

As we start a new year, we have so much to reflect about, professionally and personally. For one, 2020 challenged us in ways none of us could have seen coming. These challenges have forced us to slow down, despite the new chaos in our lives, and in many ways, they have put things in perspective. Perhaps most importantly, they have brought us together as a community and taught us that we are capable of handling more than we could have ever imagined when we support one another.

Some of us have grieved over the loss of loved ones and in doing so, we've also struggled to find ways to stay connected to our networks and reach out for support during the pandemic. Generally, 2020 has changed us all. The way we work, learn and interact with those around us is evolving.

Many companies have faced an evolving environment, and our Association is no different, especially when it comes to preserving the quality of member value. This past year, education was pushed into a virtual environment to keep our members engaged and learning. Though these obstacles have not always been easy, they have given us new opportunities to be innovative in our approach.

Reflecting over the past few years on the IEC, leadership is top of mind. Now more than ever, we need to ensure our leaders are responsibility-centered. We have made tremendous strides in establishing a solid foundation for our Association to build an IRWA of the future. We must continue to honor the great historical past of the IRWA, work for the members today and build a sustainable Association for future generations of right of way professionals across the globe.

My goal for the IRWA has never changed; we must evolve and influence the industries we serve. It is vital that we promote our knowledge and experience and establish our presence in our fields. We must continue to evolve our education beyond classroom, as well as create partnerships with other associations in the fields of public involvement, stakeholder engagement, project management and many others to round out our members to better represent the needs of our consumers.

Thank you for allowing me to be your voice and serve as the next International President of this amazing Association. I promise to continue being the responsibility-centered leader you all deserve and I look forward to seeing all the innovative ways we will grow in the coming years.

JAKE FARRELL, SR/WA
Incoming President 2021-2022



JAMES A. OLSCHEWSKI, SR/WA, R/W-NAC Candidate for IRWA International President-Elect



James has been a member of IRWA's Salt Lake City Chapter 38, Region 9 since 2009.

Education

- Associate of Applied Science in Architectural Technology from the Salt Lake Community College
- Associate of Applied Science in Surveying from the Salt Lake Community College
- Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) licensed in the State of Utah
- Certified Engineering Technician (CET) in Highway Design from the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET)
- Senior Right of Way Professional (SR/WA)
- Right of Way Negotiation & Acquisition Certified (R/W-NAC)
- R/W-URAC & R/W-RAC Candidate
- Certified Distance Education Instructor (CDEI)
- Modern Certified Classroom Trainer (MC\CT)

Employment

- Right of Way Design Program Manager at UDOT, 2018-Present
- Deputy Director Right of Way at UDOT 2009-2017
- VP-Transportation Manager for Bush & Gudgeon, Inc., 2008-2009
- Network and CADD Administrator (ROW Designer and Surveyor) for ESI Engineering Inc., 1999-2008

IRWA Activities

- International Vice President, 2020-Present
- International Treasurer, 2019-2020
- International Secretary, 2018-2019
- International Finance Committee, 2018-Present
- PIPE Committee Liaison for IEC, 2018-Present
- ITC Liaison for IEC, 2018-Present
- IRWA CLIMB Certified Instructor, 2017-Present
- Chapter 38 President, 2017-2018
- Vice Chair ITC, 2017-2018
- Chapter 38 Vice President, 2017
- ITC Committee Member, 2015-2017

Other

- Vice Chair AASHTO CRUO Technical Council on ROW Engineering 2019-Present
- Serves on the Transportation Committee for Riverton City, Utah 2018-Present
- Member of the Utah Council of Land Surveyors (UCLS) where he has served on the Standard and Ethics Committee from 2000-Present. He has also served on several other committees including the Education Committee from 2000-2004 where he served as the secretary
- Conference Committee Chair for the 2003 and 2008 UCLS Annual Conferences along with the UCLS Fall Forums for 2002 and 2007
- James was elected and served as the UCLS SLC Chapter President 2005-2006

COVID ... Now that we have that out of the way ...

Courage is what I continue to see in our Association, and I am incredibly grateful for all of you and how you continue to brave everything that is going on immediately around you, within your own nation/county and globally. As an International Association, it is amazing to see what we accomplish when we come together by "Improving people's quality of life through infrastructure development."

Our Association is still strong and growing stronger every day. As we begin this campaign season for your next IEC, I want to thank every one of our members for putting your faith and confidence in me as your current International Executive Vice President as I commence this campaign for President Elect. I am still here working as your voice and advocate to the IEC.

Voting in any election should never be taken lightly. For me, it continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your current Vice President — I am thankful for this opportunity. With the help of the Region Vice Chairs this year, we have been meeting monthly to focus on our radically changing education needs for the Association while working with the IPEC in advancing both the instructors and material used in our education system.

In an effort to keep up with our ever-changing requirements for education, we went virtual and adjusted to teaching our courses distantly; we discovered this was the missing third leg to our already successful in-classroom and online courses. This has not been easy and many of you, like me, jumped in to doing anything possible to ensure that our education would be effective. Personally, obtaining both a Certified Distance Education Instructor (CDEI) and Modern Certified Classroom Trainer (MC\CT) was the right step to helping our Association head down the best path. I know we are now starting to see the benefits of all our efforts.

Do you see the positive changes affecting our Association? With our new CEO, Charlie Nobles, getting the wind in his sails, he has been helping with many improvements — namely the way we gather data and how to use this to better all areas within the Association. For the first time, we are actively tracking comments and proposed changes to our education and using these databases for the benefit of all members. Staff continues to be amazing in everything they do and remain our unsung heroes.

I know I said last year I was more excited than ever to see the potential our Association has to offer, but this year is truly going to be amazing! We are connecting in ways we never thought possible. Again, I thank you for all your help and support. I humbly ask for your assistance in my candidacy to be your next IRWA International President-Elect so that I may continue to work towards initiated goals, continue those that are underway and implement changes you all want accomplished in the next year.

Thank you.



JUDY JONES, SR/WA

Candidate for IRWA International Vice President



Judy has been a member of IRWA's Alabama Chapter 24, Region 6 since 2003.

Education

- Paralegal, Auburn University at Montgomery, 1988
- Environmental Site Assessor, Georgia Institute of Technology, 1991
- Alabama Real Estate Sales License, Alabama Real Estate Institute, 1995
- Alabama Real Estate Appraisers License, Alabama Real Estate Institute, 2003
- Achieved SR/WA designation in 2004
- Achieved R/W-AC designation in 2004
- Achieved R/W-NAC designation in 2004

Employment

- Director of Right of Way at Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc., 1988-Present

IRWA Activities

- International Treasurer, 2020-Present
- International Secretary, 2019-2020
- International Governing Council, 2017-Present
- International Finance Committee, 2018-Present
- Region 6 Professional of the Year, 2018-2019
- Region 6 Chair, 2017-2019
- Region 6 Vice Chair, 2014-2017
- Region 6 Secretary/Treasurer 2013-2014
- Chapter 24 Director, 2011-2013
- Chapter 24 President, 2011-2012
- Chapter 24 Vice President, 2010
- Chapter 24 Treasurer, 2009
- Chapter 24 Secretary, 2008
- Chapter 24 Professional of the Year 2012
- Chapter 24 Valuation Chair, 2012-2016
- Chapter 24 Education Co-Chair, 2004-2008

Nathaniel Hawthorne once said, "Time flies over us but leaves its shadow behind." That may not sound familiar to you, but that is how I began my candidacy message to you last year. Boy, what an ugly shadow time has imposed on us in 2020! This past year has been filled with many challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic around the world. Through it all, I can't think of a better organization to be a part of than the IRWA. Those most worthy of our praise is our staff. With a mandatory stay-at-home order by the governor of California, learning a new "normal" to work from home has been both challenging and rewarding. We have seen their perseverance in keeping the headquarters of IRWA fully operational while continuing to offer member value.

A nonprofit organization exists to provide the support and necessary resources to a particular group that has a specific need. The IRWA's particular group is you, our members, and our specific need is the education necessary to allow us to be the best we can in improving the lives of others within our communities. This requires ample financial resources. Our financial well-being primarily relies on our membership and education income. Without this income, member value cannot be obtained. During these times of uncertainty, offerings of virtual education have been our lifeline. Having the opportunity to be a part of our leadership team's efforts, a team that includes a staff of incredible visionaries, is most gratifying. Through these efforts, we were able to continue providing educational opportunities to members as in-person classes came to a halt.

Unpopular financial decisions have been made this year. However, you elected me to serve as your International Treasurer — a role I have not taken lightly. You placed me in this position to ensure we remain good financial stewards while providing full transparency. Although the objective of a nonprofit is to break even, there is still the need to produce the necessary income to cover our costs and provide the reserves required for times of uncertain financial means. Through the oversight of the Finance Committee, we have met these needs and will continue to do so in the preparation of next year's budget.

Serving as your International Treasurer has been my great honor. In seeking the office of International Vice President, my goal is to continue to provide you with open and transparent communication and to continue recognizing the need to remain diverse and inclusive of all members. I humbly ask for your support.

FRED EASTON, JR., SR/WA

Candidate for IRWA International Treasurer



Fred has been a member of IRWA's Mile High Chapter 6, Region 9 since 2008

Education

- Machinist Mate Naval Nuclear Field "A" School, Orlando, FL
- Courses in Land Surveying, Valencia Community College, Orlando, FL
- Professional Licensed Land Surveyor, State of Colorado
- Completed additional coursework through IRWA, achieving the SR/WA and R/W-AMC designations
- Operating Engineers Formal Apprenticeship Program — Land Surveying, completed through Chief of Parties, 1993

Employment

- Survey and GIS Manager at Farnsworth Group, Inc., 2001-Present
- Vice President at LandTech Surveying and Mapping Services, 1997-2001

IRWA Activities

- International Secretary, 2020-Present
- CLIMB Certified Instructor, 2016-Present
- Region 9 Chair, 2018-2020
- IDEAs Task Force Chair, 2018-2019
- Region 9 Vice Chair, 2016-2018
- Region 9 Secretary, 2015-2016
- Region 9 IAMC representative, 2013-2014
- Chapter 6 Events Chair, 2016-2018
- Chapter 6 President, 2014-2015
- Chapter 6 Vice President, 2013-2014
- Chapter 6 & Region 9 Treasurer, 2012-2013
- Chapter 6 Secretary, 2011-2012
- Chapter 6 Survey Committee Chair, 2009-2018

Other

Member of Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado, 2001-Present

I've had the honor of serving the IRWA for over a decade in various leadership positions. I've found this to be my most challenging and rewarding experience with professional associations. I hope to continue my journey in running for International Treasurer.

As your International Secretary during this unique year, I and other members of the IEC and IGC have worked tirelessly to improve our education, engage members, push for certification reforms, manage finances and provide leadership. I take pride in helping make our virtual courses a reality; I proposed the idea two years ago, suggesting the software and instructing one of the first pilot courses. I've also supported efforts to better manage our assets and customer service, encouraged staff and volunteers to coordinate virtual seminars and worked to achieve mutually beneficial resolutions with unanimous approval.

While we have made excellent progress on education there is still much to do. I hope to work on the following improvements and projects:

- Complete asset management plan including a cost assessment to maintain a current course catalogue on a five-year basis, a new course creation and revamp plan, and course retirement planning
- Adjust to industry trends in adult education including smaller session delivery
- Hold more local and international seminars and symposiums

Our specialized training, geared to the right of way professional, covers all topics from concept to completion, only truly exists here! We must adjust our marketing strategies to get that message out. I hope to build an International Marketing Committee and work with them on the following:

- Improve course marketing to better support of chapter advertising through marketing emails
- Develop and maintain a distribution list that is not limited to our membership
- Simplify the website so that all course offerings can be easily searched
- Partner with other organizations to cross advertise to their members

I'm very proud of what I've accomplished over the years with IRWA. It would be my greatest honor to have your vote and support for the position of International Treasurer so that I can bring that goal-oriented focus to the IEC. Thank you.

DENISE L. SKINNER, SR/WA

Candidate for IRWA International Secretary



Denise has been a member of IRWA's Chapter 74, Region 2 since 2002.

EDUCATION

- B.S. Range Science — Natural Resource Management, Texas A&M University
- M.Ag. — Land Economics & Real Estate, Texas A&M University

CERTIFICATION/DESIGNATIONS

- SR/WA — International Right of Way Association, 2012
- State of Texas General Certified Real Estate Appraiser, 1992
- PMP Certification — Project Management Institute, 2016

IRWA ACTIVITIES

- Region 2
- Chair, 2019-Present
- Vice Chair, 2017-2019
- Secretary/Treasurer, 2016-2017
- 2011 Professional of the Year
- Chapter 74
- Director 2 Year, 2015-2016
- Director 1 Year, 2014-2015
- President, 2013-2014
- President Elect, 2012
- Vice President, 2011
- Secretary, 2010
- Treasurer, 2009
- Education Co-Chair, 2008-2009
- Membership Co-Chair, 2006-2008
- Eminent Domain Seminar Committee, 2009-Present
- 2011 Chapter 74 Professional of the Year

OTHER

- Chapter 39 — Say Yay to SA in 2021" Committee
- United Way Program Accountability Review Team, 2016-2018

This has been an interesting and exciting year! IPEC is making awesome strides in creating a process that will track course updates and revisions as well as creating a method of getting them updated in a timely manner. And dear to my heart — the IGC has taken up the call for developing a five-year strategic plan! To date, the initial step of reviewing the Association's broad goals and gathering input from the Chapters and Regions has been taken. The next step is to assess what is needed to obtain and sustain those goals in addition to developing the initiatives that will move us forward and take us to the next level. That is where the fun and hard work begins.

We need to develop targeted marketing strategies to effectively communicate to DOTs as well as other State and Provincial agencies that employ IRWA members. Hiring IRWA members and requiring and supporting IRWA membership in employees and contractors will lead to a workforce that is dedicated to excellence and have higher levels of professionalism and knowledge than non-members.

We need to develop a college outreach program that will connect with recent and upcoming grads. In the past, few young people came into the ROW industry right out of the gate; most professionals in this industry have been in the workforce for years before working in ROW.

It is time to do complete a review of the Mentor/Mentee program. This will gather feedback on what is working and what may not be working so well. This will provide a basis for developing training, guidelines and expectations for both the Mentors and Mentees in the program. This is a valuable program in the development of our future industry leaders and should be continued and supported.

We need to create leadership modules not just to develop the Chapter leadership, but also to make sure that we are providing our members with the skills they need to excel and move up in their careers. Many agencies are looking for project management skills and to stay relevant; we need be providing the soft skills of leadership (team building, communication, etc.) as well as skills such as time management and budgeting.

All of these things will take time to develop, but the key is to take action and continue to push on. This is where my experience and skill set can be put to work in order to help keep these initiatives moving forward. I have developed and run multimillion dollar projects and have delivered on time and under budget with diverse stakeholder groups. I am a listener, a collaborator, a planner and a solution-oriented leader. I have a skill set that will serve this Association as it continues to move forward with developing and implementing a long-term strategic plan and initiatives that will keep this Association relevant. It is for these reasons that I am running for the office of International Secretary.

Thank you for your consideration.