

# SOONER CHAPTER 33



NOVEMBER 2013 CHAPTER 33 NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To begin, I wish to thank all our members for their generous expressions of caring and consideration for the family and friends of Alex Souder, who we all suddenly lost. Those who were blessed with enjoying time with Alex knew him as a person who always looked for the best in all situations. As I mentioned in my first letter to you, it was Alex who encouraged me to become involved in IRWA and then go into leadership positions. We and the IRWA suffered a deep loss, but he would be the first to wrap his arm around us and express hope in the good to come.



**Aaron Adkins,**  
SR/WA, R/W-URAC,  
R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC,

I would like to thank all of you who attended the August meeting at Dave & Busters in Oklahoma City and the annual IRWA Chapter 33 golf tournament that was held at Coffee Creek in Edmond, OK.

We had a very special guest speaker at the August meeting. It was none other than the current IRWA President, and Chapter 33 member, Lisa Harrison. Lisa spoke about the exciting changes to the IRWA structure and education program. The focus is to *align the credentialing and committees with the core industries* that the IRWA serves; Electric & Utilities, Local Public Agencies, Oil & Gas Pipeline, and Transportation.

The new structure is comprised of **four committees** based on these industries. The **discipline committees** that existed in the past will now be **Communities of Practice**, which include Surveying/Engineering, Environmental, Title, Valuation, Acquisition, Relocation, Asset Management, Law, Project Management and Administration. I strongly encourage you to join at least one of these Communities of Practice. There are no prerequisites to join, other than being a member of the IRWA. It will give you the opportunity to communicate with other professionals within the discipline about case law, "how would you handle this?" situations, local/state policies and best practices.

Our next Chapter meeting is scheduled for **November 15, 2013**. It will be held at The Oaks Country Club in Tulsa, OK. Our guest speaker is Christina M. Vaughn, an attorney with McAfee and Taft. Christina will be making a presentation on Right of Way on Indian Lands. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Aaron Adkins*, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC President, Chap. 33

## NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

The next Chapter meeting will take place on November 15, 2013 and *YOU are invited!*

We'll gather at **The Oaks Country Club** in Tulsa, located at 6500 South 49th West Avenue, Tulsa OK 74131. The Board meeting will start at 11:00 AM and the Chapter meeting will start at **11:30 AM**. Come and learn, network. *We look forward to seeing you!* Be there.

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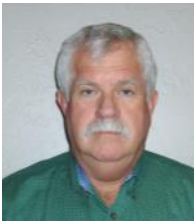
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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

**IRWA CHAPTER 33 MINUTES OF MEETING**

President **Aaron Adkins** called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Membership Chair **Sasha Jbara** reported 27 members and 6 guests for a total of 33 present. Attendees introduced themselves and their guests. The membership voted and approved the published minutes of the August 30, 2013 meeting. **Bill Sanders** moved to accept the minutes as shown. **Rick Park** seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as published.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS — AUGUST 30, 2013**

**TREASURER**

Treasurer, **Richard Park**, reported balances of:  
**\$29,288.06** in the checking account,  
**\$11,337.75** in one CD, and  
**\$32,888.23** in another CD for total liquid assets of  
**\$73,514.04** for the chapter.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Chair, **Sasha Jbara**, reported the Chapter has 6 new applicants:

- Lacy Compton
- Paul Flow
- Kael McFarland
- Jonathan Rice
- Nicolas Rudy
- Edward Sack

**Tami Benson** moved to approve the new applicants. **Lisa Harrison** seconded the motion. The applicants were approved as members of Chapter #33.

**EDUCATION**

Education Chair **Kevin Stout** reported: there was SR/WA exam at the end of September. Also, the Chapter will offer a Course 100 in January 2014.



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Professional Development Committee Chair **Tamara Benson** announced that she will run for IRWA executive committee. Congrats to our Chapter 33 members for staying current, credentialed and connected!

- Kevin Stout, R/W-NAC Recertification
- Sara Wyly, SR/WAC certification

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

No report.

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

No Report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Bart Waits announced that the golf tournament is scheduled for October 20th at River Oaks Golf Club. Chapter 33 approved a \$25,000 donation to the Education Fund.

**NEW BUSINESS**

New Orleans Region Meeting was discussed.



Guest speaker was Lisa Harrison, IRWA President. She spoke about the source committees, nominations and elections, and about IRWA's goal to attract your professionals into the organization. A task force has been assembled to attract a younger crowd. She asked the Chapter to financially support the events and the education foundation. A short period of questions and answers followed the presentation.

A drawing was held for two \$25.00 door prizes. The winners were **Mary May** and **Gabe Campbell**.

**Aaron Adkins** moved that the meeting be adjourned. **Donna Roche** seconded the motion. Membership approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

ATTEST: **Christopher Gomez**, Chapter 33 Secretary

**NEW MEMBERS**

At the Golf Outing on **October 11th**, the following membership applications were approved by vote:

Robert Blackwell, Shelly Franklin, Carla Gaddis, Kristy Isaacson, and Craig Keirse.

Greet and welcome them by introducing yourself! We all were once new but now make up this great gathering called Right of Way!



**Alex Souder, SR/WA**

**IN MEMORIAM**

Alex was among those precious examples in this business of one who was dynamic but easy-going, a sharp businessman while always friendly and trustworthy with all, a real leader by example, and humble in relating to others.

Our friend Alex died on October 25th. He delighted in activities of all kinds, was a devoted husband, father, and friend. Alex held all officer positions in Chapter 33 and was President in 2010. He was Senior Vice President of Pinnacle Consulting and with the firm for more than 15 years. He helped to make it a thriving, quality resource for right of way services. The President of Pinnacle, Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC was recently named International President of the International Right of Way Association.

Aaron Adkins, our Chapter President and a colleague of Alex at Pinnacle said: “All those who knew Alex are heart-broken. No words can convey this loss and its impact on our hearts. In his spirit, we will celebrate each day, strive to do great things, enjoy each moment with those who are around us, and live the days we’re given with decency and love. Alex, we’ll always miss you.”

Alex’s wife Julie has requested that instead of flowers or other caring gifts, friends and well-wishers are invited to make a donation to the 529 Fund of their son, Avery. Checks can be made out to the Alex Souder Memorial Fund at

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT—CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT**

**IRWA leadership** met in West Virginia in June and independently reviewed feedback including: our current structure of *industry and discipline committees* don’t communicate as well as they need (internally and externally), are not understood outside the organization, often focus on policies and procedures, struggle to fill representative positions in some cases and may not fully represent all the members we serve.

The International Governing Council (IGC) has reviewed and is ready to optimize our structure and education program. The IGC has already taken steps to *align our credentialing with the industries* they have identified: 1. Electric & Utilities, 2. Local Public Agencies, 3. Oil & Gas Pipeline and 4. Transportation.

Where once we had nine industry committees, *we will now have four committees* representing each of the four disciplines, and several *different communities of practice* (e.g. Valuation, Asset Management, etc.) having representation on the industry committees they serve. As you can see, the leadership of your Association at all levels is working to make our entire system more meaningful and with more opportunities for you the members and to the industries we serve. Let me know how I can help you. **Tami Benson, PDC Chair**

**NEW IRWA STAFFER**

**Tim Drennan**  
IRWA Manager,  
Field Operations  
(310) 433-9672  
drennan@irwaonline.org



In an effort to provide a more enhanced experience for IRWA leadership and their chapters, Tim was brought onboard to work with the Midwest and East Coast chapters. If you need any assistance in Regions 2-6, Tim is here to help!

**LEN BOSCHETTI, SR/WA**

You might not know **Len Boschetti** but he’s been a fixture on the right of way side of the Pipeline industry for over 40 years. He retired from Universal Field Services after more than 20 years. Len’s retirement plans are more volunteer work to his church and on mission trips with more golf in between. Good luck Len! The industry will miss you!



SOONER CHAPTER 33 • NOVEMBER 2013



CHAPTER 33 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



**2013 CHAPTER 33  
NEWSLETTER**

**NEGOTIATION TIP**

Ed Opstein, SR/WA,  
R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC

How do you AVOID negotiation and why? Consider that negotiation is a problem-solving or conflict resolution process. If you can *prevent* the conflict from occurring, you don't need to devote time and energy to resolving it! But, how do you avoid conflicts?

There are several components to avoiding conflict; some healthy for the parties and some not. The positive way is to be dedicated to communicating effectively with the other person and doing what you are supposed to do in the relationship. If you hire a contractor to do some work at your house, and they show up late, don't seem to know what they're doing, work slowly, and suggest the cost will be higher than expected, trouble is obviously brewing!

How can this be avoided? Communicate with the intent of finding common ground. Don't play games, attack, or ignore it. We never know what the other person is experiencing behind the scenes. When you first see differences in understanding appear, communicate with adult empathy. Then, conflicts are more likely to be defused before they happen.

We are on the web!  
[www.irwach33.org](http://www.irwach33.org)



**THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS!**

If you are interested in advertising in the 2013-2014 series of Chapter 33 Newsletters, please remit a check for \$75.00 made payable to IRWA Chapter 33 to Richard Park, Enterprise, 210 Park Avenue, Suite 1600, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

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**IRWA CHAPTER 33—2013 EDUCATION COURSES AS OF NOVEMBER 2013**

COURSE	NO. DAYS	DATE	LOCATION
801 US Land Titles	2	12/9 - 10/2013	Oklahoma City

**IRWA CHAPTER 33—2014 EDUCATION COURSES**

COURSE	NO. DAYS	DATE	LOCATION
100 Principles of Land Acquisition	4	01/27 - 30/2014	Oklahoma City
502 Business Relocation	2	03/10 - 11/2014	Oklahoma City
400 Principles of Real Estate Appraisal	2	04/14 - 15/2014	Oklahoma City
103 Ethics and the R/W Profession	1	09/08/2014	Oklahoma City
504 Computing Replacement Housing Payments	2	10/20 - 21/2014	Oklahoma City
209 Negotiating Effectively with Diverse Clientele	2	12/08 - 09/2014	Oklahoma City