



BAY CONNECTIONS

SPRING
MARCH 2021

Greetings Fellow Potomac Chapter 14 Members !



I want to repeat my newsletter *mantra* again . . .
“I hope and pray that each of you, your family and friends, are all safe and well during this very stressful time.”

Regrettably, COVID has forced the cancellation, rescheduling or virtualization of a number of planned Chapter 14, Region 4 and IRWA International activities, including Chapter 14’s opportunity to host the Region 4 - 2021 Spring Forum.

Vanessa and Candice Ringgold put in a tremendous amount of effort in identifying or organizing the `21 Spring Forum for our Chapter, but in the end, after conferring with the Leadership in all of the Region 4 Chapters, it was decided to cancel the event. Please extend your personal thanks to these two for stepping up.

Here is a brief list of some topics that will be addressed in greater detail in this edition of the newsletter :

- **2021 Region 4 Spring Business Meeting (virtual)**
- **Chapter 14 Election of Officers for 2021-22 --** **It is critically important that we have dedicated and committed Chapter Officers (and Committee Chairs). Please take a few minutes and consider how you might contribute to the success of our Chapter – and enhance your own right-of-way career opportunities at the same time by serving as an officer or committee chair. Call/text/email me any time: I’m more than happy to discuss ways that we can help you broaden your knowledge and advance your career through greater leadership roles in IRWA.*
- **2021 Annual Education Conference (June 6-9, 2021), San Antonio, TX**
- **Status of new Chapter Website** —*Sue Stevens, Betty Vandermause and Tiara McCray have been in close contact with our new Website Developer/Coordinator. Hopefully we will be able to “demo” this exciting development at our March meeting.*
- **Next Chapter meeting (Virtual) – THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH @ 11AM**

THAT’S IT FOR NOW. PLEASE . . . STAY SAFE! WE NEED YOU!

Best wishes, Mike

Cell: (410) 562-9133

CHAPTER 14 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

John (Mike) Jones, SR/WA
general2369@gmail.com

President-Elect

Jessica Brown, RWA
jbrown7984@gmail.com

Vice President

Joi Singh, Esq.
joisingh@gmail.com

Secretary

Brenda Fuller,
bfuller2@mdot.maryland.gov

Treasurer

Shaun McClain, SR/WA
shauncalvin19@aol.com

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Tiara McCray,
Tiara.McCray @ montgomerycountymd.gov

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING

MARCH General Membership

**VIRTUAL Meeting to be held on
Thursday, MARCH 18 at 11 am**

Please NOTE: All Chapter 14 members will receive the meeting agenda and log-in instructions in advance of the virtual meeting.

Topics to be discussed:

- CHAPTER GENERAL ELECTION
- REGION 4 FORUM & ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, April 15—Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, May 21 — General Meeting

REGION 4
SPRING
FORUM
APRIL 22-23,
2021
MD LIVE
HOTEL & CASINO
HANOVER, MD



We rolled the dice ,,,



But it wasn't in the
cards ...



COVID's HAND

SLATE OF OFFICERS

2021-2022

President-Elect—Joi Singh, Esquire

Vice President — Brenda Fuller

Secretary — Shaun McClain, SR/WA

Treasurer—Tiara McCray

Asst. Sec./Treasurer — OPEN

Nominations for All Positions

will be taken from the floor.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
THE UPCOMING REGION 4
VIRTUAL SPRING FORUM
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021
11 am—2 pm**

**Organized By Region 4 Chair, Ida Parrett, SR/WA
Board of Directors Updates
Annual Award Finalists
Diversity Task Force Update & More**

Meeting URL

https://bluejeans.com/879526219?src=join_info

Meeting ID
879 526 219

Dial one of the following numbers:
+1.408.419.1715
+1.408.915.6290

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CONVERSATION with SHAUN MCCLAIN, SR/WA



Shaun with wife, Crystal ... ice cream ... yummy!

Tell us about your Educational Background?

I received a Bachelor's Degree from a Christian University in Florida and am currently working on my MBA in Business Administration. I have also been a student of numerous ROW-related programs, including the IRWA's Credentialing program where I earned my Senior Right of Way Certification and prior to that I participated in a former Credentialing program from the University of Houston Downtown.

How did you get involved in the Right of Way Industry?

After graduating college, I managed a Retail Tire Shop/Garage but didn't find the work stimulating and was introduced to Right of Way work by two friends. They were excited about the future of their careers, and I was not. I knew I wasn't doing what I was built to do and was ready to make a change. I

began in the Right-of-Way industry with Contract Land Staff out of Houston, Texas, working on various linear projects, from feasibility studies on a 200-mile project to acquisition on replacement projects, to leading a team for the acquisition of over 27 miles of green pipeline for natural gas.

Last year, I started working with the US Corp of Engineers. In this position I work with Real Estate and Guidance for Hurricane Sandy Storm Damage Reduction Projects and several other military projects.

What attracted you to join the IRWA?

Before I even applied to work in the ROW field, I took a course with the IRWA and wanted to learn more. I've always enjoyed learning and was told early on that people without the SR/WA designation do not succeed in the business. Knowing the importance of obtaining the SR/WA designation would be a difference-maker in my career. All of the investment of time and money I spent to get my SR/WA, in my opinion, has paid dividends. With more confidence in my Right of Way knowledge, I was able to negotiate and gain a better starting salary for my current position. I truly believe it was the credentials and education that made the difference.

Why did you join Chapter 14?

I chose to join Chapter 14 to gain experience while I was working in the Maryland area. I stayed because of the people. Often when I have gone to other organizations, I felt awkward, but not here. (aside from the fact that I'm a little awkward....). Denise, Vanessa, Mike, and Debbie were some of the first to welcome me at a luncheon. Vanessa made room for me at her table multiple times and was interested in who I was. I value the relationships I've made and look forward to continuing to get to know others better.

My biggest highlight has been working with other Chapter members. I'm thankful for the "giants" of Chapter 14 who've been patient and help carry me as a newer member. I am also really excited to see our Chapter grow with all of the future rising stars in our midst.

Our conversation with Shaun McClain, SR/WA continues on Page 5

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ASSOCIATION NEWS ...



SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**June 6 – June 9, 2021
MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER**

67th Annual Education Conference

In Person & Virtual

Plans are in place for a safe, socially distanced annual conference with opportunities to learn, network, and engage with other ROW professionals. With your live registration, you also have virtual access and can earn a total of up to 48 hours of CE credits*!

For all the details visit
www.irwaonline.org/events

MONDAY NIGHT @ THE ESPEE

June 7, 2021, 6 to 10 PM

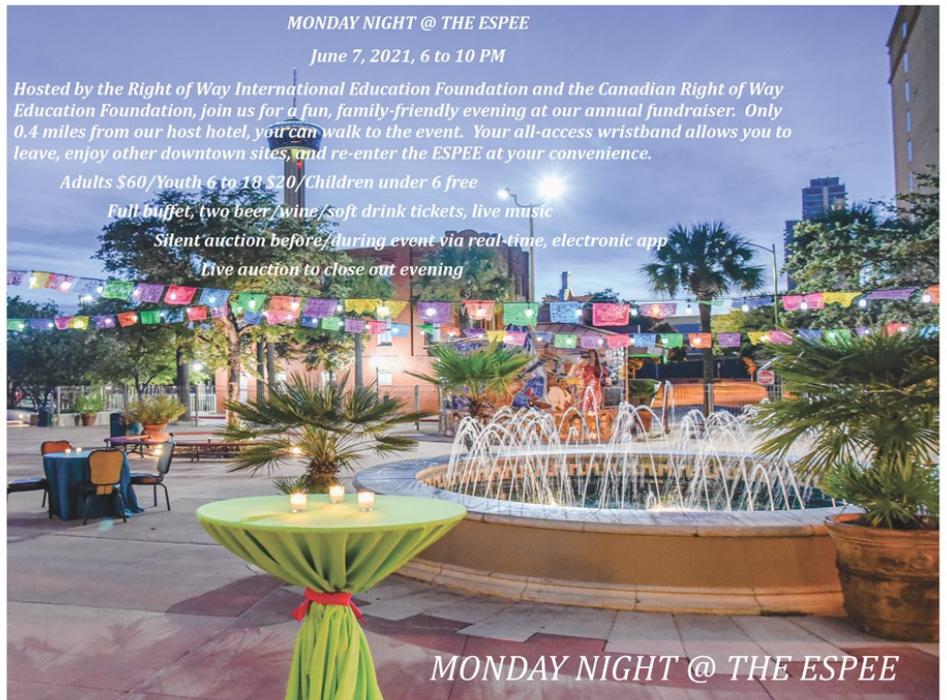
Hosted by the Right of Way International Education Foundation and the Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation, join us for a fun, family-friendly evening at our annual fundraiser. Only 0.4 miles from our host hotel, you can walk to the event. Your all-access wristband allows you to leave, enjoy other downtown sites, and re-enter the ESPEE at your convenience.

Adults \$60/Youth 6 to 18 \$20/Children under 6 free

Full buffet, two beer/wine/soft drink tickets, live music

Silent auction before/during event via real-time, electronic app

Live auction to close out evening



MONDAY NIGHT @ THE ESPEE

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Conversation with SHAUN MCCLAIN, SR/WA

(continued)

Now, tell us a little about your personal life and hobbies?

I married my college sweetheart, Crystal, in 2005, and we have four beautiful children -- daughters Micaiah - 14 & Bristol -6; and sons Calvin - 13 & Addison - 11. We love spending time together, playing board games, and enjoy the outdoors. Two of my favorite hobbies are road biking and recreational shooting of guns and bows with all my kids. Faith is an essential part of my life, and I am personally committed to Jesus Christ and his teachings.



Shaun McClain, SR/WA is the current Treasurer for Chapter 14 and a candidate for the office of Secretary. He currently works for the US Corp of Engineers as a Realty Specialist. Feel free to reach out to Shaun via email at shauncalvin19@aol.com.

PETS ON PARADE



*At this time, I'm not actively employed, so I am basically available "24/7" to communicate with you about "Anything IRWA or ROW". I mean it. Please contact me. I'm a "dog person" – and I'm going crazy sitting here every day with my wife and 2 cats! LOL..... Mike
Cell: (410) 562-9133
Email: general2369@gmail.com*



Looking for volunteers to be featured in future

Member Spotlight !!!

Contact Vanessa Ringgold

Newsletter Editor at

vringgold@dpsinc.name

Let's get to know one another!