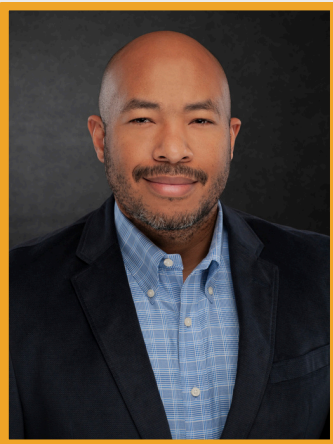


THE CENTERLINE NEWSLETTER



2026
FEBRUARY



Chapter 8,

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our **February meeting at the Houston Club**. We truly appreciate the strong turnout and continued engagement from our membership. We would also like to apologize for the parking challenges encountered at the venue and appreciate everyone's patience and flexibility.

A special thank you goes to **Jeff Christensen** for his informative and engaging presentation on **Cutting-Edge 3D Parcel Visualization Technology, and What is Possible Today?** His insights were well received, and we are grateful for the time and expertise he shared with our chapter.

Please remember to mark your calendars for the **Oil & Gas Pipeline Symposium on March 4, 2026**, to be held at the **Norris Conference Center**. This event continues to be one of our most well-attended and valuable offerings, bringing together industry professionals, subject-matter experts, and right-of-way practitioners from across the region. We are truly excited as the committee has done an incredible job with lining up a slate of excellent speakers and topics and we are looking forward to hearing from them all.

In addition, **Course 215 - Right of Way Acquisition for Pipeline Projects** will be taught prior to the symposium by David Sinclair at CenterPoint Energy. We strongly encourage early registration, as space will be limited.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Symposium next month and appreciate your ongoing support for this chapter. Your participation is what continues to make our organization strong and relevant within the industry.

~ Chico Negual



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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

Jeff Christiansen

Founder, CEO, CVO | Clarity Through Advanced Visualization Technologies

IRWA Chapter 8 Houston recently welcomed Jeff Christiansen, founder of The Christiansen Group (TCG), for an engaging and forward thinking presentation on how advanced visualization technologies are transforming infrastructure and right of way projects.

With 29 years of experience in engineering, litigious, and scientific visualization, Jeff shared how 3D modeling, virtual reality, and interactive platforms are reshaping the way complex projects are communicated, negotiated, and understood.

From transportation corridors and eminent domain matters to environmental and structural projects, Jeff develops 1:1 scale technical animations that bring plans to life. These tools help stakeholders clearly visualize impacts before construction begins.

Traditional engineering plans, while technically precise, can be difficult for the non-technical audiences to interpret. Advanced visualization translates these plans into realistic, interactive models that clearly demonstrate project impacts.

Food for Thought

Right of way professionals routinely translate highly technical design into conversations that are clear, fair, and understandable. As projects become more complex and public expectations for transparency continue to grow, these tools can help stakeholders truly see what is being proposed and shift the tone of those sometimes critical conversations

Jeff's presentation offered a forward looking reminder that visualization is more than a technical enhancement, it's a communication strategy. Clarity improves understanding, and trust often follows: and in our profession, trust is the foundation to successful outcomes.

“ Jeff's core message was simple: When people can see it, they understand it. ”



UPCOMING EVENTS



Chapter 8 Happy Hour

5:00pm

Kirby Ice House

115 Gessner Rd

Houston, TX 77055

2026 Oil & Gas Pipeline Symposium Norris Conference Center

816 Town & Country Blvd STE 210

Houston, TX 77024



April Chapter Meeting

11:00am

The Ballroom at Tanglewood

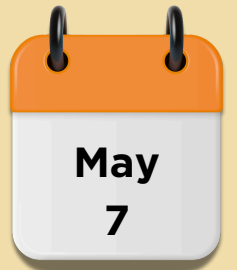
5430 Westheimer Rd

Houston, TX 77056

Dan Ewing Memorial Golf Tournament Wildcat Golf Club

12000 Almeda Rd

Houston, TX 77045



UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 Oil & Gas Pipeline Symposium



March 4, 2026



Norris Conference Center



[Click Here to Register](#)



2026
OIL & GAS PIPELINE SYMPOSIUM

AGENDA

7:30am - 8:20am	Registration & Full Breakfast	Magnolia Ballroom
8:20am - 8:30am	Welcome	Chico Negual, Ch. 8 President
8:30am - 9:15am	AM Keynote Speaker	Dawn Buckingham, M.D., Texas Land Commissioner
9:15am - 9:30am	Morning Break	
9:30am - 10:00am	Title Curative - What To Do If You Have Gaps & Without Easement	John Baker, Baker Moran
10:00am - 10:30am	TREC	Vanessa Burgess
10:30am - 11:00am	The Electrification of Everything	Kyle Reynolds, JD, CPL
11:00am - 12:30pm	Lunch	Off-Site
12:30pm - 1:15pm	PM Keynote Speaker	Mike Schofield, State Representative
1:15pm - 1:45pm	Dealing With Angry People	Dave Scallon
1:45pm - 2:45pm	Winds of Change	Charles McConnell, University of Houston
2:45pm - 3:00pm	Afternoon Break	
3:00pm - 3:45pm	Carbon Capture - LA/TX	Matt Simone, Liskow & Lewis, APLC & Tom Zabel, Zabel Freeman
3:45pm - 4:15pm	Active Shooter	Matt Dunne, FBI
4:15pm - 6:30pm	Reception & Networking Event	Magnolia Ballroom



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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)

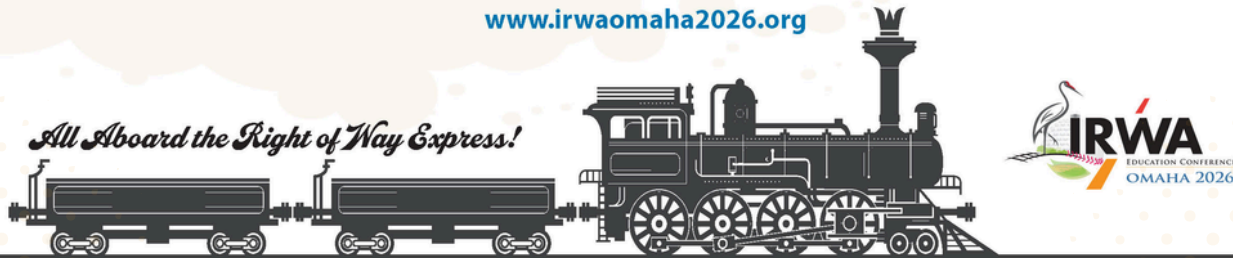
50+ education sessions on key right of way topics, including:

- 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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ALL IRWA CHAPTER 8 MEMBERS WELCOME

FOR THE *Love* OF RIGHT OF WAY!

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

IRWA Chapter 8

HAPPY HOUR

HOSTED BY YOUR CHAPTER 8 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

~~~~~

FEBRUARY, 26, 2026
5:00 - 7:00 PM

KIRBY ICE HOUSE
1015 GESSNER RD, HOUSTON, TX 77055

Sponsored By:

PINNACLE
CONSULTING MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

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!

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
	4.8.2026	400 Principles of Real Estate Appraisal	CenterPoint
	5.26.2026	105 The Uniform Act - Executive Summary	Virtual
	5.28.2026	203 Alternative Dispute Resolution	Virtual



FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION

800 - Principles of Real Estate Law

Start Date: 2/19/2026

End Date: 2/20/2026

No. of Days: 2 Day

Course Level: Core

CEU Credit: 16.00

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

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

Sponsored By: Chapter 8



Course Description: This course is designed to build on the basics of real estate law provided by Course 100 “Principles of Land Acquisition” and to assist right of way agents, property managers and others in collaborating with property owners and attorneys. This introductory level course provides novice employees dealing with real estate issues with basic right of way information and experienced employees with a broader perspective on legal issues and applicable law.

Instructor: David L Rein, Jr. absolutely loves talking (what lawyer doesn't?) about and helping others learn about the legal issues (800 series classes) that we face in the right-of-way profession. He is a lawyer at AVEK IP and has also taught classes at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Before that, Dave was a partner at one of the largest 100 law firms in the country and also worked for a federal district court judge, the Honorable Judge Dean Whipple. He has represented energy and water utilities, city, counties and other political entities and has the unique perspective of also representing businesses and individual landowners involving a range of real estate litigation issues including condemnation and easement disputes in many parts of the county. He twice served as an IRWA Chapter President (apparently he failed the first time) and is the current chair of the IRWA Ethics Committee.

Facility Information:

Virtual

Participant Capacity: 20

Course Coordinator:

Haley Henry

346.297.9620

haley.henry@hdrinc.com

[Click to Register: Course Description](#)



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FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION

215 - Right of Way Acquisition for Pipeline Projects

Start Date: 3/2/2026

End Date: 3/3/2026

No. of Days: 2 Day

Course Level: Intermediate

CEU Credit: 16.00

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

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

Sponsored By: Chapter 8



Course Description: This course is designed specifically for right of way professionals working in the pipeline industry but is useful for any linear right of way acquisition program, including electric transmission lines. This comprehensive course emphasizes areas of pipeline right of way acquisitions that benefit both executive and entry level professionals. In addition to the topic chapters listed below, participants will receive sample checklists, charts, forms, reference lists, facts sheets, glossary of pipeline related words, and sample correspondence letters, all of which are designed to help the pipeline professionals. Topics: Negotiations and Strategy, Public Relations, Construction, Damage Settlement, and Related Field Activities.

Instructor: David W. Sinclair, SR/WA has worked in the right of way profession for 40 years and is presently a Sr. Project Manager for Paragon Partners LTD (Paragon) in Houston, TX. Prior to joining Paragon, Mr. Sinclair was President of Steel Land Services, served in various executive positions for ENGlobal Corporation and its predecessor company, and worked at Enron for more than 16 years serving as their Director of Right of Way until January 2001. Prior to joining Enron in 1984, he was an independent consultant, performing land and right-of-way acquisition in various regions throughout the country. Mr. Sinclair is presently a Trustee and past President of the Right of Way International Education Foundation, an IRWA instructor, an instructor for the BLM Pipeline Systems Course, and a member of the Pipeliners Association of Houston. He is also the past Chair and current Treasurer of the IRWA Oil & Gas Pipeline Committee, past President and Professional of the Year of IRWA Chapter 8, and a past Chair of the Southern Gas Association (SGA) Roundtable.

Facility Information:

CenterPoint Energy
1111 Louisiana St
Houston, TX 77002

Course Coordinator:

Auri Largent
281.206.9511
auri.largent@hdrinc.com

Participant Capacity: 20

Hotel Accommodations:

Participants are responsible for their own accommodations

Click to Register: [Course Description](#)



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FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION

203 - Alternative Dispute Resolution

Start Date: 3/18/2026

End Date: 3/19/2026

No. of Days: 2 Day

Course Level: Intermediate

CEU Credit: 16.00

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

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 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: TBD

Facility Information:

Virtual

Course Coordinator:

LaTanya Whitaker

281.206.9509

latanya.whitaker@hdrinc.com

Participant Capacity: 20

Click to Register: [Course Description](#)



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FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION



303 - Project Management (Initiate to Close) And The Consultant Hiring Process

Start Date: 3/18/2026

End Date: 3/19/2026

No. of Days: 2 Day

Course Level: Intermediate

CEU Credit: 16.00

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

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

Sponsored By: Chapter 8

Course Description: This course focuses on the consultant and lease you through:

- **The Project Phases** - when a specific need for a consultant is identified;
- **Processes** - starting with the hiring process to the closing of the project, which ends the contractual agreement between the consultant and the public agency or private industry; and
- **Application of Concepts** - from the consultant's and agency's/industry's perspectives using case studies

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 various 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/RA 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

Participant Capacity: 20

Click to Register: [Course Description](#)

Course Coordinator:

Jamie Campbell

713.380.4420

jcampbell@lja.com



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Congratulations!

Ronald Van Gundy
Mark Heidecker

On your SR/WA certifications!



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 Vicent 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!

Christopher Blanks

Beth Ganz

Stephen Gonzalez

Juliana Moreno

Joshua Nelson

Wayland Rawls

Blake Richardson

