

Spring is in the air, and I hope you are all enjoying the longer, sunnier and warmer days!

Chapter Meeting Recap

We had another abundant turnout for our March meeting. Congratulations to Tierra Right of Way and Seattle City Light on your Chapter 4 Project of the Year award and thank you for a great presentation! Nominations remain open for Chapter Instructor, Professional and Employer of the Year, and will be awarded at our Installation event in June. Nomination forms can be found on our Chapter 4 website here: <https://irwachapter4.org/Awards>. Completed forms must be submitted to Melinda Burkhart, NESAs Chair, by April 30, 2019.

Since last May, 46 new members have joined Chapter 4 bringing our current total to 315 members. IRWA provides and awards a membership growth incentive to Chapters based on **net gain** in membership. Although we had to cancel our annual membership drive meeting last month due to snow, I would like to take this time to remind all members (including new members who joined prior to October 2018), to please renew your membership for 2019 before the April 30th deadline. It would be amazing if Chapter 4 received a growth incentive award again this year. Due to the cancellation of our February meeting, the Executive Board approved a record number of new members at this month's meeting. I would like to welcome the following individuals to Chapter 4:

- Susan Coffey-Coffey Appraisal/Tacoma
- Loren Matlick-JLL/Seattle
- Lyndsey Anker-UFS/Burien
- Brianna Vazques-CLS/Bellevue
- Darcie Byrd-City of Everett/Everett
- Steven Botts-King County/Seattle
- Shauna Ballestrasse/Renton
- Connor O'Brien-MNGD/Seattle
- Amber Louis-MNGD/Seattle
- Cindy Worrell-King County Transit/Shoreline
- Cheree Kennedy-Sound Transit/Seattle
- Erica Grimm-Pierce Co/Tacoma
- Brandy Balansay-Seattle City Light/Seattle
- Ashley Zacharia-Valbridge/Everett

We received approval from IRWA General Counsel to amend our Chapter 4 bylaws. In accordance with these bylaws, the proposed amendment was distributed to members electronically on March 6, and will be voted on at our general membership meeting in Tulalip at noon on April 10, 2019. This amendment to Article V, Section 4 removes the SR/WA requirement for the Professional Development Committee Chair and members. The reason for the amendment is to ensure consistency with International bylaws, which also increases the member volunteer pool.

Chapter 4 Slate of Officers

The current Chapter 4 members running for office in our May elections are:

- President-Elect - Jesse Ray, SR/WA of CLS
- Vice-President and International Director - Michelle Talbot, SR/WA of City of Seattle
- Treasurer - Dianna Nausley, McKeon, SR/WA of Epic
- Secretary – 1) Michelle Rude of HDR; and 2) Christopher Anderson of CLS

Region 7 Spring Forum

John Nidecker, President-Elect and I recently attended the Region 7 Spring Forum on March 7th in Portland, where Region 7 elections were held and Professional of the Year was awarded.

Candidates for Region 7 elections were:

- Chair – James (Jim) Lingeman, SR/WA, current Region 7 Vice-Chair and Chapter 3 member
- Vice-Chair – Cyndi Whelpley, SR/WA, current Region 7 Secretary and Chapter 4 member
- Secretary – 1) Krista Chambers, SR/WA, Current INEC Representative and Chapter 4 member; and 2) Steve Schmitt, SR/WA, Chapter 49 member.

Congratulations to Krista for both Region Professional of the Year and Region Secretary, as well as Jim for Region Chair, and Cyndi for Region Vice-Chair!

Several candidates running for office on IRWA's International Executive Committee (IEC) attended the Region 7 forum as part of their campaign*. The following candidates will be voted on at the International Board of Directors Meeting (IRWA BOD) in June:

- IEC President-Elect – Sharon, Slauenwhite, SR/WA, current IEC Vice-President
- Vice-President -1) Jake Ferrell, SR/WA, current IEC Treasurer (as you may recall from my July President's message, Jake ran from the floor last year to unseat IEC Secretary Ana Rausch); and 2) Ana Rausch*, SR/WA, former IEC Secretary,
- Treasurer – James Olschewski*, SR/WA, current IEC Secretary
- Secretary – 1) Judy Jones*, SR/WA, R/W-AC, R/W-NAC, current Region 6 Chair (Judy also ran from the floor last year, and nearly succeeded); 2) Brett Farner, SR/WA, Chapter 37 member; and 4) Stewart Anderson*, SR/WA, Chapter 66 member

There was a lengthy discussion on the IEC's proposed 2019-20 budget (copy attached), which will also be voted on at the IRWA BOD meeting in June. Judy Jones and Jim Lingeman

informed us the International Finance Committee (consisting of Jim, Judy, the IEC Secretary, and Treasurer) visited IRWA HQ in California to review expenses in an effort to find answers to questions regarding several budget items. While specific details of their findings could not be discussed, Judy informed us the matter is under investigation. Current IEC Secretary James Olschewski, who attended, and is on the Finance Committee, would not comment on the investigation. After the meeting, I called Jake Ferrell, current IEC Treasurer, and Finance Committee member, who confirmed that the IRWA has hired an outside consultant to perform an investigation into IRWA expenditures. I do not have any other information, but will keep you informed of any information I received through the end of my term as Chapter 4 President. I commend Jim, Judy, and Jake for their efforts on the IEC Finance Committee to ensure we have an acceptable budget. **Please note, the proposed budget is based on actuals from the prior year(s).**

[Proposed Draft Budget](#) [Budget Highlights](#)

It is great to see so multiple candidates running for various positions at the Chapter, Region, and International levels. When considering your vote, I encourage you to think about **transparency, accountability, and leadership**. Attending this forum provided me with the clarity I needed when voting at the IRWA BOD meeting on behalf of Chapter 4.

Dave Whitlock, Region 7 Governance Task Force member provided an update. So far the task force efforts have been towards reviewing past work. It does not appear that any governance models will be ready for a vote at this year's IRWA BOD meeting. Please stay engaged in this process by reaching out to Dave, as this directly affects your IRWA.

Our IRWA Staff Field Representative, Jamie Rose Tieu provided an update on Chapter statistics and a potential new member campaign coming this October.

Lastly, we received an annual conference update. The Monday night event will be at a nearby Park. Miller Nash Graham and Dunn has generously donated the band, and Chapter 4 will be donating a (TBD) gift basket, valued at \$400 for the benefit of the RWIEF silent auction. Chapter 3 is still seeking volunteers, with bag stuffing to occur Friday night and volunteer training scheduled for Saturday morning at 9AM. With the conference in our Region and hosted by our neighbors, Chapter 3, please sign up to volunteer. Volunteering is a fun and rewarding experience and as little as an hour of your time will help.

Upcoming Region 7 Forum Schedule:

- Fall 2019 (September 27th & 29th) – Boise Idaho
- Spring 2020 – Bozeman, MT
- Fall 2020 – Fairbanks, AK
- Spring 2021 – Seattle, WA

Remaining FY 2018-19 Meeting Schedule

- 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 April 10, 2019 at the Tulalip Casino. The Executive Board meeting will be from 10-11:30 AM. Please be sure to register online or by emailing jenifer.olsen@contractlandstaff.com by 8:00 AM on April 4, 2019. Due to the venue contract, we do not have the flexibility to accommodate late registrations.

Respectfully,

Dawn Fletcher, President IRWA Puget Sound Chapter 4