

RESTRUCTURING THE SR/WA PROGRAM

BY KRISTEN BENNETT, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, AND AMIR VAFAMANESH

Now, we are asking all IRWA members who are currently pursuing the RWA, RWP or SR/WA to select one of two options:

1. Stay on your current industry-specific pathway.

If you choose this option, you will be required to complete and submit a Declaration of Candidacy Form to your Chapter Professional Development Committee (PDC) chair by no later than Dec. 31, 2022, or you will automatically be placed into the new program.

No fee will be charged for this initial declaration of candidacy, and you will have five years from Dec. 31 to complete all the requirements in your industry-specific pathway.

If you think you cannot complete the requirements during your five-year candidacy period, we suggest you choose the second option.

2. Migrate to the new single SR/WA pathway.

If you choose this option, you will be required to complete and submit a Declaration of Candidacy Form to your Chapter PDC chair and pay a \$25 fee for the RWA and RWP and a \$50 fee for the SR/WA.

The Senior Right of Way (SR/WA) designation is the most prestigious and recognizable accomplishment in the right of way industry. The SR/WA program has significantly evolved over the years to meet the needs of IRWA's members. The International Professional Education Committee (IPEC) developed and sent an all-members survey last year to collect feedback on the current industry-specific pathways of the SR/WA program. The findings revealed the current program was no longer meeting our members' needs, and there was overwhelming support for a return to a single SR/WA pathway that will allow our members to acquire knowledge from several right of way disciplines as opposed to specializing in just one.

What has changed?

The IPEC has worked diligently with leaders across the Association to develop new coursework requirements that will better prepare our members for a diverse range of right of way experiences. The IRWA coursework requirements in all three levels (RWA, RWP and SR/WA) have been increased to 272 total credit hours to be more inclusive of all right of way disciplines and better equip our members for application in their professions.

All members pursuing the RWA, RWP or SR/WA will be required to complete a Declaration of Candidacy Form. This will allow IRWA to track what each candidate is working towards so that we can better assist them with their professional development needs.

What comes next?

There will be more information about the new program in your inbox and on the IRWA website in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please email us at SRWAQuestions@gmail.com.

In addition, the IPEC will be holding an informative session about the new SR/WA program in Cleveland, Ohio, at the 68th Annual International Education Conference, where we will address all your questions and share our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document that is in development.

We would like to thank our volunteers and staff who have put in countless hours to help revitalize the SR/WA Program. The IPEC is excited to share this new program with you and looks forward to continuing to work with leaders across the Association to ensure the SR/WA is the juggernaut it was created to be! 🙌



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