



IRWA Staff Spotlight

In an effort to further increase transparency between IRWA Headquarters and the dedicated members of this Association, we are excited to bring you the **IRWA Staff Spotlight**. In each issue of Right of Way Magazine, a different staff member will introduce themselves and give some insight into their role at Headquarters.

What is something on your bucket list?

I am not much of a thrill seeker or adrenaline junkie, so skydiving would not make my list. I enjoy traveling and visiting new places. Exploring Machu Pichu in Peru to experience the Inca ruins and travel to Brazil during the Carnival of Rio De Janeiro would absolutely be at the top of my list.

What is your name and your job title at IRWA Headquarters?

Maria DiMaggio, Accounting and Personnel Manager

Tell us about your background and why you chose to work at IRWA.

I have been fortunate to work in the accounting and/or administrative industry for over 12 years. At my previous employer, I was the accounting and office manager for eight years, and it was a valuable experience. I thrive in playing a focal role when it comes to helping people with any issues, and most of all, I enjoy being of service to others.

How long have you been with Headquarters?

At the end of April is when I initiated my tenure with IRWA.

Describe your role. What are your primary responsibilities?

I support the chief financial officer on all key accounting projects and reports. I perform routine in-house human resources tasks for the Association and supervise the accounting personnel as well.

How has your career grown since you first joined the team? What have you gained?

In the short amount of time with IRWA, I have already learned quite a lot about our members and staff. It's impressive to see how our members are dedicated to the Association and how the HQ staff is dedicated in helping them. I look forward in gaining as much knowledge as possible to excel within the company.

What are some of the reasons members typically contact you?

Members will typically contact me if they need assistance in researching a payment made and/or to obtain a copy of their receipt.



What are the best ways members can reach you?

You can reach me by email at dimaggio@irwaonline.org or by phone at (310) 538-0233, ext. 139.

What is your favorite part of working at IRWA?

I'd say my favorite part is the headquarters staff. Everyone is very friendly, knowledgeable and helpful. I enjoy seeing the camaraderie between the staff. They all have been very welcoming. It makes working for IRWA enjoyable.



What are some of your hobbies outside of work?

Ever since I was a child, I have always been very fond of sewing. I enjoy making and designing dresses for little girls, especially for my daughters and nieces. I find it to be a very helpful and a useful stress reliever. During the pandemic, I used my sewing skills to make masks for my daughters since I could never find the right size for children. I loved the fact that I was able to make personalized masks for them.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself or something that might surprise us.

I come from a large traditional Mexican family. We are a total of six siblings with one brother and five sisters. My siblings and I are first-generation Mexican Americans. Growing up, our mother instilled the value and importance of our Mexican culture and family traditions. Our mother demonstrated the significance of what family unity means, and now as adults, we continue to be a very close-knit family. My siblings and I strive to make our mother proud as we now raise her eleven grandchildren with the same values, traditions and love she so proudly passed onto us.

Where would you travel to for your dream vacation?

Although, somewhere tropical is at the top of my list my dream vacation would be to visit the beautiful country of Italy. I would love to take my two daughters to see where their father's family originated from. I believe it would be exciting to explore and learn the Italian culture and traditions in hopes that one day, my daughters will share those same experiences with their children.

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