

As I step into this new role as International President, I can't help but reflect on the long, winding road that has led me here — both figuratively and literally.

In the figurative sense, it's been an interesting path with some twists and turns since I started over 17 years ago as the newsletter editor for Chapter 62 in Edmonton. The first was an unanticipated jump into the Chapter president role earlier than expected and then bookended when I was appointed as International Secretary a month early prior to the Annual International Education Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

The long road continued in a literal sense, as I have been fortunate to travel the same distance as almost four times around the globe throughout my leadership experience (although being a six-hour drive north of the U.S./Canada border does add a lot of distance!).

Through that long journey, I have been able to meet with people from all over the world, each with their own unique career paths, and I've learned that the greatest thing about our Association is our members. The amount of knowledge and experience over so many different disciplines is almost mindboggling. I don't think there is another association with members from so many varied disciplines yet still hold so much in common.

Our members are our strength and our future. We need to make sure that IRWA continues to support and give every opportunity for education, growth and leadership to our members.

While we have an amazing catalog of quality educational products and pathways for our members to help them reach their highest potential, we need to continue striving to enhance and upgrade our courses. This will help ensure our members have the greatest opportunity to succeed while continuing to drive the success of IRWA.

Our members and leaders have built an incredible foundation for our organization, weathered through some significant hurdles over the last few years and have given us incredible momentum to continue moving forward.

We need to proudly promote what IRWA is and what we can offer to governments and other associations around the world. We have made great strides in reaching out to right of way-related organizations across North America and the globe to help strengthen the impact that we have. This also includes finding new partnerships within those organizations as well as discovering new ways to reach out to universities and colleges to find the next wave of right of way professionals.

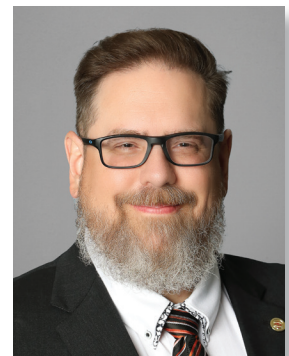
I have been lucky enough to follow some great mentors and leaders through IRWA. I don't know if I could have ever made it to this position without the support of people around me who were able to answer questions when I had them and steer me back on course when I have wandered off. One of the goals during my presidency will be to help all members and leaders who are looking for support and mentorship to make the right connections and find it. There is an incredible amount of knowledge and experience that is just waiting to be passed onto the next generation of members.

I believe we have the best leaders in the right positions and the greatest staff an Association could ever asked for. We are poised to have some of the greatest years IRWA has ever had, and I'm thrilled to be part of it.

As the time draws nearer for me to step into this new role, I want to thank all of you for putting your trust in me. This opportunity to serve IRWA is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to give even more back to our Association than what it has given me over the years. I hope to live up to the expectations of those in leadership before me and do all I can to help IRWA continue to move forward and grow.

Thank you all.

KOBY GODWIN, SR/WA
Incoming International President 2025-2026



**DANIEL K. BUCAN, SR/WA****Candidate for IRWA International President-Elect**

Dan has been a member of IRWA since 1999. He's a member of Chapter 13, Region 5.

Education

- MBA, Robert Morris University, 2001
- Bachelor of Science, Management & Finance Majors with minor in Economics, Robert Morris University, 1989

Certification/Designations

- SR/WA, International Right of Way Association, 2009
- Real Estate Salesperson, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 2010
- Private Pilot Certificate, Federal Aviation Administration
- PA Notary, Public
- AAPL Member
- Member, ASCE Transportation

IRWA Activities

- International Vice President, 2024-Present
- International Treasurer, 2023-2024
- International Secretary, 2022-2023
- International Education Conference Co-Chair, Cleveland, 2022
- International Governing Council, 2020-Present
- International Relations Committee Liaison, 2022
- International Transportation Committee Liaison, 2022
- International Electric Utility Committee Liaison, 2022-Present
- International Finance Committee Chair, 2023-2024
- International Finance Committee Vice Chair, 2022-2023
- International Investment Committee, 2022-2024
- International Professional Education Committee Curriculum Liaison, 2022-2023
- Region 5 Professional of the Year, 2022
- Region 5 Chair, 2020-2022
- Vice Chair Strategic Planning Committee, 2021-2022
- Region 5 Vice Chair, 2018-2020
- Region 5 Secretary Treasurer, 2016-2018
- Chapter 13 International Director 2 Year, 2015
- Chapter 13 International Director 1 Year, 2014
- Chapter 13 President, 2013
- Chapter 13 President-Elect, 2012
- Chapter 13 Vice President, 2011
- Chapter 13 Professional of the Year, 2016
- Chapter 55 International Director, 2004
- Chapter 55 President, 2003
- Chapter 55 President-Elect, 2002

Greetings Members and International Directors,

As I complete my 10th year of advancing service from my role as Region 5 secretary to my current position as your International Vice President, I am honored to receive your support and encouragement as well as the opportunity to serve you this coming fiscal year as International President-Elect!

My continued growth and understanding of our Association have assisted me in actively discussing topics and casting votes in our weekly IEC and monthly IGC meetings to address immediate concerns and plan for our long-term growth. The knowledge gained in each successive role has allowed me to understand the impacts of our actions and evaluate the benefits to our members all while always listening, questioning and considering other points of view to help make informed decisions.

This year, we are supporting International President Skinner's special goal to complete a detailed review of our Strategic Plan and evaluate potential updates along with considering some focused updates to our bylaws. As International Vice President, I am working with our Region vice chairs and HQ team to update and complete position descriptions for all elected leadership positions; this will help potential candidates review the responsibilities of the position and better support our elected leaders in performing their duties. In addition, we are creating a leadership financial backstop request to support educational presentations during our Forums, seminars and meetings. This request will help the IEC and IGC in understanding the benefits and costs associated with the training. I also look forward to working with our International Treasurer, International Finance Committee and CFO to complete and implement the updates to our Policy and Procedures related to finances for the next fiscal year.

As International Vice President, I facilitate the Region vice chairs' monthly meetings, which are focused on educational opportunities for members and supporting our Chapter Education and Credentialing chairs in coordinating and improving courses and offerings. We also review and provide guidance to IPEC as they update courses, credential members and develop instructors — all while encouraging our members to utilize professional development funds that have been made available from our Foundations.

As International President-Elect, I want to broaden our outreach of services to existing members, agencies and companies; increase our International Committees' involvement with our education program and support of our Chapters; and better engage our leadership resources, including our Advisory Council and previous Association leaders.

I look forward to being with all of you at our Annual International Education Conference in Virginia Beach hosted by Old Dominion Chapter 52. I humbly and respectfully request your vote as International President-Elect!



CYNDI WHELPLEY, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

Candidate for IRWA International Vice President

Cyndi has been a member of IRWA's Puget Sound Chapter 4, Region 7 since 2000.

Education

- B.S. Public Administration — San Diego State University
- M.A. Organizational Leadership, Chapman University
- Project Management Certificate — University of Washington

Certification/Designations

- SR/WA — International Right of Way Association, 2006
- R/W-RAC — International Right of Way Association, 2022

IRWA Activities

- Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year, 2022
- Bylaws Task Force 2022-Present
- Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Task Force, 2021-2022
- Education Conference Speaker, 2019-2022
- PEAK Certified Instructor, 2019 to present
- International Ethics Committee, 2019-2022
- International Finance Committee 2022-Present
- International Nominations & Elections Committee, 2015-2016
- International Public Agency Committee, 2019-2023
- International Relocation Assistance Committee, 2018-2023
- Region 7 Chair, 2021-2023
- Region 7 Vice Chair/Treasurer, 2019-2021
- Region 7 Secretary, 2017-2019
- Region 7 Professional of the Year, 2020
- Chapter 4 International Director #2, 2011-2012
- Chapter 4 President and International Director #1, 2010-2011
- International Electric & Utilities Committee, 2009-2014
- Chapter 4 President-Elect, 2009-2010
- Chapter 4 Vice President, 2008-2009
- Chapter 4 Program Chair, 2009-2010
- Chapter 4 Golf Committee Chair, 2005-2009
- Chapter 4 Professional of the Year, 2005

Other

- Rotary Club of Oak Harbor, 2017-Present
- Soroptomist International of Oak Harbor, 2017-Present
- Northwest Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation — Board Member & Vice Chair, 2017-2021
- Oak Harbor Youth Football League — Board Member, 2010-2018

Thank you for your support the past 2 years!!! I have been honored to serve on the International Executive Committee as your International Secretary last year and this year as your International Treasurer!

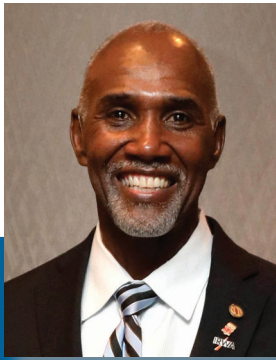
As your International Vice President, my commitment is to ensure that we continue to elevate our profession and grow our market for IRWA's education programs and the SR/WA and credential pathways. In addition, I want to ensure we are effectively serving and meeting our Chapter and Region's various educational needs.

IRWA offers over 50 courses, with new courses or course rewrites on the horizon within the next year. Our courses build infrastructure professionals — negotiators, appraisers, relocation advisors, environmental specialists, project managers — who directly improve people's quality of life through infrastructure development. I am blessed and committed in continuing to assist in the delivery of these courses as a PEAK instructor for the Course 100, 200 and 500 series!

Through our robust education opportunities, we gain the tools to address project issues and improve the quality of lives around us. Our courses provide us with the skills and motivation to build projects and serve our communities. I want to see IRWA continue to invest in course development and opportunities that provide new professionals with the tools to steer their careers with confidence.

With your support, I will work to ensure IRWA continues to provide a quality education program that lays the foundation for professional development and builds a lasting legacy in our industry for today's leaders as well as the next generation.

I humbly request your continued support of my candidacy and your vote for the position of International Vice President.



MATTHEW D. HARRIS, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

Candidate for IRWA International Treasurer

Matt has been a member of IRWA's Magnolia Chapter 40, Region 6, since 2006.

Certification/Designations

- SR/WA — International Right of Way Association, 2014
- R/W-RAC — International Right of Way Association, 2012

Awards

- Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year, 2023
- Region 6 Professional of the Year, 2014-2015
- Chapter 40 Professional of the Year, 2014-2015

IRWA Activities

- International Secretary, 2024-present
- Region 6 Chair, 2021-2023
- International Governance Task Force
- International Diversity, Equality, Inclusion Task Force
- International Chapter Dissolution Task Force
- Region 6 Vice Chair, 2019-2021
- Region 6 Secretary Treasurer, 2017-2019
- International Marketing & Membership Committee, Membership Subcommittee Chair, 2023-2024
- International Marketing & Membership Committee member
- International Relocation Committee Chair, 2 years
- International Public Agency Committee Chair, 2 years
- International Public Agency Committee Vice Chair, 2 years
- International Transportation Committee member
- International Asset Management Committee member
- Chapter 40 President/Director, 2014-2015, 2015-2016
- Chapter 40 Vice President, 2013-2014
- Chapter 40 Professional of the Year, 2012-2013
- Chapter 40 Treasurer, 2012-2013
- Chapter 40 Secretary, 2011-2012
- Chapter 40 Relocation Chair, 2008-Current
- Chapter 40 Education Chair, 2013-2016

Other

- NCAA baseball umpire, 2010-Current
- NFHS baseball and football official, 2000-Current

As I reflect on my experience as International Secretary so far, what humbles me most is the support and trust that has been given to me. I do not take it lightly, and I have benefitted immensely from it. At the same time, being given the opportunity to work for our members using a view from 30,000 feet challenges me to think differently and use my varied experience in the Association to contribute ideas and consider others with a newfound energy and enthusiasm.

Realizing that I can be a worthwhile contributor and yet still have so much to learn reminds me that we are all lifelong learners, and IRWA provides many educational opportunities outside of the classroom. Our membership connects professionals with new opportunities by promoting engagement in ways that result in new skills. Being International Secretary has certainly done that for me.

In our classes, we talk about the value of preparation a lot. We emphasize that without adequate preparation, we do not give ourselves the best chance to be successful in our goals. My goal is to earn your vote for International Treasurer. Thanks to IRWA's forward thinking, the International Secretary is also the vice chair of the International Finance Committee. As a result, I have been working with the current International Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to better understand the financial needs and documentation of our Association. IRWA, as a 501(c)(6) organization, has complex financial assets and budgets — studying this now will help me support the CFO and report back to the membership in a credible way.

The strategic plan of our Association is in full swing. Online education is evolving and increasing, and in-person education is back on track with old courses being revised and new ones in the batter's box. Instructor development, both general and by discipline, is ongoing, and a second PEAK training for those hoping to become instructors is on the horizon. Member value, retention and recruitment continue to be on top of our strategic priorities, and we will continue to extend our reach to private entities and other organizations as well as inviting the federal agencies and the state DOTs to sit at the table for discussion. But we need you — your ideas, thoughts and engagement will make us even more successful.

I believe that our Association is the example for all the right of way industry, and we should be the go-to for information and new ideas. We are a well-oiled machine that provides unlimited opportunities to those who choose to pursue the right of way profession as a career.

I will continue to do the hard work to prepare for the next step in this journey. If I am lucky enough to earn your vote, I will continue to serve our association with humility and honor as International Treasurer. I ask for your vote. Thanks for all you do.



KRISTA CHAMBERS, SR/WA

Candidate for IRWA International Secretary

Krista has been a member of IRWA's Puget Sound Chapter 4, Region 7 since 2018.

Education

- B.S. Business and Communications — Montana State University

Certification/Designations

- SR/WA — International Right of Way Association, 2017

IRWA Activities

- IRWA Professional Education and Knowledge (PEAK) Course Instructor, 2023-present
- IRWA Course 200, Principles of Negotiation, Review and Update, 2023
- International Professional Education Committee, Instructor Development, 2022-present
- W. Howard Armstrong Instructor of the Year, 2021
- International Professional Education Committee Secretary, 2020-2021
- CLIMB Certified Instructor, 2019
- International Finance Committee, 2018-2019
- Governance Task Force Overview and Presentation at Education Conference, 2017-2018
- Leaders Edge Leadership Spotlight, 2018
- International Nominations & Elections Committee, Region 7 Representative, 2017-2019
- Region 7 Chair, 2023-2025
- Co-Host Joint Region 7 and 10 Forum, 2024
- Co-Host Joint Region 7 and 9 Forum, 2023
- Region 6 and 9 Joint Forum Co-presenter, 2023
- Region 7 Vice Chair/Treasurer, 2021-2023
- Region 7 Secretary, 2019-2021
- Region 7 Professional of the Year, 2018
- Chapter 4 Speaker, 2018-2024
- Chapter 45 Vice President, 2017

Other

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Presenter, 2024
- State of Washington Department of Transportation Certified Consultant, 2019-present
- Snohomish High School Theatre Club Volunteer, 2021-present
- Pathfinder Award for Leadership, 2023
- National Scleroderma Foundation Northwest, President, 2020-2022

It was my first IRWA event, a Fall Forum in Region 7, hosted by Chapter 45 "Big Sky" Montana when I was asked a simple question that would profoundly shape my career: "How involved do you want to be?" During that unforgettable 50th Anniversary celebration, I felt a unique kinship with like-minded professionals who genuinely understood my day-to-day challenges. Starting with a small role in Chapter 45, I began to grow both personally and professionally. With a steadfast commitment to inspire others, I embraced the leadership opportunities while listening, learning, running with my hair on fire and even navigating through the inevitable growing pains.

A pivotal moment in my career came when I was honored with the W. Howard Armstrong Instructor of the Year award. Being an instructor offers me a unique opportunity to connect with new professionals, collaborate across disciplines and energize our experienced professionals by fostering meaningful mentor/mentee connections.

Building on the foundation of my leadership responsibilities and educational experiences, I am dedicated to advancing our Association in the following areas:

Professional Development: Education and professional growth are the cornerstones of our Association. I am deeply committed to driving initiatives that provide our members with progressive training, enhanced certification programs and access to industry-leading resources. By fostering a culture of lifelong learning, we can ensure that IRWA and our members remain at the forefront of our profession.

Member Engagement: Engaging our members and fostering a sense of community is vital for our Association's growth and success. I am passionate about innovative strategies to enhance member interaction, such as a dynamic online hub for real-time collaboration and access to a mentorship app that connects members based on their skills and interests. By creating more opportunities for members to connect and share their expertise, we can build a stronger, more cohesive community.

Over 20 years ago, on a chilly winter morning, I was sitting in my royal blue Pontiac Grand Am preparing to walk into the Department of Transportation in Great Falls, Montana, for my first day as an entry-level position in "right away" without knowing a single acronym, not one! Today, I carry a spiral-bound notebook brimming with pages full of them and a heart full of gratitude for every one of you that has shared this journey with me.

With your support, we can build an Association where every member feels valued and empowered and where our collective achievements are celebrated. Let's make it happen!



RAYMOND D. MEHLER, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

Candidate for IRWA International Secretary

Ray has been a member of IRWA's Los Angeles Chapter 1, Region 1, since 2005.

Education

- Bachelor of Science in Engineering, University of Michigan, 1987
- Master of Public Administration, Syracuse University, 1993

Certification/Designations

- SR/WA, International Right of Way Association, 2013
- R/W-RAC, International Right of Way Association, 2013
- PMP, Project Management Institute, 2014
- Real Estate Sales License, California, 2007
- Notary Public Commission, California, 2018

IRWA Activities

- Finalist for Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award 2024
- Region 1 Chair 2022-2024
- Mentored Young Professionals for IRWA leadership and professional pursuits, 2018-2024
- International Governing Council Member and Attendee, 2019-2024
- International Bylaws Task Force Chair, 2022-2024
- International Finance Committee, 2021-present
- International Marketing and Membership Committee, 2022-present
- International Investment Committee, 2021-2022, 2024-present
- Nominated Region 1 representatives for International Committees, 2022-2024
- Region 1 Vice Chair, 2020-2022
- International Region Vice Chairs Committee, 2020-2022
- Solicited nominations for Region 1 representatives for International Committees 2020-2024 and DEI Task Force, 2020-2021
- Region 1 Secretary-Treasurer, 2018-2020
- International Strategic Planning Task Force, 2020-2021
- International Governance Task Force, 2018-2019
- Region 1 Bylaws Task Force Chair, 2018-2019
- Chapter 1 Project Management Chair, 2018-present
- Chapter 1 International Website of the Year, 2017
- Chapter 1 Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, 2017-2019
- Chapter 1 Bylaws Task Force Advisor, 2024-present
- Chapter 1 TriChapter Luncheon Co-Chair, 2017
- Chapter 1 President and Director, 1-Year, 2017-2018
- Chapter 1 President-Elect and Director, 2-Year, 2016-2017
- Chapter 1 Treasurer, 2015-2016
- Chapter 1 Secretary, 2014-2015
- Chapter 1 Course Coordinator, 2013-2015
- Chapter 1 Fall Seminar Co-Chair, 2006

Other

- Optimist Club, Long Beach Chapter, President, 2004-2005
- YMCA Camp Oakes Board of Managers, 2003-2005

Dedication, Optimism, Energy!

For over a decade, I have had the opportunity to serve our Association in many ways — at my local Chapter, in my Region and Internationally. Over those years, I have come to understand that there are three pillars that form my commitment to the IRWA — Dedication, Optimism and Energy.

My dedication is to IRWA: its mission, our vision and you, our members. As a leader, my goal is to put members first in all we do. I am optimistic about our future — IRWA has an amazing 90-year history, and we continue to successfully build on that history every day. Energy is the spark that brings vision to life — I will continue to bring my energy to everything I do as an IRWA leader.

My vision for IRWA is to advance our world-class education, grow our membership and marketing and increase our networking and connectedness.

To advance education, I will ensure the International Professional Education Committee (IPEC) has the resources and support it needs to implement updates to our existing courses and develop new ones that respond to our evolving market for infrastructure real estate services. The complement of industry-leading courses that IPEC produces will empower Chapters to offer their members the best in education.

To grow our membership and marketing, I will see that the International Marketing and Membership Committee has the resources and support required to ensure that new and prospective members are aware of all that IRWA has to offer. Our IRWA marketing and membership efforts will ensure that the transportation, electric and utility, oil and gas, and public agency sectors know that our Association sets the standards of practice in infrastructure real estate, and offers unequalled education and credentialing.

To increase our IRWA networking and connectedness, I will work with our Chapters and Regions to provide resources and support for more networking events and opportunities for current members and prospective ones to build connections with each other, share information and come together to serve our industry and world.

I am dedicated to a vision of advancing our education, growing our marketing and membership and increasing our networking and connectedness; and I am optimistic for IRWA of the future, an Association filled with positive energy, which continues to put you, our members first!

I look forward to optimistically and energetically serving you and our great Association! My fellow IRWA members, please vote Ray Mehler, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, on June 4, 2025 — see you in Virginia Beach!