

Bay Area Chapter 2 Celebrates



75 ANNIVERSARY
1938-2013

BY TARA PETERSON, SR/WA

In April, IRWA's San Francisco Bay Area Chapter 2 celebrated its 75th anniversary at the Lafayette Event Center in California. The warm spring evening was an ideal setting as friends and colleagues travelled back through history while acknowledging the members who have contributed to making our chapters and regions so strong and successful.

With eighty guests in attendance, Chapter 2 President Eric Roman, SR/WA, R/W-AC showcased images of the vital San Francisco Bay Area projects that were completed by Chapter 2 members over the past 75 years. He explained why a bridge is the dominant part of the chapter's logo, as it symbolizes the Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge – the first public projects that Chapter 2 members were involved with. The bridge also represents the role that right of way professionals play in connecting the rights of individual property owners with the need for public projects that benefit the entire community.



Presenting the Chapter 2's commemorative banner, from left, Region 1 Chair Vivian Howell, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC, Chapter 2 President Eric Roman, SR/WA, R/W-AC, International President-Elect Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC and IRWA Vice President of Field Operations Daniel Stekol.

Eric shared about the Chapter's role in shaping the character of our organization today, built on a foundation of education and holding the code of ethics as its golden rule. He acknowledged Vernon Cummings, SR/WA, Chapter 2's current Historian and 1983 President for his "Lifetime of Service" since joining the Chapter in 1973. Vern shared stories about the chapter and spoke about the early days of the right of way industry, emphasizing how disorganized and dangerous acquiring right of way was before IRWA was founded. Eric also gave recognition to Chapter 2 Past President Eleanor Thompson, who became the Chapter's first female president in 1985, and thanked her for being a leadership pioneer.

IRWA 2013-2014 International President Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC spoke about the Association's many successes and future plans and acknowledged the importance of chapter members in making it all possible. IRWA Region 1 Chair Vivian Howell, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC spoke about the success of the Chapter, particularly in 2012, as many of the volunteers were nominated for special awards such as chapter newsletter and chapter website, just to name a few.

The event would not have been possible without our generous sponsors, including Diamond Level: Associated Right of Way Services, Gold Level: Coates Field Services, Nossaman LLP, Burchard & Rinehart, Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean LLP, and Overland, Pacific and Cutler; and Silver Level: Desmond, Marcello & Amster, and Dean Chapman & Associates.

The Chapter wishes to thank all the dedicated members who helped make this event a success as we celebrated this important 75th anniversary milestone.



Chapter 2's Historian and 1983 President Vern Cummings, SR/WA spoke about the early days and received recognition for his lifetime of service.

