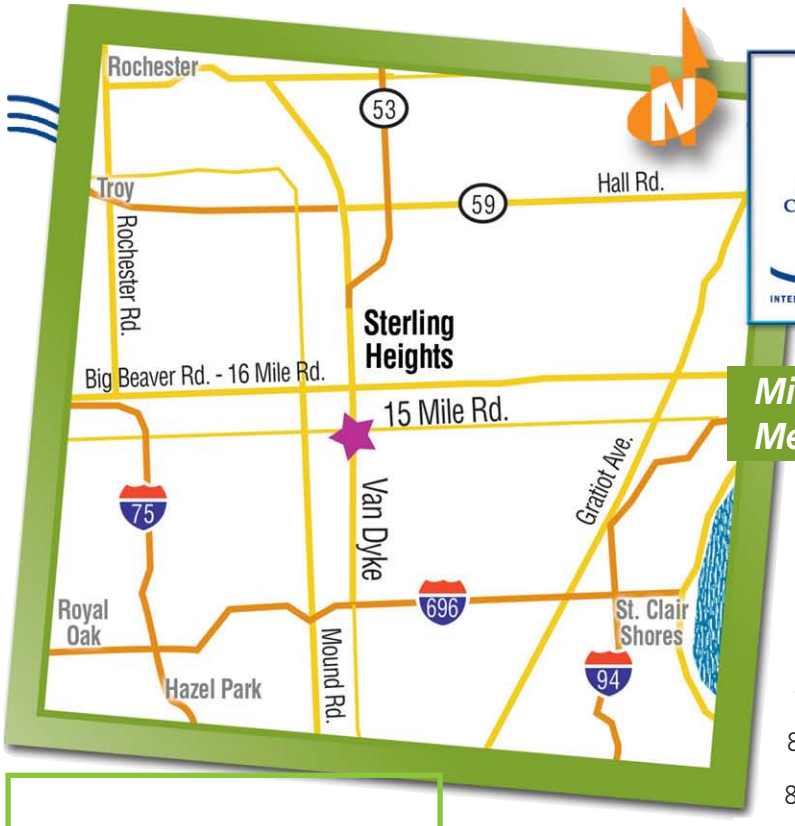
MICHIGAN Chapter Seven
IRWA
INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

THE great lakes State-ment

May 2009
VOL. 55 • NO. 02



Michigan Chapter 7 Membership Meeting

Best Western Sterling Inn

34911 Van Dyke Avenue , Sterling Heights , MI

May 7, 2009 • 8:00AM

8:00 – 8:30AM **Registration**

8:30 – 8:45AM Opening Remarks & Business Meeting

8:45 – 9:45AM **CMDA Law**
Legal Update

9:45 – 10:45AM **Marsha Ennis,** Aerotropolis Project Director, Charter County of Wayne, Michigan
Aerotropolis Project

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Clark-Hill**
Eminent Domain Update

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m **Lunch** - Please return promptly at 1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m **Mike Weinstein,** Costar
Commercial Real Estate - Using technology to determine market trends

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Pamela Valentik**, City of Troy
Commercial Real Estate – Green topics

3:00 p.m. **Adjournment**
Please drive safely.

Breaks will be given between speakers as time allows.

What:
General Membership Meeting

When:
May 7, 2009
8:00AM

Where:
Best Western Sterling Inn
34911 Van Dyke Avenue
Sterling Heights , MI 48312

Cost:
$40 per person;
$45 at the door and late registration

Last Day to Register:
Monday, April 27th
Call for late registration after this date

No Cancellations after April 27, 2009!

Questions about this meeting?
Larysa Figol, SR/WA, The City of Troy,
500 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48083
248 524 3380 / phone
figoll@troymi.gov / e-mail

Please register by Monday, April 27, 2009 to:
Larysa Figol, SR/WA, The City of Troy,
by mail: 500 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48083
by phone: 248 524 3380
by e-mail: figoll@troymi.gov / e-mail

Registration cost: $40 per person; $45 at the door and late registration.

Please call for the availability of late registration after April 27th, but no cancellations can be accepted after Monday April 27, 2009.

Make it a lo-o-ong weekend!

...see page 2 for information on the hotel and special rate offer!

Mark your calendar!

Fall Education Seminar:
October 1-2, 2009

make it a lo-o-ong weekend...

Added attraction at this month's meeting venue!

The ***Best Western Sterling Inn*** features Metro Detroit's only hotel with an indoor water park with a 5,000 square foot zero entry swimming pool, water slide, lazy river, interactive splash play park, aquadeck fort with two small slides, lifeguards, indoor running track, state-of-the-art fitness room, video game arcade, two large whirlpools, steam room, and poolside snack bar with full bar service.

Members are encouraged to make it a long weekend by taking advantage of the special hotel rate of $109 for Thursday night.

For reservations, call the hotel directly at: 586 979 1400 and mention IRWA .

Frank C. Balfour Award Finalist:
Jeff Jones, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC

Jeff's involvement and dedication in Right of Way through employment with the Road Commission of Oakland County, IRWA Michigan Chapter #7, IRWA Region #5, local community and being an overall great guy has led to his nomination and selection as a finalist for the Frank C. Balfour Award, the highest honor within the International Right of Way Association.

We'll all be rootin' for you in INDY Jeff!

Annual International Education Conference

Indianapolis, IN • June 28 - July 1

Each year, IRWA's Annual International Education Conference provides 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…AND you can earn up to 24 hours of Recertification Credit!

Online registration and information available at irwaonline.org

International Right of Way Association
Michigan 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

We have definitely started 2009 with a bang! The seasons have changed and Right of Way projects are in full swing for Michigan. In addition to the regular scheduled projects, the stimulus package has launched many projects to the front of the line, and has resulted in a significant increase in work for those involved in Right of Way.

I am involved in other organizations with respect to the mortgage dilemma concerning residences and homeowners as well as property owners with commercial properties. I can say that we have at least entered onto the road of recovery; however, the road is quite long. There will be further twists and turns, yet the financial foundation will be stabilized within the next year. Programs have been implemented to assist property owners and minimize the foreclosure process. This will take some time and we cannot expect immediate results. The most controversial element is the use of a *Broker Price Opinion* or *Property Value Analysis* in lieu of appraisals. This is a white-hot topic all the way to Washington. The importance of the appraisal report has been blemished by the fraud that occurred during the real estate boom. We are acting to restore the real reason for the appraisal report and its use in protecting the lender, the property owner and the public.

Our Chapter was fortunate to submit applications to International regarding all available awards. This included applications submitted for Chapter of the Year, Employer of the Year for large companies, Employer of the Year for small companies, Education Scholarship Award, Newsletter of the Year, and the Frank C. Balfour award. As of this writing, I have been notified that **Jeffrey L. Jones**, SR/WA, R/W-NAC R/W-RAC of the Road Commission of Oakland County has been named one of the Balfour Recipient Finalists. An extensive amount of time and effort is devoted by those individuals nominated for this award. All of us need to recognize and be aware of the incredible dedication these individuals put toward their employment, our organization, as well as their community. Our Chapter is fortunate to have three Balfour recipients represented by **Alicia T. Worthley**, SR/WA; **Patricia A. Petitto**, SR/WA; and **David C. Maturen**, SR/WA. It is an incredible honor to be nominated as a Balfour Award finalist - much less win. The competition is extremely fierce throughout the entire International organization. All members are encouraged to attend the International Conference in Indianapolis to experience the education and networking, but also to support those members and chapters receiving awards. I have spoken directly with the organizers and the event is already on track as a record breaker. Please see the article on page 2 or view the international website www.irwaonline.org for specific details pertaining to this event.

Our most recent Board Meeting involved discussions pertaining to numerous topics - new and old. While we have much work to do this year pertaining to education, recognition, branding, and providing for the needs of our members, our next General Membership Meeting will be held at the Best Western Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights. Please refer to page 1 for an agenda 0outlining the speakers and presentations. It is important that you make every effort to attend this meeting and I am confident the benefits will be mutual. We will be reporting on the highlights and information obtained from our Spring Region Forum to be held in West Virginia the last week of April. Join us for the presentations and the updates pertaining to IRWA.

Norman G. Thomas, SR/WA
Michigan Chapter 7 President

condolences

Pat Petitto's mother, **Margaret A. Noble**, passed away suddenly April 7th, In lieu of flowers, any donations are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

Chapter 7 offers our sincerest condolences to Pat and her family. *Our thoughts are with you, Pat.*

submitted by: Larysa Figol

A Great, Big Thank You to:

JR Group LLC

Not only is **Jerry Rosenfeld** and the **JRGROUP LLC** specialized in land acquisition, residential and business relocation, land disposition and private land assemblage, they have generously donated the use of their projector and screen for our Chapter meetings!

Saving us lots of money. Thank you Jerry!

More (belated) THANK YOUS to our Generous SPONSORS at the

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Cocktail Hour
Elexco Land Service, Inc.

Hors-d'Oeuvres & Dinner
Market Street Realty, Val Lafferty, SR/WA
Dick Roth, R/W-AC
White Pine Land Company, Roland Cilke, SR/WA
Strauss & Strauss, PLLC, Gary Strauss
Berry Reynolds & Rogowski, PC
Andrew Reed and Associates, Andrew M. Reed, SR/WA
Greenstar Associates, Pat Petitto, SR/WA
Land Matters, Deb Poeder
JR Group, Jerry Rosenfeld

A

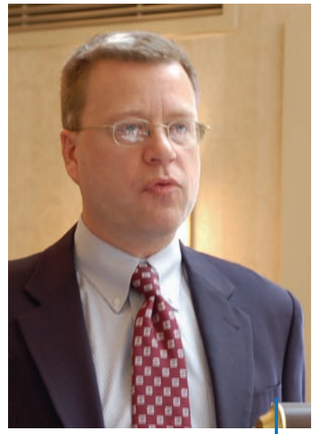
B

C

Ann Arbor, MI • March 5, 2009

General Membership Meeting

G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D

E

F

a | President Norm Thomas calling the meeting to order, and taking care of business

b | Kim Tassen introducing a presenter

c | The well-attended and spirited meeting

d | Lori Chmura, Middleton Real Estate School

e | Val Lafferty, Market Street Land Services

f | Tom Wackerman, ASTI Environmental

g | Mike Odette, MDOT

h | Jeff Hawkins, Envirologic

Detroit District

Job Opportunities US Army Corps of Engineers

The District have the following Vacancy Announcements open.

SWKD09214811/SWKD09214811D, **Program Analyst**, GS-0343-07/9/11 and GS-0343-07 for the DEU.

SWKD09244919/SWKD09244919D, **Construction Control Representative**, GS-0809-5/7/9, Grand Haven, MI.

SWKD09900872R/SWKD09900872DR**Realty Specialist**, GS-1170-12

CONTACT: Phyllis A. Williams
Human Resources Specialist
USACE, Detroit District,
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
Detroit, MI 48231
313 226 6427 / office
313 226 6808 / fax

Acquisition Project Manager

Job Posting Consumers Energy

Consumers Energy is currently seeking a highly motivated individual to acquire property and/or property rights. `

Job responsibilities include but are not limited to: Alignment with clients to identify and develop project scope, work plans, and schedules for real estate acquisition services. Development and execution of acquisition strategies to meet project/client requirements. Managing activities of field agents including direct involvement in negotiations. Project specific budget development and monitoring.

Acquisition Project Manager. Anyone interested in this position must apply on-line. To access the on-line jobs at Consumers, go to: www.consumersenergy.com, then look under the About Us/Careers section. This position is identified as a General Technical Analyst - Requisition #22861

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w w w . l a n d m a t t e r s l l c . c o m

Market Street LAND SERVICES
CCIM IRWA
Valerie Ferrero Lafferty, Attorney
SR/WA, State Certified General Appraiser
4097 Shoals Drive, Okemos, MI 48864
p_ 517-349-6660 f_ 517-349-8489
laffertyv@comcast.net
Consultation • Representation • Mediation
http://marketstreetlandsvcs.googlepages.com/rightofway

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Thank You
It is the responsibility of the advertiser to provide accurate and updated information. MI Chapter 7 will make the best effort to update *The Great Lakes State•ment* and Roster as soon as possible thereafter. All ads subject to editorial approval. Chapter 7 accepts roster advertising related to the Right of Way profession. Neither the acceptance nor the publication of any such advertising constitutes an endorsement, recommendation or warranty of the advertiser on the part of Chapter 7, its officers and/or its committee members.

to our advertisers - we couldn't do it without you!

editor's corner

Greetings Members,

Spring has finally sprung! Time to *weed and feed* the yard, get the lawnmower out of storage and perhaps, consider a vegetable garden. Now is time for spring cleaning chores. Perhaps, one item to be cleaned up is this issue of "BPO's" or Broker Price Opinion and various look alike products with different names. One major concern among our appraiser members, me included, is that non-appraisers are peddling appraisals under thinly disguised aliases. Hopefully, Michigan officials will step in and demand some standardization and disclosures with these faux appraisals. For another viewpoint on this issue, read the article *A Matter of Opinion* by Stephanie Coleman, MAI, SRA, in the Appraisal Institute's *Valuation Magazine*, 1st Quarter 2009; or visit www.appraisalinstitute.org; click *Access Lum Library* at lower left and choose *Explore library's online catalog (nonmember)*. Other articles on this subject appear in the April 8, 2009, Volume 10: *Appraiser News Online*.

In other news, a committee at International is looking into the feasibility of offering group health insurance to the membership. The Executive Board of Chapter 7 would like to hear if this would be of interest to you. Also, on a related matter, the Chapter would like to know if there would be an interest in offering a provider for Errors and Omissions (E & O) insurance. The topic of E & O insurance seems to be a hot topic among some of our members. To voice your viewpoint on either of these topics please contact:
Norm Thomas:
nthomas@rsthbc-appraisers.com
Andy Reed:
reedandassociates@earthlink.net
or me, Michael A Oakes:
maoakes@cmsenergy.com.

Be sure to attend the May 7 General Membership Meeting at the Best Western Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights. See the program on the front cover. If you can't make, this meeting check out other upcoming events on our website:
http://www.irwamichigan.org/

The Board is already planning for next year's events, including a Spring 2010 meeting at Cabela's in Dundee, MI.

submitted by: Michael A Oakes

F.Y.I.

On-line Resources…

Help contribute to a vibrant Metro Detroit Community Network:

www.peoplemovers.com/initiative_page.php?initiative_id=9

Check out Smart City:

www.smartcityradio.com/smartcityradio/past_shows.cfm
download their amazing weekly programs to your iPod/MP3 player.

For a wealth of news about Community Economic Development in Michigan (CEDAM):

www.cedam.info/

submitted by: Val Lafferty, Local Public Agency Committee

Course #401

The Appraisal of Partial Acquisitions

LAST CALL!

May 11-15, 2009 • 5 days: 8 AM - 5 PM DAILY

Class Location: Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor

Facilitator: Dave Burgoyne

Course Tuition: Members / $755.00
Non-Members / $935.00
includes Participant's Manual and USPAP Text

Required Materials: Hand-held Calculator

Prerequisites: It is recommended that participants successfully complete IRWA Course 400 "Principles of Real Estate Appraisal" prior to attending this class, or have a minimum of one year practical appraisal experience or college appraisal class (minimum of 9 hours) or its equivalent.

Course Description: This advanced course for the experienced appraiser deals with the special problems of the valuation of partial acquisitions, both fee and easement.

For more information contact
Class Coordinator:
Jeannine P. Myers, Right of Way Specialist
Commonwealth Associates, Inc.
517 414 1220 / phone • 517 788 3003 / fax
jpmyers@cai-engr.com / 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 11, 2009

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

May 2009
VOL. 55 • 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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...see page 2 for information on the hotel and exclusive IRWA special rate offer!

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See page 2 for the details and check-out the hotel website: www.sterlinginn.com

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