



March 2015

President's Message

Spring is here!

There is an old proverb "No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow". And sure enough spring is here already. It seems like just a short time ago that we were celebrating the New Year but now April is just around the corner. And since we're turning the corner let me fill you in on what your chapter leadership has been doing these past few months.

Our chapter 4 just finished hosting the Region 7 Spring Forum in downtown Seattle. Leaders from Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana attended as well as representatives from IRWA headquarters. The event took a lot of planning but ultimately the efforts of chapter volunteers made the forum a big success. The takeaways from the meeting are that the organization continues to evolve, developing new curriculum, encouraging new ways to network and share information, and provide more value to you, the members of IRWA.

We've also been working hard to find and present topics of interest at our chapter meetings. February saw a great presentation of the ways to maximize the benefits of social media and March was a very interesting explanation of the early railroad land grants and their effects on today's land uses. In April we have another exciting topic, the Oso mudslide and how WSDOT managed to get the highway cleared and open again to aid in the recovery efforts.

The other area of focus for us during this shift from winter to spring is the upcoming transition of chapter leadership. At our April meeting we will present a slate of candidates who hope to lead the chapter during the next few years. The success of this chapter depends on the willingness of volunteers to step up and get involved. If you have ever thought about getting involved in chapter leadership, now is an excellent time. Everyone has something of value to contribute. The difference is in who is willing to share their skills, ideas, and expertise to help the chapter grow and improve. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact me or our incoming president, Leslie Beard, to find out about opportunities to volunteer.

New Members

Welcome to new members Jean Greagor, Dennis Oswalt, Stacey Meldrum, and Myla Burgos.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar!

<u>Membership meeting</u> (Luncheon at Tulalip Casino) Oso Landslide	Apr. 8, 2015
<u>Course 417</u> The Valuation of Environmentally Contaminated Property	Apr. 20-21, 2015
<u>Course 410</u> Reviewing Appraisals in Eminent Domain	Apr. 22, 2015
Membership meeting (Coast Hotel – Bellevue) Election of Officers	May 13, 2015
<u>Baseball Night at Cheney Stadium</u> , Tacoma, WA	May 15, 2015

Course 303 Managing the Consultant Process
Course 600 Environmental Awareness
Annual Installation Banquet

May 18-19, 2015
June 2, 2015
June 10, 2015

I hope you have a great spring, and an even better summer! Thanks, and hope to see you soon.

Mike Bulzomi, SR/WA
IRWA Chapter 4 President
206-903-7653 | mike.bulzomi@soundtransit.org

March 27, 2015