

July 30, 2020



Greetings Fellow IRWA Members:

I hope this message finds you well. 2020 has been a very interesting year to say the least. I am honored to serve as your Chapter 7 IRWA President this year. Following is our 2020 - 2021 slate of officers:

President - Deborah Poeder (Land Matters)
President Elect - Gail Morton (Michiana Land Services)
Vice President - Henry Horton (ROWE Professional Services Co.)
Treasurer - Eric Wegner (Enbridge Energy)
Secretary - Rebecca Curtis (E-Title Agency)
Assistant Secretary / Treasurer - Jumana Judeh (Judeh & Associates)

I am proud to serve with each of these people. In addition, we have many other members on our Committees. We, as a Chapter, are professionals meeting the needs of the right-of-way industry. We, as individuals, need to continue to strive for and encourage high ethical standards in our profession and work together to achieve that goal. We need to be here for each other, hold each other up and help each other out in this somewhat crazy world.

Following is an excerpt from our Chapter's Code of Ethics and I would invite all of you to share in this goal this year: *To add to the knowledge of our profession by constant study and to share the lessons of our experience with our fellow members AND to strive to attain and to express a sincerity of character that shall enrich our human contacts, ever aiming toward that ideal - "The Practice of the Golden Rule."*

To add to the knowledge of our profession by constant study and to share the lessons of our experience with our fellow members. Our meetings and the learning, the social aspect, and the interaction with our fellow members will allow us to reach this goal. If you are willing to share and enrich our members, I challenge you to step up. Be involved. Join or lead a Committee. Join our Board. Be a speaker. There are many ways you can enrich our members.

The first step on our journey will be our kick-off event of the year, **our Fall Education Seminar on Mackinac Island, September 23 - 25, 2020.** We have worked very hard on this event. When we made plans for this last year, we had no idea there would be a pandemic or state of affairs such as we are in. Your Chapter 7 Board realizes this and we have had much discussion on how to handle this. We have been in close contact with Mission Point Resort and as of now everything is full steam ahead for our Education Conference the end of September. If anything changes, Mission Point will cancel and refund our money (and any room reservations) up to 48 hours prior to the event.

We have also decided to forego our usual registration fees in light of current situations and reduce the registration fee to **\$20.20 per member and per guest.** This will be the registration fee **UNTIL August 22.** After August 22, the registration fee will be \$100.00 for members and \$100.00 for guests. We are proud of our members, understand possibly difficult times personally and professionally, and hope that this will entice more members to attend. We need to *share the lessons of our experience with our fellow members* and in person meetings are the best way to do that.

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At the present time, we are working on a class for Wednesday. We hope to also offer a reduced rate as an incentive for this class.

All activities (which will include our Not So Silent Auction, meals, and a scavenger hunt) will be at Mission Point Resort. **Our block of rooms is available until August 22, 2020 so please make your reservation soon.** We have negotiated a room rate of \$199.00 per night but this expires on August 22. The Reservations Department can be reached directly at 800-833-7711. Guests are also able to reserve rooms directly on their website with this link: [International Right of Way Association](#) and you will be guided to book your rooms in the appropriate block.

We are closely watching the Governor's mandates so we can provide as much notice as possible if there are any schedule changes. Everyone's health and safety is our top priority. Here is a link to Mission Point's "MPR CARES for cleanliness" received from Mission Point in hopes you will feel safe about visiting. <https://www.missionpoint.com/health-and-safety> . With the most recent order, here is the word from Mission Point this morning (7/30/20): *The order specifies that banquet spaces must be at 25% occupancy or less...so that overrides the limit of 10 people gathering! We are so lucky to have A LOT of space at Mission Point and can move groups to larger spaces.*

In closing, we must all *strive to attain and to express a sincerity of character that shall enrich our human contacts, ever aiming toward that ideal - "The Practice of the Golden Rule."* We are a group, we are a team, and most importantly, we are all individuals with different views and opinions of politics and the current state of affairs. We must all respect each other and hold each other up during these times. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

I am honored to serve as your Chapter President and I will represent you well on a personal, chapter and region level. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other members of the Board with any questions, comments or concerns.

I look forward to seeing you on Mackinac Island in September.

Respectfully,

Deborah S. Poeder



IRWA Michigan Chapter 7 President

Deborah S. Poeder, President
Land Matters
11230 Tallmadge Woods Drive
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
(616)791-9805
dpoeder@landmattersllc.com