

Saturday, January 19, 2008  
Prairie Meadows Event Center, Salon 1  
Altoona, Iowa  
The meeting was called to order at 3:55 P.M.

**Introduction of Guests:** New IRWA Member, Michael Moore, and Sherry Diemer, wife of IRWA Chapter 41 President, James Diemer.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the September 13, 2007, business meeting in West Des Moines, which had been published in the December 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 \$10,570.61. 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 two new members, Michael Moore, Florida Light and Power, and Mark Holm, Iowa Department of Transportation, **Welcome** Michael and Mark to IRWA, we hope you will enjoy many benefits from your membership. We want to encourage all of you with memberships to attend and share your knowledge and experiences associated with the Right of Way Profession, it is a great way to grow and develop your skills.

**Education:** Please remember, March 11 and 12, 2008 Rita Rasmussen will be Course Coordinator for Course 203 Alternative Dispute Resolution, to be held at City of Cedar Rapids Public Works–Training Room, 1201 6<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404, Phone 319.286.5807 and Rita will be happy to help you with further details. To date there are 7 members signed up to attend and the class needs 15 attendees in order to break even on expenses for a course.

**Program:** If you have suggestions, needs or ideas you would like to share regarding a future program for the quarterly meetings you are encouraged to share those with Vicki Elscott or President James Diemer. The program committee is now working on the meeting to be held in March 2008. If you have suggestions pertaining to a specific location for any of the quarterly meetings for 2008 please let Vicki or Jim know your preferences and they will do their best to accommodate any of your suggestions, if no one shares their ideas it is difficult to accommodate the needs of all members. The committee would like to consider holding meetings in different areas around the state if you would like to help with a meeting and a location please feel free to share with us.

**Professional Development:** Bernie Banker received his recertification in Relocation Assistance in November of 2007, congratulations Bernie! It was also noted that applicants for SRWA need to complete your SRWA tests within 5 years from the date of application. For those of you who have Environmental Certification or might be working

on that designation, an additional course requirement is necessary for certification, Course 604.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference will be held in Austin, TX, June 22-25, 2008, registration has been brisk, a second hotel has been secured for registrants, and if you are interested you need to get your plans finalized. The schedule including all events appears on the IRWA web site you might want to take a look at the exciting events planned.

**Old Business:**

**INEC Timelines:**

Rita Rasmussen has diligently completed all the paperwork in a timely manner for her nomination for The Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award named after the IRWA Association founder. Local chapters can submit candidates and a maximum of six finalists are selected. The INEC appoints the winner based on:

Outstanding contributions made through leadership positions at chapter, regional and international levels

Fulfillment of educational courses and activities

Participation in Association regional and international activities

Achievement of IRWA professional designations

We wish Rita success in her endeavor as a deserving candidate for this very special recognition!

**Magazine Subscriptions:**

The Chapter has purchased subscriptions to the IRWA Magazine for UNI, ISU and the U of I, Bernie Banker stated he will check back with the institutions regarding their use of the magazine and if there is continued interest in receiving the magazine.

**New Business:**

**Spring Forum hosted by Chapter 72:**

Spring Forum February 27-28, 2008 in Deadwood, South Dakota will be here before you know it. Featured at the Spring Forum will be two educational courses, Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, Course 410, Reviewing Appraisals in Eminent Domain and on Thursday, February 28, Course 403, Easement Valuation. Thursday evening, Chapter 72 will host a Welcome Reception, "30<sup>th</sup>" Anniversary Celebration of Chapter 72, Live and Silent Auction. (Live auction will be held to benefit IRWA Education Foundation and Silent Auction will help to offset some of the expenses of the "30<sup>th</sup>" Anniversary Celebration.) If possible make plans to attend and help Chapter 72 celebrate their "30<sup>th</sup>" Anniversary, which is sure to be a special event for all! So far 5 to 7 members have made reservations to attend the Spring Forum.

Also, at the Spring Forum the Professional of the Year will be announced, our own Chapter 41 Professional of the Year, Shelly Whiteing will be representing Chapter 41 at

the Spring Forum. Shelly has been a long time member of Chapter 41 and has served in several leadership roles during her career. Congratulations and good luck!

Chapter 41 also discussed the donation of an auction item for the Spring Forum, it was suggested that the Chapter would spend \$75 dollars for items be donated to the Spring Forum auction. A motion was made seconded and approved by all present to allocate \$75.00 for the 2008 Spring Forum auction. A computer attaché was purchased from Michael Moore for \$50.00 to be donated as an auction item as well as a \$25.00 gift certificate. Also, individuals attending the forum are encouraged to personally donate an auction item and to be sure to attend and support the auction.

**2008 Committees:** Our President, Jim Diemer, will be contacting members to serve as 2008 Committee members, if and when you are contacted please extend your cooperation to serve as a valuable member of the organization. The organization is for all members and your individual involvement is as important to you as it is to the group. You might want to review the committees listed on Chapter 41 website, as well as in the Newsletter "The Heartlander" and review the different disciplines where your expertise could add value.

**Thoughts from the Incoming President:** Jim Diemer hopes to do as well as the past presidents have done. Jim wants to work on getting meeting attendance up and involvement from all members. Jim would like to get class attendance increased, remember class attendance can be valuable to your professional development.

**Other new business:** Rita Rasmussen suggested we present a certificate of appreciation for employer support of the IRWA Organization.

**Chapter Drawings:**

Door Prize drawing for \$50.00 went to Jim Diemer

The \$1,000.00 Grand Prize Drawing went to Ken Boatwright

The Free Annual Membership Drawing went to Nancy Halvorson

**Toys for Tots:** We want to encourage members to remember to make donations to this important cause. At anytime or at the quarterly meetings please remember to make a donation to Chapter 41 Toys for Tots, Vicki Elscott or Nancy Halvorson are always willing to help with this necessary cause for individuals less fortunate than ourselves. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

At 4:55 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

