



Las Vegas Chapter 44

The Acquirer

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Lisa Luptowitz
Senior Environmental Planner
Southern Nevada Water Authority

Date: Wednesday, March 21st
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Place: Palace Station

*Networking begins at 11:30 a.m.

Lisa Luptowitz is a senior environmental planner for the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Some of her responsibilities include environmental compliance for in-state water resource projects.

Lisa joined the Authority in 2000 and previously spent nine years as an environmental compliance consultant.

She has received both her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in geological sciences from the University of California, Riverside.

Her hobbies include hiking and traveling. Lisa has resided in Las Vegas since 1995.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Email your reservations to Julia Mallett, Nevada Power at jmallett@nevp.com by March 19th, no later than 10:00 am to insure seating.

The purpose of the International Right of Way Association is to serve its members in developing and promoting programs and services that will enhance the members freedom and ability to conduct their individual businesses successfully with integrity, competency, and through collective action to promote and preserve the Right-of Way Profession.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Bob Tyre
PBS & J
2270 Corporate Circle #100
Henderson, NV 89074
(702) 263-8635
btyre@pbsj.com

President-Elect

Dee Ann Kirk
Nevada Power
6226 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89151-0001
(702) 227-2419
dkirk@nevp.com

Secretary

Glendyne Maddox
PBS&J
2270 Corporate Circle, #100
Henderson, NV 89074
(702) 232-3151
gmaddox@pbsj.com

Treasurer

Brian Podmenik
City of Henderson
240 Water St.
Henderson, NV 89009
(702) 267-1319
Brian.Podmenik@cityofhenderson.com

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General IRWA Information

Internet Address:

www.IRWAonline.org

Membership Applications:

For membership applications or information, please contact the Membership Chair, Joe Freeman, SR/WA at 822-8566, joseph.freeman@lvvwd.com

Notice Policy:

Free notice may be placed in the newsletter subject to the following conditions:

*Notices must benefit members and may include job or meeting announcements or any IRWA related information.

*All notices will be subject to the editor's discretion on content and length.

Committee Chairs

International Membership Committee & Transportation Committee Member

LoAnn Weight, SR/WA, 878-8384

Utilities Johnny Vaught, SR/WA, 222-4034
jvaught8@cox.net

International Pipeline Committee

Jim Dufault, james.dufault@swgas.com, 365-2097

Ethics Yolanda Benito, RW/NAC 227-2420
ybenito@nevpc.com

Committees

By-Laws LoAnn Weight, SR/WA; Jim Dufault, SR/WA

Newsletter Editor Susie Chavarria 335-2045
Assistant Editor Johnny Vaught,

Budget Brian Podmenik, LoAnn Weight, Jim Dufault

Newsletter Publisher LandAmerica Lawyers Title
c/o Susie Chavarria

Membership Joseph Freeman, SR/WA, 822-8566,
joseph.freeman@lvvwd.com

Assistant Publisher Nevada Power C/O Rich
Carlson; Lisa Corbett, SR/WA

Education Sue Mulanax, SR/WA, 822-8549 lvgrl@lvcm.com

Pipeline Jim Dufault, 365-2097
james.dufault@swgas.com

Valuation Frank Virtue, 562-3371, agvirtue@aol.com

Planning Frank Virtue

Transportation LoAnn Weight, SR/WA

2007 CHAPTER 44 IRWA COURSES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>	<u>C.C.</u>
Jan 16 - 17	200 Principles of Real Estate Negotiation	B. Francy	L. Weight
Jan 18 - 19	400 Principles of Real Estate Appraisal	J. Finnegan	S. Mulanax
Mar 15 - 16	803 Eminent Domain Law Basics for the R/W Prof.		D. Kirk
May 17	901 Engineering Plan Development & Application		B. Tyre
May 18	104 Standards of Practice for the R/W Prof.		B. Tyre
Sept 13 - 14	205 Bargaining Negotiation		R. Carlson

*A more complete listing will follow in an upcoming issue and will include instructor information.

UPCOMING REGION 1 COURSES

March 15th

Chapter 44— **803** Eminent Domain Law
Basics for the Right of Way Professionals
Las Vegas, NV

March 19th

Chapter 73—**215** Right of Way Agents
Development Program
Tucson, AZ

March 21st

Chapter 2—**602** Project Development and the
Environmental Process
Martinez, CA

March 21st

Chapter 73—**214** Skills of Expert Testimony
Tucson, AZ

March 23rd

Chapter 67—**103** Ethics and the R/W Profession
Laguna Beach, CA

President's Message



We had another great turnout for our February meeting. Gayle Smith from BLM gave a very informative talk on the Upper Las Vegas Wash. This month we have the Region I Spring forum at Laguna. I have provided Susie a copy of our Chapter report to be included in this month's Acquirer that I will be presenting at the Forum. This is in keeping with my promise to keep everyone as informed as possible. I do believe information is power. The Board of Directors at it's last meeting voted to now publish the Board Meetings in the Acquirer again to keep everyone informed. I believe the better we communicate between ourselves the better we will understand the why and how of our operations and it will strengthen us as a Chapter. It will also open the door to better participation which is always needed.

We are nominating LoAnn Weight as Region I Professional of the Year. When I see what she has done for the Chapter it is just unbelievable that one person has accomplished so much. We wish her the very best in the competition.

I just ask that everyone keep promoting our classes and please keep up your participation in the Chapter. Our balance sheet is improving and we have the momentum to have another very good year. See you at our next monthly lunch-meeting.

Thank you,

Bob

Torrential rainstorms were knocking down power lines all over town. That meant, as a customer service rep for the electric company, I was dispatching repairmen right and left.

When one lineman called a customer to get her exact address, he was told, "I'm at Post Office Box 99." The weary lineman replied, "Ma'am, I'll be coming to you in a truck, not an envelope."

Lisa C. Corbett, SR/WA, R/W-EC, R/W-NAC

Senior Right of Way Agent/BLM Liaison

IRWA CHAPTER 44
BOARD MEETINGS MINUTES
February 14, 2007

Attendance:

Bob Tyre	Jim Dufault
Glendyne Maddox	Dee Ann Kirk
LoAnn Weight	Diane Fitch
Susie Chavarria	Johnny Vaught
Lisa Corbett	Tracy
Brian Podmenik	Tom Drescher

Meeting was opened by Bob Tyre.

Treasurer's report

There was no discussion regarding the report.

Motion

Jim Dufault made the motion to accept the Treasurers report as is.
Lisa Corbett 2nd

Motion carried.

Secretary's Minutes of January 11, 2007 meeting

Minutes were reviewed by all members with no changes needed.

Motion

Jim Dufault made the motion to accept the minutes.
Dee Ann Kirk 2nd

Motion carried.

Luncheon – Sodas

The issue of having sodas at the luncheon has come up again: Bob stated that the sodas are costing \$1.00 per person. Although the Board has already approved that sodas be included he would like to know if it should be reopened for discussion.

The discussion was opened with the following concerns and comments:

It is not certain how many members actually drink the sodas at lunch and it was noted that some members were taking soda when they left. It was suggested that Lisa could talk with Palace Station and see what the number of sodas is that is left at the end of the luncheon. Another suggestion is to ask members if they drink the sodas or not.

Continued on Page 6

It was noted that Palace Station did not raise the cost of the luncheons with this year's contract and the contract included sodas and a buffet.

It was felt that if sodas were removed that the justification should be announced at the luncheon explaining why.

Since the Board already approved the contract with Palace Station to include the sodas it is felt that this issue should be put to rest and discussed at the end of the year before the next year contract is signed.

Motion

Jim Dufault made the motion not to address the issue with Palace station at this time but to address before the next contract is signed.

Lisa Corbett 2nd

Motion carried.

Meeting Room

There are concerns regarding the luncheon being in Sound Trax room. There are problems with the lighting, sound, etc not being favorable for the speaker and members. In the past the luncheons were scheduled sometimes upstairs, Sound Trax and at the Pasta Palace. Because of conflicts with other groups meeting upstairs and needing the rooms the IRWA luncheon would end up at Sound Trax.

Comments:

Jim Dufault stated that the "APWA" use to hold their luncheons at Palace Station but because they could not get a commitment for one room upstairs the APWA decided to move to a different location and have been disappointed with that decision.

It is felt that Palace Station is the most convenient location for everyone and we should try and work something out. It was also mentioned that it would be an advantage to have one room where everyone knows where to go. Too many times members would go up stairs only to be told to go back down to Sound Trax.

Suggestions were that we talk to Palace Station to see what they can do with Sound Trax to assist with the speakers and our members' needs. There is a person that comes in to adjust the micro phone and he could adjust lighting if needed. It might be possible to have the podium moved to the floor. We need to let Palace Station know what we want. Also maybe Palace Station could check the schedule for the meetings rooms where we can notify members where the luncheon will be.

Dee Ann said that NPC has easels that she could provide if needed.

LoAnn Weight made a motion for someone to meet and talk with Palace Station about the issues.

Brian Podmenik 2nd

More discussion:

It was felt that a motion to talk to someone was not needed: we need to be consistent with where the luncheon is held. Question as to what the occupancy was at the Sound Trax; and it is 300 plus, and we would not exceed that number.

Continued on Page 7

It was suggested that Lisa talk to Palace Station. LoAnn also wanted to be involved in talking to them.

It was decided that Lisa Corbett, LoAnn Weight and Brian Podmenik will set up a meeting with Palace Station to discuss the issues. It was also brought up that maybe Palace Station could look into when the job fair is scheduled as that presents us with a major parking problem.

Speakers Gifts

The order for the portfolios for speakers gifts need to go in as soon as possible. Lisa got permission to add the IRWA logo and Chapter 44 will be underneath the logo. It was suggested that possibly Southern Nevada could be added but it was decided not to include that. The Board discussed how many we should order with the idea of selling portfolios to members. It was decided to order 24, do a test run to see how many members are interested in purchasing and if enough respond, we can order additional portfolios.

Motion

Jim Dufault made the motion to order 24 portfolios
Brian Podmenik 2nd

Motion carried.

Course Coupon

Brian brought up the concern about verifying the requirements for the use of coupons. It should be the responsibility of the member to provide proof that they have attended three luncheons and the receipt of payment for class or membership dues.

Discussion on what the best way to promote this was for the members to hand in luncheon receipts along with receipt of payments. It was felt that the best way to handle this was by revising the coupon to state what the requirements are and that they have met the requirements along with submitting receipts of payment.

Motion

Jim Dufault made the motion to revise the coupon to reflect that the member has attended 3 meeting during the year, been a member in good standing of IRWA and have attached the receipt of payment of class.
Johnny Vaught 2nd

Motion carried.

Employer of the Year International

PBSJ is submitting to International an application for employer of the year. PBS&J would like the Board to send a letter supporting PBS&J as employer of the year. Bob had typed up a letter and asked the Board to read the letter and discuss if this is something they should do.

It was mentioned that PBS&J along with NPC was awarded the employer of the year award and no one saw any reason why we could not endorse this award. Also that PBS&J has been employer of the year two years in a row.

Any Chapter can recommend an employer to International and they can get the forms online. The idea that maybe our Chapter should submit the Employer of the Year Award every year was also mentioned.

Continued on Page 8

Bob wanted everyone to know that this letter was an attachment to the application and wanted the Boards input.

Motion

Lou Ann Weight made the motion to endorse the letter supporting PBS&J application for International Employer of the Year.

Jim Dufault 2nd

Motion carried.

PDC

Diane has submitted a report and reported that Cindy Skromak's SR/WA application has been accepted.

Diane is trying to get a list of candidates that have received their SR/WA designation from Francis at International but Francis is telling her he does not have that list. If Diane doesn't get a list from them, she will send out an email to our members asking who has received their designation.

Diane also wants to contact those working toward getting their SR/WA designations and see what type of support and classes they need to succeed.

Spring Forum

Our Chapter has been asked if we wanted to nominate a Professional of the Year.

Motion

Jim Dufault made the motion to nominate LoAnn Weight for Professional of the Year.

Dee Ann Kirk 2nd.

Motion carried.

Pipeline Committee

Jim Dufault asked the Board if the Chapter would donate \$100.00 to the Pipeline Committee. This was done last year and each Chapter in the Region has donated except our Chapter.

After discussion regarding how no other committees ask for donations and we should not donate. On the other hand, we donated last year and have it within our budget to make donations that we should go ahead.

Motion

Dee Ann made the motion to donate the \$100.00 to the Pipeline Committee.

Lisa Corbett 2nd

Motion carried with majority vote, 1 opposed

By-Law Committee

Tom Drescher said the proposed changes to the By-Laws were sent to Steve, General Consul at International for review. Tom will let the Board know what International says about the changes made.

Meeting adjourned.

Spring Forum Report
Chapter 44
March 24, 2007

Strengths: Our chapter has very active members. We enjoy participation from both older and younger members which gives us that nucleus of experienced leaders of all ages. We have great talent and people who are willing to step up to the plate and deliver. We are working together effectively to make the Chapter even better. We have a very strong and active Board of Directors. Our Officers are experienced and have diverse leadership experience.

Weaknesses: I feel you would have to look long and hard to find any weaknesses. Some of our members are overloaded with work which does not permit them the time to devote to Chapter functions that they would like. Unfortunately, this is just an inherent situation in our profession. Las Vegas is still growing at a rapid rate and this is taxing to our members to over perform.

Opportunities: We still have opportunities to obtain membership from some of the organizations that do not support the Chapter at this time, and I am glad to say we are getting participation from more organizations each year. They are impressed by our educational opportunities

Threats: While rapidly expanding technology increases productivity, it may also take away the personal touch and the face-to-face meetings which we need in our profession.

General Condition of Chapter: The condition of The chapter is robust and energetic and we are working to strengthen our treasury. We are promoting as many classes as we can sponsor profitably.

submitted by
Bob Tyre
Chapter President

**INTERNATIONAL PIPELINE COMMITTEE WINTER MEETING
SAN DIEGO, CA., JANUARY 18, 2007**

The meeting was held at the Hilton in San Diego, Ca. and was well attended by all region representatives and pipeline committee members. There were three speakers that gave an excellent presentation along with the various committee reports. The following is a brief summary of those speakers' topics and committee reports.

International News and Information

McDaniel gave a brief overview of the upcoming IRWA annual conference to be held in Sacramento, California with Region 1, Chapter 27 being the sponsor of the conference.

Education Symposium

The annual Federal Agency update is now part of the public real estate symposium to be held in Dallas, TX. February 13-15 2007. It's jointly sponsored by the IRWA and FHW. The pipeline committee has been asked to support the program with suggested speakers and topics.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Tribal lands report: The issues are still in committee and looking for input from members. Some of the major issues coming up are the lease agreements for the 800 plus miles of 500kv power line across Indian lands. There is a one year lease agreement for one million dollars with option for a 20 year lease for 440 million dollars. THIS IS A BIG ISSUE and could affect leases on tribal lands that are up for renewal. I have attached an article from the Houston Chronicle written last year that really sums up the issues.

Permit workshop: The permit workshop was conducted in Louisiana and was well-attended. There are plans to establish an IRWA permitting course to be offered to all members

Other committee's reports were brief with ongoing activities. See agenda for various committees' topics.

There were three excellent presentations that were somewhat related. The first presentation was given by Steve Jespen and Armen Keochekian with Dudek on "What effects does the environment have on your easements?". There were good examples of how law changes and your easements are not exempt from any new endangered plants or species that may spring up on them. (Hand-out available).

The second presentation was given by Jerry Reed with the San Diego County Water Authority on replacements of large water lines within existing easements. He discussed the permitting issues with the various government agencies and dealing with property owners who had no clue their backyards were part of a 100' waterline easement. He had to also deal with a variety of environmental issues as well. (Sorry, there were no papers or handout available).

The third presentation was on Trenchless Technology given by Steve Deering with Dudek. Trenchless technology is catching on due to right of way and environmental issues especially on large diameter pipes or bundling many small ones together. Cost of micro tunneling range from \$150 to \$300 dollars per foot but is still cost affective when compared to other alternatives that require large excavations. (No hand out available).

Jim Dufault
International Pipeline Committee Chair

\$200 Member dues/Education Coupon Redemption Rules:

Member Eligibility:

Each dues-paying member-in-good-standing of Chapter 44 as of July 1 of any year, who has been a paid member for no less than one (1) year, and who has attended at least three (3) Chapter monthly luncheons within a calendar year (January 1 to December 31) is eligible to redeem one (1) dues/education coupon in the upcoming "Coupon Year". The "Coupon Year" runs from January 1 to December 31 (i.e. this year it would be from 1/1/07 to 12/31/07). Attendance of the required number of luncheons is determined using the luncheon RSVP/attendance sheets. Due to yearly monetary limits (necessary to keep Chapter treasury solvent), redemption of coupon by eligible members is on a first come first serve basis.

Monetary Value of Coupon:

The monetary value of the education coupon is currently set at \$200.00, but is subject to change by the Chapter 44 Executive Board. The calendar year (January 1 to December 31) limit is currently set at \$4,800. Any change in the amount of the coupon or the yearly limit will be communicated to the membership at the next monthly member luncheon and via the Chapter newsletter.

Qualified Expenses:

The eligible member may "redeem" the coupon as reimbursement from the Chapter for the following IRWA expenses only:

- Dues: The member may redeem the coupon for reimbursement or partial reimbursement of annual dues remitted to IRWA International Headquarters within the "Coupon Year," not to exceed the maximum monetary value of the coupon set by the Executive Board or the total of dues paid, whichever is less.
- Education: The member may redeem the coupon for reimbursement or partial reimbursement of tuition fees for any approved IRWA course sponsored/coordinated by Chapter 44 that the member attended during the "Coupon Timeframe," not to exceed the maximum coupon monetary value set by the Executive Board.

Non-Qualified Expenses:

The coupon may not be redeemed for reimbursement for membership application fees, travel or transportation expenses, lodging, optional training books or materials, membership dues in any other organization, non-IRWA courses, professional certifications, donations, or any other expense not specifically stated as qualified, above. Coupons may not be transferred to any other member or non-member.

Redemption Requirements:

- Prior to redemption, the member must pay for the IRWA education course (or remit annual dues) in the "Coupon Year" to be claimed for redemption. The member will provide the Chapter 44 Treasurer with an original receipt for the course fee (or for dues, a legible facsimile copy of the new membership card or dues receipt). The Treasurer will then provide the member a check, up to the total amount of the course, (or dues) or the maximum coupon amount set by the Executive Board, whichever is less. In the event of any disagreement or question of eligibility of the member or qualification of the expense, the matter will be referred to the Executive Board for final decision.
- No payment to members may be made in advance of payment of the qualified expense by the member.
- Members may not personally receive coupon reimbursement for education or dues expenses paid by an employer on the member's behalf. The reimbursement, if requested, must meet all the requirements above, including eligibility of the requesting member, and the reimbursement check will be made payable to the employer. Employers may not request reimbursement; all requests must be made by the eligible member, on the employer's behalf.

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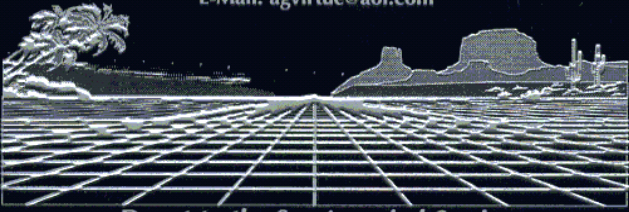
Jim Sallee, SR/WA
Right-of-Way Consultant
1808 Battle Born Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89128
jlsallee@aol.com

TEL: (702) 242-4783 FAX: (702) 242-4783
Acquisition, Relocation & Project Administration Consultants

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SIDETRACKS

Joe Liebhauser, SR/WA

You can learn amazing things at Chapter 44 meetings. At a recent meeting, the subject of driving to Reno came up. Only three of us at our table had ever driven from Las Vegas to Reno. How can that be? How can you call yourself a Nevadan?!

I love the drive. I have no idea how many times I've driven it. Highway 95 is the real deal. It's the no-frills corridor from Reno to Las Vegas...or maybe from Las Vegas to Reno...depending on perspective.

Route 66 down south in Arizona is the Mother Road. So is old 95 at least be an Aunt Road? Highway 50 may be the 'Lonesomest Highway.' But I think 95 is the Real Deal Highway. If you have to drive between Reno and Vegas, that's the one way.

I first drove it from north to south, so I still always think of the route that way.

It was in the early 1970s when Nevada still had a 'basic' speed law in the rural areas. There was no posted speed limit - drive as fast as you want. If you messed up and rolled over or encountered a stray cow, the assumption of the State Trooper was that you had violated the basic speed law, and were driving too fast for conditions. Otherwise, it was all good.

My old 1966 Dodge Dart was, sadly, not the sort of car able to take full advantage of the opportunity. In high gear, gas pedal smashed to the firewall, I was barely able to get it up to 95 MPH on the downhill straightaway south of Goldfield Summit.

Up on the north end, there are various options to get you from Reno to 95. All have their advantages. I guess you need to make the drive at least three or four times to try them all!

Regardless, it is a R/W educational field trip. You will see a piece of the Interstate system, one of the greatest R/W endeavors in the country. You will also see part of the original Transcontinental Railroad R/W. Is there a more important R/W in America?

You have to pass under the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's big two-conductor 1000kV DC transmission line R/W that runs from the Columbia River to LA, one of only a few such lines in the world; an engineering marvel.

The remaining railroad track stops at Hawthorne now. Only a few years ago it went all the way to Mina, which is just past Luning. I always love driving through Luning and Mina around Christmas time. There are always cheerful decorations clinging desperately to the street light poles as the icy, 30-knot winds blow through the empty streets.

Mina was established as a result of acquisition negotiations. The railroad wanted to build several miles south, but the land had been taken up by a profiteer who was asking an inflated price. So, it was engineered around, and Mina was born.

Then you reach Tonopah; I lived there for two years. The Queen of the Silver Camps. I loved it. I didn't love the horizontal snow storms and 40 knot winds, but the 100 mile views were awesome! The Station House is now owned by Las Vegas auto dealer Jim Marsh (he sold me a pickup in 1978). It has a great Friday evening prime rib special.

My grandmother and great aunt both lived in Tonopah during the heyday of the early 1900s. I remember her recalling her not-so-fond memories of the train ride from San Francisco in 1912. She would have preferred the 66 Dodge Dart, even if it doesn't have air conditioning.

Along this stretch of 95, there are still some remnant pieces of the old Nevada Bell open-wire telephone line R/W that was built to connect the military bases at Hawthorne and Tonopah with the main lines in Vegas and Reno. It will all be gone soon. But the cute little brick amplifier buildings located along the way are being reused as fiber optic regeneration stations.

Remember to check your fuel in Tonopah. Sometimes there *may* be a gas station open in Goldfield, but plan on Beatty as the next watering hole and restroom break.

If you are opposed to nuclear waste, be warned that south of Beatty you will pass the existing low-level dump site operated by a private firm. Bet you didn't know that has been there over 40 years!

For some reason, there seems to be an attempt to change the name of Lathrop Wells to Amargosa Valley. I'm not buying. As you pass Mercury, remember, it and the Nevada Test Site behind it are secret and not really there, so don't tell anyone.

The last time I drove the 66 Dart on this trip was about 1999. Unleaded gas had finally fried the valves, and I limped home sputtering and smoking. I was going slow as I topped the hill and started down into smoggy, crowded Las Vegas, so I had plenty of time to enjoy the view.

The valves have long-since been ground, but the steering is sloppy and needs new parts. But it will make the trip up 95 again someday. It's the real deal. My honest, sincere advice is, make the trip at least once. Real Nevadans drive between Reno and Vegas! Claim your legacy.



Editor
Susie Chavarria 335-2045
2450 St. Rose Pkwy #150
Henderson, NV 89074
Email: schavarria@landam.com

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IRWA Chapter 44 Education Coupon



\$200.00

I hereby attest that I am a member in good standing and have been a paid member for no less than one year. I have also attended at least three Chapter monthly luncheons within a calendar year (January 1 to December 31).

Signature

Date

Return to Chapter Treasurer w/receipt(s)

Print Name: _____

Course Name/Dues: _____

Amount Used: _____