

RWIEF FUNDING AT WORK

Making a difference in ROW

BY ANGEL BANKS, SR/WA

Since 1976, the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) has supported the IRWA in building and improving its education programming. IRWA determines education needs and RWIEF provides funding. As a 501(c)3 entity, donations to RWIEF are tax deductible, and this structure provides a secure holding place to grow a corpus dedicated to right of way education. RWIEF funding has created new courses, updated existing courses, converted classroom courses to online formats and revised the “Principles of Right of Way” textbook. But that’s not all. Funding for the Leadership Institute produced 11 online modules of leadership training that is free — yes, FREE — to IRWA members. RWIEF has also funded the successful RWIEF Region Professional of the Year, 40 for 40 Launching Careers and 20/20 Vision Scholarship programs. Finally, we continue to manage and grow the original donation for the California State Association of Real Property Agents (SARPA) Scholarship.

We all missed attending last year’s conference. Foundation trustees particularly missed hosting our annual Monday Night Event and golf tournament. But we have not been idle. Over fall and winter 2020/2021, major education improvements have been made. Here are the accomplishments made possible with RWIEF funds and the hard work of IRWA education staff:

- Revisions and updates have been made to 17 online courses. Obsolete Flash player elements were converted to an HTML5 format compatible across all web browsers. Functionality issues such as slides that would not advance, nonresponsive print buttons, typographical errors, corrections to exercise answers and mathematical problems and outdated terminology have been corrected. In addition, visual aspects such as color, font and logos have been aligned with current IRWA branding standards.
- Our ongoing 20/20 Vision Scholarship has furthered the education of 20 scholars and thus far, produced 12 new RWAs and four new RWPs.
- Video production of Course 102, “Elevating Your Ethical Awareness,” is complete, and the course is in circulation.

So where does funding come from? YOU! Chapter and Region members, plus leading industry corporations, generously donate money, along with their time, energy and passion to raise funds. You will see that energy and passion again this year. Our Monday Night Event will be held June 7 at the Espee, the beautifully renovated Southern Pacific Railway Depot in San Antonio, TX. Our Alamo Classic Golf Tournament will be held June 8 at the TPC San Antonio Canyons Course, designed by Pete Dye. All profits from these events go directly to education funding. For more information and to register for each event, go to www.rwief.org.

Thank you for helping us raise the level of expertise across our global industry and make a difference in the lives of right of way professionals! 🌟



Angel Banks is the right of way manager for the Metropolitan Sewerage District, a regional public sewer authority in Asheville. She created the district’s right of way division in 1991, establishing policies and procedures for easement acquisition over 1,000 miles of sewer lines. Working with area municipalities, she developed agreements allowing greenway uses over the district’s sewer easements. Angel became a member of IRWA in 1991. She served on Chapter 31 committees and officer positions, becoming president in 2004. From 2004-2009, she served as Region 6 secretary/treasurer, vice chair and chair. She served with the IRWA Leadership Institute since its inception in 2009 and was awarded the Region 6 Professional of the Year award in 2013. Currently, Angel is serving her third term as a trustee of the Right of Way International Education Foundation.

Thank you

