

October 2018 President's Message



The fall breeze brings autumn leaves, and the Region 7 Fall Forum! The [agenda](#) for the October 27th Forum has been drafted, and I hope to see you there. In the event you are unable to attend, I plan to provide a brief recap at the November Executive Board meeting and in my next President's message. Consider this a personal invitation to get involved in your organization by attending an Executive Board Meeting, which precedes each general membership meeting.

Recently, John, Nidecker, MAI, President-Elect and I attended a video conference with the International Executive Committee (IEC, which is the International Officers), International Governing Council (IGC, which includes the 10 Region Chairs and Past International Presidents), and the International Directors (two from each Chapter). The purpose was to provide Leadership with an update on three task forces created at the September IGC meeting in response to initiatives within our organization. Please take the time to read the [September](#) and [October](#) IGC meeting minutes for details.

Most notably, a Governance Task Force was formed in response to membership input and a vote by the IGC to suspend the current Governance Remodeling Summit. Sharon Slauenwhithe, SR/WA, and International Vice-President, is heading the task force, which includes a representative from each of the ten Regions, with the first meeting scheduled for October 24, 2018. Dee Oakland, SR/WA, Region 7 Chair, has appointed Dave Whitlock, SR/WA, PDC Chair, longtime member and leader of Chapter 45. I spoke to Dave, who informed me he will provide an update at the Region 7 Fall Forum, and wants to know our expectations of him as our representative on the task force. The governance project was initiated by the IEC at the 2016 annual conference in Nashville. Three models of governance were developed, and presented at the Leadership Meeting in Edmonton on June 27, 2018, and is scheduled to come for a vote at the next International Board of Directors meeting at Portland in June 2019. **Why is governance important?** Under the current governance model, 202 members make up the International Board

of Directors, of which 142 come from the Chapter level (two International Directors from each of the 71 chapters). Chapters currently have over half (142/202) of the votes on the International Board of Directors. On the contrary, all three models presented reduce that number to 6, 5 and 14 Board members respectively, and do not include representation at the Chapter level. **Who to contact with governance comments:** Dave Whitlock, who is our Region 7 representative on this task force (phone 406-883-7951 or email whitlock@missionvalleypower.org).

Second, is a five member Education Task Force, led by Fred Easton, SR/WA, Region 9 Chair, along with two IEC members and two former Education Chairs. This task force was formed in response to membership input and a vote by the IGC to look into issues with the PIPE, CLIMB and Courses. I have asked Karen Wright to work directly with Fred to communicate Chapter concerns and provide updates on these matters.

The third task force created at the September IGC Meeting is the Bylaws Task Force. This task force was formed to analyze a potential revision to the Bylaws to create a Corporate Membership Category, and to correct any inconsistencies in the Bylaws with how we currently operate. Brad Kuhn, Esq and General Counsel is leading this Task Force, with assistance from Fred Nasari and Jake Farrell, SR/WA, Treasurer.

In addition to the task forces, updates were provided on the Financial Audit and Strategic Plan and Key Priorities for 2018-19. The next update for International Directors is currently scheduled for May 16, 2019 at 9 AM PDT. The next meeting for IGC members will be on November 8, 2018.

A quick shout out to Miller Nash Graham & Dunn's own Meghan Spradling, who recently won their "Service Champion" award. The award is presented to an individual *who has surpassed expectations and/or gone above and beyond during moments of need, and for the responsiveness and care that we give each other, which has an impact on the ability to meet client's needs*. This certainly has rang true for all that Meghan has done for IRWA Chapter 4, including the annual membership drive meeting each February, and for the first time, last June's installation banquet. I could not think of a better person to rely on for a great venue, food and beverages for my installation as Chapter 4 President. Thanks and congratulations Meghan!

If you thought the eminent domain acquisition process under the Uniform Act is time consuming, you can be thankful you do not work in the UK. We were enlightened to their lengthy process by Doug Hummell, SR/WA at the October general membership lunch meeting at the Bellevue Red Lion. During the Executive Board meeting, we approved five new members, two of whom attended the lunch meeting to hear Doug's presentation. In addition, one of those two who attended (Jenifer Olsen, Office Manager-Northwest Regional Office Contract Land Staff), has graciously volunteered to take over the meeting registration desk beginning in December. I cannot think of a better way to get to know your fellow members. Look for her at the November registration desk where Kelli Larson, SR/WA and Past President, and Melanie Rabaglia, SR/WA and PDC Chair, will be teaching her the ropes. Please be sure to welcome and thank her!

Now that we filled the registration position, we can focus on recruiting a volunteer for the 2019 Golf Tournament. Early planning is important to secure a great date and location. Please let John Nidecker know if you are interested. Although you do not have to play golf to volunteer, you do need to be a Chapter 4 member.

Speaking of volunteers, Kent Melton, Immediate Past President, will be coordinating a list of Chapter 4 members to volunteer to help our neighboring Chapter host the 2019 International Educational Conference in Portland June 9-12, 2019. Look for Kent's request for volunteers in the near future. As a reminder, the annual call for 2019-conference speaker's deadline is November 8, 2018.

Our free membership incentives are still going on... for every Chapter award nomination you submit, your name will go into a drawing for a free 2019 membership. In addition, for every new member you recruit, your name goes into a drawing for another free membership. The more you nominate and recruit, the more opportunities to win!

Our next Chapter meeting will be a lunch meeting at Tacoma's Landmark Convention Center. The website update is not yet complete, so you need to email Julie Aune at communications@irwachapter4.org to register by November 8th. Information about the venue, menu, speaker and registration will be on this week's email. Hope to see you there!

Dawn Fletcher, President IRWA Puget Sound Chapter 4