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INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION - CROSSROADS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 10



REGION 5 SPRING FORUM & RAILROAD SYMPOSIUM APRIL 28 & 29, 2023

FRENCH LICK SPRINGS HOTEL
8670 IN-56, FRENCH LICK, IN 47432
\$85.00 PER PERSON
IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL AVAILABLE
SEE PAGES 9 -11 FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATON.

REGISTER ONLINE HERE

MMXXIII ISSUE XXIV MARCH/ APRIL 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Chapter 10!

Welcome to March! It is hard to believe it is March already!

We are entering the season of spring breaks, weddings, and vacations! 2023 has started off with a bang! We are adding new members to Chapter 10 and our Executive Board and Committees have been busy planning great things for the next few years! I want to thank everyone for their forward thinking in planning ahead and getting events and classes on the schedule for the future!

In February, we had our yearly annual Legislative Review. A BIG thank you to Jason Lueking, Esquire; Yasmin Stump, Esquire; and Chris Wisher, Esquire on keeping us up to date on what is going on in our state government.

In an effort gain more interest in Chapter 10 committees and Executive Board Positions we will be holding an informational Microsoft Teams meeting on March 21, 2023. If you are interested in learning how you can serve in our chapter, send me an email and I will send you the meeting invite. My email address is listed below.

We are just over a month away from our Region 5 Spring Forum Weekend in French Lick, Indiana! It will be a fun weekend you won't want to miss. We will start Friday, April 28th with the Railroad Symposium. The Railroad Symposium has an amazing line up of speakers and that evening we are offering a train ride that includes dinner. If you can't make it to the Railroad Symposium, we do have a virtual option for you to attend. On Saturday, April 29th, we will have our Region 5, Spring Forum meeting. As part of the Forum meeting, we will host a silent auction that will benefit The Right of Way International Education Foundation. Just recently, West Baden Springs hotel was named one of the top 15 resorts in the US. West Baden Springs Hotel is part of the French Lick Resort. If you are bringing friends and family, with you check out the French Lick website for a list of activities for them to do while you are at the Railroad Symposium and the Region 5 Forum meeting.

For current information on what the Chapter is doing be sure to check out our website and our social media sites; IRWA Chapter 10 on Linked IN, Twitter and Facebook. Our email notifications come through Constant Contact, keep an eye out for updates coming from this service.

I am excited about continued activity with the Chapter 10 Executive Board members and committees. We have a lot of dedicated individuals who want to make our Chapter successful. If you would like to participate, please contact me for opportunities within our Chapter.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Region 5 Spring Forum Weekend!

Cindy Candler, PS Chapter 10, President 317-826-7140 clcandler@schneidergeomatics.com



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Leaders Light the Way Memorial Scholarship 2.0

The Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) is generously awarding 68 new scholarships to support members who can be future IRWA leaders by funding their pursuit of IRWA credentials and professional development. One \$2,500 scholarship toward IRWA education courses will be awarded to each of IRWA's 68 Chapters within the 10 Regions. The deadline to apply is May 1st. To download the application and learn more about the scholarship, please click here!

NEW Professional Right of Way Certification Program

The Professional Right of Way Certification Program is a three-level program that begins with the Right of Way Agent (RWA) certification, progresses with the Right of Way Professional (RWP) certification, and culminates with the Senior Right of Way Professional (SR/WA) designation.

Those who hold the SR/WA have achieved the most prestigious professional designation in the right of way industry through experience, education, and examination. They represent the most seasoned professionals who have acquired the highest level of knowledge and expertise within all the major disciplines of the right of way industry. Together with the RWA and RWP, earning the SR/WA designation can help create employment opportunities, career advancement, salary increases and professional development growth.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions to get a better understanding or for help in laying out a plan on how to achieve one of these certifications and designations. You can also go the IRWA website and visit the Credentialing Concierge at https://eweb.irwaonline.org/eweb/dynamicpage.aspx?site=IRWA2018&webcode=116

SR/WA Review Course

Region 5 is trying to gauge interest in this course. If you have met the experience and educational requirements for the SR/WA and are interested please contact me by Friday, April 28th.

Michelle Sechman, SR/WA Chapter 10 PDC Chair Michelle.Sechman@duke-energy.com

New Members:

Michael Lark with ORC

Matthew Cooper with BRCJ Inc.

Bev Stout with AI Right of Way Services



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Chris Wischer

Employer: Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC (law

firm)

Time in Industry: 25 years

How long have you been a member of IRWA: I joined in 2010

Position on Board: Past President (2015) and current Parliamentarian

How did you hear about IRWA: My partner at the time, Tom Bodkin, was a member and suggested I join.

Favorite Meeting or Speaker: I have always enjoyed the Railroad Symposiums

What you have learned since being a member of the IRWA: I've learned about every aspect of the acquisition process, which has greatly influenced my ability to solve problems for a client, whether that client is a governmental unit or utility or a private property owner.

What do you do in your free time: Spend time with family; play guitar and sing (or try to)

Population Stone

Bartholomew County - The 1900 census revealed that the US center of population was in Henry Marr's barn lot southeast of Columbus, so the Indianapolis News had this monument placed at the nearest intersection (1/4 mile from the actual site). The mean center of population of the United States (determined by the United States Census Bureau) moved west through southern Indiana between 1890 and 1940. In 1900 it was located six miles southeast of Columbus in section 2 of Columbus Township, Bartholomew County. The farm was owned by James Marr and occupied by his son Henry Marr. Eventually Henry's son Clyde and grandson Henry also lived on the farm and we would like to hear from locals. What is the address of the farm and does the stone still exist?



MYSTERY SOLVED: Thanks to John D. Rondot we learned that this marker stands as of 2016 on the northeast corner of Hwy. 7 and Road S. 450 E. (this would have been the southwest corner of the Marr farm). The address of the marker is 3907 South 450 East and the address of the house closest to the center of

population is 3587 South 450 East.

Provided by Ron Barker, SR/WA





- March 14 15: Purdue Road School (West Lafayette, IN)
- April 28: Railroad Symposium (French Lick, IN)
- April 29: Region 5 Forum (French Lick, IN)
- May 10 11: Course 219 (Indianapolis, IN)
- June 9: Installation Meeting (Bargersville, IN)
- June 25 29: International Education Conference (Denver, CO)
- August 25: Course 102 (Indianapolis, IN)
- **September 12 13:** Course 501 (Virtual)
- September 21: Annual Golf Outing (Indianapolis, IN)
- November 6: Course 604 (Indianapolis, IN)
- **December 9:** Annual Christmas Party



FRENCH LICK SPRINGS HOTEL

Railroad Symposium -

\$85 per person for In-person, Lunch included or Virtual Attendance

Friday Night Dinner Train & Saturday Region 5 Spring Forum

\$175 per person for Friday night dinner train and Saturday Forum (includes dinner Friday night, Breakfast, Lunch and Snack break Saturday)

Friday Night Dinner Only

\$75 per person includes a 2 hour scenic train ride, three course dinner. Dinner choice of baked chicken, short ribs or vegetarian for main course. Train will depart after the Railroad Symposium on Friday.

Saturday Region 5 Spring Forum

\$100 per person for Saturday Forum (Breakfast, Lunch and Snack break Saturday)







Registration 8:00-8:30am 8:30 -10:00am Railroads – Issues Related to Conflicting and **Contentious Rights** Speaker – Curtis A. Candler, PS, Schneider Geomatics Speaker - Gary R. Kent, PS Schneider Geomatics and Meridian Land Consulting, LLC Traveling Through Railroad Rights of Way 10:00 -11:00am Speaker - Yasmin Stump Esquire, Yasmin Stump Law Group, PC **INDOT Utility and Railroad Structure** 11:00 -12:00pm Speaker - Samantha Anderson, INDOT Utilities and Railroad Director **Indiana State Rail Plan** Speaker – Kristin Brier, INDOT Multimodal Director **Lunch and Voting in New Slate of Officers** 12:00pm - 1:00pm **Negotiating License and Encroachment Agreements** 1:00 - 2:00pm with Railroads Speaker – Jason Lueking Esquire, Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC **Indiana State Railroad Museum** 2:00 - 3:00pm Speaker - Kenton Allbright, Acting Director, French Lick West Baden Museum **Eminent Domain & Right of Way Club is Live with John** 3:00 - 4:30pm **Petkovsek, President & Senior Appraiser, David Matthews Associates - I Think I Can, I Think I Can....** Value That Railroad Corridor Speakers – Patrick McCallister, SR/WA, Club Co-Host, Beth Smith, SR/WA, Club Co-Host, John Petkovsek, President &

Senior Appraiser, David Matthews Associates

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE:

APPROVED TO RESTART CONSTRUCTION

The Biden administration, along with US Fish and Wildlife, has decided that the completion of the 303 mile proposed pipeline will not pose significant risk to the rare and endangered fish species along its path.

Critical approvals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service are expected to be finalized as early as this Spring.





EDUCATION

Thank you to
everyone who
attended Course 421
in January. It was a
great 4 days of
learning and
networking!



Thinking of taking a course?

Taking IRWA education courses you can earn IRWA
Certifications/Designation that are looked at as marks of excellence in
the Right of Way Industry.

Chapter 10 also provides education scholarships every year to help its members take IRWA education courses.

Be sure to check out the Professional Development Committee section of this newsletter for more information, or reach out to PDC Chair Michelle Sechman, SR/WA (Michelle Sechman@duke-energy.com) or Education Chair Patrick McCallister, SR/WA (Patrick.McCallister@wsp.com) for more information on how we can help you achieve these certifications/designation.

Do you have a list of IRWA Education Courses that you have identified that you want to take over the next couple of years??

Send your list to Education Chair Patrick McCallister, SR/WA (Patrick.McCallister@wsp.com) so that he can get these courses worked into the Chapter's course schedule.



Upcoming IRWA Education Courses Scheduled:

2023

Course 219 - Introduction to Presentation, Instruction and Facilitation

Register Here May 10-11, 2023 – Schneider Geomatics, Indianapolis, Indiana Mike Penick, SR/WA – Instructor

Course 102 – Elevating Your Ethical Awareness

Register Here August 25, 2023 – Schneider Geomatics, Indianapolis, Indiana Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA – Instructor

Course 501 - Residential Relocation Assistance

Registration Coming Soon September 12-13, 2023 – VIRTUAL Kristen Bennett, SR/WA, RW-RAC – Instructor

Course 604 – Environmental Due Diligence and Liability

Register Here November 6, 2023 – Schneider Geomatics, Indianapolis, Indiana Marian Barnes, SR/WA – Instructor

2024 / 2025

Course 900 - Principles of Real Estate Engineering

Register Here January 8-9, 2024 – WSP USA Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana Gary Kent, PS – Instructor

Course 218 - ROW Acquisition for Electrical Transmission Projects

Registration Coming Soon!

May 9-10, 2024 – Schneider Geomatics, Indianapolis, Indiana

Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA – Instructor

Course 803 - Eminent Domain Law Basics for ROW Professionals

Register Here
August 19-20, 2024 – Schneider Geomatics, Indianapolis, Indiana
Ray Howd – Instructor

Course 800 - Principles of Real Estate Law

Register Here January 13-14, 2025 – Schneider Geomatics, Indianapolis, Indiana Ray Howd – Instructor

Course 201 – Communications in Real Estate Acquisition

Registration Coming Soon!

May 7-9, 2025 – Schneider Geomatics, Indianapolis, Indiana

Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA – Instructor

Course 901 - Engineering Plan Development and Application

Register Here October 13, 2025 – WSP USA Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana Gary Kent, PS – Instructor

Course 902 – Property Descriptions

Register Here
 October 14, 2025 – WSP USA Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Gary Kent, PS – Instructor



POWER PLANT EMISSIONS DECREASED IN 2022?

The (EPA) has found that emissions from power plants in the United States decreased in 2022, regardless of a 2 percent increase in electricity demand.

How you may ask? The EPA cites a mix in the fuels used to generate electricity as the cause for the decrease in emissions. Specifically, they note a decrease in coal and natural gas generation.

Want to know more? Click the power plant for the full article!





We are encouraging all Chapter 10 Young Professionals to attend our upcoming installation meeting being held on June 9, 2023 at The Sycamore at Mallow Run Winery.

We welcome you to come enjoy the scenic views, wine, and network with other members. Not only will this be a great opportunity to meet your incoming chapter leadership, but the chapter is offering this **FREE** to all young professional members! Registration is still required.

Contact Madison Jones via cell phone 317-418-4153 with any questions about our chapters Young Professionals group.

INDIANA CROSSROADS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 10: PROPOSED SLATE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR THE 2023-2024 TERM

We will be voting in the new Slate of Officers right before lunch at the Railroad Symposium, April 28th in French Lick, Indiana.



\$462.9 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR 249 INFRASTRUCTURE

Governor Roy Cooper of North Carolina announced on 2/23/23 that \$462.9 million would be spent on 249 drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects, with a historic \$2.3 Billion in water infrastructure invested over two years.

This funding will be spread over 80 communities to update the aging and failing water systems that service many communities across North Carolina.

Following the announcement Governor Roy
Cooper and Secretary Biser toured the
Tuckaseigee Water and Sewer Authority in
Cullowhee, which will receive \$4,130,000 for a
drinking water treatment plant clearwell and a
high service pump replacement.

Click the \$
to read
more!

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