



The Compass

Winner of the Newsletter of the Year Award, 2004

Chapter 12
50+ years
1955 -

2010-11

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President's Message

Hello Chapter Members and Friends

Fall is upon us after a busy summer for Chapter 12. With the help of Omer Moore, our new Chapter Secretary, we held a very successful educational meeting in Springfield this past August. Omer and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources were our gracious hosts. Attendance at the combined Business/Educational Meeting was excellent as we heard and learned from our guest speakers on topics ranging from Federal Highway Funding on Federal Acquisition projects and also from a host of real estate experts from Ameren Services Company as they reviewed their plans and processes for the company's future growth and how they will accomplish their goal. It appears that the Right of Way Industry and Professionals will be an essential part of their future plans. Last but not least, Brad Krabel, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, also reviewed and spoke to us about the IRWA and its new Career Path for the Right of Way Professional that will take effect on October 1, 2010. Thanks to all our guest speakers for their time and valuable insight on their respective topics. We are truly a volunteer organization and we appreciate the efforts of all those that participate and donate their time at our meetings.



Terri Pointer was one of our speakers at the Summer Meeting. I wanted to take time out and acknowledge her specifically and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement. After 35 years of service with the Illinois Department of Transportation Teri is retiring. She has been an active member of Chapter 12 and has a wealth of knowledge and experience that she always was willing to share. We wish her the best! She has assured me that she will remain an active member of our Chapter. As a matter of fact she and I have very similar feelings about the future of our Chapter and the need for us to get younger people involved in the Right of Way Profession. With the new Career Path for the Right of Way Professional taking effect, it can be used as a recruiting device for the younger generation of Right of Way Professionals. With Terri's permission, I am including in this edition of the Compass an Article that she wrote for one of IDOT'S magazines in an attempt to reach out to the younger crowd or to those contemplating a career change. Thank you for your support Terri and Good Luck!

August was also the month of our Annual Golf Outing. I was informed by one of the Chairpersons, Tom Burns that there were about 52 golfers at the Outing. It was a great day for networking and socializing at the Pontiac Elks Club. Thanks to all our sponsors in helping to make this event an annual success. A more detailed report can be found in the Compass.

We are also gearing up for our Fall Meeting which will be held on October 28, 2010 in the

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President's Message - Continued

Naperville, IL area. As soon as we can confirm speakers and location I will send out a separate notice and registration by email. However, please save the date in your calendars now as I know how things tend to get filled up. We are currently leaning toward the meeting to be held at Maggiano's of Naperville. Final decision will be depend upon cost. Believe me when I tell you that it has nothing to do with me being Italian. As you know we are attempting to keep out of pocket costs to our membership as low as possible during these difficult economic times so we can have better attendance at our meetings. There is no better place to meet and greet your fellow members and to learn or review interesting right of way topics than at a luncheon meeting. Good food, a chance to mingle with those that you do not see on a regular basis coupled with interesting topics...I refer to it as the trifecta. Membership attendance helps make it a success.

In conclusion, I wanted to alert all members that membership dues are in the mail or will be in the mail shortly. It seems that they never come at a good time. But the investment toward your membership makes the value well worth the cost. We in the Right of Way Profession need to keep our membership strong and educated. Our membership dues help make that goal possible. December 31 will be here before we know it and Headquarters is willing to work with those who are having a difficult time in paying dues. Please call Bonnie Gray at 310-583-0233 ext. 134 or email her at gray@irwaonline.org to discuss payment options. The key is not to let your membership lapse.

I hope you all have a great productive fall. See you at the October 28 meeting. Don't forget to drop me a line to say hello or to offer a suggestion. I would love to hear from you.

Andy

President
IRWA-Chapter 12



TREASURER'S REPORT	
Susan Kedzie, Treasurer	
2010 Third Quarter Report	
(As of 9/30/2010)	
Income	\$ 6,244.79
Expenses	14,059.34
Net Loss	\$ 7,814.55
Current Cash Balance	\$ 1,687.74
Accounts Receivable	\$ 2,040.00
Course 401	



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Do you know your Chapter 12 Committee Chairs?

Nominations and Elections Committee

Responsible for conducting Chapter Elections, reviewing nominations and awarding various Chapter Awards

David Sommerfeld

Membership Committee

Responsible for conducting membership drive and marketing and outreach to potential new members

Teresa Dismukes

Education Committee

Responsible for creating three year education program and securing Class Coordinators

Neil Steffens

Utilities Committee

Responsible for organizing and hosting West Suburban Utility Roundtable and conducting Lunch & Learns

**Deb Leetzow &
John Pribich**

Professional Development Committee

Responsible for providing members information and support for their professional development

Brad Krabel

Industry Committee

Responsible for securing speakers for Chapter meetings and for securing venues for Chapter events

**Tom Burns &
Tim Patchett**

Publication Committee

Responsible for publishing the Chapter newsletter and for maintaining and updating the Chapter website

Lisa Krenz

This is a just a sample of the different committees for our Chapter. For additional information on the various responsibilities of each committee or to offer your talents and support, contact the Committee Chair. A full list of committees and contact information can be found on the Chapter website.

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Martin E. Corey
Oakwood Appraisal Co.

Mark A. Fields
HNTB Corporation

Congratulations to...

Jacqueline McInerney who successfully satisfied the requirements and is approved as **Right of Way – Negotiation/Acquisition Certified (R/W-NAC)**

Michael J. Price who successfully satisfied the requirements and is approved as **Senior Member of the International Right of Way Association (SR/WA)**

Careers in Land Acquisition

By Terri Pointer

Can you spell E-M-I-N-E-N-T D-O-M-A-I-N? Can you spell L-A-N-D A-C-Q-U-I-S-I-T-I-O-N? Have you ever considered a career in the land acquisition field? What exactly makes up a career in the land acquisition field?

Careers in land acquisition include real estate appraiser specialist, expert eminent domain valuation witness for condemnation proceedings and acquisition field agent, commonly referred to as a negotiator. If your interest is in helping individuals, families, businesses, farm operations and/or non-profit organizations displaced by a government project, then becoming a relocation agent might be for you.

The 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees just compensation to those property owners who have their private property acquired for a public purpose. "No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation". Eminent domain is the power of the sovereign to acquire private property for public use.

Many governmental agencies acquire private property for public uses. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are a few examples of federal governmental agencies that acquire private land/rights for public purposes. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and state universities are examples of state agencies with this right. Cities, towns, villages, townships, counties and special local districts like the Springfield Sanitary Sewer District do it. Public and private utility companies such as Ameren, NICOR and Springfield, Illinois' City Water Light and Power Company also acquire private property for public purposes under the power of eminent domain.

To assist individuals interested in getting into the field of eminent domain land acquisition, there are courses available from numerous sources to obtain the necessary skills and knowledge to perform the various tasks of land acquisition. The International Right of Way Association and the National Highway Institute provide highly specialized training options in all fields within land acquisition. These courses explain in detail what is the purpose of the Uniform Act and how it's supporting regulations provide mandatory requirements for both the impacted property owners/tenants and the tax-paying public who are paying the bill for the necessary acquisitions. Numerous other private companies, such as the Appraisal Institute, McKissock, American Society of Farm Managers and Rural appraisers, National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers, National Association of Realtors and many state universities and smaller colleges offer specialized courses as well.

Once these eminent domain land acquisition tools are in your work toolbox, these skills are easily transportable from agency to agency, town to town, and state to state. Only a few differences occur between agencies depending on different mandatory rules, case laws and statutes. The new requirements are easily learned. Nationwide and/or local, there are small firms and bigger firms that are always looking for new and/or already experienced talent.

Many current eminent domain appraisers, negotiators and relocation agents are at the end of their careers and looking toward retirement. The field is looking to pass the torch and train a new generation of agents for the future. Are you the future?

Careers in Land Acquisition - Continued

To find out if you are interested, here are several informational websites:

Federal Highway Administration: www.fhwa.dot.gov/rea/estate/
 Illinois Department of Transportation: www.dot.il.gov
 Illinois Department of Finance and Professional Regulations: www.idfpr.com
 International Right of Way Association: <http://irwaonline.org>
 National Highway Institute: www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/
 Appraisal Institute: www.appraisalinstitute.org/
 American Society of Farm Manager and Rural Appraisers: www.asfmra.org/
 McKissock: www.mckissock.com
 National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers: www.naifa.com

For further information, or if you would like to talk to a land acquisition representative from the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Highways, contact the Central Bureau of Land Acquisition at:

Cheryl.Cathey@illinois.gov : or
 (217) 782-6243; or
 2300 South Dirksen Parkway
 Springfield, IL 62764

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendars!

2010 Region 5 Fall Forum in Perrysburg, OH

Registration is now open for the Region 5 Fall Forum to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg, OH. The Forum will begin Friday evening, October 15th with a hospitality party hosted by Chapter 13.

Chapter 12 Fall Business & Education Meeting

Chapter 12 will be holding its upcoming Fall Meeting on Thursday, October 28th at the fabulous Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant in Naperville, IL. Our speakers will include Real Estate Appraiser Peter Hopkins, MAI from Hopkins Appraisal Service and (tentatively) a representative from CN Railroad. In addition to our great speakers, we will enjoy the wonderful at Maggiano's which includes a large continental breakfast and a three course luncheon served family style. You won't want to miss this meeting – great speakers, great food and great opportunities to mingle with other members, so save the date now! More details to follow so keep an eye on your e-mail.

Course 213: Conflict Management

Chapter 12 will sponsor Course 213 to be held Tuesday, November 9th in Warrenville, IL. Effective conflict management can open doors to healthier workplace relationships and more productive working relationships with property owners and the general public. The Facilitator for this course will be Dr. Mazie Leftwich, Psy.D., Sr. VP of Contract Land Staff, LLC, a nationwide Land Management and Right-of-Way consulting company. Dr. Leftwich is a nationally recognized speaker and workshop leader. She is the Officer in Charge of the CLS Professional Development Institute and has been the catalyst behind CLS's extensive employee training, project kick-off and team-excellence programs.

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In the News...

FutureGen goes west

Mattoon - The green light is on for a new FutureGen project but the spotlight is off Mattoon.

Check out the Chapter website – www.irwachapter12.org - for a link to the complete article.



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Chapter 12 held its Annual Golf Outing on August 19th at the Pontiac Elks Club. It was a great day to chase that little white ball around. While the afternoon brought some warmer temperatures and humidity, overall, it was a beautiful day for golf.

We had a very good turn out for the Outing again this year, with 54 golfers and a couple additional members and friends who attended the awards ceremony and steak dinner.

The Outing continues to be a great success and loads of fun for everyone - primarily as a result of the strong sponsorship provided by Members of Chapter 12 and the companies who employ them. Please take time to review the article within this edition of the Compass that list the sponsor companies and the individuals who represented those companies.

Our winners at the Outing also deserve special recognition; the ComEd Team of Bob Jones, Teresa Dismukes and Tom O'Malley took first place for the second year straight with a terrific 6-under par score of 66 in the scramble. The second place team of John Ammons, Mark Mathewson, Mike Martin and T.J. Hiles shot a 5-under and finished just 1 shot back of the leaders. In total there were 8 teams who turned in sub-par rounds. Congratulations!

Winners on the various prize holes were Bob Sullivan - Closest to Pin from Across the Creek on #1, Tim Fehr - Closest to the Pin on #4, Brad Krabel – Longest Putt on #5, Mike Mathewson - Closest to the Pin on #13, Duane Gibbs – Longest Men's Drive on #15, and Rhonda Searle – Longest Women's Drive on #15, and Bob Jones – Longest Putt on #18. Great job to you all!!

I want to extend a special thanks to Carol Vaughn and Gloria Wagner for all their help with the registration, 50/50, awards and for doing an excellent job keeping everyone well hydrated by shuttling extra fluids between the beverage cart and some of our more needy participants. Also, I'd like to thank all the folks who really stepped up with the donations this year, both financially and in the gifts that were donated. We had to request an extra table to hold all the prizes we had donated.

Last, but certainly not least, a very special thank you to John Ammons and Wheatland Title for their cash donation that enabled the chapter to break even this year. This is in addition to their sponsorship of the beverage cart. Thank you John, for once again for going above and beyond.

In closing, I'd like to let you all know that you don't have to play golf regularly, or for that matter, at all, in order to participate. The scramble format makes it possible for anyone and everyone to participate, and even if you still don't like the idea of playing golf, we'd be thrilled to see you at the dinner in 2011 and tell you all about the one that almost went in the hole. I'd also like to mention that the costs to the chapter have increased slightly and likely, we will also need to increase the registration fee a bit in 2011 to offset these costs. So, until next year...tee it high and let it fly!

Dave Sommerfeld & Tom Burns
Chapter 12 Golf Outing Committee Co-Chairs

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NORTHERN BORDER PIPELINE COMPANY

Tim Fehr

AMEREN SERVICES

Roger Nelson

ComEd

Bob Jones

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Calendar of Events

October

- 15-17 2010 Region 5 Fall Forum / Perrysburg, OH
- 18 SR/WA Review Study Session & Exam / Indianapolis, IN
- 19 802 – Legal Aspects of Easements / Pewaukee, WI
- 20 800 – Principles of Real Estate Law / Pewaukee, WI
- 28 Chapter 12 Business & Education Meeting / Naperville, IL

November

- 1 104 – Standards of Practice for R/W Professional / Indianapolis
- 2 100 – Principles of Land Acquisition / Indianapolis, IN
- 4 406B – 7 Hour National USPAP Course / Ann Arbor, MI
- 9 213 – Conflict Management / Warrenville, IL
- 11 400 – Principles of Real Estate Appraisal / Johnson Creek, WI

December

- 7 506 – Advanced Business Relocation Assistance / Madison, WI

October 2010

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November 2010

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December 2010

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January 2011

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