



CHAPTER BOARD MEETING MINUTES- November 8, 2023

At noon, the Microsoft Teams meeting was called to order on November 8, 2023, by Mark Anderson, President. Roll call was held, and there was a quorum. The following members were in attendance Pete Waldman, Adam Raad, Mark Anderson, Ashley Horton, Sarah Boggs, Victoria Bucher, Andrea Fatkin-Olden, Johathan Kasper, Mark Mendez, Florence Green, and Stephanie Gonzalez.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes for the board meeting on Oct 4, 2023, were presented to the board by email. Pete Waldman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Florence Green seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, the motion was passed, and the minutes were approved to be posted to the Chapter 26 website.

Treasurer Report: Adam Raad discussed the status of the Chapter's financials. The Chapter's reconciliation report to November 7th shows a statement balance of \$33,130.43. Last month had a loss of \$880.43. Top Golf event expenditure was \$1,200. Stephanie Gonzalez motioned to approve the reports, and Adam Raad seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and the motion was passed.

Chapter Business: The Chapter received an invitation from Region 6 to host the Region 6 Spring Forum. Florence, in possession of available dates for hotel reservation during the week of April 1st - 4th, obtained a quote for \$8,000. A meeting has been scheduled to delve into the details and explore the possibility of negotiating rates similar to those from the previous year, which currently stand at \$209 per night for room accommodations.

Additionally, Florence reached out to an instructor to teach Course 219, a prerequisite for becoming an IRWA instructor, in conjunction with the Spring Forum conference.

Mark proposed the establishment of a dedicated Spring Forum Committee and the creation of sponsorship levels for the conference. In the same vein, Florence introduced the concept of developing a year-round sponsorship package, adding a strategic and comprehensive dimension to the Chapter's sponsorship initiatives.

Social & Events Committee:

Holiday Event in Doral – Expressing concern, Sarah raised the issue of the event's scheduled start time at 5 pm, citing potential inconvenience due to heavy traffic during that period. After careful consideration, the decision was made to adjust the start time to 6 pm to address the concerns raised by Sarah and improve the overall experience for attendees.

11/20/2023- Holiday Event Meeting- Chapter's Special Committee convened for a Holiday Event Meeting to finalize the arrangements for the upcoming Holiday Party. Mark Mendez motioned the approval of the holiday event to be held in Doral, Florida, with a budget set at \$2,200 on December 14 at 6pm. Florence Green seconded the motion, and after unanimous approval from all members, the motion passed.

Subsequently, Mark Mendez motioned the addition of event fees: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, and complimentary attendance for sponsors. Adam seconded the motion, and with unanimous support from all members, the motion passed. Concluding the meeting, Mark Mendez motioned to adjourn, and Florence seconded the motion. The approval was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Nominations and Elections Committee: The committee plans to meet with Chapter 74 in January 2024 to gain some best practices to update our nominations and elections process.

Membership & Marketing Committee: Tabled for next meeting.

Professional Development Committee: Victoria Bucher SR/WA shared insights from her participation in last month's IRWA credentialing call. She highlighted two types of credentials: the SR/WA Designation and Specialty Designation. Currently, the SR/WA designation follows a single pathway comprising RWA, RWP, and SRWA designations. It's noteworthy that in the old program, there was an industry-specific pathway covering oil and gas, transportation, electric and utilities, and generalist disciplines, all leading to the SRWA designation. This pathway is being phased out, but individuals who began in the old program have the option to either continue on that pathway or switch to the new one. The new coursework now spans a total of 272 hours, a change made to embrace a more inclusive approach across all right-of-way disciplines. To pursue this credential, individuals must submit a declaration of candidacy form, available through Victoria or on the website under education, credentialing, and application forms.

The certification program offers various certifications, including appraisal, asset and property management, negotiation and acquisition, relocation assistance, Uniform Act, survey and engineering, and project management.

A notable update is the ability to file for up to a 6-month extension to recertify beyond the certification deadline, providing flexibility for individuals undergoing the certification process.

Education Committee: Tabled for next meeting.

Young Professional Committee: Researching Venues for Spring Region Symposium.

Website Committee: Tabled for next meeting.

Adjourn: After no other Chapter business, Mark Mendez motioned to adjourn, which Pete Waldman seconded. The motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Minutes drafted by:

Approved by:

Stephanie Gonzalez

Stephanie Gonzalez
IRWA Chapter 26 Secretary

Mark Anderson
IRWA Chapter 26 President