



# IRWA Member Farewell



## Dan W. Beardsley

On January 30, 2021, Daniel W. Beardsley, 68, passed away in Tucson, Arizona with his family by his side. Dan was born in Urbana, IL, and moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, in June of 1970. He attended the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and in 1977, graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. degree in real estate. He later attended and graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law with a J.D. in 1982. Dan began his career in the right of way and land consultant field in the early 1970s, where he excelled for more than 40 years. During this time, he was actively involved in too many projects to mention, but one of the truly memorable ones was his involvement in negotiating and purchasing property from private landowners for the Alyeska pipeline. Dan will be remembered by family and friends as a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend with a great smile and infectious laugh. He is survived by his wife Mary Ellen, son Sean Beardsley, daughter Erin Crum and three beautiful grandchildren.

Dan was actively involved in IRWA. He was on numerous committees and was also a popular instructor for many courses. In 2000, he began his tenure on the IEC, which culminated with becoming International President in 2005. IRWA will miss Dan very much, but his lasting influence will continue to be felt throughout the Association for many years to come. As such, we wanted to allow two of his close colleagues to give tributes to Dan in his memory.

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*I first met Dan in the early '90s. The Regional Forum was being held in Anchorage and I attended as Vice Chair. If I remember correctly, he was to make an appearance and discuss the pipeline. Dan was late. I was sitting next to a Chapter 49 member and I asked if this was normal for Dan. He stated, and I quote, "He's an attorney, he is always late."*

*That was my introduction to one of the many persons who have been instrumental in the presentation of IRWA's education courses.*

*Dan was as dedicated to education as any in the organization. While I was serving as Education Chairman for Chapter 45, we were continuously short on cash and had trouble getting people to attend our classes. When we were really struggling, we would call Dan and ask if he had the time to teach a class — he never turned us down. He would suggest teaching the Easement Acquisition class; as a result, it was always well received and attended. He would take the time to review Montana State Law and consistently answered any questions students had. On one occasion, he taught the class in Billings and that night, we both drove to Helena where he taught a class there the next day. I always asked him to make sure he sent us the invoices so we could pay him. Chapter 45 is still waiting for those invoices.*

*But Dan's most deserved honors comes from recognizing the need for updating the IRWA Education program. He knew this would be a monumental task, so he ran for International President in order to ensure that it would be accomplished. Dan, along with the elected officers during his tenure, are to be congratulated for this accomplishment. Rest in peace, old friend.*

— Bernard W. Lea, SR/WA



*I first met Dan in July of 1973. He was the defensive back coach for the fledgling high school football team. At 21 years old with shoulder-length blond hair, Dan was a natural leader and motivator who pulled the team together and brought out the best in us. Watching his antics from the sidelines was our line coach and scout, Jay Sullivan. By the end of the season, Jay had his arm around Dan's shoulders, directing him into the right of way profession. Dan would work for Jay's Land Field Services for about ten years, honing his right of way skills and completing his education.*

*When I joined the Arctic Chapter of the International Right of Way Association in 1984, I immediately reconnected with Dan and Jay. Through Dan's mentoring, I became a certified IRWA instructor. When I had received some harsh criticism for one of my lesson plans, Dan sat down next to me and said, "Don't worry. You'll be a fantastic instructor. Don't give up." Bolstered by his encouragement, I brushed myself off, tried again, and successfully completed the clinic. This was the first of many times that Dan mentored and encouraged me throughout my career.*

*In 1996, Jay, Dan, and I gave a series of seminars on navigability laws and issues in Alaska. The seminars were Dan's idea to raise money to support the 1997 IRWA Educational Seminar that would be hosted in Anchorage. I asked Dan if Alaska had an appetite for the subject matter and Dan assured me that we would have no problem filling the seats. He was right. Each seminar was sold out with over 150 attending the Anchorage presentation. To this day, I am still dumbfounded why he would drag me along on these ventures, but I am so grateful that he did.*

*Dan left his mark on the lives of countless professionals throughout the IRWA. He gave us the gift of his mentoring. As we encounter challenges in our careers, we should smile and think of Dan and the tools he left us to solve them. I think Dan would like that.*

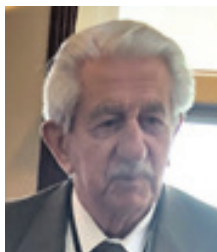
— Michael Travis





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## Leonard Somdahl

Leonard Somdahl, a longtime member of IRWA Chapter 47 and a former president of our Chapter, died in his sleep on January 1, 2021, at the age of 93. Leonard was born on November 10, 1927 in Perham, Minnesota. Leonard had a 22-year career in the furniture business, before beginning an amazing 53-year career in the title industry. In 1967, Leonard was hired at First American Title Insurance Company. Towards the end of his life, Leonard worked as an independent title consultant and at Chicago Title Company in Oxnard. Leonard was blessed with four children, eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Leonard was outgoing, considerate, trustworthy, professional, loving and always ready to help anyone in need. Leonard loved his work and worked up to a few days before his passing. Leonard was so dedicated to his work, coworkers and clients that he was concerned about letting them down while he was in the hospital for the last time. Leonard was a good man who loved his family, friends, God and country. Leonard will be missed and will not forgotten by his friends and colleagues in Chapter 47.



## Kent Winslow

Kent Winslow passed away at Brookdale South Park Assisted Living Memory Care facility with the loving care and support of the Brookdale staff and Hospice Team. Kent's legacy working for the City of Charlotte for 36 years was quite extensive, as he helped to shape the Charlotte City landscape we know today. His early years were spent developing the Charlotte airport. In 1982, Kent was appointed to be the manager of the Real Estate Division of Engineering and Property Management. Throughout the years, Kent was instrumental in the negotiation of securing the land for Discovery Place, new jail and law enforcement centers, the Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte Trolley and the Cats Light Rail. He also managed the land acquisition for the Uptown Arena, now known as the Spectrum Center, as well as the NASCAR Hall of Fame. In 1969, Kent began to devote his energies to professional service groups, especially the International Right of Way Association IRWA. He enjoyed and cherished his "real estate family" and the many friends that he made, working together with colleagues in positions of leadership on various committees and attending the annual conventions. In 2001, he received the prestigious Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award — the highest honor in the right of way profession. Kent leaves behind his beloved wife of 20 years, Jeanette Winslow, as well as his large family.