

**Fall Forum Report**  
**Chapter #57, City- Inland Empire Chapter Southern California**  
**October 3, 2009**

**Strengths:**

Chapter 57's strength comes from its long-time members, who have a history of commitment to our profession and to our organization. It is this commitment, which year in and year out has made our chapter strong. Our membership chair indicated that our Chapter has 121 regular members, one retired member, 27 SR/WA's and 3 associate members, for a total of 151 members. 7 of our past presidents regularly attend our membership meetings and they serve on the board as advisors to the Board and others who offer their on-going support as committee chairs. This is a huge support the sitting president.

**Weaknesses:**

The chapter is facing current economic crisis head on. Our major sponsors are cut back to 4 days a week with Friday's off. We are starting to see an issue with educational class head counts. This once potential issue for our board and members is now upon us. We need to be vigilant to the county and city budgets to keep an eye on the members.

**Opportunities:**

We are pleased to report that Chapter 57 is once again on track with Education. Our classes through the first half of 2009 have had good attendance. We are in a good position to provide classes that are convenient to IRWA members in the Inland Empire. Our Education Co-Chairs, Sheryn Smay and Marvin Cohen, have continued to work to make our education arm of the Chapter a success.

We continue to host successful lunches, which are the culmination of a good meeting venue Riverside Convention Center and extra effort to bring in good speakers. We have had a good start to the speaker list that has lead to an average of 65 to 75 members for each of our 7 luncheons this year.

We continue to see new guests every month, and hardly a month goes by without us welcoming a new member. Our members and guests come from the immediate Riverside and San Bernardino areas, as well as Ontario, Big Bear, Palm Springs, Temecula and Orange County. We are continuing our efforts to welcome our returning members and guests as well as keeping them involved in Chapter 57.

## **Page 2 Chapter 57**

### **Threats:**

The economy is a major issue not only for Chapter 57, but the entire region. We are hopeful that the numerous project ready infrastructure plans will meet the Stimulus Programs requirements. If the Inland Empire has enough of those programs then it is possible the economy issues may not impact us. It appears that the programs ready to start may have been hit with the California Budget crisis and the need for the State to borrow money from funds to support their crisis. Hence the local agencies are now seeing delays or project holds due to funding.

### **General Condition of Chapter:**

Chapter 57 continues to be supported by staunch, devoted members, employers who understand the importance of professional organizations in general, and of IRWA in particular and our loyal sponsors. Without whom we would lack the ability to sustain ourselves. We again this year have been successful because of the huge support for our chapter, by our major sponsors. Again this year they have come to our aid as we put together a Casino Night and Educational Fund Raiser.; Our hopes are to attract about 40 for lunch and 70 for dinner.

Chapter 57 continues to enjoy an excellent reputation among its fellow IRWA chapters and other trade groups.

Please note that John Kalapp, President Elec, will be taking my place at the fall forum. Barbara Ford will be in attendance with the proxy vote letter to vote in place. I hope that you have a great meeting and my best wishes to all.

Submitted by

Brad L. Bassi,  
President, Chapter 57