

the

# ROW

**Take a peach  
inside...**

Region 6 Fall Forum, Chapter  
Check-In and more!

October / November 2024  
ISSUE 10



# President's Message



I would like to take the opportunity to start by highlighting the incredible team of committed leaders within our chapter. The success of this past week was made possible by the countless hours of planning contributed by our leaders. While everyone on the planning committee played a role, there were a few individuals who truly went the extra mile to ensure our chapter hosted a remarkable fall forum for Region Six: Conner Thomas, Caroline Wilson, and Heidi Gardner. Their behind-the-scenes efforts were invaluable, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to these ladies for their dedication and time. When I asked a few attendees to describe the forum in one word, “flawless” was the consistent response. I wholeheartedly agree. Our speakers brought tremendous industry knowledge that spanned all aspects of right-of-way.

While each presentation was impressive, hearing from Jacee Beth was particularly impactful. For those unfamiliar with her story, at just 17 years old, Jacee Beth Thomas experienced a life-changing moment.

while taking a break from working in the fields with her family in Hoboken, Georgia, Jacee was on her way to get lunch when her car collided with an oncoming train at the railroad tracks near her home. Her Honda Accord was dragged for 1,700 feet before the train finally came to a halt. She was immediately airlifted to Jacksonville, Florida, and later transferred to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia. As a result of the accident, she sustained a broken collarbone, minor cuts, and severe brain trauma, which left her with a traumatic brain injury (TBI). I wanted to share this in my president's message to convey Jacee's important message to our chapter: SLOW DOWN.

I hope that by sharing this, you feel inspired to become more involved with our chapter. There is a place for everyone to contribute, and taking the next step in your membership can lead to valuable networking opportunities with industry professionals. I can personally attest that I have gained lifelong friendships through Region Six.



TIS THE SEASON



# Lunch for a Cause



PLEASE BRING A TOY TO DONATE  
FOR THE KIDS OF AUGUSTA, WHO  
WERE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE  
HELENE

*Bon Appetit...*

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Maggiano's Little Italy  
4400 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody, GA

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Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

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11:30am - 1:00pm

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RSVP by December 4th, 2024





# FALL FORUM RECAP

## Ghost Tours, Hurricanes, Speeches, OH MY!



After 11 months of hard work, countless meetings, and hours of planning, Chapter 22 hosted the Region 6 Fall Forum in Savannah, GA. During October 7th through October 9th, our Chapter's board put on a class, symposium and forum that had everyone buzzing. Even with the threat of impending Hurricane Milton, we saw an incredible turnout of almost 60 members from across the region. The mossy trees surrounding historic downtown, set the scene for our evenings on the town.

Chapter 22's own Clyde Johnson led class 213 Monday morning, on Conflict Management. This in-person training allowed for creative dialogue, collective brainstorming, role-playing scenarios, and group activities. The art of managing conflict is understanding that while conflict is a common place occurrence, it cannot be avoided and should be faced head on.

Monday night's welcome dinner was hosted by Chapter 22's Young Professionals. The event was held at Poe's Tavern just across the street from the hotel. Our evening began with a cocktail and networking hour on the patio. President, Chasity Durham gave a welcome speech as a transition to the dinner portion of the evening. Monday night football and laughter was the chosen background noise for the night. Members were free to explore the historic city following the dinner. While some chose to check out hot music spots or an evening stroll on River Street, others chose to partake in the classic pastime of Karaoke. Unfortunately, the videos from this particular event have all magically disappeared... what a weird coincidence.

Tuesday's symposium began with Clyde Johnson and Jenni Kriner updating attendee's about the Right Of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) and all the opportunities available to us at the tips of our fingertips. There are thousands of dollars left on the proverbial table each year in scholarships due to a...





# Symposium

... lack of applications. Keep a look out for scholarship opportunities that will be highlighted in future newsletters.

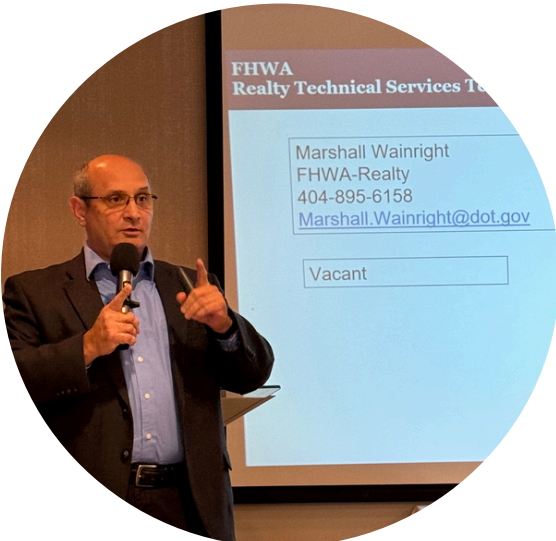
Lauren McKenzie from the Marietta based law firm Bentley, Bentley and Bentley. McKenzie is an “Of Counsel” attorney with diverse civil litigation experience including eminent domain, real estate, and complex commercial litigation cases. The topic up for discussion was how to avoid pitfalls with eminent domain. Lauren covered the most common missteps a Right-of-Way agent can make during acquisition which could lead to delays should negotiations end with legal action.



Following Lauren was Matthew Alexander with Rochester & Associate, LLC where he serves as Senior Project Manager. With over two decades of experience in surveying, Matt was well-versed in the pros and cons that come with technology such as GIS. While a handy tool for a quick glance, GIS is not the most accurate source of information so at the end of the day your best bet is to always... Get It Surveyed!

Just before lunch, we had the incredible opportunity to listen to the inspirational story of Jacee Beth Thomas, a young woman whose life was changed in an instant. On May 24, 2016, Jacee was struck by an oncoming train and was dragged for near 1,700 feet before the train was able to come to a stop. She was taking a break to grab lunch from working in the fields with her family down in Hoboken, GA. The accident occurred at a private crossing near the family's fields, where there were no crossing gates, lights or sounds present. She was immediately life-lighted to Jacksonville, Florida and later to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia. As a result, she suffered from a broken collarbone, a few tiny cuts and a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) as a result of shearing her brain at the stem. Jacee spoke with us about her desire to continue to live life to the fullest and her lifelong goal to compete on the world stage as a competitive team roper.

Following a delicious lunch at the hotel, we heard from Anthony and Jon from CSX, who spoke about permitting and their real estate ventures. They also briefly discussed





# Symposium

... private crossings and how tragic incidents like what happened to Jaycee Beth could happen. Then we heard Trinia Morris who serves as a program manager and wildlife biologist with the Wildlife Conservation Section (WCS) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR). Trinia enlightened the group on the ecological importance of Bats.

Former Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Eric Murray, spoke next about why a Review Appraiser is a friend rather than adversary. Murray has over 36 years of right of way acquisition, appraisal services and appraisal review. Leading us into the late afternoon was Marshall Wainright from the Federal Highway Administration. The topic at the forefront was Relocation Planning and Assistance. Wainright has roughly 25 years' experience in government realty/right of way acquisition. Finally wrapping up our day of speakers, was Jamie McCurry from the Georgia Ports Authority. Jamie oversees contracts, properties & planning, purchasing, governmental affairs and many other things for the Authority. McCurry spoke about the growth of the Savannah port as a major player on the global stage for imports and exports.

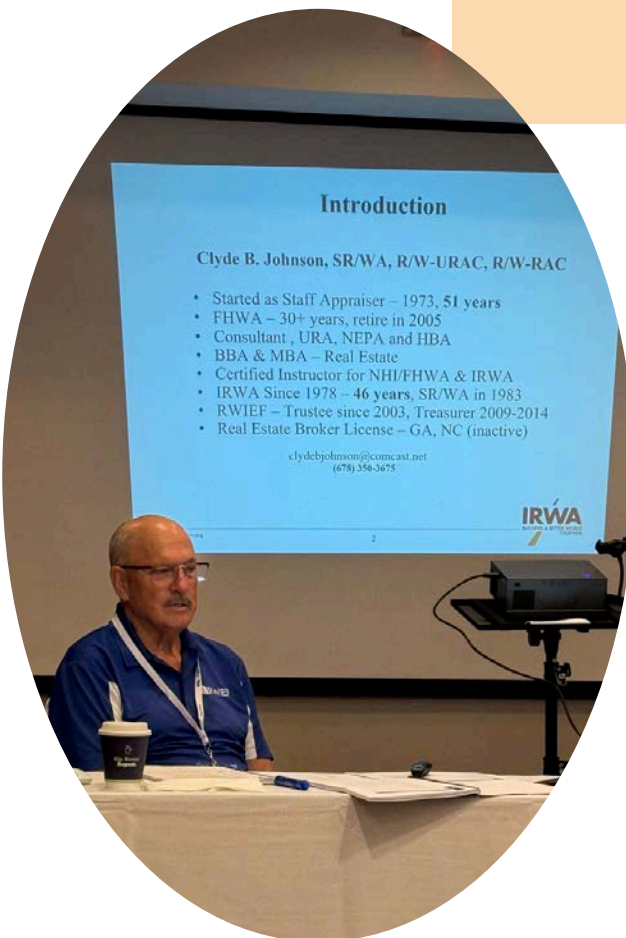




# CLASS 213

# CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

A class that's sure to keep you on your toes!



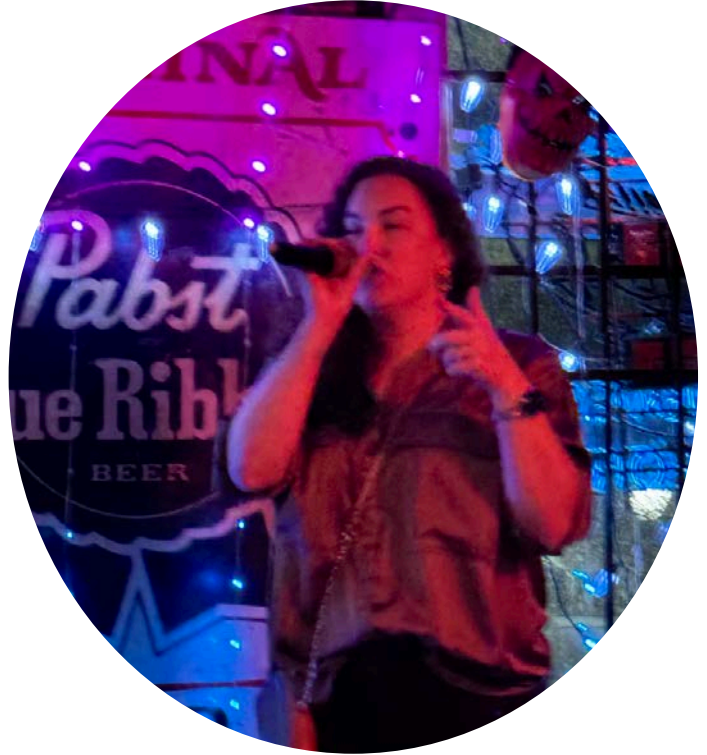


# Young Professional Welcome Dinner





# What happens in Savannah...





# October Chapter Check-In

## How to Save a Life! CPR 101

October's check in at Manual's Tavern was filled with laughter and stories shared by members who attended the Fall Forum in Savannah. New board member Vivian Swanigan was introduced to the chapter as our new Communication Chair. President Chasity Durham spoke about the upcoming December Check-In, Lunch for a Cause, where we ask each attendee to bring an unwrapped toy for children this holiday season. Lunch will be held at Maggiano's in Dunwoody. The invitation for this event can be found at the beginning of the newsletter. You must register prior to lunch as there is limited seating! The more people that register, the larger the room we are able to acquire. Please sign up early and bring as many colleagues as you can to honor this worthy cause.



Safety is the most important priority in our right of way industry, especially for those who work in the field. For this reason, our guest speakers, EMS first responders from Grady Hospital, were asked to provide and demonstrate life saving tips in critical situations. They displayed the new CPR protocol which now does not include mouth to mouth resuscitation due to concern over communicable diseases. Additionally, when you or someone else, has an injury with an active bleed, remember to use a tourniquet to help stop the bleeding. The saying "High and Tight" is best practice in this case. Avoid joints when applying the tourniquet and write the time it was placed on the individual. Do not remove a tourniquet once placed unless otherwise instructed by a physician.



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# Chapter News

## Executive Board Update

The Chapter 22 Board proudly welcomes Vivian Swanigan as our new Communications Chair. Be on the lookout in next months' newsletter as we spotlight her journey in the industry up to this point.

## Did you say... FREE \$\$\$

Are you working on your education credits for a specific designation? Are you interested in saving money on these expensive classes? Stay tuned for a NEW scholarship on the horizon that could help fund your path to a designation. The **Global Education Initiative Scholarship** applications will be available starting January 2025. If you are interested in more information, please email us at: [info@irwageorgiachapter22.com](mailto:info@irwageorgiachapter22.com)

### UPCOMING EDUCATION COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO PROPERTY  
MANAGEMENT, COURSE 700  
NOVEMBER 18, 8AM

PROPERTY/ASSET  
MANAGEMENT, COURSE 701  
DECEMBER 02, 8AM

THE UNIFORM ACT, COURSE 105  
DECEMBER 09, 8AM

## WELCOME

Melissa Hunt  
Thomas Scruggs  
Alton Pullon  
Janea Dix  
Swain Guzzardi  
Jimmy Cook

Matthew Albigese  
Jeremy Donnelly  
Michelle Brock  
Brittani Mannings  
Deidre Boykins

## New Members





# Listen and Learn

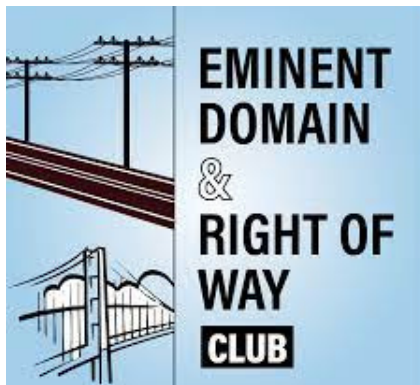


## INFRASTRUCTURE JUNKIES PODCAST

Infrastructure Junkies, hosted by Kristen Short Bennett, SR/WA, and Dave Arnold, Esq., SR/WA, serves as a platform for individuals and businesses interested in the right-of-way profession. This includes right-of-way acquisition, eminent domain, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act (URA), and infrastructure development. Their goal for this podcast is to create a more comprehensive platform, offering additional resources and a stronger voice for this community of professionals.

## EMINENT DOMAIN & ROW CLUB

Eminent Domain & ROW Club is an app designed for professionals in the right-of-way industry to engage in live Town Hall sessions discussing a wide range of relevant topics. By joining the app, members can participate in interactive discussions, share insights, and stay updated on the latest developments in right-of-way acquisition, eminent domain, and infrastructure projects. This platform fosters a dynamic community where industry experts and newcomers alike can connect, learn, and collaborate.



## ELEVATED ACCESS

Elevated Access delves into the critical access needed for energy and infrastructure projects across North America. Host Chad Hughes will meet with top experts whose experiences have significantly influenced the energy and infrastructure sectors—leaders who truly understand access. Whether you're a business leader, project developer, professional involved in the access process, or just curious about what makes development possible, this podcast highlights the meticulous effort and dedication required to secure access for development—and the immense scale of the task.

## THE EMINENT DOMAIN PODCAST

The Eminent Domain Podcast, hosted by Clint Schumacher, is available on iTunes and Stitcher. Clint is a renowned speaker on eminent domain, frequently addressing industry professionals, lawyers, and law students nationwide. Clint has developed a specialized expertise in handling condemnation for highway projects. He represents property owners of all sizes affected by public projects, working to minimize impacts and, if necessary, securing full compensation for the owners.





## **Executive Board**

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### **PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR 2**

**Chasity Durham**

SinglePoint Acquisitions Group  
cdurham@singlepointag.com

### **PRESIDENT ELECT**

**Kizzy Grier**

HDR

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### **SECRETARY**

**Jennifer Sweigart**

Colliers Engineering & Design

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### **TREASURER**

**Yvette Biggs**

HDR

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## **Executive Board**

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### **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR 1 NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS TRANSPORTATION**

**Nathaniel Kimbro**

THC Inc.

nkimbrow@thcinc.com

### **EDUCATION**

**Tammy Duke, R/W-AC**

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### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Jim Pittman, SR/WA**

Georgia Transmission Corporation

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## **Service Committee Chairs**

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

Connie Thomas  
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### **NEWSLETTER**

Caroline Wilson  
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### **VALUATIONS**

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Webmaster  
Vacant

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## **Industry Committee Chairs**

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Clyde Johnson,  
SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC  
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### **OIL & GAS PIPELINE**

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### **SURVEYING**

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### **UTILITIES**

Vacant

Communications  
Vivian Swanigan  
vivbs@yahoo.com



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[andy@andersonatlanta.com](mailto:andy@andersonatlanta.com)

### Bronze \$500

- Rotating electronic advertisement at chapter meetings
- Logo advertisement and link on Chapter 22 website
- Year long advertisement in Chapter E-newsletter (1/4 page)

### Silver \$1,000

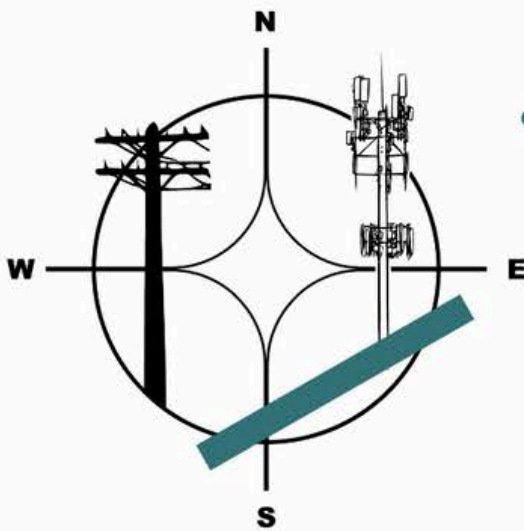
- Rotating electronic advertisement at chapter meetings
- Logo advertisement and link on Chapter 22 website
- Year long advertisement in Chapter E-newsletter (1/2 page)
- Free individual registrations to sponsored events (1)
- Exhibit table space at the Summer Chapter Event

### Gold \$1,500

- Rotating electronic advertisement at chapter meetings
- Logo advertisement and link on Chapter 22 website
- Year long advertisement in Chapter E-newsletter (full page)
- Free individual registrations to sponsored events (4)
- Registration for in-person OR virtual continuing education class (1)
- Exhibit table space at the Summer and Fall Chapter Events

Email us at [info@irwageorgiachapter22.com](mailto:info@irwageorgiachapter22.com) to become a sponsor today!





# SinglePoint Services

**"YOUR SINGLEPOINT OF CONTACT FOR ALL LAND NEEDS"**

*Land Acquisition*

*Land Survey*

## About Us

SinglePoint Services, a SinglePoint Acquisitions Group subsidiary, is your preferred provider of Right of Way and Land Acquisition Management services for the Energy, Utility and Real Estate Industries.

For over 15 years, our "SinglePoint" management approach has built a reputation in the Right of Way Industry for leveraging a multidisciplinary team to achieve successful completion of your Capital and O&M projects.

## Qualifications

Our Licensing and Certifications include (not limited to):

- Professional Engineer (multiple states)
- Professional Land Surveyor (multiple states)
- Licensed Real Estate Broker
- Licensed Realtors
- Various GDOT, IRWA, Survey and Utility Location Certifications
- Drone Pilot Certification
- IRWA- Sponsor of Chapter 22

## Industries We Serve

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Natural Gas        | ✓ Telecommunication |
| ✓ Power Distribution | ✓ Water / Sewer     |
| ✓ Power Transmission | ✓ Storm Drain       |



### Land Acquisition and Right of Way Services

Our Project Management Team supervises these experienced and licensed professionals equipped to accommodate your Land Acquisition and Right of Way Service needs. Our experienced team of agents bring a strong background in negotiations for property and right of way acquisition:

- Right of Way Coordinators, Right of Way Agents, Title Agents, Records and Document Specialists.
- SinglePoint can accommodate other services such as Certified Title and Land Appraisals.



### Civil Engineering

SinglePoint's on-staff Professional Engineer (PE) and Project Management staff, are experienced in: Site Design / Development, including Stormwater and Hydrology Studies, Site Permitting Plans, Grading and Drainage, and Erosion Control and Sedimentation Plans.



### Project Management

A "SinglePoint" of contact for project goal setting, fiscal responsibility, and execution of services throughout all project phases. SinglePoint provides unparalleled services in the ROW industry, managing various disciplines of the project cycle. Project Management Services are provided on Utility and Development Projects for: Project Feasibility, Land Title, Land Survey, Land Acquisition and Right of Way, Permitting, Encroachments, and Construction Support.



### Land Survey and Mapping

SinglePoint's on-staff Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) and Project Management staff offer a wide range of experience to our clients.

Land Survey Expertise:

Linear / Cross Country Utility Project Surveys, Topographic and Corridor Surveys, Easement Surveys, As-Builts, Hydrographic Surveys, Boundary Surveys.

Call us for more info



**678.635.0269**