

February 2019 President's Message

On Groundhog Day 2019, Punxsutawney Phil could not find his shadow. As the legend goes, this means we are in for an early spring. That may be the case, but winter is clearly not over given the cancellation of our February meeting due to the recent snowpocalypse!

Traditionally February is our annual membership drive where members are encouraged to bring a potential new member to the meeting as their free lunch guest. Miller, Nash, Graham & Dunn, LLP (MNGD) has hosted this event for the past several consecutive years at their Seattle office located on Pier 70 overlooking Seattle's central waterfront. This event continues to be popular among members and guests alike. Even with the newly fallen snow and continued forecast for more, there were 30 members and guests pre-registered for the canceled meeting. Not to worry, MNGD has graciously agreed to reschedule this meeting for May 13, 2018, which is also when we hold our annual elections. I look forward to a great program and turnout for this year's annual meeting! If you are interested in volunteering or running for office, please contact John Nidecker, Chapter 4 President-Elect.

Annual Conference

This year, IRWA's annual conference will be in Portland, Oregon June 9-12, 2019 at the downtown Hilton, and is being hosted by our fellow Region 7 neighbors to the South, Beaver State Chapter 3. It is an honor to host the annual conference and also takes a tremendous amount of work, and relies on volunteers. While Chapter 3 has information on their website, Kent Melton, Chapter 4 Immediate Past President is also assisting with volunteer sign up. Volunteering is a great opportunity to network and meet new people, and I would like to challenge all Chapter 4 members to volunteer to work at the conference for at least one hour.

Every year at our Annual International Education Conference, we have the opportunity to recognize some of the **industry's finest individuals, companies and IRWA chapters** who have contributed to advancing the right of way profession. Chapter 4 has several nominations in multiple categories in 2019, and I am especially looking forward to the awards ceremony. Good luck to all of our nominees!

If you have not yet registered for the annual conference, there is still plenty of time. Although the deadline for early registration is February 22, 2019, late registrations are accepted.

IRWA Business

I want to share several items of interest recently discussed at the International and Region levels with Chapter leadership (attached and some items are posted in the news section of the [website](#)):

- Governance task force minutes and overviews email received from Region 7 Chair, Dee Oakland on January 19, 2019
- International Leadership Update (web conference call February 7, 2019) agenda, recorded webinar, the Education Task Force (IDEAs) presentation and Issues list

- Region 7 Spring Forum draft agenda (there is still time to register for the March 8th Forum)
- Region 7 Education concerns and response January 20, 2019 email from Chair, Dee Oakland

In addition to the above items, Region 7 Vice-Chair, Jim Lingeman held a telephone conference with Region 7 Presidents and Education Chairs on January 22, 2019. IRWA's mission is education and the objective of the call was to determine what the Chapters could do to make education better in Region 7. Jim has been in touch with Fred Easton, Education Task Force Leader as well.

2019 Meeting Schedule

- March 8th – [Region 7 Spring Forum](#) in Portland, OR
- March 13th – [Luncheon](#) at Bellevue Red Lion (Project of the Year Presentation)
- April 10th – [Luncheon](#) at Tulalip (drone presentation & slate of officers announced)
- May 8th – [Luncheon](#) at MNGD in Seattle (election of Chapter officers & awards deadline)
- June 5th – [Installation of Officers](#) (Waterways boat tour of Lake Union in Seattle)
- June 9th-12th – IRWA International Educational Conference at Downtown Hilton Hotel in Portland, OR

Our next scheduled meeting is lunch on March 13, 2019 at the Bellevue Red Lion. Although I will not be there, you will be the capable hands of your President-Elect, John Nidecker. The Executive Board meeting will be from 10-11:30 AM. Please be sure to register on line or by emailing jenifer.olsen@contractlandstaff.com by midnight on March 10th.

Respectfully,

Dawn Fletcher, President IRWA Puget Sound Chapter 4