



CHAPTER REPORT FORM
FALL FORUM SACRAMENTO CA
OCTOBER 2, 2010

CHAPTER NO. / CHAPTER NAME / LOCATION

IRWA Chapter 42 - San Jose

CHAPTER INITIATIVES / SEMINARS / PROJECTS

Chapter 42 planned on offering the following courses for 2010:

- Course C400 in April 2010 - Complete
- Course C201 in September 2010 – Cancelled due to lack of enrollment
- Course C203 in October 2010 – Pending
- Course C213 in October 2010 – Now offered On-line possible impact on attendance
- Course C403 in November 2010 - Now offered On-line possible impact on attendance
- Course C407 in October 2010 - Pending

In addition to sponsoring the courses above, we held a joint workshop with representatives of the Appraisal Institute on litigation appraisal and expert witness testimony in May 2010.

CHAPTER GOALS FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

Chapter 42 has been focusing on sponsoring a minimum of four courses per calendar year for the past three years but has faced major challenges in terms of attracting enough attendees to make the course cost effective. We believe the primary reason for this difficulty is due to the extreme budget constraints that are currently placed on public and private organizations. In addition, we are now facing new challenges in the area of Chapter sponsored courses due to the strategic decision by International to offer on-line courses at a lower rate. We believe that this decision will severely impact the number of opportunities for Chapter's to sponsor courses as a source of revenue generation.

As an alternative to an IRWA course, Chapter 42 is continuing to attempt to organize one day and half day seminars and workshops on right of way related topics. While this strategy doesn't help region members in attaining certification it does provide the opportunity to present seminars on contemporary issues at a lower rate and provides additional revenue for the local Chapter.

NEW IDEAS FOR MEMBERSHIP RETENTION AND GROWTH

As with many organizations we are feeling the impact of the aging 'baby boomer' population and an increase in retirements within our Chapter. In addition, we have felt the effect of the downturn of the economy and have lost members who have recently lost their jobs. Our objectives at this point are to try and maintain our current membership by providing opportunities for our members to meet and discuss topics related to the right of way industry at a minimal cost. In addition we are focusing on attracting new members by working with local colleges, professional organizations and community groups to highlight the benefits of the International Right of Way Association and the existence of our local chapter. Finally, we are scheduling joint meetings with other Chapters to expand networking opportunities and hopefully attract associate members to our Chapter.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SHARE

We are all facing challenging financial times both at our workplace and in our personal life. One of the things that we must remember is that our organization and Chapter must be viewed as a 'value added' asset to our members. We must continually strive to provide opportunities for our members to enhance their professional careers because of their membership in the International Right of Way Association. We believe that this can best be achieved by providing interesting and contemporary speaker's at our General Membership luncheon meetings, by providing a variety of formal educational opportunities, and developing seminars and workshops that are of interest to our members and potential members.

OUR CHAPTER NEEDS ASSISTANCE WITH

Our Chapter is continuing to see the impact of the downturn in the economy and the cost to conduct IRWA business at the local level. During the past 4 years we have felt the financial impact of sending members to meetings that are held outside of our region. In addition, we have seen a decline in our membership due to age (death), budgets (cancellation of memberships), and layoffs. Concurrent with the decline in membership we have also experienced a reduction in the enrollment to locally sponsored IRWA courses. Finally, we are anticipating an even further decline in enrollment for those courses that are now offered on-line.

The Chapter 42 Board of Directors has been exploring ways in which to reduce our annual expenditures and is seeking new ways to generate revenue. Without changes in the process that has been in place for the past 4 years the Chapter will have insufficient funds to send 2 representatives to the Annual conference and conceivably the Spring and Fall forums (dependent upon location). As we review our income and expenditures we firmly believe that the amount of money retained by International for locally held courses needs to be revised. We need assistance in changing the amount of 'tuition' that is being retained by International for IRWA sponsored courses that occur locally and for members from local Chapters that take an on-line course.