



About 18 years ago, my good friend and colleague Richard Pittenridge, SR/WA, kept inviting me to attend the meetings of this group he was involved in called IRWA. For a while, I gave the excuse, "I'm too busy with other plans," but because he was a great negotiator, he sweetened the deal by offering to cover my bar tab for the evening, and that's the story of how I attended my first Chapter meeting!

But Richard didn't stop there — he convinced me to take my first IRWA class and obtain my SR/WA credentials. Well, here we are now, and I'm about to complete a 16-year journey of appointed and elected IRWA leadership positions. It's amazing how that simple act of fellowship can result in a major change in the direction of someone's life.

In summer of 2019, I was contemplating the end of my time as a Region leader and looking at a fork in the road with several options in front of me. As luck would have it, I found myself at a beachside restaurant with a great friend and mentor, the late Carol Brooks, SR/WA. Carol pulled out her pad and pen and asked me to list all the things I wish I could change about the Association, how important they were and which choice would have the most impact. This led me down the road to seek election on the International Executive Committee (IEC), and now, I am prepared to step up after the Board of Directors Meeting during the annual conference in my hometown of Denver, Colorado, as the next International President of this great Association. It has been an amazing and rewarding journey.

That type of mentoring and networking is one of the most critical benefits of our Association. Carol always encouraged me to pay it forward by mentoring the next generation and continuing to fulfill the promise implied by the IRWA mission statement to empower professionals by elevating ethics, learning and a standard of excellence. I hope to encourage all of you to do the same as we work together throughout 2023 and into the next year. Imagine the impact you could make if you could get a team member or coworker to come to meetings, get educated, obtain certification and gain unexpected friendships in the process.

We have had a lot of challenges in the last few years that we had to rise above, and there will still be more to come. I'm encouraged by the IRWA leadership's commitment to do our part in helping navigate these challenges. The Association is well placed to help our profession deal with the continued labor shortages, to bridge the gap between college and career and to provide a space for those like me looking to pay forward the mentoring we received along the way.

When I started my time on the IEC, I took that list Carol wrote down and made it into an ever-evolving compilation of items completed and tasks still to accomplish. At times, it can appear overwhelming, but all I must do is consider the amazing volunteers and staff who serve on our Chapters, Regions and Committees and look back at how many of these objectives have already been achieved to know that we are capable of amazing accomplishments when we work together toward a common goal!

I want to thank the Board of Directors for allowing me to continue to serve and thank every member and nonmember clientele for your participation in IRWA. I know for a fact that people's lives are improved when our members and credentialed professionals help infrastructure projects become a reality! I promise to continue the tradition of the leaders who came before me to fulfill this purpose of our Association, and I am excited to navigate the future challenges with you all!

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**FRED EASTON, JR., SR/WA**  
Incoming International President 2023-2024





## DENISE L. SKINNER, SR/WA

### Candidate for IRWA International President-Elect

Denise has been a member of IRWA's Bluebonnet 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

- International Vice President, 2022-Present
- International Treasurer, 2022
- International Secretary, 2021-Present
- International Finance Committee, 2021-2022
- International Investment Committee, 2021-2022
- Strategic Planning Committee, 2021-2022
- Strategic Planning Task Force, 2020-2021
- Region 2 Chair, 2019-2021
- Region 2 Vice Chair, 2017-2019
- Region 2 Secretary/Treasurer, 2016-2017
- Region 2 Professional of the Year, 2011
- Chapter 74 Director 2 Year, 2015-2016
- Chapter 74 Director 1 Year, 2014-2015
- Chapter 74 President, 2013-2014
- Chapter 74 President-Elect, 2012
- Chapter 74 Vice President, 2011
- Chapter 74 Secretary, 2010
- Chapter 74 Treasurer, 2009
- Chapter 74 Education Co-Chair, 2008-2009
- Chapter 74 Membership Co-Chair, 2006-2008
- Chapter 74/39 Eminent Domain Seminar Committee, 2009-Present
- Chapter 74 Professional of the Year, 2011

#### Other

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

This has been an exciting and productive year for IRWA. We continue to integrate a long-term strategic plan that will have the committees and leadership working together to develop initiatives that will provide the greatest benefits to our members.

With the Infrastructure Bill being implemented, we are seeing a noticeable industry-wide increase in the number of projects being developed. This creates more demand for right of way professionals. By strengthening the requirements for the SR/WA designation as well as developing new courses and updating our existing educational opportunities, we are distinguishing IRWA members as the most educated and experienced professionals. As we bring back the Federal Update, reestablish the relationships with state and federal agencies and develop partnerships with other professional associations to create synergies, we are elevating the profile of IRWA members.

All of these and so many more will enhance benefits for our members. But this is just the start. Moving forward, I want to continue working to tie our Committees to the overall strategic plan and long-term goals, providing IRWA members with the skills and networking opportunities that will progress and enhance their careers. It is important that we develop courses in project management and alternative energy in addition to updating the "Principles of Right of Way" textbook. We should also have our courses recognized by state and provincial licensing boards. This will provide added benefits because members will be able to receive multiple continuing credits for IRWA courses as well as showcasing the Association to nonmembers. Further, as we deal with the reality of an aging workforce, it is essential to establish long-term, consistent strategies that will engage young professionals who may not even be aware of this thing called right of way.

William Arthur Ward said the following: *"The adventure of life is to learn. The purpose of life is to grow. The nature of life is to change. The challenge of life is to overcome. The essence of life is to care. The opportunity of life is to serve. The secret of life is to dare. The spice of life is to befriend. The beauty of life is to give."* Being involved in IRWA and its leadership has given me learning, adventure, challenges, opportunities, spice and beauty in the friendships that I have developed as well as the ability to give back some of what I have been given. I am continually challenged, awed and humbled by the passion and dedication of our members to be the best while inspiring others to become their best selves as well. It is my pleasure to serve this organization, and I humbly request your support for my candidacy for the position of International President-Elect.



## KOBY GODWIN, SR/WA

### Candidate for IRWA International Vice President

Koby has been a member of IRWA's Edmonton Chapter 62, Region 10, since 2007.

#### Education

- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology  
Urban & Regional Planning Technology

#### Certification/Designations

- Alberta Infrastructure, Realty Services, Land Development & Sales Property Agent, 2015-Present
- Alberta Infrastructure, Realty Services, Land Planning Planning Technologist, 2008-2015
- Scheffer Andrew Ltd.  
Planning Technologist, 1999-2008
- Cochrane Engineering Ltd.  
CADD Technologist, 1997-1999

#### IRWA Activities

- International Treasurer, 2022-Present
- International Finance Committee Chair, 2022-Present
- International Secretary, 2022
- Region 10 Chair, 2020-2022
- International Finance Committee Member, 2021-2022
- Region 10 Vice Chair, 2018-2020
- Region 10 Secretary/Treasurer, 2016-2018
- International Transportation Committee Region 10 Representative, 2012-2019
- Edmonton 2018 International Education Conference Co-Chair, 2012-2018
- Chapter 62 Course Coordinator, 2017-2021
- Chapter 62 President, 2013-2015
- Chapter 62 Treasurer, 2010-2012
- Chapter 62 Secretary, 2009-2010

#### Other

- Various Government of Alberta groups including the Contaminated Sites Committee, SharePoint and Nintex team lead, Flood Recovery Program for the High River Flood of 2013
- Board member, South Edmonton Football Parents Association, 2018-2021
- Masque Event Coordinator, Canadian Liver Foundation, 2008-2011
- Organizer, Summer Hockey, 2000-present
- Graphic Design Work
  - Italian Monument, Dante Alghier Library, Edmonton Chargers, football club player cards, SNAC hockey merchandise, accordion festival program
- Guest Lecturer, NAIT for Urban & Regional Planning Technology Business Class

2022 has been an amazing and unique year for me as I began my journey with the International Executive Committee (IEC) earlier than I had anticipated. However, after being elected, I was truly touched by the amount of support members gave me during my short time as International Secretary and at the conference in Cleveland. Taking on the role just before the annual conference offered new challenges and gave me a whole new perspective on the time and effort that needs to be given by our leaders in the Association as well as the tremendous work put in by our staff.

That appreciation has continued to grow throughout my first year on the IEC. As International Treasurer, I have been lucky enough to work with great staff members to meet the financial needs of the Association, including assisting in our annual audit. I have been working with the Investment Committee through a very difficult time in the market to manage our long-term investments as well as collaborating with the Finance Committee to gear up for the creation and presentation of our annual budget. As the son of two accountants, I am excited to work on the budget in addition to several financial initiatives that I hope will help the long-term growth of the Association.

If I am successful in my bid to continue with the IEC, I will endeavor to further the education offerings that we produce. In my time as International Treasurer, I have been fortunate enough to attend many meetings held by the International Professional Education Committee and provide input and support in their efforts to improve our Association, and I plan on continuing with that effort.

I look forward to challenging myself with the potential opportunity of serving as International Vice President. I would be honored to continue the work of other IEC members who have held this role, and I am especially excited to work closely with the Region vice chairs to advance IRWA.

Thank you to all of those who have provided advice, support and assistance throughout the last year. Through those conversations, including those ones that provided criticism and critiques, I believe I have grown as a leader. Of course, I also want to thank my family for the time and support they've given me, which has made being a part of the IEC possible — I can't tell you how much it means to me.

If you have any questions for me regarding my candidacy, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your time and attention as I, once again, am humbly asking for your support and vote, this time for the position of International Vice President.



## DANIEL K. BUCAN, SR/WA

### Candidate for IRWA International Treasurer

Dan has been a member of IRWA since 1999. He's a member of Chapter 13, Region 5.

#### Education

- MBA, Robert Morris University, 2001
- Bachelor of Science, Management & Finance Majors with minor in Economics, Robert Morris University, 1989

#### Certification/Designations

- SR/WA, International Right of Way Association, 2009
- Real Estate Salesperson, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 2010
- Private Pilot Certificate, Federal Aviation Administration
- PA Notary, Public
- AAPL Member
- Member, ASCE Transportation

#### IRWA Activities

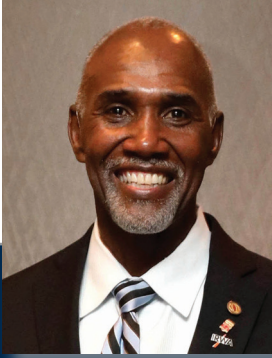
- International Secretary, 2022-Present
- International Education Conference Co-Chair, Cleveland, 2022
- International Governing Council, 2020-Present
- International Relations Committee Liaison, 2022-Present
- International Transportation Committee Liaison, 2022-Present
- International Electric Utility Committee Liaison, 2022-Present
- Vice Chair Finance Committee, 2022-Present
- International Investment Committee, 2022-Present
- International Professional Education Committee Curriculum Liaison, 2022-Present
- Region 5 Professional of the Year, 2022
- Region 5 Chair, 2020-2022
- Vice Chair Strategic Planning Committee, 2021-2022
- Region 5 Vice Chair, 2018-2020
- Region 5 Secretary Treasurer, 2016-2018
- Chapter 13 International Director 2 Year, 2015
- Chapter 13 International Director 1 Year, 2014
- Chapter 13 President, 2013
- Chapter 13 President-Elect, 2012
- Chapter 13 Vice President, 2011
- Chapter 13 Professional of the Year, 2016
- Chapter 55 International Director, 2004
- Chapter 55 President, 2003
- Chapter 55 President-Elect, 2002

Thank you for the honor to represent and serve you as International Secretary! The role has been a great opportunity and has allowed me to gain much more insight into the day-to-day operations of the Association. I have grown as a result of this position and have been inspired by the creativity, actions and guidance received from members and leaders throughout the Association. I am energized by the commitment and dedication I observe daily from committees; I am also encouraged by the cooperation and accomplishments amongst our volunteers. While conference planning allowed me and my Ohio Buckeye Chapter to work directly with the HQ team, I am impressed by the full scope of responsibilities they perform on a regular basis to support us.

Fortunately, throughout my career, I have been blessed to be trained by industry experts, most of whom were from IRWA. I met the most amazing, passionate group of instructors who planted the seeds of service that helped me develop the skills needed to be successful — many of these mentors shaped me into the person I am today. The welcoming spirit IRWA embraces toward new members and professionals has impacted so many of us and has contributed toward an atmosphere of giving and sharing that makes our Association one of its kind.

Those impactful relationships have led me to continue pursuing leadership on the IEC. In addition to capturing discussions, decisions and action items during meetings as the current International Secretary, I am liaison to the International Electric & Utility and International Transportation Committees and assist as they prepare for seminars, webinars and sessions at conference, along with budgeting. Also, my role on the International Relations Committee requires collaborative and creative solutions to support the diverse needs of members around the world. As International Secretary, I serve on the Investment Committee and as vice chair of the Finance Committee; both roles have provided me with a much greater understanding of our revenue and expenses as well as the critical role RWIEF plays in the development of new courses and scholarships. This detailed review of accounts and research into budget line items has helped prepare me for this next opportunity as International Treasurer.

We have significant opportunities and financial needs facing our Association; if elected as International Treasurer, I will focus on managing our budget to maximize revenue and monitor expenses, which will allow us to respond to special requests while still meeting the requirements and expectations of our members. I will always be available to you and will remain dedicated to performing and investing the time necessary to deliver for our Association. I humbly ask for your support and vote as International Treasurer.



## MATTHEW D. HARRIS, SR/WA, R/W-RAC

### Candidate for IRWA International Secretary

Matt has been a member of IRWA's Magnolia Chapter 40, Region 6, since 2006.

#### Certification/Designations

- SR/WA — International Right of Way Association, 2014
- R/W-RAC — International Right of Way Association, 2012

#### IRWA Activities

- Region 6 Chair, 2021-Present
- International Governance Task Force
- International Diversity, Equality, Inclusion Task Force
- International Chapter Dissolution Task Force
- Region 6 Vice Chair, 2019-2021
- Region 6 Secretary Treasurer, 2017-2019
- Region 6 Professional of the Year, 2014-2015
- International Relocation Committee / Community of Practice, Chair, 2 years
- International Public Agency Committee Chair, 2 years
- International Public Agency Committee Vice Chair, 2 years
- International Transportation Committee member
- International Asset Management Committee member
- Chapter 40 President/Director, 2014-2015, 2015-2016
- Chapter 40 Professional of the Year, 2014-2015
- Chapter 40 Vice President, 2013 -2014
- Chapter 40 Professional of the Year, 2012-2013
- Chapter 40 Treasurer, 2012-2013
- Chapter 40 Secretary, 2011-2012
- Chapter 40 Relocation Chair, 2008-Current
- Chapter 40 Education Chair, 2013-2016

#### Other

- NCAA baseball umpire, 2010-Current
- NFHS baseball and football official, 2000-Current

Throughout my 19-year tenure with the Mississippi Department of Transportation, I have worked with many different people including engineers, consultants, local public agencies, attorneys, politicians and the public that is impacted by our work. My goal has always been to listen and learn from everyone's point of view. Yet, until I joined IRWA 16 years ago, I had no idea that an organization could expose me to so many professionals from around the world who would enhance my skills with their knowledge and friendship.

During that time, I have tried to seize every opportunity for professional development by volunteering at the Chapter, Region and international levels. I have served in all offices for Chapter 40 and am currently the chair of Region 6. At the international level, I joined several committees because I knew the experts were there and willing to share their experience. I joined the International Transportation Committee, the International Asset Management Committee and was fortunate enough to chair the International Relocation Committee/COP and the International Public Agency Committee. Those opportunities helped me bring a unique understanding to the International Governing Council (IGC) where I have served on a variety of important task forces.

Beyond my profession, I am a devoted husband, father and grandfather. As a deacon at church, an NCAA baseball umpire and an NFHS baseball/football official, I learned that my calling is to be of service. I believe that about my role in IRWA as well. Taking that role seriously requires hard work and commitment. I promise to give you both.

My goal, if elected, is to be of service to the members as we move the mission of IRWA forward. During my tenure on the IGC, several task forces were assembled and recommendations presented. My plan includes reviewing those recommendations, supporting additional vetting of the suggestions and implementing those that result in expanding the voice of all members. I would like to grow Chapter educational opportunities while improving the quality of material and delivery and find best practices and unique solutions to increase member value, retention and revenue within all 10 Regions.

My hope is to generate a collaborative and transparent relationship with both the Region leadership and IRWA staff for the mutual benefit of all. In addition, I intend to consult the Advisory Council for historical accounts of success and failure regarding our recurring goal of expanding the visibility and understanding of our designation/certifications as well as methods to increase overall membership growth. In general, I want to listen, learn, plan but ultimately take real action.

I am asking for your vote for the position of International Executive Secretary.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.



## CYNDI WHELPLEY, SR/WA

### Candidate for IRWA International Secretary

Cyndi has been a member of IRWA's Puget Sound Chapter 4, Region 7 since 2000.

#### Education

- B.S. Public Administration — San Diego State University
- M.A. Organizational Leadership, Chapman University

#### Certification/Designations

- SR/WA — International Right of Way Association, 2006
- R/W-RAC — International Right of Way Association, 2022
- Project Management Certificate — University of Washington

#### IRWA Activities

- International Finance Committee, 2022-Present
- Bylaws Task Force, 2022-Present
- Region 7 Chair, 2021-Present
- Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Task Force, 2021-2022
- Region 7 Professional of the Year, 2020
- Region 7 Vice Chair/Treasurer, 2019-2021
- Education Conference Speaker, 2019-2022
- CLIMB Certified Instructor, 2019-Present
- International Ethics Committee, 2019-2022
- Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Finalist, 2018 & 2021
- Region 7 Secretary, 2017-2019
- International Nominations & Elections Committee, 2015-16
- International Relocation Assistance Committee, 2018-Present
- International Public Agency Committee, 2019-Present
- Chapter 4 International Director #2, 2011-2012
- Chapter 4 President and International Director #1, 2010-2011
- International Electric & Utilities Committee, 2009-2014
- Chapter 4 President-Elect, 2009-2010
- Chapter 4 Vice President, 2008-2009
- Chapter 4 Program Chair, 2009-2010
- Chapter 4 Golf Committee Chair, 2005-2009
- Chapter 4 Professional of the Year, 2005

#### Other

- Rotary Club of Oak Harbor, 2017-Present
- Soroptomist International of Oak Harbor, 2017-Present
- Northwest Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation — Board Member & Vice Chair, 2017-2021
- Oak Harbor Youth Football League — Board Member, 2010-2018

Do you recall where you were 30 years ago? I was starting my right of way career at Caltrans and with Chapter 11 in San Diego. At that time, it was “just a job.” Wow! There have been a lot of changes since 1992, and who would have thought that “just a job” would turn into a beautiful and rewarding career?!

Fast forward ten years to when I was working for a utility company in Washington and connected with several IRWA mentors through Puget Sound Chapter 4. I also worked with WSDOT and a consulting firm. Each of these employers wholeheartedly supported IRWA, and one mentor tapped me on the shoulder and asked, “How involved do you want to be with IRWA?” My response was obvious: “Count me in!”

First, it was organizing Chapter 4 golf tournaments and greeting guests at Chapter meetings. Small potatoes to some, however, the connections I made have become valuable colleagues and/or long-time friends. This eventually led to coordinating courses, serving on several International Committees, task forces, as well as Chapter and Region leadership and presenting in webinars and at the annual conferences.

My passion for IRWA has continued to grow over the last three decades and is centered around the Association’s vital principals: education, mentoring and leadership development. A highlight of my IRWA career was becoming a CLIMB Instructor; I’ve taught several courses over the last three years and have been honored to coach and mentor new professionals in their pursuit of their SR/WA. I find myself asking them the same critical question: how involved do you want to be? It thrills me to see these new members engage with their Chapters and progress with their professional development.

My involvement in multiple areas throughout IRWA has provided me opportunities to have one-on-one conversations with many members. I have heard you describe the need for value-added educational opportunities, bringing in new professionals and providing networking opportunities. If elected as International Executive Secretary, I will continue to listen while focusing on improving education through new courses, suggesting alternative methods of delivery (e.g., night or weekend classes) and ensuring course materials are updated. I want to grow IRWA’s membership and encourage networking opportunities that will elevate our profession and highlight the value we bring to infrastructure projects.

IRWA has offered me opportunities to learn and grow, and I want to pay that forward through continuing leadership. I would be honored to have your vote and support of my candidacy for the position of International Executive Secretary. IRWA has been an integral part of my personal growth and professional development. If I was asked today, “How involved do you want to be?” My answer would be: *I’m all in, friend! I am all in.*