



The Who's Who and What's What

What...A New Year End?

At April's Chapter Executive meeting, the Chapter leadership voted to amend our Chapter bylaws and change our year end day from December 31st to June 30th, in order to mirror the year end of the IRWA's IEC (International Executive Committee). There was nearly a year of thought and discussion pertaining to this change within our Chapter Executive, including sourcing opinions of many Past Presidents and previous Chapter leaders. The key objectives behind this substantial vote included: creating a smooth transition for Chapter leaders that wanted to move on and run for the Region Chair Positions; to build smooth reporting and communications between the Association Chapters, Region, IEC and Head Quarters; to allow the Chapter to have a consecutive ten month term of leadership, rather than executive role changes being completed at Christmas and having a two month interruption of flow in the summer. I am pleased to report that most Chapters across the Association have elected to amend their bylaws and mirror the IEC's year end. This decision has become an association wide movement. As such, our current volunteer roles will come to a conclusion after a year and a half of service, rather than the full two years.

Who...Coming & Going?

It is hard to believe that a year and half has gone by so quickly, but as we approach the IRWA Annual Educational Conference, we also approach the end of my term as Chapter 48's President. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be Chapter 48's President for the past 18 months. It has been a terrific learning opportunity and has brought wonderful business relationships that have evolved into many strong friendships. Looking back (and yes, I may be a bit bias), I feel the Chapter has had many positive successes the past few years including moving to on-line payment for luncheons and courses, enhancing our website and NewsLine, the always tremendous social events, restructuring and streamlining our executive for efficient voting and additional sub-committee empowerment, continuing to execute monthly luncheon programs with strong attendance, and of course, the most recent major success...a \$30,000 Platinum Educational Sponsorship from Cenovus Energy!!! As with any role, volunteer or otherwise, everyone likes to feel like they are making a difference and influencing the direction. The reality is none of these exciting successes (and the many I simply do not have space for to list) would have NOT happened without the hard working volunteers across our Chapter...each of them truly do make a difference and influence the direction of our Chapter.

Who...do I thank?

I owe many thanks across the entire Association, but I'll key on just a few or you'll stop reading! The entire Executive I was fortunate to work with made my role incredibly easy and enabled us to accomplish a lot...not to mention we had a lot of fun! I thank you all for your support, willingness and drive to always make our Chapter even better. Justian Wylie and Bill Giese are both Past Presidents that were instrumental in mentoring me into the Chapter President role. My peer Chapter President's region wide were always a terrific support system and a wonderful resource to bounce ideas off of. Our Region 10 Leaders, Brenda Becker and Karen Carswell, continually strived so hard to make our Region and individual Chapters heard by headquarters and they always kept things moving forward. I also must thank the leaders of our great Association who truly are passionate about Professional Development and they provided me direct and personal influence for my growth within the Association...Faith Rolland – IRWA Past President, Mark Rieck – IRWA EVP and Sandy Grigg – IRWA Current President. Thank you, all.

Who's...Welcomed & Who's...Saying Good-bye?

The Executive has one key individual that is stepping down – Dana Zielke. Dana put in a lot of effort in and played a key role in enhancing our NewsLine. Her background and experience was a welcome addition to our team and the Chapter 48 Executive was fortunate to have her talents while we did. More importantly (and selfishly), Dana was a terrific editor for all my newsletters and I'm certain saved me many of an embarrassing moment! I wish Dana all the best in the future and thank her greatly for her contributions while volunteering.

Barring any unforeseen changes, Chris Thompson will officially take the reins as Chapter President on July 1, 2010. I will continue in an active supporting role for Chris until the end of December and I have a feeling I will regret the number of times I called on him for 'help' when he was Vice-President the past 18 months. I thank Chris for all his great support as the Chapter Vice-President and wish him luck as our new President. Enjoy the ride Chris as I'm certain you will do a great job.

What...are my closing comments?

Chapter 48 is considered the strongest in Region 10 and is regarded as a 'Top Ten' by Headquarters worldwide because of active membership involvement and unbelievable volunteer efforts. I'm very proud to say I was one part of the whole that makes Chapter 48 the success it continues to be. I wish future executive members all the best in continuing the development and enhancement of what we proudly call IRWA's "Chapter 48 – Prairie Chapter".



Brodie Allen
President Chapter#48

Remember to stay in touch by checking out the website for events, education updates and luncheons.

WEBSITE - <http://www.irwa48.org>

Only **one week** until the 2010 IRWA Annual Education Conference in Calgary, AB, June 27th to July 1st, 2010!