

IRWA International Relocation Committee Report
Region 7 Spring Forum – March 28, 2009

Educational Conference Meeting - June 22, 2008, Austin, TX

- Region Reports. I reported that there were 2 proposed relocation courses still to be held in 2008 and 6 relocation courses proposed to be held in our region in 2009.
- Subcommittee Reports
 - Research/Studies. Input and suggestions are needed for FAQ within the ROW magazine. The TXDOT article regarding a monthly stipend to low income tenants as incentive to stay within their units until the parcel could be fully acquired from the owner was well received.
 - Outreach. Titles, topic descriptions, and speaker information for Indy 2009 Conference due by February 1. Commitment letters are a high priority.
 - Strategic Planning. Lisa Barnes is taking over this committee for Barb. Minor updates to the plan are underway. A top priority is the review of the RAC certification program requirements.
 - Education. 20% of the courses have been reviewed for errors. The goal is to ensure all courses are reviewed within 5 years. Courses edits will be collected at the fall meeting; feedback from Region representatives is essential to maintaining course quality.
- Conference Topics/Coordination. A brief review of the Indy topics led into discussion of the coordination of each session. By April 1, session organizers must have identified the outline of each session's information and flow as well as the assigned speakers, moderators, assistants. The session descriptions need to be well written and accurate.
- Other Discussion. Since the AI is also holding their conference here in Austin, early coordination between the relocation agent and appraiser was raised as an issue that needs to be explored. It was suggested that a committee should initiate discussions with the AI regarding education and cooperation between our 2 organizations to address the link between the appraisal and the relocation program. This issued tabled until fall.

Fall Meeting - October 11-12, 2008, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

- Indy Educational Conference. We had an in-depth work session regarding moderator responsibilities, submittal deadlines, technical coordination, and the content of each session. Sessions that have made the final cut:
 - Undocumented Alien Hardships
 - Relocation Assistance (HUD Related Projects)
 - Nuts & Bolts of Business Relocations
 - Relocation Talk Shows – Residential Relocation & Business Relocation
 - Environmental Justice
 - Relocation of the Elderly
 - Relocation Jeopardy
- IPDC/Education. Relocation courses have all been reformatted. Possible new courses may get into the pipeline to RFP in December. An RFP is out for C-505.
- Breakout Sessions. We broke into 2 committees to address how to improve the RAC certification program and Facilitator requalification requirements. We reviewed the current requirements for each topic and created an outline of proposed changes that are designed to “raise the bar.” I have attached a summary of the proposed changes to this report.

I was unable to attend the Las Vegas, NV meeting in January of 2009. Our next meeting is set for June 28, 2009 in Indianapolis, IN. I will be in attendance. See you all then!

Submitted By: C. Michelle Colby, SR/WA, RW-NAC
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