



International Professional Development Committee REGION COMMITTEE REPORT

W. Kyle Ray, Committee Chair

IPDC's Core Purpose: The purpose of the education and Professional Development Program is to provide effective services and an unparalleled education program right of way professionals and the public; and to achieve the objectives and purpose of the IRWA. A series of courses has been designed to provide the tools and resources for continuing professional development and to recognize right of way practitioners who attain the Senior Member, International Right of Way (SR/WA) and individual discipline Certification.

Mission Statement: The IPDC is charged with oversight of the development and facilitation of a comprehensive curriculum that trains right of way practitioners and maintains high standards of competency through a professional development program.

The **International Professional Development Committee (IPDC)** met on June 25th and June 26th, 2010 in Calgary, Alberta, immediately prior to the commencement of the Annual Education Conference. The IPDC spent two full days in session, and each Committee member subsequently met with his or her respective Industry Committee to impart information and seek feedback and assistance. The IPDC is honored that Randy Williams, SR/WA has been assigned as the IEC Liaison to the IPDC.

Kyle Ray, IPDC Chair, reviewed the various Regions and Industry Committee assignments with the IPDC. The IPDC members are requested to attend as many Region forums and Industry Committee meetings as possible.

IEC Report: Ken Davis, SR/WA presented the IEC report. While the IRWA is in a good position despite the economy, the Association is operating in the red. Education income is down, due to fewer participants in classes, but membership income and conference attendance are up. Monies were spent on leadership training and online courses.

Mr. Davis reported that seven different countries participated in the Calgary conference including Thailand, the United Kingdom, Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Japan. In addition, four affiliates participated, including the Appraisal Institute, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and FIABCI (The International Real Estate Federation).

Part of the IEC's Strategic Plan is to upgrade the overall quality of IRWA Facilitators to further enhance the education process. A task force will be appointed to institute measures

to accomplish this goal. Members of task force will include representatives from the IPDC, Industry Committees and Chapter Education Chairs. IEC member Pat Petitto, SR/WA is currently seeking submissions of resumes from members interested in joining the task force. The IEC hopes to have implementation of the initiative by 2012.

EDUCATION:

IRWA Chief of Education, Valerie Fries-Wade, reported on classroom and online education. She noted that class sizes have decreased over the past year. IRWA's goal is for class materials to be delivered with a 95% accuracy rate (right material, right place, and on time). A level of 100% was reached in August. IRWA's staff is working with our printing partner to develop a portal, which will allow facilitators access to course materials. This will provide facilitators with the ability to verify the version of the materials and print the course materials should they not arrive in time for a class. As well, course coordinators should be checking materials received well in advance of the course date.

New Right of Way Career Path Program (Program): The IPDC devoted a significant amount of time in refining the new career path: program structure, visual interpretation of each level of the Program and details including: education (formal), experience (per level), course hours (IRWA and/or equivalent), exams (development of Capstone exams for each level) and recertification requirements.

Career Path Program Guides: The IPDC discussed matters relating to non-IRWA members attaining certifications and designations from the Association. The IPDC was advised that non-members cannot be excluded from certification/designation for reasons set forth in U.S. anti-trust legislation although non-members may fall under a different pricing criterion. A revenue share plan is being developed to possibly include chapter participation in certification and designation programs.

Course Curriculum: The new Program's course curriculum is based on the levels of the course work and not specific courses. Each step related to the certification and designation requires courses in beginning, intermediate or advanced course work to progress to the next step. The IPDC discussed the course classifications: beginning, intermediate, advanced and assessed whether there are enough courses provided at each level and re-classified some of the courses, as needed.

SR/WA Exam: The IPDC discussed the level of difficulty of the SR/WA exam. There are currently two versions of the exam. At this time, approximately 98% of examinees pass. Until such time as the exams are rewritten, raising the minimum passing grade level is an option. Industry Committees will be asked to review exam questions associated with their specific disciplines.

URA Certification: The IPDC considered the matter of assessing former Course 101 credit in connection with URA Certification applications and specific education credit requests. Course 101 consisted of 80 hours of classroom education covering Negotiation (101N, 2 days), Engineering (101E, 3 days), Appraisal (101A, 3 days) and Law (101L, 2 days). Course 101 did not cover Property Management, Relocation or Environmental.

The past Course 101 was replaced by Courses 100, 200, 400, 800, and 900 and, historically, IPDC has accepted Course 101 in lieu of current core courses. The IPDC approved a motion that Course 101 may be substituted for 200, 400, 800 and 900, as it relates to the URA Certification only. The IPDC reserves the right to examine transcripts and assess courses for credit by those seeking to satisfy the URA educational requirements on an individual basis as warranted.

Grandfather Policy for Courses: The IPDC noted that as the course catalog and other requirements are revised, it will need to review the grandfather policies currently in place for courses, including former Course 101. The IPDC believes that grandfathering should be phased out through the use of sunset provisions and will review the course descriptions and facilitator qualifications to determine if applicable grandfathering and sunset provisions should be modified or implemented.

IRWA Ethics Course Requirement: The IRWA is expanding its partnerships through licensing agreements for USPAP online and BTL classes. The IRWA's policy requires that the IRWA ethics course is required for initial qualifying experience. In response to a question regarding possible credit for other organization's ethics courses, the IPDC considered whether other ethics courses would be credited for recertification. The IPDC concluded that no substitutions should be permitted for initial certification credit. However, ethics courses offered by formal partners, such as the Appraisal Institute, may be used for recertification.

Earning Recertification Credit: The IPDC considered a member's request to allow credits earned during a previous recertification cycle to be used for future recertification. The IPDC concluded that an expanded window of time to earn recertification credit would not be considered and the upheld the existing policy.

FACILITATORS:

The IPDC discussed facilitator qualifications and recertification. The IPDC depends on the Industry Committees for assistance in selecting individuals to assist in areas like course review and/or course writing as they are most familiar with the subject matter and are considered to subject matter experts of their respective right of way disciplines.

The IRWA has 187 active facilitators; however only 120 are active facilitators. The number of active facilitators is anticipated to decrease once recertification results have been processed. The IPDC discussed the Facilitator recertification process. Notifications in connection with recertification will be sent to facilitators in the future. Note: Canadian course facilitators are far fewer in numbers which may pose problems with course scheduling.

Facilitator Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures: There was consensus among the Committee that if an IPDC member is aware of what might be an ethical violation by a facilitator, they have a responsibility to bring a complaint forward against the individual. A complainant need not be an individual and may be IPDC as a Committee. Starting in July, the IPDC will be scheduling Webinars to review Facilitator issues on a quarterly basis.

COURSE MATERIAL REVIEW:

Core Course Program: There is seemingly less of a requirement to offer core courses at the Chapter/Region levels because most of these courses are now available online¹. It was suggested that perhaps Courses 100 and 900 should be placed in an online format supplemented by making a facilitator available to answer questions and using Webinars.

New Course Development: The IPDC is looking for Industry Committee input regarding new course development in topics not specifically relating to a particular Industry Committee. The IPDC is asking the Industry Committees to identify needs, wants and subject matter experts within their respective industries that might be able to help with new course development.

Core Course Review: Each IPDC member was tasked to review one series of courses, working with International Industry Committees and reporting any needed changes for final review by all. This process is almost complete. Al Morganfield and Janet Walker volunteered to review course 100. Janet Walker volunteered to do a final edit with the information going online in September 2010. The course descriptions need to be modified to identify the equipment the Chapters will need to run the course such as projectors, screen and video equipment.

IRWA staff is conducting quarterly best practices Webinars with chapter and region leadership. These Webinars support the implementation of a continuous improvement plan for course delivery and scheduling. IRWA staff will be moving to monthly Webinars and include topics such as: course scheduling (including core courses), facilitator selection and IPDC updates. IPDC members have been requested to attend these Webinars and have been assigned specific months: July 27, John Reed; August 31, Janet Walker; September 28, Frank Cirillo; October 26, Sheryl Badin; November 30, David Layne; December 28, Kyle Ray; January 25, Peggy Barnes; February 22, David Griffith; March 29, Alan Morganfield; April 26, T. A. Anderson; May 26, Cynthia Gan. All IPDC members are encouraged to attend any/all Webinars, as their schedules permit.

Course Catalog: The Course Catalog is now available online and can be viewed through the IRWA's website. The Course Catalog will continue to be reviewed by the Industry Committees to keep the content up to date and accurate.

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

The Association's Director of Course Curriculum, Ron Ellis, reported that all course reviews have been completed. The rewrite of Course 215 is due by September 1, 2010. Course 218 will be a new course under the Pipeline discipline. This course will be piloted in the near future.

Online Courses: Twenty courses will be available online shortly. Courses 103, 104, 105, 200, 303, 400, 402, 403, 600, 700, 800 and 801 are currently online. Courses 218, 304 and 803C are in the process of going online. Courses 606 and 606C are under revision.

¹ Core courses 100 and 900 are not yet available online.

The Canadian Education Foundation will be advised of which Canadian courses will be available online.

Principles of Right of Way Text Review Status: A few responses on the Chapter reviews by the Industry Committees are outstanding. IPDC member Dave Layne volunteered to do the final edit. The sunset date is December 2010 for this initiative. The schedule for the following pilot courses includes:

- (1) Course 417: IRWA HQ, August 12 and 13. Peggy Barnes will attend on behalf of IPDC.
- (2) Course 421: Texas in July. Dave Layne will attend on behalf of IPDC.
- (3) Course 421C: Toronto in November. Dave Layne volunteered to co-facilitate or will attend on behalf of IPDC.
- (4) Course 218: Not yet scheduled. Dave Griffith volunteered Chapter 21 to host, with Clarke facilitating.
- (5) Course 606C: Calgary, June. Presented by Della Berwanger and Fred Walasavage and feedback will be provided.

The IPDC continues to work toward fulfillment the goals established by the IEC, and to address the needs the Industry Committees, Region and Chapter leadership and individual members. The IPDC welcomes your questions and comments.