

# IRWA's New Home

## MARK RIECK, IRWA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Some members may recall the time about ten years ago when IRWA leadership sold our building in Gardena, providing a substantial reserve to finance another purchase in the future. Since then, the commercial real estate market has faced many challenges. Building prices dropped significantly, especially in the greater Los Angeles area. Yet during the same period, the cost to lease office space escalated, as companies from West Long Angeles and Long Beach were downsizing and moving to our area.

With commercial market prices becoming more financially attractive, IRWA leadership made a strategic decision to take IRWA out of the small office lease market. In 2009, with an expiring lease, the Association began looking for a location that would offer long-term stability and be affordable for the organization for years to come. We found what we were looking for just down the street.

“Two blocks away and worlds apart” is how International President, Sandy Grigg, SR/WA, described the new, permanent home of IRWA Headquarters.

The Association is now building a valuable long-term asset for IRWA. The new building is 7,300 square feet of office space, providing an efficient and productive work environment, as well as room to grow. Cost-saving measures and a minimalist aesthetic have created a high-energy, modern workspace that is as attractive as it is utilitarian. And since our monthly mortgage is less than what we would have paid with a new monthly lease, this purchase represents a sound financial move for the Association.

The office move proved to be a seamless transition for staff, while ensuring the same high-quality service our members expect and deserve. We look forward to serving you from this new space for many, many years to come.

### Note our new mailing address!

19210 S. Vermont Ave.  
Building A, Suite 100  
Gardena, CA 90248



IRWA Headquarters staff shows off the new office. From left, Jade Yoong, Fernando Rojo, Francis Vicente, Nathan Cruzado, Valerie Fries-Wade, Daniel Stekol, Mark Rieck, Rakhshan Mazarei, Bonnie Gray, Silvia Smith, Sergey Yushkevich, Cokie Ganacias, Kate Shirley, Barbara Billitzer, Heather Morris, Joseph Roman, Carlos Gonzalez and Nikki Adams. (Not shown: Heidi Dittmer, Ron Ellis, Fred Nasri and Emory Peters.)