

President's Message

It is with great pleasure to serve as your president of the Empire State Chapter 18 for the upcoming year. As I enjoyed a brief term as vice president for early 2016, it is my honor to serve as your president for rest of 2016 through June of next year.

I would like to congratulate and thank past President Kayla Biltucci for a very successful year. She provided strong leadership, extraordinary commitment and presided over some interesting and entertaining meetings and events. Along with her attendance at the last two educational conferences in San Diego and Nashville and the success of Course 431 held in Albany last fall, the USPAP update course held in Syracuse in February and our most recent beloved Summer Symposium on beautiful Canandaigua Lake. We thank you once again. I look forward to following in Kayla's footsteps and working with all the dedicated professionals on our executive board and serving on committees. I also would like to welcome Jim Wilson of Percheron as the new Vice President.

We are the IRWA. Learn. Lead. Advance. The primary core value of the IRWA is "professional development achieved through lifelong learning." I will, as many did before me, maintain the Chapter's education efforts with continued course offerings and learning opportunities. Although it's hard to improve on the annual summer symposium, attendance and great speakers is key. The fall forum in Saratoga Springs (October 6-8) should bring a great networking opportunity for you and income for the chapter, along with some interesting case studies which include: Laura Ayers, Esq. Easements; Rick Pino, Indirect Damages; Kayla Biltucci, Market Value in Eminent Domain; NYSDOT, The Kosciuszko Bridge (Queens, NY) Relocation Case Studies; NYSDOT, 3.9 billion dollar project, The Engineering & Design Aspects of the Tappan Zee Bridge.

As in previous year, the general meeting schedule has been set up with geography in mind, hoping that this will offer Chapter members at least one convenient location in the State. The 2016-2017 schedule is as follows:

November 18, 2016 - 716 Food & Sports Restaurant, 7 Scott Street, Buffalo, NY (716) 855-4716.

February 3, 2017 - Joey's Italian Restaurant, 9594 Thompson Road, Syracuse, NY (315) 432-0315.

April 14, 2017 - Wolf's 1-11, 111 Wolf Road, Colonie, NY (518) 275-0561.

Tom Newton Memorial Golf Tournament, June 23, 2017 - Victor Hills Golf Club, Victor, NY.

Summer Symposium, August 16-17, 2017 - The Inn on The Lake, 770 S. Main St., Canandaigua, NY.

If you have suggestions or ideas, please let us know. We value your comments. Here's to another successful year for IRWA Empire State Chapter 18!



Yours in IRWA,
Chad Stropp
President, IRWA Empire State Chapter 18

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Outgoing President's Message

Whatever begins must also end. And it is with a mixture of melancholy, relief and joy that I wind up my year as your President of Chapter 18.

I am melancholy to leave a post that has brought much excitement and enrichment. I have gotten to know many of you much better, learned how to be a better leader, attended two international conferences and met so many wonderful IRWA members from around the world. We also had a perfectly gorgeous day of weather (again!) for our TNT tournament to honor our late friend, mentor and all around inspiration, Tom Newton. All in all, the involvement as your president has provided me with one of the most rewarding experiences on a personal and professional level in which I have been involved.

I am also relieved. So many positive things happened with our chapter this



Past President Kayla Biltucci presents Tim Maygar with the Chapter 18's Professional of the Year plaque.

year and I was always so concerned that I wasn't doing enough. So many of you kept me going, encouraging me. I thank you for that! We had a successful year with courses, raising funds and

bringing in several new members. And we wound up the year with another very enjoyable and educational Summer Symposium to top it off.

And, lastly I am filled with joy. I am joyous that the year went well. I am joyful that we all enjoyed good health and kept the chapter strong. I am joyful and grateful that Chad Stropp will be stepping in as our new president. And, how could I not be filled with joy now that I am joining a most esteemed fraternity, "The Past Presidents". What a distinguished bunch it is!

With that, I say "Great is the art of beginning, but greater is the art of ending." (-Lazurus Long). I look forward to being very artful!

– Kayla Biltucci



Incoming president Chad Stropp presenting an appreciation plaque to outgoing president Kayla Biltucci.



Scholarship Recipients Named

The Chapter Scholarship Committee selected **Sarah Cirillo**, daughter of Frank Cirillo, SR/WA, and **Emily Magyar**, daughter of Tim Magyar, SR/WA, R/W-AC, as the recipients of the 2016 David Layne, SR/WA, Scholarship, presented by Chapter 18 of the International Right of Way Association.

Sarah Cirillo is a 2016 graduate of Clarence High School with a Regents' Diploma with Advanced Distinction and Honors in Math and Science. While at C.H.S. she played both field hockey and lacrosse and was active in Kids Against Drugs. Academically, she completed advanced placement courses in calculus, physics, and statistics. Sarah will attend SUNY Geneseo in the fall.

In June, Emily Magyar graduated from

Amherst Central High School. Emily received a Regents' Diploma with Advanced Distinction and Honors in Math. She was a member of the National Honor Society. Emily's major academic interest is biology, which she plans to pursue at Niagara University this September.

Chapter President Chad Stropp said the Chapter is extremely pleased to recognize both the academic and personal accomplishments of Sarah and Emily and to be able to participate, even in a small way, with their plans for the future.

The scholarships, in the amount of \$500 each, are awarded based on academics, a personal essay, extracurricular activities, and a letter of recommendation. The scholarship is named after long time Chapter member, David Layne, SR/WA.

IRWA Chapter 18 General Session Minutes Mickey Finn's, Victor, NY June 24, 2016

Attendees: Frank Cirillo, Dave Hatch, Ed Zehler, Tim Magyar, Chad Stropp, Dick Stropp, Patti Darch, Kayla Biltucci, Rich Hite, Jim Wilson, Joe King (guest), Tony Dispenza (guest).

Call to order by President, Kayla Biltucci at 1:25 P.M.

Madame President opens the meeting by thanking all attendees of the annual conference for representing the Chapter. Further discussion was made about the meetings she attended, including the Board of Directors meeting that she and Chad attended. The BOD meeting was led by International President Wayne Goss. San Antonio won the bid for the conference in 2021. Ottawa was running against them, but backed out the week prior to the vote. There is already competition brewing for the 2022 bid (Denver and Cleveland in the mix right now). The title of the Vice President will be the CEO at HQ. International Legal Counsel, Eric Finn, has retired with Brad Kuhn taking the position. There was much discussion about different levels for retirees to establish different membership fees.



Frank Cirillo inducts new Chapter officers, from the left: Chad Stropp, President; Erik Stropp, Treasurer; Jim Wilson, Vice President; and Tim Magyar, Secretary.

New membership fees for the upcoming year are now \$225. We have new contingencies from Uganda, Nigeria, Germany, Australia, Mexico, and Japan, all of which had some members in attendance.

Adjourn for lunch @ 1:40 — Resume meeting @ 2:00

Secretary's Report: The secretary report was presented within the last newsletter. Motion made to accept as presented. Seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Erik Stropp not present. No treasurer report. Discussion was made and a motion was made to add Chad Stropp (Incoming Chapter President) and James Wilson (Incoming Chapter Vice President) to the signature list for the bank checking account

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**General Session Minutes
Victor, NY • June 24, 2016**

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and to remove any unneeded signatories no currently on the Board. The motion was seconded and carried with no discussion.

PDC Report – No PDC report. Kayla wants to look into using her experience in obtaining a designation. Tim will help her look into this.

Education Report – No official report. The speakers for the Summer Symposium are set and the event should be advertised within the next 2 weeks.

Membership – Bill Dow was not present. No report.

Newsletter – Was recently sent out. Get materials into Dick Stropp and he will prep the new newsletter.

Website - No report.

Scholarship – Due August 1st. Encourage anyone able to apply to apply.

Old Business: - None

New Business – Forum – Sessions are set up and expenses are being paid for the out of town speakers. We are looking for volunteers for bag stuffing and help with the event.

–Young Professionals – Kayla reports that International wants an influx of young professionals in leadership roles. Kayla suggests that our Chapter funds a young professional to attend the International Conference. There is discussion of how to get the next generation of leaders involved now. No motions are made.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Seconded with no discussion. Meeting Adjourned at 2:50.

Future Chapter/Region Meeting Dates:

August 10, 2016 – General Meeting //
August 11, 2016 – Summer Symposium
Fall Forum 2016, Saratoga Springs, NY,
October 6-8th



Starting gun of the 2017 Tom Newton Memorial Golf Tournament

**IRWA Chapter 18
General Session Minutes
Canandaigua Inn on the Lake
Canandaigua, NY
August 10, 2016**

Attendees: Bill Dow, Dave Hatch, Ed Zehler, Erik Stropp, Tim Magyar, Kathie Lafko, Frank Cirillo, Kayla Biltucci, Barb Miller, Dave Layne, Dave Champagne, Jim Wilson, Chad Stropp, Dick Stropp

Call to order by Former President, Kayla Biltucci at 2:50 P.M.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the prior meeting were distributed and briefed. Motion was made to accept the minutes as distributed and seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Erik Stropp reports that the new system of Quickbooks is audited annually by HQ. Our Chapter passed without question. The only advice offered was to closely monitor the scholarship and relatives of the board approving the scholarships.

The balance sheet was distributed. Our account has just under \$46,000 in the account and we are down \$500 for the year. Motion was made to accept the treasurers report as distributed and seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

ROWie Says
To they who are determined
it remains only to act.

PDC Report – No PDC report.

Education Report – Frank Cirillo reports that the Forum education speakers are essentially set up, we just need to slot the speakers if they have a preference. Other education was discussed to cater to DOT trainees. Course 218 (a new 2-day utility course) was discussed by Bill Dow, in an attempt to get some National Grid, National Fuel, and other private sector utilities involvement. Kayla wonders if the course can center on fiber optics. Discussion ended as this is a new course that

is not fully rolled out yet. Maybe next year we can look into. 900 level courses were also discussed as good educational experiences for trainees. No courses were scheduled. We are focusing on the Forum and will see if we can get some interest in some of the courses discussed today for a future offering next year.

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**General Session Minutes
Canandaigua, NY
August 10, 2016**

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Membership – Bill Dow reported that our last report indicated that we have 61 members. Bill presented two (2) new members Greg Hopsicker, Christina Thoreson. Additionally, we were notified of three (3) older pending memberships from Bryan Benjamin, Kim Brand, and Aiden Moyer. Motion was made to accept and seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. Welcome to Chapter 18.

Newsletter – The next newsletter is being processed and will be sent out within the next month.

Website - The site is up to date with the exception of the Forum brochure and we need the meeting dates for the upcoming year from the new Chapter President, Chad Stropp.

Scholarship: Dave Layne reported that we have two (2) candidates in for the scholarship at this point, but there is still a little time for anyone else to get their application in before the scholarships are awarded on August 15th.

New Business: Thank you to all of those responsible for bringing the Symposium together. Frank Cirillo has applied for IRWA CE, for those with designations that need IRWA CE. This is a new process that we just found out about. This will also have to be done for the forum education event.

Fall Forum – Tim Magyar reported on the progress of the Fall Forum. We currently have one (1) registrant and one (1) sponsor. The new registration forms are being distributed by Bill. There was a problem with the registration on HO's website that we will need to fix. There is a direct link for the hotel registration up now. We are still do not have an event lined up for Saturday. Several suggestions have been made, but no one event is standing out. The committee suggested that we offer a continental breakfast for the attendees and provide them with several options in the area. The Fall foliage changing is the main event at this time of year up there. We need to nail down the pub crawl order of events and get reservations if we are going to do the same set up as last time. The education



Tim Magyar, Chairman of the Tom Newton Memorial Golf Tournament, presents the winner's team to team captain, Ed Zehler and team member Dave Hatch.

is set and we should be good with enough speakers. Dave Champagne suggests getting the presenters' slideshows (if they use them) and post them on the website for anyone to peruse.

Young Professionals – Kayla is looking for ideas to bring young professionals along and into our industry. Talk started with possibly the chapter sponsoring a young professional (definition TBD) to go to the conference. This was briefly discussed, noting that the next several conferences are on the other side of the country and are expected to be very costly. This may not work for our chapter as we have been breaking even financially over the past couple of years. Discussion evolved to possibly the chapter sponsoring a membership for a young professional, which would be reimbursed at the end of the 1st year and certain attendance requirements will have to be met. This discussion gathered some traction; however, no motions were made.

ROWie Says
Taking out without putting in soon comes to the bottom.

Kayla presented Tim Magyar with the Professional of the Year plaque and thanked him for the time and effort he dedicates to the Chapter and the IRWA. Tim did not prepare a speech, but thanked everyone in attendance for their recognition.

Tim Magyar presented Team Captain, Ed Zehler with the Tom Newton Memorial Golf Tournament Trophy. Ed posed with the cup with teammates Dave Hatch and Tim for a few pictures and raised the cup respectfully in Tom's memory.

Kayla Biltucci was presented with a plaque recognizing her tenure as last year's president. Special thanks to Kayla for all of her efforts, dedication, and accomplishments in elevating our chapter.

Installation of Officers: Frank Cirillo conducts the installation of officers for Chapter 18. Congratulations to the new and returning Chapter Officers.

Future Chapter/Region Meeting Dates: To Be Scheduled and Posted
Meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

2016 Summer Symposium

According to our treasurer, this year's Symposium was a financial success.

We had twenty-two attendees and four sponsors. Gross Income was \$3,100 + \$400 from sponsors. Total expenses were \$2,500 for a net of \$1,000

Many thanks to our sponsors:

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DID YOU KNOW?

Chapter 18's own Dave Layne is Chairman of the Trustees of the Appraisal Foundation.

You cannot get much higher in the field than this.

Congratulations Dave



Minutes before adjourning to the 19th hole of the 2016 Tom Newton Memorial Golf Tournament.

IRWA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

CHAPTER 18 – EMPIRE STATE CHAPTER TERM OF OFFICE:
JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017

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