

## President's Message

August 2011

It is a great honor and privilege to serve as your president of the Empire State Chapter 18 for the coming year. My first order of business is to congratulate and thank President Tim Magyar for an excellent term of office. He provided strong leadership and chapter meetings were well run and to the point. I look forward to continuing to work with the dedicated professionals that are on our executive board.

The signs point to this being another challenging year as the economy's ripple effect continues to pose a burden for professional/educational associations. It has been a concern in maintaining membership; attracting new members, officers and committee members; obtaining sponsoring agency support; and it hampers the ability for Chapters to offer courses in a financially feasible way. It is for this reason that at this time, we are resurrecting the Long Term Planning Committee to be chaired by the immediate past president, as our bylaws dictate. We are extremely fortunate to have several retired, but still dedicated professionals that continue to contribute to the successes of this Chapter and we will call on them one more time in this effort. We will seek out the assistance of the IRWA national office, as well as our Region 4 executives. We are clearly not alone in this situation, as many professional associations are in the same boat.

Speaking of boats, our annual Educational Symposium in Canandaigua continues to be the crown jewel of our schedule- next year's symposium will be August 15-16, 2012. The event begins with a chapter meeting, which is followed by a cruise around scenic Canandaigua Lake. The symposium format has caught on, featuring multiple speakers on several topics related to the Right of Way profession. Our faculty annually brings together some of the most talented folks in our profession. If you haven't attended one of these, I strongly urge you to do so. The friends you make, good times and your expanded networking are just more added benefits from attending this event. This year, Chapter 18 will also be host to the Region 4, 2012 Spring Forum to be held in Saratoga Springs, NY in April 11-14, 2012. The updated 2012 -7 hour USPAP course will be given at the start of this event. Plans are to advertise this early and often, as we are now in line with the beginning of the 2-year USPAP update cycle. There are many details and much work ahead on the Spring Forum and volunteers are needed to assist chairman Tom Newton and his committee in guaranteeing the success of this Forum.

Our remaining meeting schedule has been set up with geography in mind- Batavia, Syracuse and Saratoga Springs hopefully offers Chapter members at least one convenient location in New York State. Our November 4 meeting will feature a tour of "the world's first industrial incubator". The Mancuso family experience at the Batavia Industrial Center is known internationally in those circles. We'll also attempt to provide quality speakers at the remaining meetings. This year's meeting schedule is set and is in the newsletter and on our website. Let's get involved! If you have suggestions and ideas, please let us know. We value your comments. Here's to making this a successful year for IRWA Empire State Chapter 18. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Zehler, R/W-AC  
President, Empire State Chapter 18 of the IRWA

