

President's Message



Greetings Chapter 14!

I hope this message finds you well. Time is moving fast! So much has happened since our last newsletter.

After last year's hiatus, we had our annual Crab Feast in September. The Crab Feast was a success in more ways than one! We sold over 60 tickets, sold completely out of crabs, and enjoyed the reunion we sorely needed.

IRWA Regions 4 and 5 hosted a joint Fall Forum in Cleveland, Ohio at the site of next year's National Conference. I can tell you firsthand that the Hilton Cleveland Downtown is a beautiful venue. The location is in walking distance to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, one of the coolest museums I've ever toured. It was such a pleasure speaking with our Region 4 and 5 colleagues. We discussed our chapters' challenges, as well as different strategies to keep our members engaged.

Speaking of engagement, Region 4 is looking for Regional Representatives for the following committees: Electric & Utility, Oil & Gas, Public Agency, Valuation, Asset Management, Environmental, and Surveying & Engineering. Debbie Carter has already volunteered to be the Region Rep for the Relocation Committee (Thanks Debbie!) If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Region 4 Chair, Derrick Roma at derrick.roma@gmail.com.

One last bit of Regional news: the Young Professionals Representative for Region 4 is none other than our very own Treasurer, Tiara McCray! She has reinvigorated our YP Committee and she has a few things cooking that will benefit the future of our chapter. Please take a look the YP section of the newsletter to learn ways to support YP involvement!

Our first in-person General Body Meeting is coming up on November 19 at Dutch's Daughter in Frederick. We are THRILLED to have Administrator Tim Smith, PE as our honored guest. As the head of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, he is the perfect person to give us insight on upcoming infrastructure news in our area. Due to limited seating, RSVPs are strongly encouraged!

Last but certainly not least, we will be viewing a tribute to the late Frank Knapp, SR/WA, beloved chapter member, leader, mentor, and friend. Frank's life touched so many of us professionally and otherwise, and we will be celebrating his legacy.

If you have any concerns, suggestions, or questions about our chapter or the IRWA, please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the Executive Board. Take care and see you November 19!

CHAPTER 14 EXECUTIVE BOARD

2021-2022

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DUES RENEWAL TIME ...

Don't forget to renew your membership before the end of the year! IRWA is the premiere association for professionals in the Right of Way Industry.

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UPCOMING EVENTS ...

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IRWA CHAPTER 14 GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, November 19, 2021

11am - 2pm

Dutch's Daughter Restaurant

581 Himes Avenue

Frederick, MD 21703

LUNCHEON SPEAKER



TIM SMITH, PE
Administrator

Maryland State Highway Administration

An experienced leader and engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the civil engineering and transportation industry, Members will learn more about long- and short- term goals for the organization.

*SPECIAL CHAPTER TRIBUTE HONORING
THE LATE FRANK E. KNAPP, SR/WA*

MEMBERS \$20
NON-MEMBERS \$25

SIGN UP EARLY TO SAVE YOUR SEAT!
RESERVE VIA EMAIL BY 11/15/21
EMAIL: susiegreenthumb@verizon.net

LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY:

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Enhancing Lives Through Infrastructure

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT—SHELBY HICKS, SR/WA

The Heart & Art of Right of Way

Shelby Hicks, SR/WA gave her heart to Right of Way in 1986 when she joined the Maryland State Highway Administration as a Right of Way Agent. Shelby had worked previously as an operator with the phone company, Substitute Teacher, Education Director with Head Start and other jobs. “I was recently divorced, with a 12-year-old son, Logan, to raise alone and decided to change my field of work for a position with potential for advancement to better support my family”, she recalls. Shelby currently works part-time for Diversified Property Services.

“Soon after I started working as a Right of Way Agent, I joined the IRWA. I wanted to learn as much as I could and started taking classes towards earning my SR/WA designation. At the same time, I attended Chapter meetings and moved into one of the eight positions on the Board as Assistant Secretary.”

Shelby served in all Chapter positions through Chapter President and after attending several Regional Forums, she pursued office at the regional level and served as Vice Chair and Chair for Region 4.

Along with her local and regional commitment to IRWA, Shelby was also committed to attending the annual conferences. “I’ve really enjoyed attending the Annual Educational Conferences and until recently had attended all of them since joining IRWA. There used to be two events that I looked forward to at conference -- the Monday Night Event that allowed the host Chapter to present an event indicative of their area and an auction held during the week with donated items from each Chapter and Region.”

During her tenure as a member of the IRWA, Shelby notes that there have been many changes. “I think that the local Chapters had more input earlier and it seems headquarters now has more control. There used to be lots of competition between Chapters to hold the annual conference. There were presentations touting the high points of each competing city before the Directors voted.” The upcoming conference in Cleveland will mark the last conference that was selected competitively by the voting Directors.

Shelby believes her membership in the IRWA has helped her in many ways. “I have met a lot of people who also work in the same field from all over the world. I’ve taken many courses to learn more about the many areas of right of way and earned the SR/WA designation. I also have advanced in my work and became a Certified General appraiser.”

In addition to finding the work she loves, Shelby’s new career also had a major impact on the life she was able to provide for her son, Logan. With Mom’s strength and support, Logan went on to graduate from MD Institute College of Art, started his own business, and then moved to San Diego and found his niche in the art world. Stencil art was just being done and Logan started to experiment with it and found his niche. Logan is now an internationally known artist that has traveled the world and been in many books and magazines. He lives in NYC and art is his life. In July, 2021, he completed the largest stencil mural ever and will be entered in the Guinness Book of World Records. The mural is 19,000 SF and 4 layers. For more on this accomplishment, check out this article at: <https://gothamtogo.com/logan-hicks-tunnel-vision-comes-to-east-harlem/>. Logan has donated work for the auctions by the Educational Foundation at our conferences several times. It’s well worth keeping your eye out for these opportunities in the future.



Shelby Hicks, SR/WA, left pictured with grandson, Sailor and son, Artist Logan Hicks.

THANKS SHELBY for your continued support of our industry and our Chapter!

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ... YPs!

Greetings, Chapter 14!

It is with great excitement that I introduce the Young Professional (YP) Section of the Newsletter! The goals for this section are for it to (1) serve as a resource for current and future young professionals in our Chapter, interested in growing within their profession, and (2) to connect the Chapter to the initiatives coming from the International YP Committee. I hope you begin to look forward to this section's appearance in future editions of the newsletter and actively seek ways to align yourself and support our initiatives!

On September 27th, 2021, the Chapter YP Committee met to organize ourselves and determine how to align our Committee's initiatives with the International Committee's yearly strategic plans.

As we continue to manage our efforts, we would like to hear from you!

Please contact me if any of the following scenarios apply to you:

- ◆ You are an industry professional (age 35 and under) looking to engage with other individuals who are close in skill level, education, and a passion for digging deep into your industry.
- ◆ You are an adjunct professor, teaching either undergraduate or graduate classes within any subject area of the infrastructure industry.
- ◆ Your agency/organization/company or one you know is offering entry-level or internships positions you feel our Chapter YP's, both current and future, might benefit.

Finally, as we move into the Holiday Season, the Chapter YP Committee is excited to begin partnering with Universities, Community Colleges, and Industry-related Schools as a part of our College Outreach Initiative. Our mission for this Initiative is to introduce students and transitioning professionals to the boundless opportunities within the right-of-way and infrastructure industry while exposing them to the benefits of joining the IRWA. Please join us in this initiative by reaching out to connections within your alma mater, whether within the Region or not, and connect them to the Committee so we might begin fostering new relationships for membership and cultivating the next generation of right-of-way leaders!

We look forward to sharing more exciting news with you and hope you stay engaged with us as we embark on a new journey for our Chapter! ***Until next time!***



Tiara McCray, YP Committee Chair
& Chapter Treasurer

For more information on the Young Professionals
Committee contact Tiara McCray at
Tiara.McCray @ montgomerycountymd.gov



ANNUAL CRAB FEAST HELD!



Blue Skies & Tasty Blue Crabs at Sandy Point State Park on Friday, 9/17/21 was the theme for the return of the Chapter's Annual Crab Feast. Lots of fun and smiles ... good to be back! SEE YOU THERE NEXT YEAR!

FOUNDATION NEWS ...

Leader's Light the Way MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Funded by the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF)

This scholarship offers an impactful way to combine the RWIEF's mission and the values of past IRWA leaders. The goal of this program is to identify and support mid-cycle members who can be future IRWA leaders by funding their pursuit of IRWA credentials and professional development. One \$2,500 scholarship toward IRWA education courses will be available to each of IRWA's 68 Chapters within the 10 Regions. The RWIEF will fund the program (up to \$170,000) for two years from June 2022 to May 2024. IRWA will manage the program.

Scholarship candidates must have the following to qualify:

- An active, good-standing IRWA membership for at least five years
- RWA or RWP designation
- Served as a former or current Chapter or Region officer, or on a Chapter committee
- Submit an essay of 300 words or less describing 1.) what they see as their strongest or current potential contribution to the IRWA and how this scholarship would enhance their capacity to make contributions, 2.) what excites them about IRWA's future and that of the right of way profession, and 3.) what role they want to have in the future of the profession and IRWA

To apply, visit www.irwaonline.org and click on "Leaders Light the Way Memorial Scholarship" under the education tab.

- Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2022
- Selections will be made by March 1, 2022
- Grantees will be notified by May 1, 2022
- Scholarship awards must be used within two years from June 1, 2022
- All courses may be taken in person, on demand or virtually

To learn more about this scholarship and other ways the RWIEF supports IRWA's mission, visit <https://www.rwief.org>



ASSOCIATION NEWS ...

 <p>Announcing IRWA's New Executive Director Tim Drennan, CAE</p> <p>The International Right of Way Association (IRWA) is excited to announce the promotion of Tim Drennan, CAE, to Executive Director. With over 14 years of nonprofit and volunteer association management and experience, 8 years of which he spent with IRWA, Tim will be instrumental in building staff leadership and employees for the future needs of the Association. Please join us in congratulating Tim!</p> 	 <p>Announcing IRWA's New Deputy Executive Director Jade Meador, CMP</p> <p>The International Right of Way Association (IRWA) is excited to announce the promotion of Jade Meador, CMP, to Deputy Executive Director. With over 14 years of experience with the Association, Jade will continue leading events planning, including the Annual Education Conference, as well as focusing her efforts on all areas of communications to grow IRWA's influence over the right of way industry. Please join us in congratulating Jade!</p> 
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**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



JUNE 5—8, 2022

**IRWA 68th ANNUAL
EDUCATIONAL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IRWA NEWS & EVENTS visit irwaonline.org

IN REMEMBRANCE ...



Frank Emerson Knapp, III 74, of Hagerstown, MD, passed away, Thursday, October 7, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family.

Frank graduated from North Hagerstown High School in 1965 and later from the University of Baltimore in 1970. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving in the U.S. Air Force in the 167th Air National Guard. Frank was employed with the Maryland State Highway Administration, Office of Real Estate, retiring in 2001. He soon joined Diversified Property Services, a full-service right of way consulting firm, where he retired in July, 2021.

Frank was a loyal member of IRWA Chapter 14 in Maryland and remained active in the Chapter throughout his career. As a Licensed Certified Appraiser and an SR/WA, Frank was one of the rare professionals whose expertise and knowledge spanned the wide range of industry disciplines. He was known and admired by fellow Chapter members for his friendliness and ability to make others feel at home. His signature laughter and statement, **"you can't make this stuff up,"** will continue to resonate in the hearts and minds of those who knew him. The value of his contributions to the Right of Way profession and to IRWA, especially at the local level, are immeasurable.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Donna L. (Crist) Knapp; two sons, Jeremy M. Knapp (Jennifer) of Bel Air, MD and Justin A. Knapp of Hagerstown, MD; sister, Judy Barbera (Harold) of Tamarac, FL; three grandchildren, Anna, Emma and Everett Knapp.

Thomas L. O'CONNOR (Age 79)

Thomas (Tom), a retired Lt. Colonel with the United States Army Reserves. Tom passed away at his home in Vienna, VA on May 24, 2020 with his family at his side. Tom was a veteran of both the Vietnam War and the Gulf War. He retired from the Real Estate Department of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA/Metro). Tom was a long time member of Chapter 14 and former Chapter President.