem to be wandering a bit with my prose, I am reminded of another Andy Rooney saying: *“The best conversationalists are people whose ideas have a definite beginning and a definite ending. The bores are the ones who talk on and on without ever making a point.”*

That said,...it's been a privilege to serve you, Good Luck ~~Shelly~~ Jim and..Adios!”

Sincerely,

Bernie

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ January 19, 2008
Chapter 41 Installation
Banquet
Altoona, IA
- ◆ February 28—29, 2008
Region 3 Spring Forum
Deadwood, SD
- ◆ March 2008
Class 203: Alternative
Dispute Resolution
Cedar Rapids, IA

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“NOTHING GREAT WAS EVER ACHIEVED WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM.”

- RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Congratulations Joe Anderson, SR/WA



★ On December 1, 2007 Joe Anderson, Iowa Department of Transportation received his ★ SR/WA designation. Please join us in congratulating Joe on enhancing his profes- ★ sional career. ★

Membership News - Chair Vicki Elscott

New Chapter 41 Member



Mr. Mark Holm - *Iowa Department of Transportation*

Welcome—We look forward to your membership and continued generosity at future auctions.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

Income	\$1515.62
Expenses	<u>\$2,050.00</u>
Net Gain	-\$ 534.38
Current Balance	\$10,427.72
Long Term Obligations	<u>\$ 795.00</u>
Net Balance	\$9,632.72



SECRETARY 'S REPORT
International Right of Way Association
"Spirit of the Heartland" - Iowa Chapter 41

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Minutes of Business Meeting – Thursday September 13, 2007

Bravo Cucina Restaurant
Jordan Creek Town Center
West Des Moines, IA

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the June 1, 2007, business meeting in Pella, IA, which had been published in the August 2007 newsletter were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and approved by all members present.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's Report indicated a total net balance of \$9,632.72. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded and approved as presented by all members present.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Vicki Elscott reported we have applications for four new members from Mid American Energy and one new member application from Graham and Associates, all officers offered their approval for the new members. Don Corrigan volunteered to take their pins and membership certificate to new members. A Big Welcome to our new members and please make plans to attend our future meetings, if there is anything we can do to add value to your Right of Way career please feel free to let us know how we can help.

Education: Nancy Halvorson reported the Advanced Relocation Classes, Residential 505 and Business 506 held September 11, 12 and 13, 2007 were each attended by 14 students, the Instructor, Lee Hamre, did an excellent presentation of the material and related all solutions to the Federal Regulations, resulting in substantial knowledge of where the answers are found and supported through the guidelines found in the regulations. This should be of value as we perform our daily work. Ethics, Course 103 will be presented at the Fall Forum to be held October 11 and 12th, 2007 in Riverside, Iowa, we should have good attendance. If there are any classes you need or want to enhance your professional career please make those needs known to Nancy Halvorson, and possibly they could be scheduled in the future. If anyone has a suggestion regarding a desirable location where we could schedule future classes please share any locations with Nancy Halvorson. Rita requested Chapter 41 submit a tentative list of classes proposed for the next year by November 1 2007, so Rita can compare with other Chapters in the Region in order to prevent an overlap of educational offerings with other Chapters for the next year.

Program: Jim Diemer, will be working on a meeting site for the January 2008 meeting which will include the installation of our new officers. If anyone has any suggestions on a possible location please feel free to share your ideas. We have discussed having educational issues or topics as part of the Chapter 41 quarterly meetings associated with different disciplines in order to improve our learning experiences, as well as professionalism. Rita will look at topics and put together a program for the September 2008 meeting. Thank you Rita for all your efforts, they are sincerely appreciated!

Professional Development: Shelly Whiteing reported only two of our current members, Steve Chapman and Bernie Banker need to renew their Relocation Certification during 2007.

International Right of Way Association

"Spirit of the Heartland" - Iowa Chapter 41

Old Business:

Fall Forum Update: Thursday, October 11, 2007, Ethics 103 Class will be offered this is a full day class. We plan to have a Social Hour from 5:30 P.M. to 8:00 P. M. after class on Thursday, as well as, a Fund Raising Auction, which aids costs associated with our Region Representatives to International Committees in attending meetings. A short discussion of items for the auction was discussed and it was mentioned that Sports Memorabilia items are always a great item, Good Wine, Theme Baskets, gift cards of any denomination, all donations will be appreciated, and help make it a fun time for all.

International Awards, it is time to consider nominating our members as candidates for awards recognized at the International Education Conference coming up in June of 2008. Please look at the IRWA Web Site. We have some excellent candidates that would qualify for the awards.

Toys for Tots, please do not forget to donate to Toys for Tots before the end of the year, you can send a donation to our Treasurer Nancy Halvorson and don't forget to make the check or note the donation is for Toys for Tots. Jim Diemer mentioned that the Marines that always make this event such a success are being deployed for active duty in the very near future, so everyone needs to do their part in helping the cause this year.

New Business:

Election of Chapter Officers for 2008—2009, President-Jim Diemer, SR/WA, President Elect-Don Corrigan, SR/WA,R/W RAC, Vice-President/Secretary, Linda Martens, R/WRAC, Treasurer, Nancy Halvorson, SR/WA, R/W RAC. A motion to cease nominations as written above seconded and approved by all members present. The Officers named above will be the Officers for 2008—2009.

Chapter 41 Professional of the Year, President, Bernie Banker was delighted to have three nominations to present this year. The three nominees were Vicki Elscott, Amy Walter and Shelly Whiteing. Shelly Whiteing was named as Chapter 41 2007 Professional of the Year. Congratulations Shelly for all the work you have done for the Chapter over the years! Shelly will advance to the Region Forum to be held in Deadwood, South Dakota early next year to compete for Region 3 Professional of the Year; we wish you good luck as you advance to the Region 3 Spring Forum.

Other Business:

Rita Rasmussen has volunteered to provide the program for a Quarterly Meeting next year, 2008, in Cedar Rapids, the topic will be Local Public Agency Information. Rita also suggested we look at a meeting based on Utilities information that could be used for a Quarterly Meeting in 2008. Rita also volunteered to work on programs that would be interesting to Right of Way Professionals, if you have any suggestions please get in touch with Rita.

Door Prize Drawing: Steve Chapman is the winner of the drawing for the \$50 door prize.

At 7:05 P.M. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda R. Martens, R/W-RAC
Vice President/Secretary
Spirit of the Heartland-Chapter 41

**Region 3 2008 Spring Forum
Hosted by: THE DAKOTAS CHAPTER 72**



**Cadillac Jack's Gaming Resort
AmericInn Hotel & Suites
360 Main St., Deadwood, SD 57732**

Wednesday Feb. 27 – Course 410 – Reviewing Appraisals in Eminent Domain

Thursday Feb. 28 – Course 403 – Easement Valuation

*** Both courses facilitated by IRWA Immediate Past President James Finnegan ***

Thursday evening - Chapter 72 Welcome Reception, 30th Anniversary Celebration of Chapter 72, Live and silent auction (Live auction will be held to benefit IRWA Education Foundation and silent auction to help offset some of the expenses of the 30th anniversary celebration)

Friday Feb 29 – Short Chapter 72 meeting from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. followed by Region 3 Fall Forum from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A block of rooms are being held until **January 26, 2008** at a reduced rate of \$62.90 + tax for Tuesday night (2/26) thru Saturday night (3/1).

Call to make reservations: 1-866-332-3966

(Must mention International Right of Way Association or IRWA to receive discounted rate)



www.cadillacjacksresort.com

2008 Installation Banquet
Saturday, January 19, 2008
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 Business Meeting
5:00 – 6:00 Social and cash bar available
6:00 Dinner

Officer Installation and awards presented following dinner



Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino - Salon #1
1 Prairie Meadows Drive, I-80, Exit 142
Altoona, IA



Cost: \$10.00 (balance of dinner cost by Chapter)

(Due to our significant monetary loss on last year's event, we must charge for no-shows)
We need your reservation and meal choice no later than January 3, 2008 – Sooner is better!

MENU—Choice of one Entree:

Slow Roasted Pork Loin with prosciutto & sage sauce

Or

Chicken Cordon Bleu with Swiss Cheese Sauce

Or

Prime Rib – 12 oz. king cut with horseradish and au jus (prepared medium)

All accompanied by: Caesar salad, Fresh baked bread and butter, Bourbon braised baby red potatoes, Chef's choice vegetable, and Coffee or Iced tea

As always, spouses and significant others are welcomed

Please RSVP to Nancy Halvorson, [email](#) or phone: 515-239-1359

Officers for 2008 - Chapter 41

PRESIDENT : JIM DIEMER, SR/WA

JPD3919@AOL.COM

PRESIDENT ELECT : DON CORRIGAN, SR/WA

DONINDSM@AOL.COM

VICE-PRESIDENT/SECRETARY : LINDA MARTENS

LINDA.MARTENS@DOT.IOWA.GOV

TREASURER : NANCY HALVORSON, SR/WA, RW/RAC

NANCY.HALVORSON@DOT.IOWA.GOV

DIRECTOR 1-YEAR : JIM DIEMER, SR/WA

JPD3919@AOL.COM

DIRECTOR 1-YEAR : DAN SHIFLETT, SR/WA, R/W-NAC

DAN.SHIFLETT@CBPOWER.COOP

Committees

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS

SHELLY WHITEING, SR/WA R/W-RAC, CHAIR
NANCY HALVORSON, SR/WA R/W-RAC
JAMES DIEMER, SR/WA

EDUCATION

NANCY HALVORSON, SR/WA R/W-RAC, CHAIR
AMY WALTER, AND RITA RASMUSSEN, SR/WA

MEMBERSHIP

VICKI ELSCOTT

MARKETING

DAN SHEPHERD

PROGRAM

JIM DIEMER, SR/WA
VICKI ELSCOTT

ASSET MANAGEMENT

ED OPSTEIN, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC

AUDIT

RITA RASMUSSEN, SR/WA
DAN SHIFLETT, SR/WA
SHELLY WHITEING, SR/WA-R/W-RAC

ENVIRONMENT AND SURVEY

DAN SHIFLETT, SR/WA, R/W-NAC
PAIGE NORRIS

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

SUE ALBRIGHT

LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY

RITA RASMUSSEN, SR/WA, CO-CHAIR
ED OPSTEIN, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC, CO-CHAIR
BERNARD BANKER, SR/WA

TRANSPORTATION

BERNARD BANKER

UTILITIES

JIM DIEMER, SR/WA
TIM BUNKERS, SR/WA

VALUATION

JOE ANDERSON
RUSS MANTERNACH
FRED LOCK

Chapter 41: www.irwa41.org

Region 3: www.irwaregion3.org

Questions or comments, contact
Webmaster: Vicki Elscott

vicki@elscottfamily.com



DO YOU HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? ARE YOU MOVING?

CONTACT:

VICKI ELSCOTT
515-239-1700

VICKI@ELSCOTTFAMILY.COM



Newsletter Editor: Vicki Elscott
vicki@elscottfamily.com

Deadline for February Newsletter
February 15, 2008

Your articles and/or suggestions are always
welcome.