

# IRWA Editorial Advisory Board Spotlight



Welcome to the section where we give our readers an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at how we run Right of Way Magazine. Our Editorial Advisory Board comprises of members who are seasoned and specialized experts within the right of way industry. They periodically review article submissions sent by the editor to determine if the material is relevant and appropriate for the magazine. The Board also ensures that the pieces published are timely, forward-thinking and appeal to both IRWA members and outward-facing audiences — the Board also serves as the voice of reason and silent advisors behind Right of Way Magazine’s success. We’re thrilled to introduce them to you in this section, which will periodically highlight a member of the Editorial Advisory Board. We hope you enjoy getting to know them a little better!



**DARRYL ROOT, JD, MBA, RW/RAC**

**When did you join IRWA? How did you discover the Association?**

*I joined IRWA in 1998. I was introduced to the Association by a coworker at a consulting firm I was working with at the time. I was also encouraged to get my RW/RAC by my coworker. Later, I began to get further involved with my local Chapter and then became more involved with the Association on a national level.*

**What is your area of expertise within the right of way industry?**

*My primary area of expertise in the right of way industry is non-residential relocation. I am an IRWA CLIMB certified instructor and teach non-residential relocation classes quite often. I have worked on many commercial relocations throughout the country. Some of these relocations have been among the most complicated in the nation.*

**What originally drew you to the industry and how has your career grown since?**

*After I graduated from law school, I began working with the Missouri Department of Transportation. Naturally, I was drawn to the right of way industry due to my work at MoDOT. I was there for five years and worked in every facet of the right of way process. Since then, I have worked at various consulting firms around the U.S.*

*I have worked with eight different DOTs and numerous federal and local public agencies. I have served in various roles ranging from project manager to regional manager. In addition, I've have spoken at almost every annual education conference since 2010. I am a past president of Chapter 1 in Los Angeles and a past chairperson of the International Relocation Committee. I was voted Regional Professional of the Year and served as an International Voting Director for Chapter 1. During my Chapter 1 presidency, the Chapter received the International Chapter of the Year Award. I have also contributed articles to the IRWA Magazine for over a decade and am on the Editorial Board for the magazine.*

*I am currently a senior right of way project manager at HDR. HDR has been very supportive of my IRWA activities and career goals. I have received a lot of support from HDR and am glad to be part of their team.*

**What is the most rewarding experience you've had with IRWA?**

*One of the most rewarding experiences with IRWA has been the opportunity to network with other right of way professionals around the country. The exchange of different ideas and best practices from other regions has been fascinating and very helpful in my own field work. Becoming an IRWA certified instructor was also very rewarding. I enjoy passing on right of way information, procedures and concepts to the next generation of right of way professionals through education.*



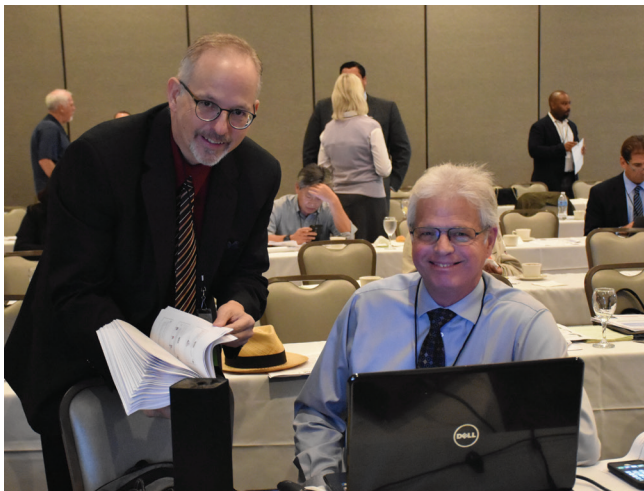
Discussing relocation, Photo Credit: Konstantin Akhrem

### How did you get involved on the Editorial Advisory Board and what do you enjoy about what the position?

*Years ago, I had previously submitted many articles to the IRWA magazine, most of them on relocation, when the previous editor of the magazine asked me to join the Editorial Advisory Board. I really enjoy serving in my role on the board because it gives me an advance look at articles which may be published. It gives me a chance to keep up with what topics are on the mind of IRWA members and what concerns are trending in the industry.*

### What kinds of articles do you like to see featured in the magazine?

*I am a very practical person and enjoy reading articles that give detailed advice on how to handle specific right of way issues. I believe these types of articles give valuable, real-world insight into everyday right of way challenges, which is essential to our field work.*



Darryl and Tom Hanley, Photo Credit: Konstantin Akhrem

### What is your biggest accomplishment to date?

*I believe my biggest accomplishment to date is a joint accomplishment with my wife to whom I have been married to for 36 years. We have faced many challenges such as moving around the country for many years for work. Throughout this time, we have always been there for each other.*

### What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

*I have very little free time, but when I do, I enjoy collecting comic books. I have over 10,000 in my collection and have collected comic books since I was 7 years old.*

### If you could only bring three books or movies with you on a deserted island, what would they be?

*I would bring a Bible, "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand and "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams.*

### Do you have any advice for professionals just starting out in the industry?

*Expose yourself to as many facets of the industry as possible. Learn as much as you can about appraising, negotiating and performing relocation tasks. You ultimately may want to specialize in only one discipline, but you should be able to understand the entire right of way process and how each discipline affects it. Your professional value is enhanced greatly when you are proficient in several disciplines. Don't be afraid to travel and experience how different regions of the country handle right of way challenges. Of course, the IRWA is a great place to meet professionals from around the country and the world to learn new perspectives and best practices. Secondly, right of way education is essential, and IRWA is the best place to get that education. Don't talk yourself out of new challenges, especially when it comes to rising higher in the IRWA. A steady stream of new challenges will give you a sense of accomplishment. ☆*