



SPOTLIGHT ON BARBARA STROUSE

Describe your professional career. How did you first become interested in the right of way industry?

I first was introduced to the industry when I was hired as a staff appraiser at Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in Bartow in 1983. FDOT provided me a membership, and I attended many classes. My first class was Appraisal of Partial Acquisitions — it gave me a great foundation for my eminent domain appraisal career.

How did you hear about IRWA and how long have you been with the Association?

I heard about IRWA in Bartow, and most of us in the right of way field were provided a membership by FDOT. It was encouraged by our right of way manager to go to the IRWA classes, which were part of the training program.





What are some leadership positions you've held within the Association?

During my time with the Association, I have participated as a social committee member, served as membership chair, president, vice president and international director — two terms, all with Chapter 26.

You have been actively involved in increasing membership engagement within Chapter 26. What advice do you have for other Chapter leaders who are looking to do the same?

Demonstrate the value of membership and have both online and in-person events. Make sure you call and invite non-members to events and remember to keep in touch. Keep social media sites current, post pictures of conferences, classes and social hours to maintain member engagement.



Can you share one of your favorite IRWA memories?

One of my favorite recent memories was when our Chapter won Chapter of the Year Award in Cleveland in June. It was such an honor for me, as Chapter president, to accept the award on behalf of Chapter 26. Many of our members were there with me in Cleveland, which made it special. I was fortunate to work with a dynamic board, great committees and active members who made the award happen.

What are some hobbies you have outside of IRWA and work?

I am a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, an assistant organizer of the Chihuahuas of the Tampa Bay Area, Porsche club member, a Disney Dapper Day fan, Tiki Society member and a member of social committee of the Winter Haven Country Club.

What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

To keep a positive attitude, from my late boss Jim Petrovich.

One last question to end this interview on a fun note: if you could have lunch with anyone from history or fiction, who would it be and why?

That's easy — Walt Disney. I never stop being amazed by his vision, talent, imagination and all the fun he created. 🌟

Member Spotlight is a wonderful place to introduce yourself or to celebrate a fellow member's contributions to the IRWA. For more information or to submit a member for consideration, please contact Vivian Nguyen at nguyen@irwaonline.org.