

# North Texas News



## IRWA CHAPTER 36

### A LOOK INSIDE THE NEW EDITION:

- [Intro to Newsletter](#)

We have officially revamped the newsletter! Here we discuss our goals, changes we have done, and new opportunities in the newsletter.

- [Intro to New Officers](#)

New year, New officers! In this edition we introduce the new 2025-2026 officers!

- [Region 2 Fall Forum](#)

Here's a recap of the Region 2 Seminar and Fall Forum that happened in July. Several of our members were keynote speakers and received awards!

### WHO ARE WE?

We are an organization of professionals who acquire, manage, and transfer land rights needed for building and maintaining energy and transportation infrastructure. Basically, we establish rights of way in our cities, counties, and the great state of Texas.

Our purpose is to improve people's quality of life through infrastructure development. For more on who we are and what we do, please see the IRWA's global website at [IRWAOnline.org/about-irwa](http://IRWAOnline.org/about-irwa). Chapter 36 is part of Region 2 that includes the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, as well as the Country of Mexico. You can view more information about Chapter 36 [here](#).

# September Luncheon



Samantha Renz, P.E., C.F.M.

## How AI Can Revolutionize Pre-Design Feasibility

Samantha Renz is a licensed Professional Engineer, Certified Floodplain Manager, and seasoned land planner with over 20 years of experience in civil infrastructure, site development, and public-private coordination. As the CEO of Evolving Texas, a civil engineering firm based in North Texas, Samantha has led projects that require deep collaboration with municipalities, developers, and right of way agents—balancing practical design with regulatory realities.

Her expertise spans land use feasibility, site layout optimization, infrastructure design, and understanding the ripple effects of easements and acquisitions on project viability. She’s passionate about bridging the gap between planning and implementation—bringing an engineer’s eye, a planner’s vision, and a communicator’s heart to the table.

Known for her approachable style and sharp insight, Samantha is committed to making land planning a more efficient, thoughtful process for all stakeholders involved—especially those tasked with navigating the complexities of right of way.

**In this newsletter you can expect:**

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Intro to the New Newsletter

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President’s Message

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Previous Luncheon

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2025-2026 Officers

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Scholarship Winners

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Outgoing President’s Message

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Region 2 Fall Forum Recap

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Education Committee

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Scholarships

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Professional Development Committee

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Young Professionals

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How to Resolve Star Chapter Email Failures

**Texas Star Golf Course**  
1400 Texas Star Parkway Euless, Texas 76040  
September 9<sup>th</sup> | 11:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Click [Here](#) to Register!

**Costs:**  
Member - \$30  
Non-Member - \$35  
First-Time Guest - Free!

Welcome to the new  
Chapter 36

# NEWSLETTER



## WHAT TO EXPECT

After 10 years of running the roads in Texas and the country, I have decided to jump back into Chapter 36 and take on the newsletter again! With the help of my treasured associate, Samantha Gwinn, we hope to keep everyone up to date with everything going on with Chapter 36, and most importantly in touch with each other.

We're excited to launch this refreshed newsletter and bring you the latest updates, insights, and stories from Chapter 36. Each edition will keep you informed, inspired, and connected – with fresh news, industry insights, and a look at what's ahead. Much like Right-of-Way itself, we will change and adapt to meet this challenge as we move along. Thanks for joining us on this new journey!

## MEET THE EDITORS



TEXAS LAND AND TITLE LLC



PRESTONWOOD  
PROPERTY  
ANALYSIS

REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS



KREG HODGE



SAMANTHA GWINN



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome Back, Chapter 36!

I am truly honored to serve as your Chapter President this year. The next 10 months will no doubt pass quickly, and before long, the leadership torch will be passed to another set of capable hands. In the meantime, I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for this opportunity and how proud I am to follow in the footsteps of so many exceptional leaders who represent the very best of the Right of Way industry. The IRWA and Chapter 36 hold a special place in my heart, and it is a privilege to represent you in this role.



Looking ahead, my goal for our newsletter is to make it a stronger tool for communication and connection within our Chapter and Region. I encourage YOU to contribute. If you have an interesting project, a challenging parcel, or a unique professional experience, we would love to share it so others can learn from it. Please reach out to me, Kreg, or Samantha and we can help transform your story into a feature for our members.

This summer, Kreg and Samantha have worked hard to refresh our newsletter. You will still find information on upcoming luncheons, classes, membership updates, and committee news, but we are adding new features including an event calendar, advertiser highlights, and more.

It has already been a busy season for Chapter 36. In June, many of us traveled to Virginia Beach for the International Conference, an outstanding opportunity to connect, learn, and have a little fun. Chapter 36 was well represented through breakout sessions, committee participation, and volunteer contributions. If you have never attended an International Conference, I highly recommend it. And mark your calendars because Chapter 36 will host the Conference in 2029. Thank you, **Director Matt Lance**, for pursuing this opportunity and leading the way.

More recently, we came together in College Station for the 62nd Annual Region 2 Refresher and Forum. Congratulations to **Michael Hale, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC**, named *Region Professional of the Year*, and **Miles Travis**, honored as *Region Young Professional of the Year*. Both recognitions are incredibly well deserved. Thank you also to **Kristen Short, SR/WA, R/W-RAC** for representing Chapter 36 with an excellent presentation. College Station continues to be a valued tradition, offering meaningful connections and invaluable learning experiences each year.

Over the next 10 newsletters, I plan to spotlight Chapter 36 members who have personally made an impact on me. First, I want to recognize **Lora Gunter**. Lora, your thoughtful gift of sparkly earrings when I graduated from Lamar University paired with your words of encouragement continues to inspire me. You reminded me that while my path may look different than others, it is uniquely mine, and I am capable of so much. You lead with authenticity, use your influence for good, and set an example of what it means to be a trailblazer. I am grateful for your friendship and the example you set for all of us.

Here is to an incredible year ahead, Chapter 36. Let us make the most of it together.

**Leighton Gambill, SR/WA**  
President, IRWA Chapter 36



CHAPTER 36

# PREVIOUS LUNCHEON

JUNE MEETING

Many exciting things happened during the June meeting, such as the announcing of the Donnie Sherwood Scholarship Winners, announcing the Greg Cook Winners, and installing the 2025-2026 Chapter 36 officers.



Swearing in the new Chapter 36 officers

Our last luncheon was hosted at the Stonebriar Country Club in Frisco, TX on June 10th. Thank you to everyone for coming and supporting your chapter.

On the following pages, all the scholarship winners are celebrated and the new chapter officers are presented, along with the new committee chairs.



President, Leighton Gambill, and previous president, Matt Lance



Value People.  
Value Property.



*One of the widest gaps in human experience is the gap between what we say we want to be and our willingness to discipline ourselves to get there. (Harry Emerson Fosdick)*



2025 - 2026

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# THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**President**  
Leighton Gambill, SR/WA



**Vice President**  
Tommy Matthews, SR/WA,  
R/W-AC



**Treasurer**  
Juan Salazar, SR/WA,  
R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC



**Secretary**  
Danyelle Daniels, SR/WA,  
R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC



**Director 2 Year**  
Matt Lance, SR/WA,  
R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC



**Director 1 Year**  
Will Snider, MAI,  
SR/WA, R/W-AC

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Clara Castaneda, SR/WA, R/W-RAC  
Lisa Featherstone, SR/WA, R/W-NAC  
Shannon Perkins, SR/WA

### EDUCATION

Ana Salazar, SR/WA, RW-NAC  
Ben Gross, RWA, R/W-AC  
Blayke Dangelmayr  
Jake Bosacker

### MEMBERSHIP

Ciara Brown

### PROGRAMS

Lisa Alexander  
Dorrien Himes  
Jennifer Sheetz, RWA

### AUDIO

Jacian Martin

### REGISTRATION

Brooklyn Patton  
Jarred Robinson

### HISTORIAN

Brent Patterson, SR/WA, R/W-NAC

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Miles Travis

### COMMUNICATIONS

Kreg Hodge (Newsletter)  
Samantha Gwinn (Newsletter)  
Kerri Prentice (Website)  
Mary Watson (Website)  
Jessica Shultz (Social Media)  
Miriam Salazar, SR/WA, R/W-NAC  
(PR/Marketing)

### INTERNATIONAL LIASONS

Leighton Gambill, SR/WA  
Joel St. John, MAI, CCIM  
Matt Brown, MAI, R/W-AC

# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## DONNIE SHERWOOD SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- Emma Janeway
- Katah Gunter
- Emerson Wright
- Jack McCarty
- Annalee Beck
- Caleb Beck
- Samuel Garza
- Avery Canuteson
- Ayden Althoff
- Emylie Althoff
- Cadee Wright
- Baird Haller
- Ian Guess

## GREG COOK SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- Jennifer Sheetz
- Kati Hourihan
- Roxie Earett

A huge congratulations to the Donnie Sherwood and Greg Cook scholarship winners! Chapter 36 could not be more proud of each and every individual. Pictured above are the winners of the Donnie Sherwood Scholarship.



*The worst obstacle walls are never the ones you find in your way. They are the walls you put there - you build yourself.*  
(Ursula K. Le Guin)



# OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As my term as President of IRWA Chapter 36 has come to an end, I want to take a moment to express something simple yet deeply felt: Thank you!

Serving as your Chapter President has been one of the greatest honors of my career. This role has allowed me to collaborate with some of the most dedicated, passionate, and inspiring professionals I've ever met. The success of our chapter is a direct reflection of your commitment, energy, and support. We wouldn't be IRWA's largest and most dynamic chapter without each of you.

I'm especially grateful to our incredible Board and Committee members. Your tireless work behind the scenes has made all the difference, and I've been truly fortunate to serve alongside such a talented and driven team.

To our members, sponsors, and volunteers—thank you for believing in me and for everything you do to help our chapter thrive. Your trust and support have meant the world to me, and I will carry this experience with deep gratitude.

During my tenure, I've had the privilege of leading initiatives focused on professional development, networking, and education. One of the proudest moments was spearheading the successful bid for Chapter 36 to host the 2029 IRWA International Education Conference in Arlington, Texas—a milestone that reflects the strength and reputation of our chapter.

Though my time as President has ended, I'm excited to continue serving on the Board as Director for the next two years. I look forward to supporting our new President, Leighton Gambill, and continuing to contribute to the growth and excellence of Chapter 36.

**Matt Lance,**  
SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC



# SEMINAR & FALL FORUM



From July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Region 2 hosted their annual Golf Tournament, Seminar, and Fall Forum in College Station, TX. The guests had the pleasure of listening to several guest speakers, mingling with each other, enjoying a day in the sun, and having a great time. Chapter 36 was proudly represented throughout the week. The Young Professional of the Year, Miles Travis, and Professional of the Year, Michael Hale, are both from North Texas. We could not be more proud of these two individuals for their hard work! They truly deserve these awards. Chapter 36 looks forward to the event next year!

Several Chapter 36 members had the honor of presenting during the seminar. Pictured is Leighton Gambill and Michael Hale presenting the benefits of YP's and Professionals working together.



### Region 2 Young Professional of the Year

Miles Travis is this year's Region 2 Young Professional of the Year. He is an appraiser with Cushman and Wakefield and is currently the chair of the Young Professionals for Chapter 36. Miles has been energetic and encouraging to other young professionals within the organization. Congratulations Miles!



### Region 2 Professional of the Year

Michael Hale is this year's Professional of the Year for Region 2! He is currently the principal and Regional Right-of-Way Manager for Cobb Fendley and Associates, Inc. He has been involved with the Chapter and Region for several years along with holding countless positions throughout his time with IRWA. Congratulations Michael!



*Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be. (Abraham Lincoln)*



# EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Hi Chapter 36 Members!

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful summer filled with fun, family, and maybe even a little adventure. As much as I've enjoyed the season, I'm definitely ready for a break from the heat and looking forward to September – hopefully bringing some cooler temperatures and a fresh start to the fall.

I would like to take a moment and introduce the Education Committee for the 2025-2026 year. Thank you for volunteering your time.

- EDC Chair – Ana Salazar
- EDC 2 Year – Ben Goss
- EDC 3 Year – Blayke Dangelmayr

We're excited for what's ahead and can't wait to see all the great things this next season will bring for us. Let's make it a great one!

Below is the schedule of classes for the upcoming year.

## Chapter 36 2025-2026 Education Calendar

	Course	Location	Date
901	Engineering Plan Development and Application	Half-Richardson	Sept. 4, 2025
902	Property Description	Half-Richardson	Sept. 5, 2025
219	Adult Communication Principles and Methods	Trinity River Authority, Arlington, TX	Sept. 29-30, 2025
504	Computing Replacement Housing Payments	Virtual	Nov. 4-5, 2025
207	Practical Negotiations for U.S. Federal and Federally Assisted Projects	Virtual	Jan. 28-29, 2026

## WHAT COURSES DO I NEED?

Only the PDC can tell you which class you need to complete the education requirements for designation and certification. If you are planning to get your RWA, RWP or SR/WA the list of courses you need to complete your credentialing are located at [www.irwaonline.org](http://www.irwaonline.org). Just visit the "Credentialing" tab.

## WANT TO HOST A CLOSED COURSE FOR YOUR TEAM?

If your company is interested in hosting a Closed Class for your employees, please reach out to us and we can assist in helping schedule and coordinate the class. Send the Education Committee an email at [education@irwachapter36.org](mailto:education@irwachapter36.org).

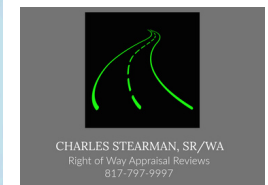
## YOUR EDC CHAIR



**Ana Salazar**  
SR/WA, R/W - NAC

Pinnacle Consulting Management Group, Inc.  
Project Manager  
C: (817) 901-2634  
[Asalazar@Pinnaclegroup.biz](mailto:Asalazar@Pinnaclegroup.biz)

# Scholarships!!



## Ready to Take the SR/WA Exam? Scholarship Available!



The Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) is generously offering a scholarship that pays for your:

- SR/WA Study Session Tuition
- SR/WA Capstone Exam Fee
- SR/WA Study Session Learning Guide (Print Copy)
- Principles of Right of Way Textbook, 5th Edition (Print Copy)

This scholarship is available on a first come, first served basis and will remain available until all funds are exhausted.

**Eligibility:** SR/WA candidates who are two or fewer courses away from meeting all the SR/WA education requirements.

Please contact Cynthia Herrera at [herrera@irwaonline.org](mailto:herrera@irwaonline.org) or 310-538-0233 Ext. 151 to register for an [upcoming SR/WA Study Session](#) today! Scholarship funds will be applied once your eligibility has been verified.

# Professional Development Committee



## YOUR PDC CHAIR



**Clara L. Castaneda**  
SR/WA, R/W - RAC

HDR, Inc.  
C: (682) 219-4243  
[Clara.Castaneda@hdrinc.com](mailto:Clara.Castaneda@hdrinc.com)

Hi Chapter 36 Members!

The Professional Development Committee of IRWA Chapter 36 is committed to advancing the knowledge, skills, and careers of our members within the right of way profession. Our focus is on promoting continuing education, supporting members in achieving and maintaining IRWA certifications and designations, and encouraging lifelong learning. Through seminars, courses, and mentorship, we help ensure that Chapter 36 professionals remain at the forefront of industry standards, best practices, and innovation. Our PDC is made up of three members, all whom have been through the process of getting certified and designated. Please feel free to contact our committee with any questions you may have. [PDC@irwachapter36.org](mailto:PDC@irwachapter36.org)

PDC Chair - Clara Castaneda, SR/WA, R/W-RAC  
PDC 2 Year - Lisa Featherstone, SR/WA, R/W-NAC  
PDC 3 Year - Shannon Perkins, SR/WA



*Most of us would rather search for the right person than become the right person.*

# Young Professionals Committee

Chapter 36

September 2025



**IRWA CH. 36  
SEPTEMBER  
YP EVENT  
HAPPY HOUR**

**Nickel City - Fort Worth  
September 18th  
@ 4:30 PM**

**212 S Main St Suite 100, Fort Worth,  
TX 76104**

**Free Drinks - Good Company**



## YP Membership

This group was created for emerging Right-of-Way professionals eager to engage more actively in the chapter while strengthening their expertise. If you're committed to continuous learning, expanding your skills, and gaining recognition for your efforts, this is the perfect place to connect with peers who share your drive.

## YOUR YP CHAIR



*Miles Travis*

Cushman & Wakefield  
C: (713) 609-3350  
[Miles.Travis@cushwake.com](mailto:Miles.Travis@cushwake.com)

## IRWA CH. 36 UPCOMING YP 2025 EVENTS

**18**  
SEP, 2025 **HAPPY HOUR**  
4:30 PM NICKEL CITY FORT WORTH  
212 S MAIN ST SUITE 100, FORT WORTH

**22**  
OCT, 2025 **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE  
PICKLE BALL**  
6:30 PM CHICKEN N PICKLE GRAPEVINE  
4600 MERLOT AVE, GRAPEVINE, TX 76051

**19**  
NOV, 2025 **TBD**

**16**  
DEC, 2025 **WHITE ELEPHANT  
GIFT EXCHANGE**  
7:00 PM LOCATION TBD

FOR MORE INFO : [WWW.IRWACHAPTER36.ORG](http://WWW.IRWACHAPTER36.ORG)  
\*TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*

# How to Resolve Star Chapter Email Failures

Over the past year, some members have experienced issues with not receiving Chapter emails. The following guidance has proven effective in resolving delivery failures and bounce-backs, allowing emails to be successfully delivered again.

## How to Resolve StarChapter Email Failures

### Hard Failure

A Hard Failure indicates a permanent failure caused when an email account is disabled. If the email is confirmed, it could have been caused by a temporary outage of the recipient's mail server. Any email with a hard failure will be removed from mass mailings.

### Soft Failure

A Soft Bounce indicates rejection by the recipients email server's firewall or spam filters. Any email with over 10 soft bounces will be removed from mass mailings.

\*Access to the Chapter Admin site is required for this next step.

### Bounce Checker

The Bounce Checker report lists all delivery failures caused by hard failures and soft bounces. Go to Communications > Charts and Reports > Bounce Checker. This list can be filtered and exported.

### Addressing Hard Failures

Confirm the email address for the recipient matches the email address listed in the StarChapter member account. If the member is unable to access their StarChapter member account contact the Chapter Website Chair for assistance. If the email on file is incorrect, ask your Website Chair to update it in the StarChapter member account.

If the email on file is correct, ask your company's IT administrator to add your organization to their allow list. After the allow list procedure has been followed, open a support ticket including the email address and confirming what action was taken to resolve the underlying issue.

### Allow List

If you are having trouble receiving mail from the Chapter website, a firewall or spam filtering service is likely the cause of the issue. However, you can add several domains and IP addresses to your local Allow List to ensure safe delivery. Depending on your e-mail service, you may be able to do this yourself, or you may need the assistance of your IT administrator. We recommend including the following IP addresses:

159.135.230.23  
159.135.230.118  
159.135.230.228  
159.135.230.229  
159.135.230.230  
198.244.51.208

Messages from the chapter website will usually have the same reply-to email address on them (visible if you start to reply to the emails). Adding this address to your address book or contact list can also help ensure delivery. These changes can be helpful if e-mails are being reported as bounced, too.

Also helpful is to go to your email admin portal and make sure the Identify Links behind shortened URLs and Scan linked images options are not selected or unchecked as this could cause the emails to be bounced back.

### Addressing Soft Bounces

If the email is on a public email account (gmail, yahoo, aol, etc), members should add all of you're the Chapter's email addresses to their safe sender list. Specific instructions to complete this task can be found in each mail host's help literature. After the allow list procedure has been followed, open a support ticket including the email address and confirming what action was taken to resolve the underlying issue.

If the email is on a private email account (typically through an employer), ask your contact to add your organization to their allow list. After the allow list procedure has been followed, open a support ticket including the email address and confirming what action was taken to resolve the underlying issue.