



**International Right of Way Association
Chapter 1 – Los Angeles County
July 2002 Newsletter**

Upcoming Events

August, Dark

September 24, 2002, SR/WA Special Luncheon and Membership Regular Luncheon

Membership Luncheon

July 23, 2002, 11:30am

Guest speaker is Min Saysay from the Orange County Transportation Authority.

Topic: “What an agency looks for in a proposal?”

Location: Shanghai Red's Restaurant 13813 Fiji Way Marina Del Rey, CA

Los Angeles Book Thomas Guide Map Page 702, B-1

President's Message

By: Rudy Romo

“Always know what your buying” was the key note of our guest speaker last month, Mr. Lee MacDonald, Advisory Title Officer for Lawyer's Title Company. Mr. MacDonald's presentation was very interesting and helpful. Clouds on title of properties are always headaches to deal with, but nonetheless, if they are not cleared properly, they will always surface during conveyances of title.

Well, half the year has passed by and it's already July. This year has gone by fast and when I look back at our challenges, accomplishments, and commitments, I think “wow”, I can't believe it. Chapter 1 has been busy gathering lots of information for the development of the website and new Chapter logo. In between, we had the Valuation Seminar, Region Spring Forum, and the International Seminar. Membership has been challenging since we have been trying to coordinate the exact count and names of members on our roster with that of Headquarters.

The development of the website has been a challenge. We solicited bids from vendors. No one on the board really knew what was required in a website. We all know what they look like, however, try to build one. This has been an education in itself. Nonetheless, we are making progress. The information gathering is probably the most tedious task of this job.

I appreciate all the assistance, guidance, and cooperation the entire Chapter Board has put forth. Your board has been working hard to deliver classes, professionalism, & speakers. Your chapter President Elect, Mr. Michael Popwell has worked hard to arrange and coordinate the December installation luncheon with Chapters 57, 67, & International.

Your chapter Board has been very instrumental in presenting ideas for our, soon to be veiled, contemporary logo design. Many thanks also go to one of our own members, Mr. Robert Flynn of the MTA. Bobby is a cartoonist by trade and has contributed countless hours



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creating a myriad of ideas for the logo. Each month for the last 3 to 4 months, he has produced approximately 15 sketches and ideas per month.

Last but not least is your Newsletter Editor, Ms. Natalie Michelson. Many thanks go to Natalie for the coordination and assembling of the Newsletter. I have served as editor before and I know the effort involved. Thanks Natalie for delivering the Newsletter on time each month.

Anyway, I believed this message should have been devoted to the thanks and appreciation to those mentioned above and all others who have helped me this first part of the year. Without volunteer help, nothing would get done. There is a lot to be said for “extracurricular” activities. It is here that we really see the true motivation of people who want to get involved and the contributions they possess to make your Chapter #1.

See you at the next meeting on July 23rd in Marina Del Rey!

**Case of the Month
IRWA 2002 Mobile, Alabama Seminar
By Rudy Romo**

The IRWA annual seminar was held during the week of June 17 - 20, 2002 in Mobile, Alabama. The seminar was hosted by Chapter 24, Alabama, Region 6. Michael Popwell, Holly Overcamp, Hayley Mckuur and I attended the seminar and received a handful of information. The following are some brief happenings of what took place at the Seminar and Board of Directors meeting:

1. Membership Resolution to advocate that the Executive Vice President Approve Membership Applications: At the request of your Board’s recommendation and subsequent presentation by your chapter president at the Board Meeting, a motion was made to table the Resolution until further clarification and information was provided. The motion received unanimous support by the Board of Directors.
2. Resolution to Restructure the International Executive Committee (IEC): The International Board of Directors approved the motion to create 2 “At Large” positions on the IEC. The members will be selected over the next 2 years. This proposal was created to decrease the length of time that a member must serve on the IEC.
3. Resolution to Amend the International Bylaws regarding Indemnification of IRWA Officers, Directors, and Others: This Resolution received unanimous support because it was not previously in the International Bylaws.



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4. Relocation of Headquarters (HQ): The study has been completed and based on a thorough analysis, it was concluded, at the recommendation of the Relocation Committee, that HQ not relocate. The feasibility analysis identified various factors that do not make an HQ move practical, feasible, nor economical. Thus, HQ will remain in Torrance.
5. Marketing and Membership Director: HQ recently hired a new director, Mr. Robert Adrian Brooks to head the Marketing and Membership of the IRWA.

In regard to other events, Region 1 sponsored an afternoon social event to promote Jim Finnegan, our past Region 1 Chair to the office of the IEC. We wish to congratulate Jim for his successful nomination to the IEC.

Chapter 27, Sacramento received the bid for the seminar in 2007. Mr. Dwight Pattison, Past International President of 1999/2000 made the formal presentation at the Board of Directors Meeting. The Board accepted the bid.

We are proud that our Region Chapter no. 2, San Francisco, received the International Newsletter of the Year award (Membership under 100) for their Newsletter “Bayviews.” Congratulations are in order to Chapter 2.

Congratulations are also in order for our newly appointed Region Representatives. Ronn Carlentine was appointed and sworn in as our new Region Chair and Mark Keller was appointed and sworn in as our new Region Vice Chair. Congratulations to Ronn and Mark.

Last of all, I was successful for the second year running upon completion of the annual “Finnegan’s Fun Run.”! Every year, Jim Finnegan sponsors a 5 K run at the seminar. Ms. Hayley Mckuur was supposed to join in the run again this year, however, she forgot to pack her running sneakers. I got great exercise out of it and my free T-Shirt!

Overall, the Seminar was a success and the attendees were surprised by the enlightening event. Mobile is probably one of the last places on anyone’s scenic itinerary, however, they demonstrated a wonderful agenda and course of events. The weather was really pleasant and I never saw those mosquitos I heard stories about. Thanks again to Chapter 24 of Alabama for a great seminar!



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**Monthly Article
MTA OVERVIEW**

By: Duncan W. Robb, SR/WA, MTA, Property Management Chair for Chapter 1

It has been over 9 years since the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, better known as the “MTA” was created and much has happened to transit in Los Angeles County during that time. Many people are under the impression that the MTA is only involved with high visibility transportation projects such as the Red Line, Blue Line and Green Line transit systems. Those projects comprise only a portion of the many other transportation projects that MTA funds and builds throughout Los Angeles County as succinctly stated in MTA’s mission statement: *MTA is responsible for the continuous improvement of an efficient and effective transportation system for Los Angeles County.*

Assembly Bill 152 created the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority in May 1992. This bill merged the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) and the Southern California Rapid Transit District (RTD) to become the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). The merger became effective on April 1, 1993.

MTA is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors comprised of:

- The five Los Angeles County Supervisors
- The Mayor of Los Angeles
- Three Los Angeles mayor-appointed members
- Four city council members representing the other 87 cities in Los Angeles County.

The Governor of California appoints one non-voting member.

MTA is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. It serves as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder and operator for one of the country's largest, most populous counties. More than 9 million people - one-third of California's residents - live, work, and play within its 1,433-square-mile service area.

Besides operating over 2,000 peak-hour buses on an average weekday, MTA also designed, built and now operates nearly 60 miles of Metro Rail service. The Metro Rail system consists of the Metro Red Line subway system, the Metro Blue Line and the Metro Green Line. In total, the Metro Rail system serves 50 rail stations stretching from Long Beach to downtown Los Angeles to Hollywood,



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Universal City and North Hollywood in the San Fernando Valley to Norwalk and El Segundo and all points in between. The MTA owns over 250 miles of former railroad right of way of which 135 miles is used for Metrolink commuter operations along with shared use by the BNSF and Union Pacific Railroads as well as Amtrak.

In addition to operating its own service, MTA funds 16 municipal bus operators and funds a wide array of transportation projects including bikeways and pedestrian facilities, local roads and highway improvements, goods movement, Metrolink, and the popular Freeway Service Patrol and Call Boxes.

Recognizing that no one form of transit can solve urban congestion problems, MTA's multimodal approach uses a variety of transportation alternatives to meet the needs of the highly diverse populations in the region. The "M" logo of MTA's Metro System is the public symbol of this fully coordinated network.

MTA employs more than 8,100 people in a broad range of technical specialties and services ranging from Metro Bus and Metro Rail operators and mechanics to construction engineers and safety inspectors, from transportation planning professionals to customer information agents. MTA's Real Estate Department, under the direction of Velma Marshall, Director of Real Estate, has 21 real estate professionals working on many of the projects listed below. In addition, MTA's Real Estate Department provides property management and related real estate services to other transit agencies such as the Pasadena Blue Line Construction Authority, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, San Bernardino County Associated Governments (SANBAG) and Southern California Regional Railway Authority (Metrolink). As the Manager of the Property Management Section of the Real Estate Department, I am especially proud of the fact that nearly \$14 million is generated in lease revenues from the MTA owned and managed real estate and right of way properties. This revenue is used to offset the holding and maintenance costs associated with MTA's vast ownership as well as used for other MTA projects and purposes.



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[Advanced Transit Vehicles](#)

Emerging clean fuel energy technology for transit vehicles that is being researched for application in the transportation market.

[Countywide Bus Signal Priority Pilot Project](#)

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has embarked upon a comprehensive effort to develop a transit signal priority system to be implemented on high ridership corridors traversing multiple jurisdictions in Los Angeles County.

[Crenshaw-Prairie Corridor Study](#)

Necessary analysis and environmental documentation to support the selection of a first-time Locally Preferred Alternative for the Crenshaw-Prairie Corridor.

[Eastside Transit Corridor](#)

Necessary analysis and environmental documentation to support the selection of a new Locally Preferred Alternative for the East Los Angeles Corridor that replaces the previously adopted heavy rail subway extension.

[HOV \(Carpool\) Lanes](#)

High-Occupancy Vehicle lanes are special lanes normally added to freeway corridors that give priority to carpoolers, vanpoolers and transit riders.

[I-5 Santa Ana Freeway Major Improvement Project](#)

Design and construction of an additional mixed flow and a HOV lanes in each direction on Interstate 5 between State Route 91 and Interstate 710 for congestion relief and travelers' safety.

[I-710 Major Corridor Study](#)

A comprehensive evaluation of the freeway corridor, parallel arterials and other elements of the system's infrastructure, including goods movement analysis focusing on truck transport. The project limits are from the Port of Long Beach to State Route 60.

[LA/Ventura Regional ATIS](#)

An Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) application that seeks to automate the delivery of reliable, relevant and timely information about traffic congestion, incidents, and travel alternatives.

[Metro Rapid Bus](#)

An innovative new transit improvement that uses newly designed buses and station stops, signal priority, frequent/limited stop service and a simple route layout.

[Mid-City/Westside \(Wilshire & Exposition Blvds.\)](#)

Necessary analysis and environmental documentation to support the selection of a new Locally Preferred Alternative for the Mid-City/Westside Corridor that replaces the previously adopted heavy rail subway extension.

[North County Combined Highway Corridor Study](#)

The goal of the Study is to conduct a Major Investment Study/Project Study Report for the North County Combined Highway Corridors, including Route 14, I-5, and Route 138.

[San Fernando Valley East-West Transit Corridor](#)

Necessary analysis and environmental documentation to support the selection of a first-time Locally Preferred Alternative for the San Fernando Valley East-West Corridor.

[Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway Project](#)

The Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway project received MTA approval in July 1999. At that time, the project was transferred to the City of Los Angeles to design and construct.

[Soundwall Program](#)

Soundwalls are noise barriers put in place along freeway corridors to reduce the ever-increasing volume of noise generated by traffic.

[State Route 2 \(SR-2\) Freeway Terminus Improvement](#)

The SR-2 Freeway Terminus project has been developed to create a balanced transportation system serving local and regional transportation needs. It includes measures to reduce congestion and improve transportation mobility in the area.

[US-101 Freeway Corridor](#)

[Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Study](#)

The Study involves comprehensive analysis of transportation network, evaluation of feasible alternatives, and identification of a preferred strategy, as a 20-25 year "master plan" of corridor improvement. The study area extends 40 miles from State Route 23 (in Ventura County) to Route 134/170.



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Board Meeting

June Board Meeting Report

By: Holly Overcamp, Epic Land Solutions, Inc.

Your 2002 Chapter Board would like to ensure the Chapter is informed about the Board's discussions and decisions, and would like to solicit feedback from the Chapter Members. Going forward, the newsletter will have a short section on Board discussions and motions. Please feel free to contact any of the Board members with your comments, questions or concerns. Also, Board meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, and open to any Chapter Members.

The following items were among those discussed at the Board's meeting on June 11, 2002.

- The *Membership Roster* continues to be updated with revisions from members and headquarters.
- Potential designs for a *Chapter Logo* were proposed and discussed.
- The *Website* is in progress and the board continues to provide input.
- An *Advertising Policy* has been drafted. Additional comments were made, and it is expected to be finalized at the next meeting.
- Two *Resolutions* will be proposed at the *International Seminar*. The Chapter's Directors, Rudy Romo and Michael Popwell, will vote against the resolution to eliminate Chapter approval from the Membership Application process, and vote in favor of the resolution to revise the structure of the International Executive Committee to 4 office positions and 2 "at large" positions.

The following motion was passed:



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- Accept Deborah Meyers as a new member into the Chapter

New Members

Ms. Deborah C. Meyers, Senior Right of Way Agent
State of California, Department of Transportation

Recommended by: Lorna Foster

Special Events

If you or someone you know has been promoted, changed employers, moved, became married, or had a new baby, please let us know. We would like to know. Please contact either of your Chapter Board members. Thank you

IRWA Classes on night and weekends: The Board at Chapter 1 has recently been asked about night or weekend IRWA Course offerings. If you are interested in taking an IRWA course at night or on a weekend due to work commitments, please contact our Education Chair, Ms. Hayley Mckuur at mckuur@trenchteam.com. We would like to take a poll to see if the need is there. Thank you!

Congratulations are in order to Mr. Rudy Romo, Chapter 1 President for receiving his Certification to teach IRWA Course 501 Residential Relocation Assistance. Rudy went to the Instructors Certification Clinic while in Mobile and received his certification. Congratulations Rudy for a job well done!

We wish to congratulate Mr. Peter Steuer of the Alameda Corridor Engineering Team for his recent retirement from his contribution on the Alameda Corridor Project. Mr. Steuer worked on the project as a Right of Way Representative responsible for the acquisition and relocation assistance program. Mr. Steuer proposes to pursue further Right of Way work on a part time basis. Congratulations Peter!"

Monthly Drawing

This months monthly drawing is at \$50.



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Class Schedule

2002 Scheduled Courses for Chapter 1

Dates	Class Code	Title	Instructor	Location	Coordinator	Phone No.	Email
Tentative	501	Residential Relocation	Bill von Klug		Nkechi Ndubuisi	310-417-6105	Nndubuisi@lawa.org
2 nd Half August	701	Property Management: Leasing		LA County MTA, Union Station Conf. Rm, 3 rd Floor, Los Angeles, 90012	Diane Dominguez	213-922-5253	Dominguezd@mta.net
Oct 7	603	Understanding Environmental Contamination in Real Estate	Michael Heineke	Los Angeles County Public Works, 900 S Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803	Lorna Foster	213-897-3635	Lorna_Foster@dot.ca.gov
Oct 9 & 10	602	Project Development & Environment Process	Michael Heineke	Los Angeles County Public Works, 900 S Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803	Lorna Foster	213-897-3635	Lorna_Foster@dot.ca.gov
Sept 9	403	Easement Valuation	Joyce L. Diaz	Contra Costa County Publics Works Building, Martinez, CA	Carla Peccianti	925-313-2222	cpeccian@pw.co.contra-costa.ca.us
Oct 29-30	800	Principles of Real Estate Law	Daniel W. Beardsley, SR/WA	Las Vegas, NV	Thomas A. Drescher II	702-862-3445	tadreb@aol.com
Oct 31	900	Principles of Real Estate Engineering	Daniel W. Beardsley, SR/WA	Las Vegas, NV	James E. Dufault	702-365-2097	James.dufault@swgas.com