

BLUEGRASS BULLETIN

Fall 2022 Newsletter



President Message November 2022

Can you believe it is already November? It seems like just yesterday we were coming off the Region 5 Spring Forum here in Kentucky at Churchill Downs. Since, the forum we have had a successful State of the State with our partners, from the Kentucky Transportation Department. During the State of the State, we heard about the new projects and programs our Right of Way Professions are participating in throughout the state.

We have also attended the Fall Forum in Detroit, Michigan sponsored by Michigan Chapter 7. A great time was had by all who attended. Especially, the singing and dancing on the Detroit Princess. There were great speakers and a learning event with the Right-of-Way professional who worked on the Gordie Howe Bridge Project. During this time, we heard how these Right-of-Way Professions navigated the legal, social, and political concerns.

We had a successful Board of Directors Meeting in September at Malones in Lexington. It was good to get out of Louisville and experience other areas in the state. We are hoping to do this several more times throughout the year.

As I stated, early in this physical year, my theme for this year was to, "Get Back to Basics." In order to accomplish this, there is a great push to add to the membership. I am looking forward to the Young Professional and the Networking Event on November 10, 2022 (look for the flyer in this newsletter). The drive for membership has not just been a Chapter drive, but a national drive as well. International Executive Council (IEC), International Governing Council (IGC) and the Membership and Marketing Committee are focused on increasing the membership and the worth of the designation program (SR/WA). We have been challenged to ask ourselves this question for each of our events, "How will this increase our membership?"

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Purpose

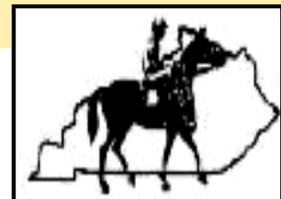
We improve people's quality of life through infrastructure development.

Mission

We empower professionals by elevating ethics, learning, and a standard of excellence within the global infrastructure real estate community.

www.irwa.org
www.irwaonline.org
www.irwaregion5.org

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President Message November 2022 (continued from page 1)

Therefore, I have asked whatever event, activity or meeting we offer, that we are focusing on this question. In promoting the designation (SR/WA) you are encouraged to declare your candidacy by December 31, 2022 of this year to reduce your cost and number of classes you will have to take. Please contact Chad Cutsinger if you need further information.

Coming up in the rest of the year, we will have our annual Christmas Party at Wildwood Country Club on December 9, 2022, please mark your calendars. I would like to challenge you to invite someone to attend with you as your guest, so they can get to know IRWA. So, get ready for Christmas, bring a door prize and have some fun. Our next major event will be our 2nd Annual Right-of-Way Day on March 10, 2023. We have a great lineup of speakers and new information for the Right-of-Way Professionals.

As I close, I want to challenge you to get involved with IRWA. We can only be a great organization with your help. It is never too early to think how you can get involved. Instead of just paying dues for a resume builder, find a way you can serve and grow as a Right-of-Way Professional. IRWA Chapter 25 has a lot of ways you can get involved to grow, learn and develop your professional life. We look forward to seeing you in the months to come.

Let's Get Back to the Basics,

Douglas Grant

Education: Investing in 'Self...Mike Penick, SR/WA, Education Chair

Fellow IRWA members, non-members and friends,

2023...is this finally the year that you make a commitment to invest in yourself? Perhaps you were on the fence about taking more IRWA classes. Or maybe you are of the mindset that "there's no reward for pursuing an SR/WA or an R/W designation." Yet still, there may be some of you that say if you have to pay out of your own pocket, any additional education, certification, or training is just not worth it. Well, I'm here to **challenge** your "old" way of thinking, and encourage you to take the step a leap of faith in your career, and begin to INVEST IN YOURSELF.

I cannot tell you the number of times I've heard over the years how hard this economy is. People aren't taking classes because of budget situations, lack of work, and so on. But guess what? TIME is TIME, and doesn't wait for a better economy. If it's already been ten years, do you really want to wait ANOTHER ten years? Why wait for the economy to get better? You could be waiting for something that may NEVER happen! Make up your mind to better YOURSELF...put YOURSELF FIRST for a change, and not the economy! We've all been saying (at one time or another) that "one day the work is going to come back" or "it may be a few more years before projects are let out for bid"...yet time marches on, and things remain the same. It's time to think about YOU.



So, let's start by taking a good strong look at your work credentials and job resume. If you work in the right-of-way or property industry, how many courses have you taken over the years? If your resume doesn't have at least a half-page of training courses by its own listing, then you haven't even started yet. If you say, "I've taken eight IRWA courses", what about taking nine or ten? Can you REALLY ever get enough education? I'm here to tell you that YOU CANNOT EVER GET ENOUGH EDUCATION.

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Education: Investing in 'Self... Continued from page 3

In the upcoming months (sooner rather than later), you will see IRWA courses being offered by our chapter as well as other chapters in our region. If you have not taken any of these classes before, then it's time to sign up; if you have taken them before, consider taking them again if it's been quite a few years. Refresher courses are a good thing! Shake the cobwebs from your brains, and explore new educational topics. This not only gives you the training and information you need, but it also allows you to expand your educational section on your job resume'. **IT'S WORTH IT!**

We (Your Education Committee and Officers of the Board) here at Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter 25 believe in you, **but you have to believe in yourself.** **STOP MAKING EXCUSES!** Take all the classes you can take! Strive to learn something new every day! If you need financial assistance, talk to Otto Spence, SR/WA about scholarship offerings that have not been taken advantage of. Did you also know that our chapter offers financial assistance from our own chapter in the name of the Don Brent, SR/WA Educational Fund? Talk to me or Chad Cutsinger about what help that can be to you!

I've been your chapter education chair since 2002, and during that time, I've seen the many cycles of right-of-way projects; the peaks AND the valleys. I am now asking each and every member to stop, take a look at their education needs, and commit themselves to new courses and new topics, with new ideas. If you need advising on what courses to take to further your career, call me...we'll sit down, have lunch, and talk about whatever you need or whatever I can do to help you. This is my job, and it take it very seriously, so I want you to get serious about your education and career...**TIME TO INVEST IN 'SELF!!!**

Mike Penick, SR/WA

EDUCATION IN ACTION YOU CAN BE PART OF THE NEXT CLASS!



KY Chapter 25: Education and Professional Development Report for 2022

2022 Education

February 10, 2022: Chapter 25 successfully held IRWA Course 503 on Mobile Homes, at KYTC Central Office in Frankfort. Total number of attendees was 46, and instructor was Tami Benson, SR/WA, from Tulsa, OK.

March 11, 2022: Chapter 25 held its annual ROW Day and Symposium at the University of Louisville, Shelby Campus. Total number of attendees was 41, with guest speakers Paul Weis (LG&E), Sara Wehbe [Virtual (CSX)], Curt Candler (Railroad Permits), Paul Blanton (Safety-KSP), and Pam Clay-Young (Appraisal & Legal).

May 13-14, 2022: Chapter 25 hosted the 2022 Region Five Spring Forum at the Crowne Plaza (Louisville Airport). Total number of attendees was 44, with special guest Carol Croft, SR/WA, who stepped down as Chair of RWIEF at this Forum. A total of 58 people made the trek over to Churchill Downs for the Saturday Nite Event.

September 20-21, 2022: Chapter 25 successfully held IRWA Course 100 on Principles of Land Acquisition, at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort. Total number of attendees was 27, and instructor was Chapter 25's own Mike Penick, SR/WA.

2022 Professional Development Notables

Jennifer Golson, SR/WA successfully completed and obtained her senior designation in January 2022.

Mike Penick, SR/WA successfully recertified his senior designation in September 2022.

Chad Cutsinger, SR/WA requested a HQ report to show member statuses towards the designation.

Douglas Grant successfully declared his candidacy for the current industry pathway to the SR/WA before the new path begins.



Young Professional & Networking Event



November 10, 2022 Young Professional Event: Hard Hats and Bats

Get ready to take a swing at joining IRWA! Come out and meet our members while enjoying a tour of Louisville's own Louisville Slugger Museum on November 10, at 3:30 pm (tour at 3:40 pm). After, make your way to The Eagle after for food and drinks. please RSVP with Hunter Stuart via email (hunterstuartappr@gmail.com) if you plan on attending

Networking Event

IRWA Chapter 25 will be hosting a Networking Event November 10, at 6 pm, at The Eagle (1314 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY). We encourage you to invite a friend who is not in IRWA. We will have a private room for the meeting and after we will be serving The Eagle's delicious fried chicken with hot honey and multiple side options and beverage choices. We hope you can join us, please RSVP with Hunter Stuart via email (hunterstuartappr@gmail.com) if you plan on attending the event.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR IRWA MEMBERSHIP

Dear IRWA Member,

Subject: Time to renew your IRWA membership

Thank you for being a valuable member of Bluegrass Chapter 25, our local network within the right of way industry. Hopefully you've seen how serious we are about providing exceptional experiences, a vibrant community, and essential tools that make you and your organization more successful. Have you taken advantage of the easily accessible benefits included in your membership such as:

- [Right of Way Magazine](#) — bimonthly magazine on all things right of way delivered straight to your inbox, so that you don't have to search for late-breaking information—we bring it to you!
- [Member Network](#) — members-only social network, connecting you to over 7,000 industry peers worldwide—networking remains an essential member benefit.
- Discounted tuition on courses as well as registration rates on events, including the Annual International Education Conference (Denver, CO, June 25 – 28, 2023)—resources geared toward your success.

Don't miss out on benefits like these and please remain part of the community by maintaining your membership...

If you need assistance with renewing your membership or have questions, please email membership@irwaonline.org.

We're looking forward to another great year together!

Respectfully,

Ron Geveden
Ch. 25 Membership Chair
(502) 727-4898
rgeveden@orcolan.com



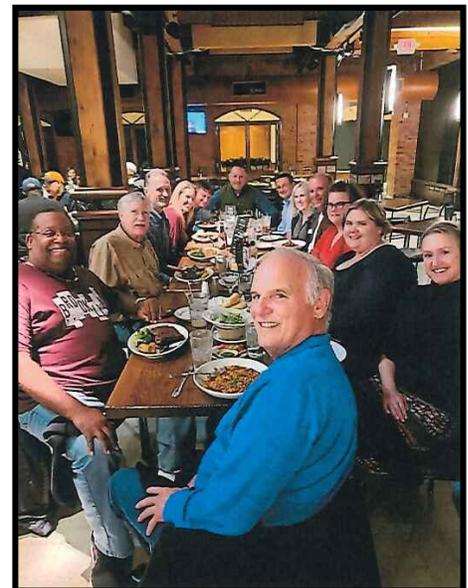
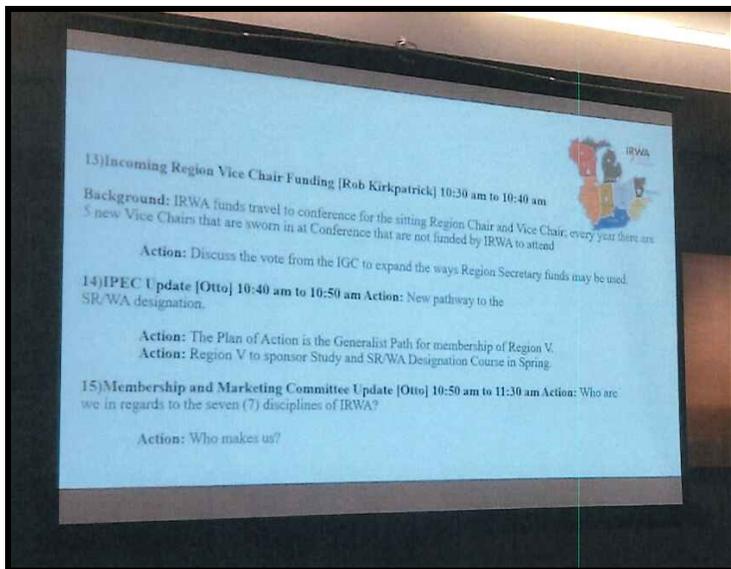
AUGUST STATE OF STATE MEMBERSHIP MEETING



FALL FORUM DETROIT 2022



Fun and Business of IRWA



REGION V FALL FORUM FOLLOW-UP

This email is a follow-up to the items we talked about for the Region V Fall Forum of 2022 on October 8, 2022 in Detroit, Michigan.

Let us first stop and thank Chapter 7 (Michigan Chapter) for a well-planned and well-founded event that allowed all of us to enjoy the presence of our professional family of Region 5. As the holidays approach, I hope your exposure to your personal family is as fruitful and enjoyable.

It is very important that you (the President) and the Vice President of your Chapter to start to build the foundation of Marketing and Membership. The Vice Presidents of your Chapter are being included in this event because this is a 3 to 5 year development plan of our goals

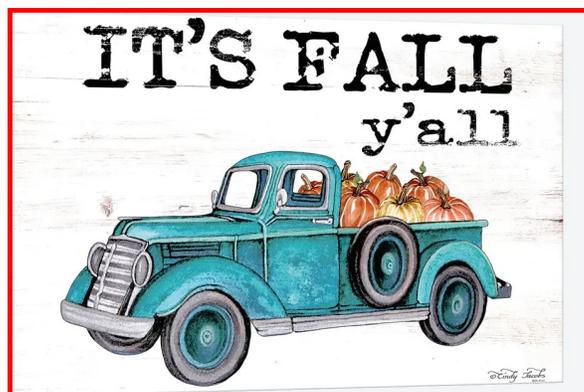
As spelled out by our discussions our goals are:

- 1.) Develop a “Worth of the IRWA and the SR/WA Designation”;
- 2.) Develop a Marketing Plan that can be supportive of our Chapters;
- 3.) Develop a Designation Plan which is supportive of the eight (8) Chapter Members;
- 4.) Develop a Comprehensive Plan for the accomplishment of an education plan of offering at least two (2) of the required courses per Chapter for the SR/WA designation; and,
- 5.) Develop a Plan that allows our Leaders to “Shine” and our Quite Membership to “Exist.”

Item 8 of our agenda for the Fall Forum of 2022:

Bylaws Review Task Force (Discussion lead by Otto Spence)

Action: Allow leadership to fit members choice; and,



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REGIONAL FALL FORUM...continued from page 8

Action: Don't overload members with levels of leadership.

-attention should be placed on term limitations of Chapter Leadership because of the limited amount of people taking part in leadership roles of the Chapter. Many potential leaders are being forced out of leadership because of term limits of our bylaws and leadership standards, such as some members just want to be secretaries and not be any other office. Simply put, they want to be a part of leadership but not leadership as President. Our main concept is "Leaders want to lead and followers want to be lead." We should be concerned with allowing the leadership to develop and grow and the followers of our Chapters to be followers. This concept was heavily supported that followers of the IRWA in our Chapters, these members which want lower levels of leadership should be allowed to be "just members if they choice" and be strongly supported as such. A strong point was made that younger members are very sensitive of their off-work time and don't want to spend their time in leadership.

Item 14 of our agenda for the Fall Forum of 2022:

IPEC Update (Discussion lead by Otto Spence)

Action: New pathway to the SR/WA designation;

Action: The plan of Action is the Generalist Path for membership of Region V; and,

Action: Region V to sponsor the Study and SR/WA Designation Course in the Spring of 2023 just a few days before the Spring Forum.

Action: Region V to sponsor the development of an experience and/or resume/qualifications training event in early Spring of 2023 just a few days before the Spring Forum.

Action 1: The Chapter Presidents and International Directors of Region 5 of IRWA absolutely rejected the New Pathway to the SR/WA designation by the statements of the "Worth of the SR/WA" is not supportive of the increased cost and time factors of the New Pathway. There was no support for the new plan of increased costs and courses. The reasons for the rejections was the historical decrease in the numbers of SR/WA's on the Chapter and employment levels. The members of the Fall Forum felt that the "increased worth of IRWA and the SR/WA designation" be placed before the increased cost and course levels of the New Pathway. A strong point was made that a lot of employers of current IRWA members are not as supportive of IRWA as they have been in the past because of the lower level of knowledge of the association.

Action 2: The Chapter Presidents and International Directors of Region 5 of IRWA accepted the Generalist Pathway to the SR/WA designation by the statements of the "Salvation of an Alternative Path of the SR/WA designation" is supportive of a unified effort of Region 5 to get as many potential members signed up for the Generalist Pathway

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REGIONAL FALL FORUM...continued from page 9

and promote the process through Chapter newsletters and social media as guided by the Region.

Action 3: The Chapter Presidents and International Directors of Region 5 of IRWA agreed that we sponsor the Study and SR/WA Designation Course again in the Spring Period of 2023; which is a few days before the Spring Forum as the Region 5 did at the Spring Forum of 2022 in Louisville, Kentucky. At the 2022 Spring Forum, we had three (3) members complete and pass the test of the Study and SR/WA Designation Course. We at Region 5 are planning on finding and developing students for the Study and SR/WA Designation Course at the Region 5 Spring Forum in Indiana on the dates of April 25th to 28th of 2023. More information will be provided as the program develops.

Action 4: Region V to sponsor the development of an experience and/or resume/qualifications training event in the early Spring of 2023; just a few days before the Spring Forum. More information is being developed on this event.

Item 15 of our agenda for the Fall Forum of 2022:

Membership and Marketing Committee Update (Discussion lead by Otto Spence)

Action: Who are we in regards to the seven (7) disciplines of IRWA?; and,
Action: Who makes us us?

The question in our Marketing approach with IRWA is who are your members, are they appraisers, right-of-way agents, legal professionals or other. In Region 5 we have approximately 925 members of the IRWA Association, so as Chapter Presidents we need to breakdown our Regional membership into the seven (7) disciplines of our Association. Gail Morton, SR/WA, Region 5 Secretary/Treasurer, has email you a roster of your membership as of the headquarters of the IRWA. I need you to go through the roster and determine what each member does as a professional link to their employment. Then I need you to send me an email with that breakdown. I will total the number of members based on the seven (7) disciplines and that will help us focus on the marketing to keep current members and the areas to grow.

If we breakdown our 925 IRWA members of Region 5; that will show us who we are. From that breakdown we can truly understand what are strengths and weaknesses are. The early results tell us that four (4) of our Chapters do not have a surveyor as a member of the Chapter. The early results also tell us that five (5) of our Chapters do not have a legal attorney as a member of the Chapter. These are areas of needed improvement in membership counts. Also, the early results show that we have a heavy influence or cross of professionals with the appraisal industry.

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REGIONAL FALL FORUM...continued from page 10

I went to the leadership of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Bar Association and asked why we had lost their support in membership and involvement. They informed me that IRWA has dismissed the approved legal courses and classes for continuing education offered by them for professional development, so in return they have dismissed our educational offerings. Also, in the past, the IRWA had been offering speakers on real estate topics at their general membership meetings, which has stopped.

To solve this gap between IRWA and the Legal Bar Associations within the boundaries of your Chapters in Region 5; I need you to contact your local bar association and ask to provide speakers on current real estate issues and the process of eminent domain. If you don't have a Chapter member to do so, then I will be happy to do so. Remember, I spend my time in the Federal and State courts on the issues of eminent domain. Region 5 has professional experts in these legal fields so we need to promote those experts. For the other disciplines of IRWA, we need to develop professional experts in those areas to speak for us. If you have suggestions for experts, please send me those names so that I may develop a speakers list.

In the case of surveyors, they have said that if we can prove a “worth value” to supporting the IRWA then they will listen. A couple of you (Chapters) have done an excellent job on promoting surveyors in your area of the Region, would you please do a write-up for me to pass-along to the other Chapters as a learning tool. The Ohio Chapter and Indiana Chapter need to take the lead on this issue. I need to take up the issue with the National Leadership of IRWA, why we have stopped the acknowledgement of linked continuing education between the professions. I will keep you informed on this topic as I learn more from headquarters.

Item 21 of our agenda for the Fall Forum of 2022:

Committee Reports (Discussion lead by Otto Spence)

Action: Adaption and Support of Committees by Region if so; and,

Action: What two committees would be strong support?

In our discussion, we would feel comfortable supporting at least three (3) committees if needed, because of Region membership in those committees.

They are:

- 1.) Environmental – Doug Grant – Region 5, Chapter 25-Kentucky
- 2.) Surveying & Engineering – Henry Horton & Kent Edwards – Region 5, Chapter 7-Michigan
- 3.) Electric & Utilities – Tom Schafer

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REGIONAL FALL FORUM...continued from page 11

The Region has Otto Spence – Region 5 Chairperson (Chapter 25), Robert Kirkpatrick – Region 5 Vice Chairperson (Chapter 12) and Kyra Froelich – Region 5 At-Large Member of Region 5 (Chapter 7) as the three (3) Region 5 representatives of the Marketing and Membership Committee.

Kyra Froelich will become the New Social Marketing Regional Committee Chairperson, she will be attending the bi-monthly meeting of the Marketing and Membership Committee and reporting back to the Presidents' of Chapter. Her next meeting will be November 4, 2022; so she will be reporting to you shortly after that date. She will be doing monthly reports during the monthly President's call. Her contact information is: DTE Energy, Right-of-Way Agent, Phone (248) 390.3500, kyra@kyrafroelich.com. Please include her in your duties as Chapter President. Please respect her time, if you have crazy response time requirements then call me at 502.419.6886.

Each Chapter President is responsible for the development of a Chapter Social Media Marketing Committee which will include the Chapter's President, Chapter's Vice President, Chapter's Young Professionals Committee Chairperson, Education Committee Chairperson, Professional Development Committee Chairperson, Membership Committee Chairperson, Web-Site/Newsletter Committee Chairperson and the Communication Committee Chairperson whom will be receiving reports from the New Social Marketing Regional Committee Chairperson Kyra Froelich.

Item 22 of our agenda for the Fall Forum of 2022:

Chapter Reports (Discussion lead by Robert Kirkpatrick)

Action: Chapters to provide reports on current status of their Chapters;

Action: Chapters to address type of memberships of their Chapters; and,

Action: Chapters to involve Education, PDC and Membership Committees for Development of the SR/WA Designation.

In our discussion, we would feel comfortable supporting the consolidated effort to combine the eight (8) Chapters of Region 5 is a single step process of obtaining the requirements of the SR/WA Designation.

In accomplishing the consolidated effort, we need to:

1.) Offer the educational process of the Generalist Pathway to the SR/WA designation, which spans across Wisconsin to West Virginia; may have to offer eastern and western based courses; (involvement of Education Committee of Region 5);

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REGIONAL FALL FORUM...continued from page 12

2.) Acknowledgement of members that have a benefit of taking the Generalist Pathway to the SR/WA designation; (involvement of Membership Committee and Newsletter Committee);

3.) Separation of Chapter Members into the Discipline of their professional work environment to provide advice of education and experience credits; (involvement of Professional Development Committee);

This is all based on the individual results of each Chapter getting this done and in-place over the next few months. We will have more formal directions and instructions at the Spring Forum; however, if you wait until then, your Chapter members will be completely behind the other Chapters in effort and results. You can not waste time because your involvement in the monthly President's call will be lost because we are going to move our process along in such a manner to accomplish our Region goals. I need your help.

Item 23 of our agenda for the Fall Forum of 2022:

Communications (Discussion lead by Otto Spence)

Action: Inform Chapters of new marketing award;

Action: Chapters to address new ways of retaining older members, retirees, and long time members; and,

Action: Chapters to involve Young Professionals in marketing efforts.

In our discussion, we would feel comfortable supporting the Chapters being more involved in granting more Life Time Achievement Awards given to older members in support of the volunteering with Chapter Events. Maybe moving to a Honor Roll or Hall of Fame Supporter of the Chapter.

Conclusions

I need your involvement in the President's call in the coming months, please keep your Vice President informed and involved because this is long term planning in play. Marketing and Membership are two strong issues that take time, this is not a short term fix.

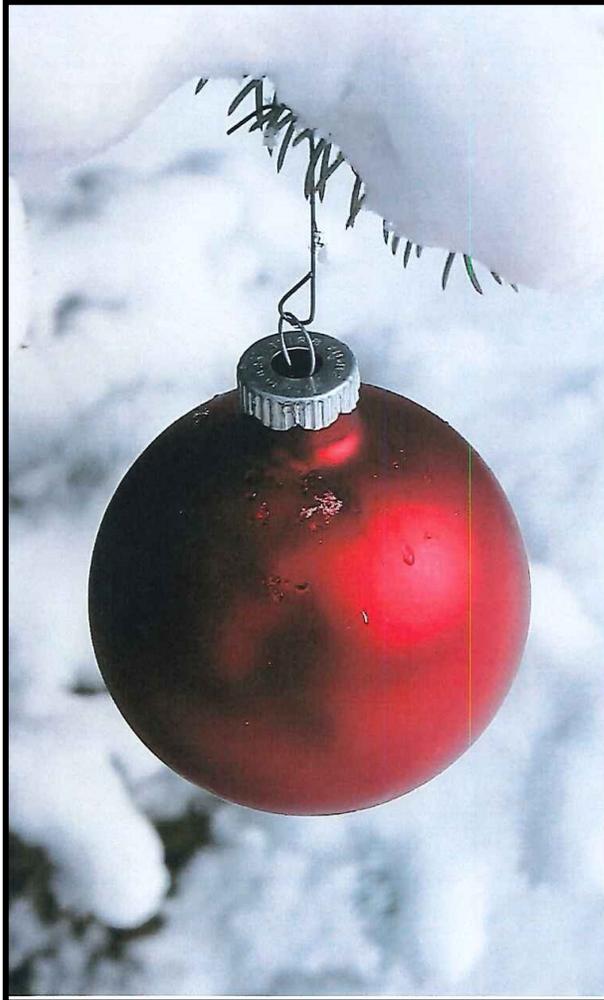
Please respond if questions, comments and/or suggestions.

Thanks,

William D. Otto Spence, SR/WA



RESERVE THIS DATE
December 9, 2022
CHAPTER 25 CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Annual
Christmas
Party
December 9, 2022**

6:00 pm Cash Bar
7:00 pm Dinner (\$40.00/Single.
\$60.0/couples)
8:00 pm Awards, Fellowship & Door
Prizes
(Remember to bring several door prizes!)

Location: Wildwood Country Club
500 Bardstown Road,
Louisville, Kentucky 40291

RSVP to check or credit card please!
Questions: Contact Douglas Grant at 502-608-3687
or email: revmdgrant@gmail.com

***Please include this bottom slip when you RSVP**

Name: _____

Guests: _____

Please enclose \$40/singles or \$60/couples (make your check payable to IRWA Chapter 25)
And mail to:

Mike Penick, SR/WA
Louisville Metro Government
444 S. Fifth Street, Suite 400
Louisville, KY 40202

Credit Card link: <https://square.link/u/4QU1vmzvnd> mail to:

