



IRWA Chapter 9 Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2025

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS ALL! We hope you enjoy this newsletter!

It was a busy year, and our membership grew a little! Welcome to our new or returning members in 2025!

We need your help naming our newsletter! Please email your ideas to mawhite@pa1call.org. If we select your idea, you will win a prize! If you have anything you want to post in the newsletter, please send it to the same email.

NEW IDEAS

For the past several years, we've mailed a holiday card to our members. This year, we chose to share this newsletter with updates instead AND to donate the funds we would have spent on cards and postage to Toys for Tots. Thanks to this change, we were able to contribute \$200 on behalf of the chapter.

Thank you, Chapter 9!



Toys for Tots began in 1947 as a small charitable effort in Los Angeles led by Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, after his wife Diane inspired him to find a way to give homemade toys to children in need. With the help of local Marine reservists, more than 5,000 toys were collected that first year, and the initiative quickly expanded into a national campaign in 1948. Hendricks used his role at Warner Brothers to enlist celebrity support and even had Walt Disney's team create the iconic red toy train logo. Over the years, the program grew, shifting in 1980 from collecting refurbished toys to accepting only new ones due to logistical and safety concerns. By the 1990s, Toys for Tots had become an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve and expanded its reach to communities without a Marine presence.

As of 2016, the program has distributed more than 512 million toys to children in need. Today, Toys for Tots operates not only during the holiday season but year-round, with programs such as a nationwide Literacy Program aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty through access to books and a Native American Program that provides toys and books to children on remote reservations.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

IRWA International Convention

We had great representation at the IRWA National Convention. Rob Diehl, Ariella Kunkle, and Carol Myers attended. We hope some of our other members attended as well. If you did, please forward any pictures you may like to share.



New Things!

We have a new website! Find us at <https://irwachapter9.com>.

Reminders!

We have scholarship money from the Jack H. Reefer, Jr. Scholarship Fund. Jack was a special man with a passion for IRWA and when he passed, he amazingly shared with IRWA! It's really easy to use the funds. Please reach out to Maria White at mawhite@pa1call.org or Carol Myers at cmyers@appraisalreviewspecialists.com if you are interested.

2026 NEWS

Most of our Board Meetings in 2025 were virtual and we didn't have as many members gathering as we would have liked, however, this is all going to change next year when IRWA Chapter 9 hosts the Annual Spring Forum for Region 4! We are so excited! We are going to Hershey and have lots of great ideas brewing for this event.

SAVE THE DATE

2026 REGION 4 SPRING FORUM

APRIL 29th - MAY 1st

HERSHEY, PA



WWW.IRWACHAPTER9.COM

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Region 4 Spring Forum in Hershey, PA! We are looking for sponsors, presenters and plenty of attendees! We will be updating the website once we have more information, so please check your emails and our website for updates.

OUR BOARD!



Rob Diehl, Past President and Ashley Bolinger, President-Elect. Rob was receiving an award for his service as President in past years.



Come on you guys, smile!



Say hello to one of our Faithful Board Committee Members! Gene attends every board meeting and with his background in law and real estate, he is an amazing resource!



From Top Left to Right: Maria White (Treasurer), Gene Cipriani, Esq (Committee Member), Carol Myers (Education Chair), Katie Culver, MAI (Secretary), Ashley Bolinger (President-Elect), Matt Kulpa, SR/WA, R/W-NAC (Professional Development Chair) and Star Ernst, RWA (President).

We have a lot of respect for each other which makes being on the Board more fun. In the picture above, our President, Star Ernst is yelling at Alexa because she is trying to tell her “It’s time to water the plants!”

Should you like to participate on our Board, we will definitely welcome you!

Again, Happy Holidays all! See you in 2026!