April 2008
vol. 54 • no. 02

MICHIGAN Chapter Seven
IRWA
INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

THE great lakes State·ment

What:
General Membership Meeting

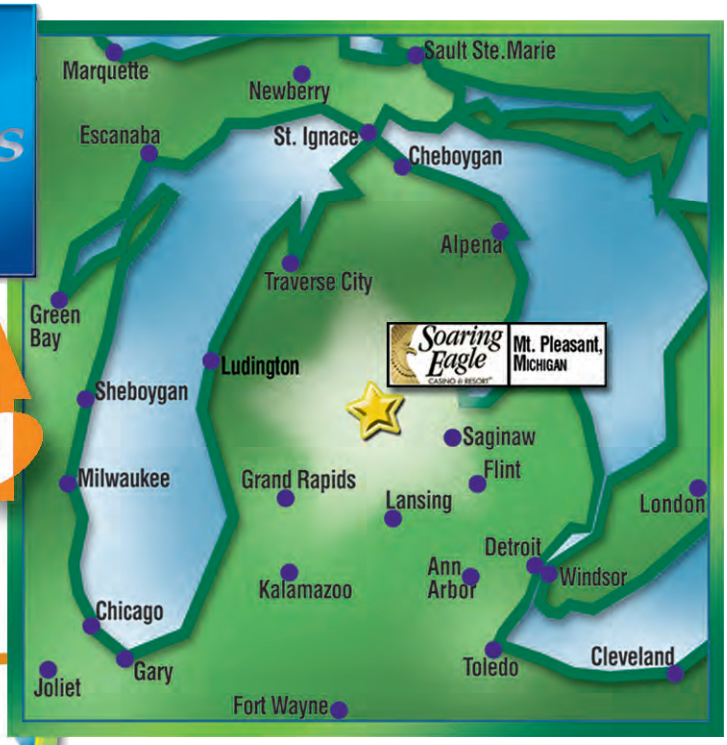
When:
FRIDAY April 4, 2008

Where:
Soaring Eagle Resort
Mt. Pleasant, MI
888 732 4537

Cost:
$35./per person
BY March 28th

$40./per person
after March 28th

Questions ?
Laura Southwell,
734 327 6694



FRIDAY • April 4, 2008

Soaring Eagle Resort • Mt. Pleasant, MI
888 732 4537 / phone

General Membership Meeting Official Program

8:15 – 8:45am Morning registration and breakfast

8:45 – 9:00am MI Chapter 7 Business Meeting and Committee Reports

9:00 – 9:45am **Mark McCullough**, Washtenaw County Road Commission: *Roundabouts, myths and how they are different and other issues*

9:45 – 10:00am Break

10:00 – 11.00am **Dr. Janice Beecher**, MI State University: *An overview of methods and new development in utilities pricing (water & energy)*

11:00am – 12noon **Dr. Patrick Corcoran**, Central MI University: *The real estate credit crunch & current real estate market (The impact of the pull-back in real estate lending on the home sector as well as the commercial real estate market)*

12noon – 1:00pm Lunch

1:00 – 2:00pm **Faith Roland, SR/WA**, International President Elect, Overland, Pacific & Culter, Inc., WA: *Strategic Initiatives, benefits to membership*

2:00 - 2:45pm **Mike Odette**, MDOT, IRWA Moderator: *Asset Management*

2:45 – 3:00pm Break

3:00 – 3:45pm **Gary Strauss**, Strauss & Strauss, *Motion to strike appraisals and the proper level of investigation for appraisals*

Please Note: The chapter is trying to obtain continuing education credits for real estate sales, brokers and appraisers from the State of MI .

Soaring Eagle CASINO & RESORT

Plan on attending!

The very special general membership meeting on April 4th at the Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt. Pleasant has an excellent line-up of speakers. Including our very own **Faith Rolan, SR/WA**, *International President Elect of the Executive Board of Directors* who will be speaking on news from the International Level.

Use any of the four convenient ways to register …do it before March 28th and save!

Laura Southwell, SR/WA
program chair

4 Easy Ways to Register

- *REGULAR MAIL*
  Laura Southwell, SR/WA
  Washtenaw County Road Commission
  555 N. Zeeb Road
  Ann Arbor , MI 48103
- *E-MAIL*
  SOUTHWELLL@wcroads.org
- *PHONE*
  734 327 6694
- *FAX*
  734 761 3239

Position Available in Jackson, MI: **Property Analyst**

The State of MI Department of Transportation is now recruiting for a Property Analyst in the W. Michigan Ave. office in Jackson. Please check the following link for specific information regarding this job opening:

http://mdotwas1.mdot.state.mi.us/public/jobs/jobinfo2.cfm?ID=5007.00&CID=24.00

Cancellation Policy: Written notification of cancellation must be received by class coordinator 15 days prior to start of class. A 75% refund will be made if written notification is received less than 15 days prior to start of class. No refund will be made after the start of class. A fee may be charged for registrations received after deadline and for those registering on day of class.

Course #600 • CEU credits: 8

Introduction to Environmental Issues

May 19, 2008 • 8am-5pm • 1 day

Tuition: $255./members - $320./non-members – Late registration fee of $25 after: 4/21/2008
Course Tuition Includes: Participant's Manual, Video: *Ecosystem and the Biosphere* (to be returned);
Materials Not Included With Tuition: Right of Way Textbook, Real Estate Dictionary (both recommended)

Course Description: Become familiar with environmental issues and problems facing companies and agencies acquiring or managing real property and rights of way. Learn various environmental issues and the mitigating measures used to decrease environmental impacts. Gain increased awareness of environmental laws, regulations and associated regulatory agencies. Basic principles of ecology, history of the environmental movement, a review of federal/state/local environmental legislation, the right of way professional's role in the environmental process, and mitigation of environmental impacts are discussed in this course.

Course #604 • CEU credits: 8

Environmental Due Diligence and Liability

May 20, 2008 • 8am-5pm • 1 day

Tuition: $255./members - $320./non-members – Late registration fee of $25 after: 4/22/2008
Course Tuition Includes: Participant's Manual

Course Description: This course will provide the ROW professional with an understanding of the environmental due diligence process and the liabilities associated with purchasing property.

Prerequisites: Must either have an environmental background or have attended Course 600.

for both Course #600 & Course #604Facilitator: Fred Walasavage works for the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland, Oregon and has over 20 years of experience working in the environmental field. He currently serves as the Program Manager for Environmental Land Actions within Bonneville. His responsibilities include conducting all levels of environmental site assessments, conducting compliance audits, negotiating environmental issues on real estate transactions, preparing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, conducting biological assessments, acquiring permits and general project management. He is the Chair of the IRWA International Environmental Committee and a past Chapter President.

Class Coordinator for both Course #600 & Course #604: Jeannine Myers
Commonwealth Associates, Inc • 2700 W Argyle Street • PO Box 1124 • Jackson, MI 49204
517 414 1220 / phone • 517 788 3003 / fax • jpmyers@cai-engr.com / e-mail

Please make checks payable to International Right of Way Association

Class Location for both Course #600 & Course #604: Commonwealth Associates, Inc
2700 W Argyle Street • Jackson, MI

Accommodations & Rates for both Course #600 & Course #604: Country Inn & Suites
3506 O'Neill Drive • Jackson, MI 49201 • 517 788 6400 / phone • Single $90.00 + Tax
Please contact the hotel directly.

Four Ways to Register:
• Online: www.irwaonline.org • Fax: 310-538-1471 • Phone: 310 538 0233 x134 • Contact Class Coordinator

International Right of Way Association
MI *Chapter 7*

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Every man owes some of his time to the upbuilding of the profession to which he belongs.

–Theodore Roosevelt

I hope everyone is as ready for spring as I am… as I write this message it is 20 degrees and the wind is blowing at 25 mph. I love Michigan.

March saw our first General Membership meeting come and go with great success. I would like to thank Laura Southwell, SR/WA for putting on a terrific program of informative speakers. Another big thank you to the folks at MDOT for allowing us to *borrow* their facility in Lansing. Well done, Laura!

Our normally-scheduled General Membership for May has been pushed up into April (Friday the 4th) due to our Chapter hosting the Region 5 Spring Forum in Mt. Pleasant, MI. We have nearly a week's-worth of festivities planned, thanks in large part to Jeff Jones, SR/WA – our Region all-star. We start with Course 700, Introduction to Property Management on Wednesday and Thursday, followed by our General Membership meeting on Friday. Again, Laura Southwell, SR/WA has an excellent program planned for our meeting (see front page of this newsletter for speakers/topics). Region 5 will be holding our Spring Forum all day on Saturday, with representatives from our region chapters coming into town. We will be lucky enough to have Faith Rowland, SR/WA (our International President-Elect) in town to speak at our General Membership meeting on Friday and attend our Region Forum on Saturday. We look forward to hosting our Region and International counterparts as well as allowing our local chapter folks the opportunity to see the *big picture* of our Association.

Your chapter executive board and committee chairs have been working hard in attempting to give you - the members - more for your money. We have streamlined the very newsletter you are now reading. Tim Davis, SR/WA has been working diligently on getting our valuable Chapter Roster out to members (coming soon!). Also, I wanted to personally thank Michael Oakes for all of his hard work on this newsletter. Mike has served as our newsletter editor for the past couple of years, and has worked very hard on creating and distributing a highly informative and timely newsletter to our membership. We can't thank Mike enough for heading this important committee-chair position.

On that note – we hope to be rolling out a content-packed edition of the Great Lakes Statement in coming editions. We will be adding more timely content regarding the right-of-way industry in the form of contributed articles from our various committee chairs.

Looking forward to seeing a big crowd in Mt. Pleasant in April. See you then.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew M. Reed, SR/WA
2008 President and International Director, Chapter 7

Wolverine Pipeline

According to a story in the Lansing State Journal on March 12, the MI Supreme Court has declined to hear the appeal of the Wolverine Pipeline Case. The City of Lansing had appealed a Court of Appeals ruling which upheld the constitutionality of legislation which did not require utilities to obtain permission from local governments on pipeline and other projects. The ruling appears to remove the last obstacle for Wolverine Pipeline to construct. However, with current price levels for petroleum products and a slow economy, Wolverine has not decided whether to move forward.

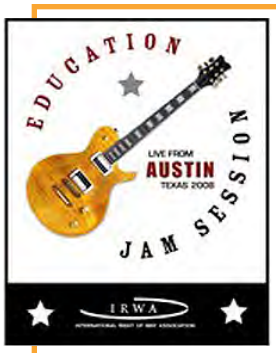
submitted by Michael A. Oakes

You Might JUST Find This Information Helpful

http://www.icle.org/mlo/UNPUBLISHED/20080214_275230.pdf

This is a link to a recent State of MI Court of Appeals case regarding a decision of *just* compensation. Each side included representation of Chapter 7 IRWA members.

submitted by Val Lafferty, laffertyv@comcast.net



Austin, TX • June 22-25, 2008

2008 Annual International Education Conference

This year, IRWA's 54th Annual Education Conference will provide right of way professionals with unparalleled learning and networking opportunities.

With typically more than 1,000 registrants, attendees have the opportunity to learn about best practices, share project challenges and hear solutions from the industry's leading professionals.

You May Still Have Time to Save on Airfare!

IRWA has partnered with American Airlines to provide transportation. Visit www.aa.com or contact the American Airlines Meeting Services Desk at 800 433 1790 for assistance with reservations and ticket purchase. Meeting Promotional Code: A6968AQ

Earn Recertification Credit!

IRWA Members may obtain up to 24 hours of recertification credit if registered for the full *Annual International Education Conference*. Daily registrants will receive 8 hours per day of registration.

Make Plans Today!

Go to the website: www.irwaonline.org. You can download the full 2008 *Education Jam Session* schedule. It has all the information you need for the June Education Conference in Austin, TX.

Above: Another good-sized turn-out for the Lansing Meeting

a | Kelley Rameriz, MDOT

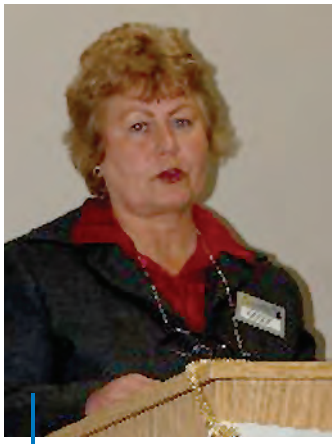
b | John Myles, Washtenaw CRC Websites

c | Laura Southwell, program chair (Great sessions!)

d | Aaron Berkholtz, Washtenaw CRC Dixboro Bridge

e | Teresa Vanis, MDOT

f | President Andy Reed



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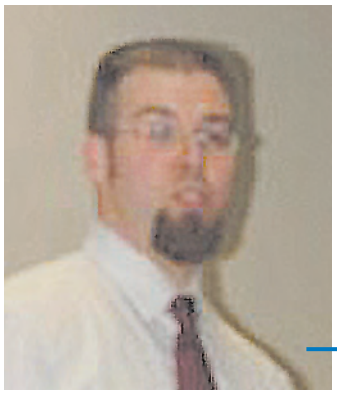
MDOT • Lansing, MI

General Membership Meeting

A



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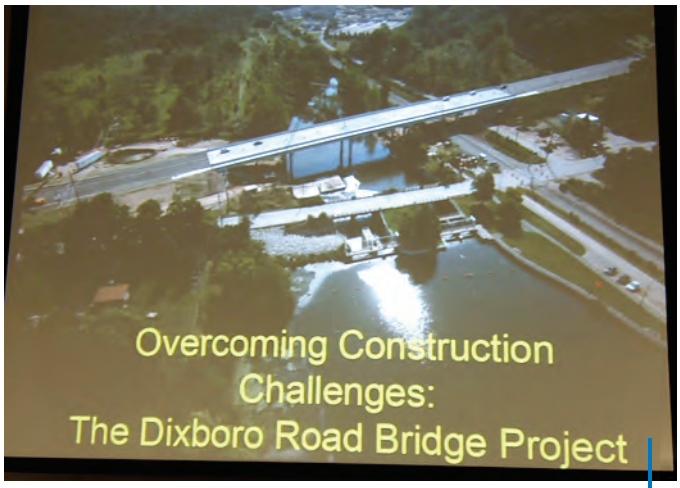

G

B

E

g | Photo (by Norm Thomas) of a slide from the Dixboro Bridge Project presentation

h | Gregg Ottaviani, American Title Co

i | Richard Steffens, Washtenaw Equalization

j | Dave Maturen gives appraiser update

Marian Barnes receives her new member certificate from Julie Sandzik

Symposium Offers 50 Workshops on Public Real Estate Topics

Hosted by the International Right of Way Association (IRWA), Federal, State and Local Public Agency officials presented educational workshops at the '08 Annual Public Real Estate Education Symposium (PRES), on February 12-14 in Dallas, TX.

Representing MI and Region 5, Jeff Jones, IRWA LPA Chair and Dave Maturen, IRWA Valuation Chair with Mark Rieck, IRWA EVP at the post Public Real Estate Education Symposium Region / Committee Chair meeting

A New Senior Member

On March 1, 2008 ***Larysa Figol*** was recognized by the International Professional Development Committee as a Senior Member of the International Right of Way Association.

Chapter 7 would like to extend its congratulations!

submitted by Jeff Jones, Professional Development Chair

H

I

J

Consultant of the Year Award

At the 2008 MI Airport Conference, held jointly by the MI Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) and MI Department of Transportation – Aeronautics (AERO), ***Commonwealth Associates, Inc. (CAI)*** was awarded AERO's 2007 Consultant of the Year Award. The award was presented based on CAI's service to multiple airports throughout MI but more specifically for their contribution to the Southwest MI Regional Airport (SWMRA) Project in Benton Harbor. Commonwealth began working on the project in 2003 and has since completed 216 of the 241 required fee purchases boasting a 93.5% negotiation rate having only fourteen parcels submitted for condemnation (primarily related to lender issues). In addition, CAI has also completed over 150 residential relocations filing approximately 380 relocation claim forms ranging from moving expenses to replacement housing supplements. According to Tim Davis, SR/WA, of CAI, part of CAI's success is attributable to the SWMRA's commitment to open communication and customer service in treating each owner and tenant with "dignity and respect."

photo by Bill Phillips

Left to right- Jeannine Myers, CAI; Lee Scherwitz, Director SWMRA; Alan Vasaris, CAI; Desmond Kirkland, SR/WA, CAI; Tim Davis, SR/WA, RW/NAC, CAI; Forest "Chip" Kraus, AERO; Dennis Decosta, CAI; Sallie Martin, CAI

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to our advertisers

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editor's corner

Some members may be surprised to see the *Great Lakes State-ment* in a black and white format. You may recall a decision made in December 2007 to trim costs. The full color version can be viewed on the website. Our own Pat Pettito is a candidate for a seat on the International Committee this year. As the invitation at right shows, Chapter 7 is *hosting* the Spring Region Forum at Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant. We are also discussing the format of the newsletter and trying to improve its content and relevance to the membership. Therefore, we may try something one month and change it the next. *Please pardon our dust during this remodeling.*

This year is promising to be active. The bi-monthly Membership meeting, normally held in May has been moved up to April 4th to coincide with the Spring Region Forum. Check page 1 of this newsletter for details or visit the Chapter 7 website at http://www.irwaMI.org/

It has come to my attention that some members did not receive their newsletter last month. Obviously, members can't respond to information unless they receive it. But, if you are aware of delivery problems for you or another member, please contact me.

Also, please visit the International website at http://www.irwaonline.org/ and click on the *My Information* link to verify your personal file. If you forgot your password, click the link and you will be e-mailed with that information.

Chapter 7 continues the call for sponsors, especially for the Fall Seminar and General Membership meetings. The board is willing to acknowledge such sponsorships in a manner that is meaningful and appropriate. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Laura Southwell at 734 327 6694 or SOUTHWELLL@wcroads.org.

Finally, let's hear from you. What's on your mind? How can this newsletter better serve your needs? While you consider that, collect your quarters, clean out your couch for spare change and take a chance on joining us in Mt. Pleasant.

Michael A. Oakes, Newsletter Chair

Chapter 7 Invites You

2008 Region 5 Spring Forum

April 4 – 6, 2008

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

6800 Soaring Eagle Boulevard • Mt. Pleasant, MI

877 232 4532 • www.soaringeaglecasino.com

- The Forum begins Friday evening, April 4, 2008 with a hospitality party, hosted by Chapter 7, to greet attendees.
- The meeting will begin on Saturday morning, April 5, 2008 at 8:00AM
- A continental breakfast and lunch is included in the Forum cost which is $60./per person. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

Information will be posted on the following websites:
Region 5: www.irwaregion5.org
MI Chapter 7: www.irwamichigan.org

If you have questions regarding the 2008 Spring Forum, please contact:
Jeff Jones at 248 858 4783 / phone or jjones@rcoc.org / e-mail

Please note regarding hotel reservations:

A block of hotel rooms at the Soaring Eagle were set aside for Region 5 Spring Forum attendees at a special room rate for reservations made before March 14, 2008. At the time of this publication, these rooms may be gone!

Please call Soaring Eagle *directly* at 877 232 4532 and ask to speak with *a group coordinator*. Mention *International Right of Way Association* and/or Group Code 97E8WD and a reduced rate may still be available.

Registration Form — **2008 Region 5 Spring Forum**

Soaring Eagle Resort • Mt. Pleasant, MI • April 4 – 6, 2008

Name: _____ Chapter # _____

e-mail: _____

phone: _____

Guest(s): _____

_____

_____

number of Spring Forum attendees: _____ @ $60. / per person

total due = _____ check payable to IRWA Chapter 7

- **Please return this form by March 28, 2008**
- Cost: $60. / per person
- Make check made payable to: *IRWA Chapter 7*
- Mail to: Jeffrey L. Jones, SR/WA

RCOC	248 858 4783	phone
2420 Pontiac Lake Road	248 858 4816	fax
Waterford, MI 48328	jjones@rcoc.org	e-mail

The Great Lakes State•ment is a publication for the members of MI Chapter 7 of the International Right of Way Association (IRWA). Stories and articles of interest are encouraged. Please forward your submissions to:
Michael Oakes,
Newsletter Chair/Editor
517 788 2332
maoakes@cmsenergy.com
Linda M. Polo, Polo Design
Art Director/Editor
lmpolo@aol.com

Submissions for the July newsletter due by:

June 9, 2008

For information on IRWA MI Chapter 7, please contact the Secretary:
Paul E. Sander, SR/WA
248 483 5100
sanderp@MI.gov

April 2008
vol. 54 • no. 02

Tim Davis
Commonwealth Associates
PO BOX 1124 • Jackson, MI 49201

MICHIGAN Chapter Seven

IRWA
INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

Address Correction Requested

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5 DAYS OF IRWA PROGRAMS *All At One Central Location*

April 2 & 3 / Wednesday & Thursday

Course #700 - *Introduction to Property Management*. For more information, check the website. To see if there is still space available, please contact Jeff Jones, SR/WA at 248 858 4783 or jjones@rcoc.org.

April 4 / Friday

General Membership Meeting with a remarkable line-up of speakers. See page 1 for lots more information.

On Friday Evening, hosted by Chapter 7, a Hospitality Party to greet the attendees to the **Region 5 Spring Forum**.

April 5 & 6 / Saturday & Sunday

The **Region 5 Spring Forum** will begin at 8:00 AM on Saturday.

All Chapter 7 members *are welcome and encouraged to attend*. Please see the article and registration form on page 7. Also note the important information regarding *hotel reservations*.

The site of these extraordinary 5 days of IRWA programs is the stunning Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

With a complete Spa - offering a variety of massages - as well as a health club and a 2400 square foot pool complete with underwater music & underwater lights.

Soaring Eagle is decorated in a woodland Indian motif, including original stained glass reflecting the Anishnabe Culture found on every floor. Over $2 million of Native American artwork is exhibited throughout the property, with true Native American fine art in the Ziibiwing Cultural Society's Naanooshke (hummingbird) Gallery located within the Resort.