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:
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Newsletter Chair/Editor
517 788 2332
maoakes@cmsenergy.com
Linda M. Polo, Polo Design
Art Director/Editor
lmpolo@aol.com

Submissions for the
March newsletter due by:
February 18, 2010

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

November 2009
VOL. 55 • NO. 05

Tim Davis
Commonwealth Associates
PO BOX 1124
Jackson, MI 49201

MICHIGAN Chapter Seven
IRWA
INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

Address Correction Requested

International Right of Way Association (IRWA) • Chapter 7

2010 Events Schedule

February 11	Executive Board Meeting	The City of Troy
March 11	General Membership Meeting	Cabelas; Dundee
April 8	Executive Board Meeting	Commonwealth Associates; Jackson
April 29 – May 1	Spring Region Forum	Illinois
May 13	General Membership Meeting	ITC Headquarters; Novi
June 11	Installation of Officers	Weber's Inn; Ann Arbor
June 27 – 30	Annual Education Conference	Calgary, Alberta
August 7	Executive Board Meeting	Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment; Livonia
September 29	Executive Board Meeting	Bay Harbor
Sept. 30 – Oct. 1	Fall Education Seminar	Bay Harbor
October is International Right of Way Month!		
October 8 – 10	Fall Region Forum	Ohio
November 11	General Membership Meeting	Zehnder's; Frankenmuth
December 9	Executive Board Meeting	Washtenaw Co. Road Commission; Ann Arbor

Note: All Executive Board Meetings start at 9:30AM
All General Membership meetings start at 8:00AM with registration

Your CLIP & SAVE 2010 schedule • SAVE THESE DATES!

What:
General Membership Meeting

When:
November 12, 2009

Where:
Maggiano's Little Italy Troy
2089 West Big Beaver Road,
between Coolidge & Crooks

Questions about this meeting?
Kimberly Tassen:
313 235 4458 / phone

Larysa Figol:
248 524 3380 / phone

November 2009
VOL. 55 • NO. 05

MICHIGAN Chapter Seven
IRWA
INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

THE great lakes State·ment

General Membership Meeting

Maggiano's Little Italy Troy

2089 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084

November 12, 2009 • 8:00AM

8:00 – 8:30am	Registration
8:30 – 8:45am	Opening Remarks & Business Meeting
8:45 – 9:45am	**Dayan Douse**, PhD, Owner; P.R.I.D.E. Consulting *Successful employee/business-owner – How to strengthen your leadership skills*
9:45 – 10:45am	**Mark Miller**, Acting Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Services; City of Troy *Troy Transit Center Project*
10:45 – 11:45am	**Tim Young**, Attorney; CMDA Law Firm *Case Law – Real Estate and Right of Way Matters*
11:45 – 1:00pm	***Lunch*** *Please return promptly at 1:00pm*
1:00 – 2:00pm	**Teresa Vanis**, Local Agency Coordinator, Michigan Department of Transportation *Relocation Update & Local Public Agency Planning Guide*
2:00 – 3:00pm	**Deborah Deacon Odette**, Southeast Michigan Historic Preservation Network/ National Trust for Historical Preservation *Historic Preservation Easements*
3:00pm	Adjournment – Please drive safely.

Breaks will be given between speakers as time allows.

Registration cost: $40 per person

Please register with: 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

What:
General Membership Meeting

When:
November 12, 2009

Where:
Maggiano's Little Italy Troy
2089 West Big Beaver Road,
between Coolidge & Crooks

Questions about this meeting?
Kimberly Tassen:
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Larysa Figol:
248 524 3380 / phone

Consumers Energy Seeks Grant to Support Smart Grid Project

Jackson, MI; Friday, October 16, 2009 – Consumers Energy's application for a $174 million federal grant to support development of its smart grid project and reduce costs for customers has cleared the first hurdle with the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Energy Department has $3.4 billion of funding available in the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Consumers Energy's application advanced through the initial screening and is being reviewed by the department.

The company's application has received strong support from the state's congressional delegation, Gov. Jennifer Granholm, state lawmakers, the Michigan Public Service Commission and a number of local communities, including Grand Rapids and Jackson.

"This grant is important to Michigan because it will help create jobs and support the development and deployment of cutting edge technology in our state's energy infrastructure," said U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow. "Along with creating jobs, this technology will help keep Michigan competitive and ready for an economic recovery."

Stabenow and U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer visited Jackson today to tour Consumers Energy's Smart Services Learning Center, a full-size demonstration unit that shows how the smart grid technology will improve service and convenience for customers and help them save energy and save money.

"This new technology is very impressive. As we reshape our national energy policy, technology like this will be a key part of our new approach to using energy. With technology like this, we all will use less energy, which not only will save us money, but it also will provide some important environmental benefits," Stabenow said.

Schauer said the Consumers Energy project had strong support in Washington and in Michigan because of the benefits it will bring to customers.

"This smart grid technology will give customers new choices and detailed information that will help them save energy and save money. A key goal of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was to encourage the development and deployment of new technology to help us use energy more efficiently. That's exactly what this project will do and why I and so many others at both the state and federal level have urged the Department of Energy to support it," Schauer said.

Schauer added that he is optimistic, even though there is stiff competition for the grants with utilities across the country submitting hundreds of applications.

Consumers Energy plans to invest about $900 million through 2015 in its smart grid program. A federal grant would reduce the amount that the company would seek to recover from customers for the project.

The new "smart grid" meters will provide Consumers Energy's 1.8 million electric customers with detailed information about their power usage, allowing them to make decisions about energy efficiency, conserving electricity during periods of high demand, and lowering their energy costs.

Consumers Energy also plans to add communication modules to the existing meters for its 1.7 million natural gas customers. That will allow the utility to provide more detailed information about energy usage to those customers, so they can make decisions about lowering their natural gas costs with energy efficiency steps.

The smart grid project is part of Consumers Energy's Growing Forward strategy, which calls for investing more than $6 billion in its utility operations over the next five years. Those investments will improve service to customers plus create jobs, boost the state's economy, and expand the state's tax base.

Consumers Energy, the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE: CMS), provides natural gas and electricity to nearly 6.5 million of Michigan's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

submitted by: Laura E Stensland

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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

Course #207

Practical Negotiations for U.S. Federal Funded Land Acquisitions

January 11 & 12, 2010 • **2 days:** 8 AM - 5 PM DAILY • **CEU Credits:** 16.00

Tuition:$415 member / $520 non-member – Late registration fee of $25 after: 12/11/2009

Course Tuition includes Participant's Manual. Recommended Textbook: *Successful Communication and Negotiation* (separate purchase)

Course Description: This course will review the FHWA requirements that apply to negotiators, analyze those requirements in the context of individual personal negotiating style and provide practical approaches and tips to improve settlement rates for right of way acquisition.

This essential course is designed for:
- DOT employees and other highway oriented negotiators
- Land acquisition agents who have less than 5 years negotiation experience
- More experienced agents desiring a refresher
- Individuals seeking improved settlement rates for acquisition

Who should take this course: Ideal for both executive and entry-level professionals, "Practical Negotiations for US Federal Funded Land Acquisition" teaches highway-oriented negotiators and land acquisition agents how to improve settlement rates for acquisitions.

Facilitator: David Layne, SR/WA, is the owner of Layne Consulting Services, Inc. Dave has thirty plus years experience in all phases of right of way (project scoping, appraisal / appraisal review, acquisition / relocation assistance, asset (property) management, and organizational management). Currently, he teaches at proprietary schools, for several professional organizations, and at the college/university level. He has advanced degrees in both business (M.A.) and adult education (C.A.S.). In 1991, Dave received the Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award. In addition to the SR/WA designation, Dave holds an ASA designation with the American Society of Appraisers and an IAO designation with the Institute of Assessing Officers. He is a certified general real estate appraiser in New York State.

Class Location & Accommodations:
Holiday Inn Express
3990 Baldwin Road • Auburn Hills, MI 48326
248 322-7000 / phone
Single $89 + Tax / room rate – Please contact hotel directly for reservations; mention IRWA Group Rate when making reservation.

Course Coordinator:
Jeffrey L. Jones, SR/WA
Road Commission for Oakland County
2420 Pontiac Lake Rd. • Waterford, MI 48328
248 858 4783 / phone • 248 858 7607 / fax
jjones@rcoc.org / e-mail

It's Official!

October is Right of Way Recognition Month

It's brand new, and will be celebrated annually: an international observance called Right of Way Recognition Month.

According to Mark Rieck of International, our Chapter was the first to obtain an official proclamation as part of the collaboration between International and chapters throughout North America. The very first official recognition came from the Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor, John Hieftje.

You might want to approach your city and do the same. Just call your Mayor's office and follow their procedure.

Submitted by: Laura Southwell, southwelll@wcroads.org

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

president's chapter message
Norman G. Thomas, SR/WA

Mackinac Island provided two wonderful days for our Fall Education Seminar. Please note I am not referring to Friday. We really got a taste of true, island living on that day! Nevertheless we were spoiled with great weather on Wednesday and Thursday, fantastic presentations, and a wonderful dinner at the Grand Hotel. One of our new members Mike Kurschat was able to attend and wore an especially dazzling tie at dinner.

Thank you Alicia for all of your destination logistical help.

The Fall Region Forum took place on the 9th through the 11th of October in Wisconsin, and the Michigan Chapter 7 Motor Coach transported five (for a total of six) chapter members to Milwaukee. John Rolling did a fabulous job in organizing this very important forum for our Region which had a special conclusion involving a riverboat cruise with the famous Wisconsin "beer and brats." After a long day of meeting and discussing issues on Chapter, Region and International levels, this final riverboat gathering hit the spot for us to relax and have some informal networking.

Several items that are being processed include:
- Newsletter distribution beyond membership,
- Increase in advertisers,
- Chapter meetings now apply toward designation recertification,
- Distribution of Right of Way Magazine outside the membership,
- Membership advancements
- Membership assistance for meeting attendance.

In addition to gaining information for the refinement and advancement of our Chapter.

Jeff Jones is encouraging participation in education course offerings, including *Practical Negotiations for Federal Funded Land Acquisitions*, which kicks off the New Year on January 11, 2010 in Auburn Hills, MI. In addition, we have eight courses planned for 2010 and six more in 2011 and 2012. Add these to our scheduled General Membership education meetings and, as you can see, our Chapter provides extensive learning opportunities to our members – ***plus*** we have confirmed continuing education credits for appraisers!

Kim Tassen and Paul Sander have put together a 2010 schedule of meetings with high caliber presenters, and offered in interesting locations that you won't want to miss and **will** want to attend. Due to the realigned Administrative Year, the first scheduled 2010 General Membership Meeting is on March 11 at Cabela's in Dundee.

Until then, we have an outstanding line-up of presenters for our upcoming meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2009 – see page 1 for all the details.. I look forward to seeing all of you at Maggiano's Little Italy in Troy on November 12th!

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

A Great Big Thank You

To Our Fall Seminar Sponsors

- *Reed & Associates*
- *Greenstar & Associates*
- *White Pine Land Company*
- *Cellere*
- *First ROW*
- *Elexco Land Services*

Uniform Relocation Act Certification

R/W-URAC

IRWA has a new certification. Any member involved in:
- ROW appraisal,
- ROW negotiation and acquisition, or
- ROW relocation assistance

is eligible to become a candidate. Applicant must be a member in good standing of the IRWA, have a minimum of 5 years of relevant ROW professional experience and meet the coursework requirements.

For further information, see the IRWA website or contact Pat Petitto, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, Professional Development Chair at petittopa@aol.com.

A

B

Scenes from the riverboat cruise at the Fall Region Forum in Milwaukee, clockwise, from far left:

Jeff Jones, Pat Petitto, and Mary Anne Marr with Don Marx in his lederhosen

President-Elect, Laura Southwell with her grand-daughter and husband

Chapter 7 on-board in Milwaukee 2009: Pat Petitto, Kim Tassen, Laura Southwell, Mary Anne Marr, and Jeff Jones

Riverboat Cruise

Milwaukee, WI • ***Fall Region Forum***

E

D

C

Mackinac Island, MI • ***Fall Education Seminar***

F

a | A bevy of Balfour winners: Harrison, Worthley, Petitto, Jones and Maturen

b | Norm Thomas gives a gift and Congratulations to Jeff Jones

c | Jeff Jones! This is Your Life!

d | Mary Anne Marr receives congrats from Norm Thomas

G

H

e | Lunch on the famous porch of the Grand Hotel

f | Mackinac Island officials

g | A good turn-out at the Fall Educational Seminar

h | Dinner at the elegant Grand Hotel