

## FALL FORUM REPORT

### Chapter 57

October 4, 2008

Strengths: Chapter 57's strength comes from its long-time members who have a history of commitment to our profession and to the organization. Our Chapter has 103 regular members, four retired members and one student member, as well as 16 SR/WA's and 13 associate members, for a total of 137 members. Several past presidents regularly attend our membership meetings, and five past presidents currently serve on our Board, some as advisors to the Board and others who offer their on-going support as committee chairs.

Weaknesses: Chapter 57 added several new Board members this year. The two most visible positions were that of Secretary and Treasurer. In each instance, the new Board member demonstrated enthusiasm and willingness, but both Board members are new to the Chapter 57 Board. There was a learning curve for each of them in the beginning, but both have continued with their commitments and have melded well with the Board and the Chapter.

The Board had good success with its first annual Golf Tournament, held in October, 2008, both from an attendance standpoint and from the fact that we made a profit the first year. To our surprise, the golf tournament drew participants who have no affiliation with IRWA. However, we realized that the golf tournament did not appeal to our membership as a whole. Several of our members expressed disappointment that the Chapter did not hold its annual Education Seminar and Casino Night, which consistently enjoys tremendous success. But, the Board made the decision to hold the golf tournament in place of the seminar and casino night, based on the fact that we were to host the Tri-Chapter Installation Luncheon in December, only two months after the golf tournament. The Board is considering hosting bi-annual golf tournaments and education seminar/casino night events.

Opportunities: We are pleased to report that Chapter 57 is once again on track with Education. Our classes are being scheduled far in advance and are being properly advertised. 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 worked tirelessly to make our the education arm of the Chapter as successful as it can be.

We continue to host successful lunches, which are the culmination of a fresh meeting venue, excellent speakers (thank you, Brad Bassi) and an enthusiastic and committed membership. We have guests every month, and hardly a month goes by without us welcoming new members. Our members and guests come from the immediate Riverside and San Bernardino areas, well as Ontario, Lake Arrowhead, Palm Springs, Temecula and Orange County. We are continuing our efforts to welcome our returning members and guests and to get them involved in Chapter 57.

Threats: The association as a whole is experiencing a lack of new members. Without new members into the association and the industry, we face a workforce shortage and a drop in individuals who are capable of and willing to promote the right of way profession. The IRWA is an excellent professional group that offers educational and networking opportunities, but if membership numbers cannot be sustained, the affects of increased costs and decreased quality will be widely felt by the older population. We must continue our efforts to recruit young people into the profession and into the organization.

General Condition of Chapter: Chapter 57 continues to be supported by staunch, devoted members and by employers who understand the importance of professional organizations in general, and of IRWA in particular. Chapter 57 continues to enjoy an excellent reputation among its fellow IRWA chapters and other trade groups.