

August 2018 President's Message

Our hearts go out to the family of James B. Price, MAI, SR/WA, Appraisal Group of the Northwest, who recently passed unexpectedly. Jim was an exceptional appraiser and avid supporter of the IRWA who served as our Chapter President in 1993. He rarely missed a Chapter Meeting or Annual Conference, and remained actively involved in both appraisal and the IRWA. He was friendly, kind, supportive, and always eager to attend Chapter Social Events. It has been a privilege to know Jim and the Chapter plans to honor him in remembrance at our next meeting. We will share information about his services as it becomes available.

My immediate focus has been finalizing our monthly meeting schedule for the current year. Last year we changed our venue and time for our Bellevue meetings, which increased attendance significantly. Given that success, we will maintain this for the current year, except for September. We also had to move our Installation up one week to June 5th due to conflict with International conference. Since the second Wednesday was not available at the Bellevue Red Lion. Chapter member Janae Barbeau from HDR volunteered to find an alternative location in Seattle. I know that several Chapter 4 members work in the downtown area, and I think this is a great opportunity to try something new and see how it works. Since the cost of parking can be an issue, Janae worked hard to provide a great deal for us and we will be able to reduce the normal cost from \$30 to \$25 for this meeting. The current Chapter meeting schedule for the 2018-19 fiscal year is as follows:

Board Meeting 10-11:30 AM, Registration 11:30 AM-noon & Member Meeting noon – 1 PM •
September 12th One Union Square, 600 University Street, Seattle

- October 10th Red Lion Hotel Bellevue
- November 14th Tacoma's Landmark Convention Center

- December 12th (This will be an evening Board meeting and holiday social event TBD) •
January 9th Red Lion Hotel Bellevue
- February 13th Miller Nash Graham & Dunn Seattle Office annual membership drive
- March 13th Red Lion Hotel Bellevue

- April 10th Tulalip
- May 8th Red Lion Hotel Bellevue
- June 5th Installation Event (location & time TBD)

In addition to Chapter meetings, both Region 7 Forums are being hosted by our neighboring Chapters (19 & 3), as well as the annual IRWA International Educational Conference (3). I want to encourage all of our members to attend and/or volunteer to support these nearby events:

- October 26-27th Region 7 Fall Forum in Spokane hosted by Inland Empire Chapter 19 • March 7-9, 2019 Region 7 Fall Forum in Portland hosted by Beaver State Chapter 3

- June 9-12, 2019 IRWA International Conference in Portland also hosted by Chapter 3

We had a very successful planning session on August 4th, which our President Elect, John Nidecker graciously hosted at his office in Seattle. The Executive Board discussed goals for each position and discussed the proposed annual chapter budget. We will post the meeting agenda and notes with our next website update, but I want to highlight a few items we discussed:

1. IRWA Remodeling Discussion – I mentioned in my July message that this was a hot topic of discussion at the annual conference on June 27th regarding three possible membership/governance models for IRWA. One of our Chapter members, Krista Baker, has been involved throughout the development process and has agreed to present this topic at our September meeting. If you care about the future of your association, you won't want to miss this meeting.
2. Chapter bylaws, dues and position descriptions – The Board has reviewed these items and determined only minor changes are needed to a couple of the position descriptions.
3. Annual Conference - Chapter 3 provided a tremendous amount of support to our Chapter when we hosted the International Conference in Seattle a few years back and we hope to repay the favor since they are hosting the conference in Portland next June. Immediate Past President, Kent Melton, will serve as our Chapter's Volunteer Coordinate to assist Chapter 3 with this monumental task. Save the dates and watch for more information about volunteer opportunities.
4. Education Seminar – Our Education Chair, Karen Wright, has done an outstanding job of continuing to make education profitable each year which has enabled our Chapter to continue to make contributions to RWIEF. Molly Foster, from Kitsap County recently joined the Education Committee to assist course coordinators. Each year we discuss the need for an educational seminar to help generate revenue for our Chapter. Since both forums and the conference are being hosted by neighboring Chapters, we want to encourage our members to support those events this year instead.
5. Chapter Website – Communications Chair, Julie Aune, has done an amazing job taking over emails and coordinating with our webmaster to ensure our members have access to the most current information. Our website now meets the criteria to be nominated for the Website of the Year award. We are also increasing our effort to reduce operating expenses by limiting the timing and information that will be posted to the Chapter's website.
6. Chapter Awards – Our new Committee Chair, Melinda Burkhart, has several ideas about revamping our Chapter awards program and will be encouraging members to also nominate at the International level this year. The project of the year nominations formerly presented in January will be moved to March to provide more time. It may even have a new name, stay tuned!
7. Membership – Speaking of awards, new Membership Chair Michele Pescador has big shoes to fill, as we had one of the largest increases in membership last year. Not only did we receive the Gene L. Land Award, but our Chapter has also qualified for the 10% Chapter Growth Incentive during the 2017-18 fiscal year and will receive:
 - a. 3 free memberships for 2019;
 - b. 2 free conference registrations for the 2019 IRWA Educational Conference in Portland,

Oregon; and
c. \$500 voucher to be used for conference travel.

Our first Chapter Meeting next month promises to be exciting, and we will be discussing use of our incentives and approving the budget at the preceding Board Meeting. I hope to have the agenda published in advance of that meeting. I look forward to seeing you in Seattle in September!

Enjoy the fabulous weather!
Dawn Fletcher, Chapter 4 President