

International Right of Way Association
“Spirit of the Heartland” – Iowa Chapter 41
Marshalltown Community College

Minutes of Business Meeting – August 5, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Anderson.

Introductions of meeting attendees started the business meeting with 17 members in attendance.

Introduction of new member, Cliff Barker, A & R Land. Also, in attendance was Jake Farrell of Omaha Public Power, Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer.

Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda.

Secretary’s Report: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s Report was no official Treasurer’s Report to approve due to the transition to a new Treasurer. It was noted IRWA’s non-profit status passed the recent IRS Audit. Joe noted the year-end revenues as of June 30th were \$10,084, and total expenses were \$11,181. Carrol McCracken reported over \$7,276.64 in the savings account which prompted a question as to why we need a savings account. That will be researched and possibly combined with our current checking account. Shelly Whiteing will contact Mark Holm about participating in an audit with the change in Treasurers.

Region 3 Update, Jake Farrell: Mike Murray reported that the proposed changes to the Region bylaws were approved. Jake also reminded us that the Chapter taxes are due no later than August 15th and he encouraged the Chapter to utilize QuickBooks to enter their transactions within 7 days of the activity. He also noted the Fall Forum is being held in Chesterfield, MO on October 10-11. Course 901 will be offered on Thursday followed by a social hour, banquet and game night rather than an auction as in the past. Friday will include the Region 3 Forum which should last much of the day. With the new Chapter Officers being installed today, he reminded them that they need to fill out their conflict of interest statements. Jake also encouraged the timely approval of memberships, which our Chapter is very prompt about doing. He also encouraged us to consider the open position on the Region Nominations & Elections Committee, as they are looking for volunteers. That position has been vacated by Rita Rasmussen due to job responsibilities at her new position with ProSource.

Annual Education Conference Recap: The annual education conference was held in Charleston, WV with over 1000 in attendance. There were three resolutions for consideration which included amendments to International bylaws to include the structure of regions both nationally and internationally; and disciplinary issues regarding ethics violations which remove the responsibility from the Chapter President due to possible conflict. The new steps in the resolution include reprimand, suspension and finally expulsion. The final resolution for consideration was tabled and regarded the changes to requirements to retired member status. The proposed changes called for the retired member to earn less than \$5,000/year from their profession, surrender their professional license to practice or make it on inactive, and not be allowed to hold office. These changes caused enough discussion that it was tabled. If you have any thoughts about these issues, please provide them to Chad Johnson.

The Annual Education Conference for 2014 will be held in Hartford, Connecticut which is just 2 hours from DC and 2 hours from NYC. The hotel rooms will be booked quickly, so if you are considering attending the event and want to stay in the host hotel, book your room early. The 2018 Conference was awarded to Edmonton, Canada.

Committee Reports:

Asset Management: no report

Education: Dwayne Myers, chair, headquarters is going to take charge of getting courses approved for continuing education with State boards (ie. Appraisers, real estate, surveyors, etc.) This is just beginning so it may take awhile to be implemented. There currently is a \$50 incentive to purchase online courses during

August with 12 months to complete the course. The Chapter receives an honorarium ranging from \$50 to \$100 for every online course taken. The SR/WA Study Session and Test is planned for September 16-18 in Ames. Please feel free to contact Joe Anderson if you have questions about the SR/WA or the study session/test. It was reported that headquarters is looking to change the SR/WA and add designations to attract more Federally funded participants. In the future, there will be 4 categories of designations. The education plan is still in place for the remainder of the year and they are always looking for course coordinators. Please contact Dwayne if you are interested in coordinating a course.

Environment: no report

Local Public Agency: no report

Membership: **Angie Sheeley, chair**, Joe explained we have had three new members since our last meeting.

Newsletter: Still undecided what direction this committee will take, contact Joe Anderson if you have an interest in assisting with future newsletters. It was stated that newsletters help to boost meeting attendance. Jake Farrell recommended trying "Word Press". They use this for their chapter communication and it is similar to a blog and is Google based; minutes can be posted on the blog.

Nominations/Elections: Time to start thinking about 2013 Professional of the Year which needs to be decided prior to the Spring Forum.

Professional Development: Vikki Kitelinger, Alliant Energy, recently submitted her application for R/WA. Please contact Joe Anderson if you have any questions about the certification or designation process.

Program: **Liz Van Zomeren, chair**, please provide Liz any ideas for future meeting topics, speakers, locations or tours. Liz is working on a presentation by Iowa Finance Authority to discuss resolving difficult title issues at a future meeting.

Relocation: no report

Survey: **Chad Johnson, chair**, a GIS category is being added to the mapping contest. Contact Chad for more information.

Utilities: Dave Hingtgen applied for the Region 3 Utilities Committee Chair. It was discussed that there needs to be better communication between utilities and railroads. Many of the utility courses are going to be revamped and course instructors will be tested to make sure they are providing the best course experience possible. A request was made for a Wind Best Practices type course.

Valuation: Joe Anderson reported Yellow Book Courses will be held in Altoona in October 2013. It has been many years since Yellow Book Courses have been offered in Iowa. There are three appraisal courses planned in the near future....stay tuned.

Chapter 41 2012 Professional of the Year Award: Congratulations to Chad Johnson...very deserving of this recognition. Chad goes on to be our Region nominee. Joe read his nomination letter and presented Chad with his plaque.

Jake Farrell did the honors of installing our officers: Congratulations to Chad, Shelly, Carol and Carrol.

The next Chapter meeting is still being planned but more than likely will be held in September. Let Chad know if you have any ideas about locations for the meeting.

Bernie Banker reported that long time IA DOT employee, Bill Stoner, passed away last week.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morgan, Secretary
Amy Walter, Past Secretary