

International Right of Way Association
“Spirit of the Heartland” – Iowa Chapter 41
Urbandale Public Library
3520 86th At., Urbandale, IA 50322

Minutes of Business Meeting –April 16, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Tim Bunkers. Introductions of meeting attendees started the business meeting with 26 members in attendance.

Secretary’s Report: The minutes from the January 9, 2012 business meeting held at Niland’s Café in Colo, IA were approved. A reminder, the minutes are posted on the IRWA, Chapter 41 website for review prior to the business meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as published.

Old Business:

Mini Best Practices Session: Tim Bunkers – In the process of assembling mailing lists. Will send list out first of next week for all to review. Reviewed Rita’s outline from the last session. Don Corrigan – The August – July 2005 ROW magazine has information on the last Mini Best Practices Session. This publication also has good photos for 50th anniversary celebration.

50th Anniversary 2013: Spring Forum - Announced at this year’s spring forum. Joe Anderson presented some information on the history of charter. He was able to find a copy of the original application for membership to Chapter 41, complete with signatures. Also, Joe and a few other members have a meeting set up to visit Prairie Meadows at 1:00 today to tour the facility for a potential Spring Forum site. A brochure passed around for all to review. The Kansas City spring forum hosted 55 people at the Thursday night get together but not as many at the luncheon and program. Approximately 40 people were in attendance for afternoon forum. This might be a good gauge for our planning. Discussed that 75 would be a generous estimate. At a minimum, a one-day class is generally offered prior to the forum and profits generally cover the costs of the forum. Kansas City had a tour of the racetrack with an interesting presentation which included information regarding the eminent domain acquisitions involved in the effort to prepare for and build the facility. This may be a facility to consider. Also suggested in the Iowa Speedway as possibility. Universal has a good selection of memorabilia for anniversary celebration. It was discussed that headquarters probably has a stockpile of historical information. Chapter 41 will be sending invitations to any charter chapter members and those who reach back 35 to 40 years. Potential date: April / May 2013. It was discussed that it is important to avoid state high school tournament time. The International President will attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

New Business:

Review Chapter Financials: Mark Holm - The Treasurers report presented by Mark Holm, Treasurer and showed a current balance of approximately \$13,000.00. Mark voiced concern that we need to think about ways to generate revenue as our main source of income is classes. The last course offered had about 22 in attendance and we cleared \$3,000. Of the costs involved, \$6,000 went to International and \$1,500 went to the course instructor. Discussed the cost to headquarters, cost of refreshments, room, and instructor. Discussed the cost of our webpage is only \$209 per year for Vicky Elscott’s work. Discussion about access to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn. However, many companies do not allow access to social networks such as these at the office. These social networks are not as accessible as a standard website. Per Joe Anderson, Chapter 41 does have a Facebook page: “Iowa Chapter 41 of the International Right of Way Association”. A copy of the Treasurers Report is also available to review in the latest edition of the “Chapter 41 Update”. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented.

Chapter 41 Newsletter: Thanks to Joe Anderson, Chapter 41’s newsletter is a finalist for Newsletter of the Year.

Chapter Membership:

Mary Ann Carnock, Membership Chair, reported we currently have 82 members. Currently we have 78 paid memberships for 2012.

Seattle Education Conference:

- SRWA Recognition Ceremony will be held on June 12, 2012 from 7:00 to 9:00pm.
- Craig Porker Challenge – Craig Poorker, Chairman of the Region 3, RWIEF (Right of Way International Education Foundation) has set a goal for the region is \$10,000. If this goal is met, Craig will dress up as whatever the winning chapter requests.
- RWIEF Fund Raiser – Each year Chapter 41 sponsors a golf hole for \$300 at the Educational Conference. Donation of \$200 was voted on and passed.
- Funding for the Director to attend the Educational Conference. Last year (2011) funding was \$1,500 - 2010 - \$2,000, 2009 - \$1,000. Discussed the high costs of the Seattle area. Funding of \$2,000 is Approved.
- Auction and Casino Night – In the past we have given donation of items and cash. The auction items do not go as well unless they are larger, high-end items. Last year a cash donation was given. \$100.00 Approved.
- Board of Director Form - Needs to be filled out. Earlybird registration deadlines are March and May. Directors should be appointed at the time of regular election/nov.

2012 Forums:

Fall Forum will be held in Omaha in October. Auction at spring forum was well attended. There is competition for the 2017 Conference between Edmonton, Canada and Alaska.

Election of Officers:

President - Joe Anderson, President Elect – Chad Johnson, Secretary – Amy Walter, Treasurer – Mark Holm, 1 yr Director – Joe Anderson, 2 yr Director – Chad Johnson. No nominations from the floor.

Installation of Officers was targeted June 16, 2012 however Joe will be in Seattle at that time. Ideas for installation: Baratta's, I-Cubs outside verandas with food catered by the ballpark \$23.00 which includes your ticket, food. Randy DeGeorge wants to be present to install the officers. June 23rd is available 7:05 game but we could arrive up to 90 minutes prior to the game for meeting. Discussed Kirkwood Culinary School and Rieman Gardens. Past Chairperson can install the officers.

Committee Reports:

Education - Rick Skinner – Asked for input from all companies regarding request for interest in classes. Economizing on classes including the cost of venues is important. Notification on line a year in advance is key to the rate of class success. List of free venues in the state would be worthwhile. SRWA Certification course has been requested. IRWA Headquarters Education Director, Valorie Freeze is leaving May 31st.

Programs – Liz Von Zomeren shared that Elizabeth Connely with Exelon Wind regarding the Rock Island Project, is a possibility at a later date. There is interest in touring a wind farm however, per Liz the lease language prohibits so much activity, it would be almost impossible to access one for a tour. The DMACC campus might be a resource. Jamie Baker shared that MidAmerican Energy has a specialist who does training and gives on-site presentations for groups that want to learn about wind farms. She mentioned perhaps the Century Wind Farm on Hwy 20.

Professional Development – Joe Anderson - Plaque awarded to Elizabeth Van Zomeren for Certification in Negotiations and Acquisition.

Survey - Chad Johnson – Looking for entries into the survey plat contest.

Utilites – Dave Hingtgen – The Utility Committee has a good program slated for the conference in Seattle and all are encouraged to attend the programs. Utility Committee has been working on developing a utility course for ROW specifically geared for electric transmission projects. They are taking the 215 pipeline course and revising it into a utility course. The revisions have been redlined and turned in to Valorie Freeze. From there

they will review and formulation of the material to complied into a trade program. Hopefully within the next 6 – 12 months.

International Nominations and Elections:

Nancy Halvorson reported that they are targeting all the representatives that their job is not to just come up with a slate of officers for the chapter but to encourage folks to apply for the various international awards. Our region did pretty well this year though our chapter did not with the application of only the newsletter of the year and government employer of the year. City of Cedar Rapids is a finalist for government employer of the year. Amerin of St. Louis is a finalist. Chapter 5 won the Canadian Scholarship of \$2,500. All other finalists will be at the conference with winners announced at the awards luncheon on Monday at noon. Newsletter and website awards will be combined into one, not based on small chapter or large chapter. There will be one new award for young professional of the year. Criteria is any right of way employee under the age of 30. Per Tim Bunkers, International contacted him requesting nominations for Young Professional of the year.

Next Chapter meeting will be in June with further information to follow.

Adjourn: A motion was made and seconded and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 10:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Carnock
for
Amy J. Walter, Secretary