



THE CORRIDOR

International Right of Way Association
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Website: <http://www.irwanj.org/>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Colleagues:

We have entered a new year and a new economic era. The stock market stumbles, our pensions and 401K accounts shake, our houses are worth a bit less and layoffs are the talk of the day.

How does the IRWA fit into this picture? We are an association of professionals. That means that we share in the success of each other's careers. That can be a powerful bulwark in turbulent times.

To be successful in tough times means doing more than just a good job. We must find ways to stand out from the pack and seek added value for our employer, especially if we are self employed.

Attending chapter meetings allows us to stay on top of trends and to network with colleagues.

Another way to stand out from the crowd is by serving as a chapter officer. Active involvement in your chosen field demonstrates leadership and provides a positive image to any current or future employer. Read on to see what being an officer entails.

Investing time in your career pays dividends. But equally as important is investing in your life. Being a well rounded person helps you to weather the jolts. Take a course, attend a meeting, volunteer in your community, turn off that computer and/or televisions and participate in life. Like exercise, you will feel better afterwards.

And for our retirees, now that you have some free time, you will find a warm welcome and a sense of fulfillment by remaining involved and helping those of us still in the trenches.

Have a prosperous, healthy and fulfilling 2009.

Dave

Chapter Meetings

February 11, 2009 Digital Age Surveying. Bruce Blair will be our speaker. Bruce is a long time active member of our chapter and a past president. He brings a wide variety of skills to the right of way field. It is great to have our members share their expertise at our meetings. Meetings are a great place to find solutions to right of way problems and provide a chance to network on a regional level.

February Meeting Announcement:

http://www.irwanj.org/2-11-09_Mark_Your_Calendars.pdf

April 9 & 10 2009 Spring Forum

Chapter 15 hosts the 2009 Spring Regional forum at the Sheraton Conference Center in Atlantic City. Regional forums are held in the spring and the fall and typically have a course, followed by the regional business meeting and normally a trip on the final day.

April 9th Course 213, Conflict Management. Afterwards, Chapter will host forum reception.

April 10th Region business meeting, plus a Chapter lunch meeting with speakers discussing the incredibly difficult challenge of balancing competing environmental and right of way issues found in the rehabilitation of the I76, Route 42 and I 295 interchange.

Chapter 15 Members may sign up for any of the following events during the forum:

1. Course 213 4/9/09. \$265 (Does not include forum)
2. Forum meeting: 4/9/09 – 4/10/09 Fee \$160 (Does not include course)
4/9/09 Forum evening reception at Sheraton
4/10/09 Forum meeting with continental breakfast and lunch at Sheraton followed by dinner at Angelo's an Atlantic City favorite.
3. Chapter members may sign up just for the 4/10/09 Chapter lunch meeting. \$25*

*Details regarding the chapter lunch meeting will follow shortly.

To sign up for the Forum or Course 213, visit: <http://www.irwanj.org/forum.htm>

May 20, 2009 September 16, 2009

November 4, 2009 December 9, 2009

Locations and programs for these meetings will be posted later.

Previous Meeting: December 10, 2008. Our meeting was held at Caffe Aldo Lamberti. Attendance was a little less than last year, but still a pleasant crowd. We were serenaded by the same Barbershop quartet group who joined us last year. Along with that fine performance, we were treated to a violin solo. Door prizes were also provided. .

During the meeting, Dave Kook honored Kristina Hofmann for her years of generosity in time and contributions to our giveaways and door prizes by presenting her with an antique Swedish language hymnal. Sad to say Kris did not favor us with any numbers from the hymnal.

Chapter News

Chapter 15's Bob RaVell is proving once again that we have some smart people in our Chapter. Bob has received his R/W-NAC Certificate. Congratulations.

Retirees

ATTENTION Potential Retiree: You can convert from a regular member to a retired member of IRWA. Membership dues for retirees are very inexpensive. Sticking with us is a good way of keeping your mind sharp, and staying in touch with your friends. So stay a member, and don't forget to let us know your new (non company) email and mailing addresses.

New Articles

As newsletter editor, I try hard to find something that will be of interest to our readers. As much as I may enjoy the sound of my own words, I need to hear from you so that this newsletter can truly serve as a means of keeping in touch with each other.

- A. What is new in your field?
- B. What is new at your office?
- C. New ideas, concepts in the field?
- D. New family members?

You don't have to submit a full blown article, even an idea would be a great help in making our newsletter better. To contribute please visit <http://www.irwanj.org/newsletter.htm>

The Now Habit

The Now Habit, written by Neil Fiore is an interesting book that may be worth a look. Procrastination causes us to spend a great deal of time doing things, but because of the interruptions and distractions in life we wind up taking longer to get things done than is really necessary. As a first step in addressing this issue, the author recommends using the Unschedule shown on the next page to record blocks of time spent actually engaged (more than 15 minutes) in a project or activity. It is scary to see how much time is spent "working" but not focused on a topic, resulting in not finishing any of them. Of course computer and TV time also show up here too.

The author advises us to avoid looking at projects as whole things to do at one sitting. Rather, divide projects into 15 minute segments of focused attention to whittle away at a project and help to defeat procrastination. This book helps in learning to deal with projects in meaningful smaller doses. In the end, a project will take less time to do if done in smaller manageable segments than if we allow procrastination to lead us in fits and starts. Perhaps the African proverb is correct, it is impossible to eat an elephant in a single bite. Broken down into its component pieces, even an elephant of a project becomes possible to finish.

Blank Un-schedule

Print out this page and use it to help you integrate the habits of a producer into your life.

The Now Habit Unschedule

Hours	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6-7 A.M.							
7-8							
8-9							
9-10							
10-11							
11-12							
12-1 P.M.							
1-2							
2-3							
3-4							
4-5							
5-6							
6-7							
7-8							
8-9							
9-10							
10-11							
11-12							
12-1 A.M.							
1-2							
2-3							
3-4							
4-5							
5-6							
Work							
Subtotals							
Total							

from The Now Habit by Neil Fiore, Ph.D. (1989, Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc.)

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To see the Unschedule in use, visit <http://www.neilfiore.com/nowhabit.shtml>

Funnies and Thoughts

From NY Times December 1, 2008 OP-ART

A Stitch in Time Proverbs from around the world for these trying financial times.

By BEN SCHOTT author of "Schott's Miscellany 2009"

A penny saved and a penny got, Tis money makes the old mare trot.

We leap into debt, but crawl out.

If a wealthy man steals, they say he forgot If a poor man forgets, they say he stole.

More credit may be thrown down in a moment than can be built in an age.

A castle is dear at a penny if you have it not.

Want to wish your guests bon appétit in a different language. Visit

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/bonappetit.htm>

The Other Side

I work at a store manned by grumpy old men. One day, a ray of light showed up in the form of a cheerful young customer. She was chatty and charming and left the store gushing. "How lucky we are to be alive!" she announced before the door closed.

"Wow! She was certainly jovial," I remarked to a coworker.

"Yeah," he agreed. "I didn't like her either." -- Duane Boeve

Judging a Book

Scene: the bookstore where I work.

Dramatis personae: a father and his son.

Son: "Dad, does it really tell you how?"

Father: "How to what, son?"

Son: "How to kill a mockingbird?"

-- Theresa Fine-Pawsey

Instant Mother

You can't blame the woman for being upset. After all, she was delivering her baby in our hospital elevator.

"This is nothing," said my fellow nurse, trying to console the new mother. "Last year a friend of mine helped a woman deliver her baby on the front lawn of the hospital."

The patient began to wail. "That was me!"

-- Stephanie Niederberger

Falling Into It

When my mother hit her head at work, she suffered a nasty gash and bled all over her blouse. It was bad enough that the hospital gave her a donated T-shirt. Imagine my surprise, then, when I got to the ER and found the woman who raised me with two black eyes and stitches on her forehead wearing a T-shirt that read "I Survived the Grand Rapids Pub Crawl."

Participate in Chapter 15

We need your help to continue to grow and develop as a Chapter,
below are some ways in which you can make a difference.

Need	Action
Helping out at Meetings	Greet members, collect fees, take attendance, assist with set up of Spring Forum.
Serving as an officer	<p>Vote on issues, assist in setting up meetings, additional duties are shown at this link: http://www.irwanj.org/Officer_Duties.pdf</p> <p style="text-align: center;">While the duties can seem very involved, all of the officers chip in to ensure that it is a fun and rewarding experience.</p>
Sponsorship of Chapter 15 2009 Spring Forum	<p>Cash or in kind donation to the Chapter to sponsor an event or meal at the forum.</p> <p>See our sponsorship brochure: http://www.irwanj.org/sponsor.pdf</p> <p>In kind donations can include gifts for welcome packets.</p> <p>Donations help to defray the cost for those who don't receive reimbursements, and are a good way to advertise services.</p>
Donations for Silent Auction at 2009 Spring Forum in Atlantic City April 2009	<p style="text-align: center;">Some ideas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gift Certificates (national) Unique Hunting and Fishing items Items to eat or drink. Art work may not sell well. Women's jewelry Electronics if cutting edge (say a Wii).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Items should be new, unless collectibles such as coins. If you wouldn't buy it, probably no one else will either.</p>

If you would like to suggest a meeting locations or potential topics or speakers, please visit our survey page.

<http://fs2.formsite.com/httpwwwirwanjorg/form728441604/index.html>