

THE CENTERLINE NEWSLETTER



2026
APRIL



Chapter 8,

As we gather for another monthly meeting, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the energy, commitment, and professionalism you continue to bring to our chapter. Your engagement is what drives the strength and relevance of Chapter 8.

Our April meeting was a great example of that momentum. A special thank you to everyone who attended, and to **Paul Parker, VP of Energy at Universal Field Services**, for delivering a thought provoking presentation. Looking ahead, we have several outstanding opportunities to connect and engage:

- Young Professionals Happy Hour April 16, 5-7pm @ Kirby Icehouse
- The Spring Joint Regional Forum (Regions 2, 6 & 9) and Transportation Symposium in South Padre, TX on April 30 and May 1
- The Dan Ewing Memorial Golf Tournament on May 7 at Wildcat Country Club

We will close out the 2025/2026 session on May 14, 2026, back at the Ballroom at Tanglewood. I'm particularly looking forward to welcoming **Nathan Brownell, Vice President of Resilience and Capital Delivery for Electric at CenterPoint Energy**, as our featured speaker. It should be an excellent session and a strong finish to the year.

Thank you again for your continued support and participation. Chapter 8 thrives because of members like you, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

~ Chico Negral



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IRWA CHAPTER 8 - HOUSTON



info@irwa8.org

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CHAPTER 8 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Officers

President

Chico Negual

chico.negual@contractlandstaff.com
479.283.7498

Vice President

Allison Craighead

allison.craighead@williams.com
713.582.4907

Secretary

Kirby Ewing

kewing@landsolutions.ca
469.261.6483

Treasurer

Lori Gerard

lori.gerard@centerpointenergy.com
832.245.7696

2 Year Director

Mercedes Osbern

mercedes.osbern@fhr.com
612.849.0825

Committees

Education

Auri Largent

auri.largent@hdrinc.com
281.206.9511

Membership

Kirby Ewing

kewing@landsolutions.ca
469.261.6483

Secretary

Kirby Ewing

kewing@landsolutions.ca
469.261.6483

Professional Development

Michael Staines

lmstaines@cobbhendley.com
713.485.8054

Communications

Karla Breitinger

kjbreitinger@eprod.com
713.381.3308

Young Professionals

Co-Chair

Tori Moses

tmoses@weissereng.com
281.579.7300

Co-Chair

Carson Childers

carson.childers@cbre.com
972.979.8837



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Paul Parker

Vice President - Energy Division | Universal Field Services, Inc

IRWA Chapter 8 is extremely grateful for Paul Parker, Vice President - Universal Field Services, Inc, for stepping up and filling in as guest speaker last minute for our April luncheon.

His presentation “Architecture of Integrity: Rules, Adages & Life Lessons” was interactive and created great discussion on how it shapes effective leadership, strong teams and long-term success. He explored the core pillars of character, confidence, trust-building, leadership behaviors and continuous learning. The discussion highlighted how integrity isn’t a single trait but a system of habits, decisions, and relationships that shape long-term success.

Key Themes Covered:

- Character & Self
- Operations & Problem Solving
- Management & Leadership
- Learning & Personal Growth
- Hiring & Career Advice
- Business Development & Momentum



Congratulations

Chapter 8 has been selected as finalists for:
Chapter of the Year
Website of the Year
Newsletter of the Year



UPCOMING EVENTS



Young Professionals Happy Hour
Kirby Ice House
5:00pm - 7:00pm
1015 Gessner Rd
Houston, TX 77055

Dan Ewing Memorial Golf Tournament
Wildcat Golf Club
12000 Almeda Rd
Houston, TX 77045



May Chapter Meeting
11:00am
The Ballroom at Tanglewood
5430 Westheimer Rd
Houston, TX 77056

International Education Conference
Omaha, Nebraska



UPCOMING EVENTS

IRWA's **72ND** ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

WHEN:

Friday, June 26–Monday, June 29, 2026

WHERE:

Omaha, Nebraska

FULL REGISTRATION COST*:

Member Rate: Members: \$675 Non-Member Rate: \$975

(*must be an IRWA Member and register by March 20, 2026)

50+ education sessions on key right of way topics, including:

- Electric & Utilities
 - Environment
 - Ethics
 - International Relations
 - Marketing & Membership
 - Oil & Gas Pipeline
 - Professional Development
 - Project Management
 - Public Agencies
 - Real Estate Law
 - Real Property Asset Management
 - Relocation
 - Surveying & Engineering
 - Transportation
- **Learning That Reflects the Industry's Future:** Sessions are led by respected IRWA members and industry experts who share current insights and proven strategies to today's evolving right of way environment.
 - **Education That Delivers Real Results:** With more than 50 sessions across key right of way disciplines, attendees will gain immediately applicable knowledge that improves project outcomes and decision-making. Members can apply continuing education hours toward recertification for IRWA credentials including the SR/WA recertification.
 - **Join More Than 1,000 Professionals:** Build valuable relationships and gain a global perspective from professionals around the world who bring diverse solutions to shared infrastructure challenges.
 - **Engaging Events and Networking Opportunities:** Enjoy a variety of signature events including the Opening Ceremony, Exhibit Hall, Awards Luncheon and Closing Gala.
 - **Actionable Takeaways:** Return with ideas, templates and insights that immediately strengthen teams and enhance project outcomes.

The 2026 International Education Conference isn't just four days of learning, it's an investment in your people, your projects and your future. Attendees return more informed, better connected and equipped to deliver results that matter. Make the investment today and empower your team to deliver results that matter.

www.irwaomaha2026.org

All Aboard the Right of Way Express!



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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

ALL IRWA CH 8 MEMBERS WELCOME

IRWA
GULF STATES
CHAPTER 8

SPRING INTO
Right of Way
HAPPY HOUR

ALL IRWA CH. 8 MEMBERS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

HOSTED BY YOUR IRWA CH. 8 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

APRIL 16, 2026
5:00 - 7:00 PM

KIRBY ICE HOUSE | 1015 GESSNER RD, HOUSTON, TX 77055

Sponsored By

BAKER ★ **MORAN**

TWO FREE DRINK TICKETS

The Young Professionals are currently seeking sponsors for our 2026 Happy Hours! Please contact Tori Moses at tmoses@weissereng.com for more information!



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FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION

50 FOR FIFTY

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Funded by the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF)

The Fifty for Fifty Scholarship Program provides fifty (50) \$2,500 scholarships to support IRWA members pursuing professional certification and continuing education. Scholarship funds may be applied toward eligible IRWA coursework and may be used for in-person, virtual, or on-demand courses.

SCHOLARSHIP ALLOCATION

- **Forty (40) scholarships** allocated equally among IRWA's ten (10) U.S. and Canadian Regions (Four scholarships per Region).
- **Up to five (5) scholarships** awarded to qualified applicants from IRWA international chapters (No more than one scholarship per international chapter).
- **Five (5) additional scholarships** awarded to U.S. and Canadian Regions based on documented excess demand.

Unused international scholarships may be reallocated to Regions based on excess qualified applications.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be an **active IRWA member in good standing for at least one (1) year**.
- Have **formally declared candidacy for at least one IRWA certification program**.
- Submit an **essay of 300 words or less** addressing:
 1. Their strongest current potential contribution to IRWA and how this scholarship would enhance that contribution.
 2. What excites them about the future of IRWA and the right of way profession.
 3. The role they hope to play in the future of the profession and IRWA.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- **Application Deadline: May 15, 2026.**
- **Notification of Recipients:** June 1, 2026.
- **Scholarship Term:** July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028.
- **Funds must be used within the scholarship term.**

To download the application and apply, click [here](#).

Learn more about this scholarship and other RWIEF initiatives at <https://www.rwief.org>



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2026 SCHEDULED COURSES

	Date	Course	Location
»»	1.21.2026	200 Principles of Real Estate Negotiation	Virtual
»»	2.3.2026	501 Residential Relocation Assistance	Virtual
»»	2.4.2026	901 Engineering Plan Development & Application	CenterPoint
»»	2.12.2026	700 Introduction to Property/Asset Management	Virtual
»»	2.19.2026	800 Principles of Real Estate Law	Virtual
»»	3.2.2026	215 Right of Way Acquisition for Pipeline Projects	CenterPoint
»»	3.18.2026	203 Alternative Dispute Resolution	Virtual
»»	3.18.2026	303 Project Management & Consultant Hiring Process	Virtual
»»	3.27.2026	102 Elevating Your Ethical Awareness	Virtual
»»	4.7.2026	421 The Valuation of Partial Acquisition	Virtual
»»	5.26.2026	105 The Uniform Act - Executive Summary	Virtual
»»	5.28.2026	203 Alternative Dispute Resolution	Virtual
»»	6.8.2026	502 Non-Residential Relocation Assistance	Virtual
»»	8.24.2026	900 Principles of Real Estate Engineering	Virtual



FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION

105 - The Uniform Act Executive Summary

Start Date: 5/26/2026

End Date: 5/26/2026

No. of Days: 1 Day

Course Level: Core

CEU Credit: 8.00

Class Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm Pacific Time

Tuition: \$265 Member/\$385 Non-Member

Sponsored By: Chapter 8



Course Description: This course will benefit anyone who wants to learn more about the Uniform Relocation Assistance & Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and provides a better understanding of land acquisition activities that receive federal financial assistance or that utilize federal regulations. Participants will have knowledge in relocation assistance and the steps in a typical land acquisition project; specifically, project components and impacts on both project schedules and budgets.

Instructor: TBD

Facility Information:

Virtual

Newrow Conference Call

Start Time: 8am Pacific

Participant Capacity: 20

[Click to Register: Course Description](#)

Course Coordinator:

Jamie Campbell

832.382.4338

jecampbell622@gmail.com



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FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION

203 - Alternative Dispute Resolution

Start Date: 5/28/2026

End Date: 5/29/2026

No. of Days: 2 Days

Course Level: Intermediate

CEU Credit: 16.00

Class Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm Mountain Time

Tuition: \$415 Member/\$575 Non-Member

Sponsored By: Chapter 8



Course Description: This course provides the right of way professional with information regarding alternate methods to resolve negotiation disputes. Participants will learn how to identify different alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods and how to recognize each method's strengths and weaknesses. Participants will also learn how to bust through deadlock, how to save money when negotiations are not successful, and how to avoid getting involved in court proceedings.

Instructor: Pat Thayer, SR/WA, attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Pat is the 2017 Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award winner. She is employed as a Sr. Project Manager for HDR and is co-locating between Alaska and Washington State. HDR is a Global, Employee owned Company providing a wide range of comprehensive land rights and right of way services which include, acquisition, permitting, and relocation for pipeline, power, energy, renewable, transportation, tribal and native allotment land, telecommunication, and governmental sectors. Pat has been involved in the Right of Way Industry since 1980 and has worked for both private and public sectors negotiating various property rights as well as providing relocation advisory services for projects in both the private and public sectors. Pat has worked on unique projects in Alaska, Utah, Oregon and Washington State. Pat has been an IRWA member for 33 years and holds her SR/WA designation. She is a member of Chapter 71 in Fairbanks, AK as well as a member at large with sister Chapter 49 in Anchorage, AK. Pat is a member at large of the International Pipeline Committee.

Facility Information:

Virtual

Newrow Conference Call

Start Time: 8am Mountain

Participant Capacity: 20

[Click to Register:](#) [Course Description](#)

Course Coordinator:

Laura De La Cruz

281.713.0989

laura.delacruz@wsbeng.com



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FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION

502 - Non-Residential Relocation Assistance

Start Date: 6/8/2026

End Date: 6/9/2026

No. of Days: 2 Days

Course Level: Intermediate

CEU Credit: 16.00

Class Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm Pacific Time

Tuition: \$415 Member/\$575 Non-Member

Sponsored By: Chapter 8



Course Description: This course presents the processes necessary to relocate a business. Participants will learn how to apply provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, in conjunction with the Surface Transportation and Relocation Assistance Act of 1987, and subsequent revisions, to the relocations of non-residential entities.

Instructor: Leslie Findlay, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, is Vice President of Tierra Right of Way Services, Ltd. (Tierra). Leslie has been involved in right of way activities since 1998. She specializes in right of way, and is a subject matter expert in relocation assistance. Prior to joining Tierra, she served as a Project Manager for Universal Field Services and spent 15 years working in Real Estate Services at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). At WSDOT, Leslie was responsible for the development and implementation of training courses for staff, consultant, and local agency employees. She also performed quality assurance oversight, provided relocation assistance services, and conducted project certification reviews on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-funded projects in Washington. Throughout her career, Leslie has served in leadership roles, provided training, and acted as a mentor to agencies and employees. Leslie holds the SR/WA designation and R/W-RAC certification from the International Right of Way Association (IRWA). She currently serves on the International Professional Education Committee, as the Vice Chair for the Instructor Development Sub-Committee. She is the former Chair of the IRWA's International Relocation Assistance Community of Practice, past President of IRWA's Puget Sound Chapter 4, and was named Chapter Professional of the Year in 2014. She is also a certified CLIMB instructor for IRWA Relocation courses.

Facility Information:

Virtual

Newrow Conference Call

Start Time: 8am Mountain

Participant Capacity: 20

[Click to Register:](#) [Course Description](#)

Course Coordinator:

LaTanya Whitaker

281.206.9509

latanya.whitaker@hdrinc.com



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Congratulations!

Chris Gossett, SR/WA
Daniel Shaw SR/WA

On your SR/WA certification!



FURTHURING YOUR EDUCATION



Gain prestige. Over 87% of IRWA's agency partners and 75% of its corporate partners say SR/WA agents overall bring more value, skills and knowledge to projects.*

Stay relevant. Required continuing education and ethics course every 5 years ensures SR/WA agents maintain the highest level of industry expertise.

WHY SR/WA ?

- ✓ Highest level of competency in the right of way industry
- ✓ Accepted by public agencies as proof of qualifications
- ✓ Held to highest of ethical standards of professional practice

"Credibility with benefits."



More than 71% of IRWA members who possess the SR/WA say that it has increased and enhanced their professional reputation in the industry.*

HOW IS IT EARNED?

Required: 5+ years in right of way or infrastructure real estate. Relevant experience and education may also qualify.

Plus: 4-year degree or 2-year degree + 128 IRWA credit hours or 2 years of right of way experience.
Without a degree: 256 IRWA credit hours or 4 years of right of way experience.

Contact IRWA's Credentialing Manager, Francis Vicente at vicente@irwaonline.org for more info.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

272 credit hours from various right of way disciplines and relevant subject matters, including but not limited to:

- Ethics
- Eminent Domain Law
- Land Acquisition Negotiations
- Dispute Resolution
- Property Management
- Environmental Contamination
- Appraisal
- Real Estate Engineering
- Federal Relocation Entitlements

Capstone Exam — Intensive and comprehensive final assessment designed to ensure that participants have mastered and retained the critical knowledge and skills they've acquired while taking IRWA education courses.



READY TO GET STARTED?



310-538-0233

irwaonline.org



*Data collected from survey sent July 2024 by IRWA via email to its members.



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THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

IRWA Luncheons Approved for SR/WA Rectification Credits

As you may know, the IRWA International Credential Committee has moved to a “Self Reporting” model. Meaning, IRWA members simply report that they attended X amount of meetings for X amount of hours on their CE forms. Each luncheon attended will earn you one (1) hour re-certification credit. Be sure to pick up a form you can fill out and retain for your records at our next IRWA Chapter 8 Meeting!

Want a Free Lunch?

The Chapter 8 Board has decided to offer its members the opportunity to receive a free lunch for the submission, acceptance and publication of a newsletter article.

To Qualify:

1. You must be a current IRWA Chapter 8 Member (Chapter Chairs and Executive Officers excluded)
2. Submit a newsletter article and have it published in the Award-Winning The Centerline
3. You receive a free lunch voucher for one of the regularly scheduled lunch meetings.

Submit articles to Karla Breitinger via email at kjbreitinger@eprod.com



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

About the IRWA

Since its inception as a not-for-profit association in 1934, the IRWA has united the efforts of its members toward professional development, strong ethics and improved service to employers and the public, along with advancements within the right of way profession. IRW is the unsurpassed sources of right of way educational programs and professional services world wide.

Our Members

Dedicated exclusively to the right of way profession, IRWA has nearly 10,000 members throughout the US, Canada and Africa. Our members are multi-disciplined professionals employed by private industry and government agencies as Acquisition Agents, Appraisers, Environment Professionals, Engineers, Lawyers, Property Managers, Relocations Assistance Agents, Surveyors and Title Experts.

Welcome New Members!

Troy Bergeron

Cosima Clements

Candice Slavens Crutchfield

Joseph Dillard

Richard Dorr

Clint Gregg

Alicia Hebert

Jacky Kepper

Rochelle Korpi

Ricardo Melgoza

Armand Rabalais

