

The Award Winning
Beaver Tales



December 2011

Newsletter for Beaver State Chapter 3 serving Oregon and SW Washington since 1950

Happy Holidays!
Happy Chanuka!
Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!

However you choose to celebrate the season, we would like to wish you and your family all the best this Holiday!

*Beaver State Ch 3
Board Members & Chairs*

IRWA Chapter 3

**November 4th
Prize Drawing Results**

Michael Lutz was not present to win the \$100 jackpot drawing.

Tara Heesacker won the attendance free lunch. Congratulations!

Potential New Member Lunch Winner was David Manus.

January Lunch Jackpot is **\$125**
Good Luck!

IRWA REMINDERS

Education Conference
Seattle, WA
June 10-13, 2012

Federal Agency Update
Washington, DC
March 21, 2012

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Time for the usual End of calendar year, Where have we been, Where are we going article. But seriously, this has been an incredible year of change, some bad, but most good. The bad: we have had some wonderful, key individuals retire from service with our chapter. The good, we took that as an opportunity to implement change as there is no better time to do so than when one is faced with the monumental task of picking up behind key people. Then we had to figure out how on earth they managed to do what they did with the few folks that volunteered over and over - we decided it was easier to reinvent the wheel, so we have and are continuing to do so.

Some of this "reinvention" was actually just stepping up to utilize the services that headquarters offered and most chapters are already using. This has included an overhaul on the education program. Previously, the monumental tasks used a great deal of time by a few people. Now, we have Headquarters register and process the students, collect the money and then send the proceeds to us. Let them do the work! We still have an Education Chair and a Course Coordinator, but the burden of the finance tracking, collection and data entry has been passed on to Headquarters, AND, we were fortunate recently to have been offered the services of a bookkeeper from Right-of-Way Associates, Inc to upload our financial transactions into QuickBooks at Headquarters! This takes some of the work from members and will simplify the year-end reporting for taxes. A huge benefit to the members will be transparency, which is one of our key goals, where each member will be able to view our books on line through their membership.

We've had assistance from Headquarters on our website and had them do a review of our bylaws to make sure we were in compliance. We are currently working on the chapter manual, AND, we've decided, as a chapter to fall into sync with the fiscal year at headquarters, which runs from summer to summer.

All in all, it has been a very busy year for a few key volunteers, but they couldn't have accomplished what they have without your support. We must be doing something right as our membership has increased, though our numbers haven't as we've lost members for various reasons, job loss, profession change, retirement, and so on. Our general meetings have experienced an increase in attendance and the speakers were outstanding! If you want to see what we've been doing and



where we've been, simply go to our website and take a peak at the newsletters! They've grown from seven pages at the beginning of the year to 16 in the November 2011 edition. These are done with style, humor and packed full of information.

We've accomplished so much this year, but now we need to look to the future, which is only limited by what we can imagine. Our chapter's territory is all of Oregon and SW Washington, yet we seem to cater to the core Portland and Salem areas. How can we reach out? Hmm... why not explore the technology out there and maybe use webcams at our meetings? How about asking what the members think through a survey program, perhaps, Survey Monkey? The recent Tribal course was a huge hit, what can we do to bring more information like that to our members? What about a golf tournament, or maybe a mock trial? Perhaps a review of what other Chapters' are doing, maybe peak at their newsletters, gave provide some new insight or ideas? Again, only limited by our imagination....

So thanks for your support, thanks for your professionalism and your patience as we morph into a new chapter. Or maybe we aren't really "new," just different. But we thank you for your participation, welcome your comments and ideas, and wish the best new year for you and yours!

Dawneen

"Member Spotlight"

Leslie Finnigan, SR/WA

Universal Field Services, Inc. Regional Manager

Chapter 3 Historian and "2011 Professional of the Year"

Anyone who knows her will tell you that Leslie Finnigan is a giving person. Set aside for a moment that she is also among the most positive and upbeat people you'll ever have the pleasure of meeting, and focus on the giving. On the professional side, IRWA members will tell of the quarter-century of contributions that led to her being named 2011 Chapter 3 Professional of the Year – an honor also bestowed on her in 1992. We'll get to the reasons for this a bit later (if we have room... it's a long list).

On the personal side, family and a wide circle of friends will tell you that her gifts range from obvious, thoughtful and helpful items, to life-setting. The two shining examples of this – literally – are daughters Michelle and Mandy. Both, in ways that are 180 degrees different, corresponding to Leslie's own octave range of life, shine at what they do. At 32, Michelle is on her way up the executive ladder at Boeing in Seattle, a path that started with her Master's degree in physics from Western Michigan (did we mention that Michelle will go anywhere, try anything if she judges it worth her time and helpful to her firm goals) and a post-grad stint at GMC. You just know, however, that there will be her own family to come. At just-turned 31, Mandy has applied Michelle's creativity in business to family. She and husband Seth Hemelstrand (on his way up the ladder at Universal, by the way) have four children who raucously reflect the security and intelligence lovingly and consistently given them. With a growing family, Mandy also (of course) works increasingly, volunteering at the kids' school, and adding hours all the time at Universal. Seth and I, as husbands and witnesses to all this, sometimes marvel to one another about what has created the traits found in Michelle and Mandy, extending to the youngster quartet. We long-ago came to the same and simple conclusion – it all derives from Leslie's wrapped-in-love drive and determination. Leslie's success in life and business is all her own, itself distilled from the rules-to-live-by she learned from her grandmother, a tough but loving Texan who volunteered with the Salvation Army at 18 and moved to Washington at the end of World War II. Leslie's grandmother was the director of the local YWCA and worked at the community college until she was 83. Also, her father, John Huson, who at 86 is an embodiment of character and spirit.

What many of her fellow IRWA'ers may not know is that she personally has nurtured the Universal Field Services operation in Salem from a one-woman home-office in 1998 to a team of more than a dozen experienced pros, whose performance and diligence have taken UFS to the top rank of right of way specialists in the region. Leslie's performance in the Pacific Northwest led Universal's corporate leadership in Tulsa to ask Leslie to also take over their California office, where she has been also working for three years now.

Leslie took some time to reflect on her path to success and confesses, "Becoming a right of way professional was not what I ever planned to do. Like most people I didn't even know for sure what right of way was until I picked up the job announcement for a right of way trainee with ODOT. Originally, my plan was to teach kindergarten." She tells that, driven by her mother's drive for change and bettering her own family's lives, she was moved around a lot, eventually to Salem from Washington State when she was in high school. She wound up attending four (count 'em) different high schools. This undoubtedly led her to find that making friends and being positive was the best way to cope, qualities that have helped her immeasurably in life and work.

After attending Oregon College of Education in Monmouth, now Western Oregon University, Leslie's first job after college was with ODOT, as a file clerk and then other positions before working her way up to Right of Way Agent Trainee in the Portland Glisan Street office. She transferred to Region 2 shortly afterwards, became a senior agent a few years later and worked two and a half years at Department of Justice on condemnation cases. After that, it was back to Region 2, then two years at Washington County before starting the Universal Field Services office in 1998.

"My biggest passion is my family. My husband Bob and I have been together since 2004, and married in 2008, she says. "My daughters, Michelle and Mandy, are grown and successful women, each in their own way. Anyone who knows me has heard me discuss the kids over and over, and I can talk endlessly of the joys of being a grandmother. Chloe, age 8, Ben and Kyler, identical twins are age 6 and Grant is now 3 and I am lucky to have them live close and they often drop by the office." One of the more amazing feats that Leslie performs on a daily basis is giving to her family while never ever shorting on her work. In fact, to her the two facets of her life are blended. While the kids often stop by and the critters (two office

...Continued on pg 5



Leslie Finnigan, SR/WA accepting the Award for Ch 3 Professional of the Year award from Eilene Gehrke, SR/WA

Annual Past President and Awards Banquet

December 1st, 2011

We had a fabulous time together at our annual awards banquet, held at the Radisson Hotel Portland Airport. We collected food for the Friends in Service to Humanity of Vancouver. We delivered 7 full bags of food, clothing and diapers along with a cash donation. The volunteers were very excited for Chapter 3's donations. We also had a few awards to pass out... Congratulations to Regina Thompson for completing her SR/WA and to Leslie Finnigan, SR/WA for being Chapter 3's 2011 Professional of the Year. For those that missed the banquet and couldn't attend here are a few pictures.



Reminder for Business Card Space

If you are interested in placing a business card in the newsletter, or if you would like to continue to occupy business card space, please submit your request, business card (email jpg) and payment to Universal Field Services c/o Beavertales, PO Box 2354, Salem, OR 97308.

Cost for business card space is \$40. Please make checks payable to Beaver State Chapter 3. All space is for one calendar year to begin in January, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact Barry Bliss at 503.399.8002 or email him at ufsbarry@comcast.net.

Member Spotlight Continued...

cats - Uffis and Irwa... those names reflect the work focus, of course) are part of that, there is Universal's noted existence as a family-oriented business. "Beyond my immediate family is my Universal family, and that is everyone from those at the corporate level and regional managers to our office group here in Oregon and Washington," she says. "I am truly blessed to have joined this group, and can't believe I have been in this position now for 13 years. Universal has supported me in so many ways over the years, both in my position as the regional manager and with IRWA." When she finds the time, and she always does, we travel. "Bob and I love to travel when we can - though many of you know, I am on the road a lot with work, but I still love to travel and see new places. Bob has taken me to London and to his homeland of Scotland. We are trying to decide where next, though our next travel commitment is with the kids and Disneyland this spring."

Leslie never loses sight of the fact that work and membership in IRWA are intertwined with all she does. In fact, one of the secrets of her ability to focus on work and family, and family and work, is that she views all from the same perspective. "I am thankful for IRWA in many ways. The organization is another extension of family for me," she explains. "After nearly 25 years in the organization, I have traveled and met so many people who have become life-long friends. I also feel this organization has played a big part in my career. My involvement at the chapter caught Universal's attention which eventually led to the starting of the Oregon & SW Washington office. It always makes me laugh when people want to know what benefit an IRWA membership can be to them - I just don't know if they have enough time to listen to all there is to say. I thank you again for giving me the honor of being the Professional of the Year. The success of the chapter means everything to me and I am excited to see what the new year brings."

Eilene Gehrke, Chapter 3 Awards Chair, described a list of what Leslie has done with and for the organization at the dinner two weeks on December 1st at the Radisson Hotel (we aren't including the list). "Leslie's involvement with Chapter 3 began in the spring of 1987 when she volunteered to assist with registration at the IRWA Annual Seminar in Portland. This was the beginning of a history of extremely active volunteer service with IRWA which continues today and shows no sign of slowing down." Eileen summarized Leslie's involvement by saying at the end of the list of activities, "In case you lost track, that's 25 years working within the right of way industry, 24 years as a member of IRWA holding 14 titled positions with a 15th occurring in 2012 and for the last 21 years has held a chair position or committee member position at the Chapter, Region or International Committee level sometimes serving positions concurrently at different levels."

Accomplishing all this, yet raise two strong daughters and focus on her own and Universal families, stems entirely from Leslie's constant ability to emphasize the positive parts and shed the negative, unless she decides to fix them. Anyone who has watched the development of Leslie's golf game will tell you. In going from duffer to doer, her game is solid where once it was spotty. (Of course, having a son in law who is a superb golfer is no handicap. Seth can really play.) But back 9 or business, her willingness is matched by her will. When Leslie decides to compete, she does what she always does, and does so, so well. She gives it all she's got. And that's a ton.

(Written with love and admiration, by Bob Finnigan. Bob Finnigan was a sports writer for 40 years in Boston & Seattle, before joining Leslie, and Universal 5 years ago)

Special Thanks

I would like to take an opportunity to thank everyone for their kind statements and positive feedback toward the newsletter this year. I do not and probably will never consider myself a master of word-smithing. However I have enjoyed the opportunity to help put together a newsletter that is news worthy, informational and hopefully a little fun.

Thank you, to all (Lori, Matt, Jim, Dawneen, Dan and many others), who have taken time out of their schedules to help make contributions to the newsletter over the last twelve months. It is because of your contributions, I believe, that have made the newsletter what it is. I wish to send out a special thank you to my dear friend and colleague Bob Finnigan, whose encouragement and years of writing for the Seattle Times, have been invaluable resource to making the Membership Spotlights and the Beaver Tales Newsletter, in general, a fun and entertaining read.

So, again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart, for all of your input, contributions and praise. I pray that you and your family's find the joy and peace the holidays bring. Let's endeavor to continue telling the tales in the fun and exciting world of right-of-way. We will see you in "The Beaver Tales," in 2012. Blessings to you all and have a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Barry Bliss Beaver Tales Editor



"So they bring a tree in the house and put all these shiny, dangling things on it, then freak out if I go near it ... This is why I drink."

Education Courses for 2012!

Lori Hathaway, our chapter Education Chair, reports that Chapter 3 will be offering the following courses in 2012:

- C901 – Engineering Plan Development and Application ~ February, 2012
- C504 – Computing Replacement Housing Payments ~ March, 2012
- C203 – Alternative Dispute Resolution ~ April, 2012
- C400 – Principles of Real Estate Appraisal ~ May, 2012
- C603 – Understanding Environmental Contamination in Real Estate ~ July, 2012
- C604 – Environmental Due Diligence and Liability ~ July, 2012
- C802 – Legal Aspects of Easements ~ September, 2012

Please watch the Chapter 3 Newsletter and website for additional information as it becomes available.

If you have any questions regarding future or current education courses you may reach Lori at lhathaway@ufsrw.com or by phone at 503-399-8002.

Make sure to check periodically www.irwachapter3.com for any course updates or changes to the course schedule.



EDUCATION CONFERENCE SEATTLE JUNE 10-13, 2012

Seattle Westin
1900 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, Washington, 98101, US
Tel: 1-206-728-1000
www.westinseattle.com

Conference Dates:

Sunday, June 10, 2012 – Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Registration Rates (all rates are listed in US \$):

	By March 23	March 24 – May 11	After May 11
Member – Full Registration	\$475	\$575	\$650
Non-Member – Full Registration	\$575	\$675	\$750
Daily Registration (per day)	\$200	\$225	\$250
Companion	\$250	\$250	\$300
Youth (under 18)	\$40	\$40	\$50

Happy Holidays!

Chapter Members,

We are still in need of volunteers for the 2012 Conference in Seattle. We have about 70 so far and need about that many more. Attached is a list of those who have already volunteered, knowingly or unknowingly! Even if you'll be available one day for just a couple of hours, that will help fill the need. The majority of the need is at the registration booth Saturday and Sunday, but the booth is open M-W as well. Below is a list of volunteer opportunities. We'll make an effort to work around peoples schedules so they can attend sessions they want. Also let us know if you can take early shifts, as some shifts in the registration booth start at 6:30 AM (Monday). We are anticipating 2-3 hours shifts, but will know more once we get an official schedule done. I have also attached a preliminary schedule for the conference for your reference.

Auction/Casino Night
Golf Tourney
Registration/Information
First Timers Meeting
Finnegan Fun Run
Signs-**entire conference**
Shipping/Receiving
Bag stuffing-**Friday afternoon/evening**
I'll help wherever needed

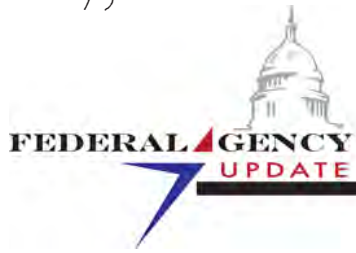
Don't forget to include your **phone number** and **email address**. Remember, you'll also get a free, one of a kind 2012 Conference Volunteer shirt.

We will send out periodic updates to keep volunteers posted on progress. Thank you.

Please contact:

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360-786-5132

Kerri Wittman, SR/WA
kwittma@co.pierce.wa.us
253-798-7020



MARCH 21, 2012

Washington, DC

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Washington DC (Exact Location TBA)

The 2012 Federal Agency Update meeting will be a one-day event with updates from participating Federal Agencies, including Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and others.

Stay tuned for further details about this event!

The background of the bottom half of the page is a soft-focus photograph of several Christmas ornaments. There are red, silver, and white ornaments scattered across the scene, which is set against a light, snowy or white background. The ornaments are out of focus, creating a bokeh effect.

Remembering the Past President's

IRWA Chapter 3 Past Presidents

The following is a list of those who have served IRWA Chapter 3 over the years. As we reflect at the end of this year – we want to honor those past officers and let them know we appreciate their contributions. (Asterisks note those past presidents who have passed away)

1951 Joseph Devers*	1979 Marv McEldowney, SR/WA
1952 Herbert Alstadt*	1980 Margaret Kageler
1953 Clifton Enfield*	1981 John E. Day, SR/WA*
1954 Budd G. Burnie	1982 Henry Brindley, SR/WA*
1955 S. N. Mayhew*	1983 Marta Goosey
1956 John Admino	1984 Robert Naish, SR/WA
1957 Howard J. Burnham*	1985 Louis Schwab, SR/WA
1958 O. W. Ryan*	1986 Allen Anderson, SR/WA
1959 Leonard I. Lindas*	1987 David W. Larsen, SR/WA*
1960 J. T. Shull*	1988 Joseph Schutz, Sr/WA
1961 Robert G. MacDonald*	1989 Will G. Hight, SR/WA*
1962 Chester J. Irelan	1990 Renee Ferrera, SR/WA
1963 E. J. Benner	1991 Kathy Olson, SR/WA
1964 C. H. McGir	1992 Roger Hansen, SR/WA
1965 John B. Bennett*	1993 Thomas Spear, SR/WA*
1966 George E. Rohde*	1994 John R. Cowger
1967 Robert Newell, SR/WA*	1995 Gene R. Olson, SR/WA
1968 John Mulcahy, SR/WA*	1996 Leslie Benckendorf
1969 Lem P. Putnam*	1997 Jerry D. Swan, SR/WA
1970 David Moehring, SR/WA*	1998 Daisy E. Reed, SR/WA*
1971 Robert Beeman, SR/WA*	1999 Marian Wolcott
1972 Ken Chatwood, SR/WA	2000 Melissa Mallot
1973 Laurance Holt, SR/WA*	2001 Fred Rasmussen
1974 Milner M. Mead, SR/WA	2002 Tom Wolcott*
1975 James W. DeYoung	2003 Fred Walasavage
1976 Thomas Kornelis	2004 Fred Walasavage
1977 Harold Rohde, SR/WA*	2005 John Hooson
1978 Charles Wait, SR/WA	2006 Dawneen Dostert
	2007 Jaci Margeson, SR/WA
	2008 Carol Judd, SR/WA
	2009 Glen Bridger
	2010 Pam Mason
	2011 Dawneen Dostert

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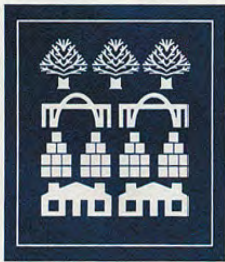


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RESG
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SERVICE DIRECTORY

Chapter 3 has decided that anyone who paid for space in our directory for 2010 will be allowed to carry over their space at no additional cost for 2011. If you are interested in directory space for 2012, the cost is \$40 per business card. You can begin to submit your info to the Newsletter editor in October. For additional information please contact Barry Bliss at ufsbarry@comcast.net

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