

## President's Message

Hello All,

The month of May marks the San Francisco Chapter's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Celebration of NAIW Week on May 22. Our luncheon celebration will begin at 11:45am at the Marines Memorial Club & Hotel located at 609 Sutter St. at Mason. We are very honored to welcome our keynote speaker, Ms. Wendy Tokuda of the CBS Channel 5 news team who, in 1998, teamed up with Community Relations Manager, Javier Valencia, SRA to found a scholarship program called [Students Rising Above](#). This program is dedicated to providing educational resources to Bay Area high school students who are overcoming staggering obstacles to pursue their education and their dreams for a better life.

The profiles on the foundation website are incredibly stirring. In addition to having very vivid and challenging backgrounds, the students' prestigious assortment of achievements is on par with the most "advantaged" minds in the country. The Rising Above trophy case, in other words, gleams very brightly.

The San Francisco Chapter enjoyed a fun week of Continuing Education credit classes April 15-18, 2008. Many thanks go to John Castleman of Premium Assignment Corporation, and Kirk Denebeim of Socius Insurance Services for supplying us with their expert instruction on the topics of Premium Finance, Directors and Officers Liability, Employment Practices Liability, and Ethics for the Insurance Professional. The feedback from participants, both members and non-members, was very positive, and I was asked to pursue hosting more of these classes in the future. Our

instructors and the members who helped make these classes a success include Annette Ing-Firmeza, Rebecca Aherne, Joyce Saridis and Lisa Masa. Thanks to everyone for their assistance in supporting the educational goals of the Chapter and its members.

Several members have also just returned from this past month's Region VIII Conference. I am very excited to report that our President-Elect, Annette Ing-Firmeza, was honored for her dedication in recruiting more new members during this past term than any other association or individual member. Wonderful thanks go to Annette and to Cynthia Limjoco for their outstanding work on our Membership efforts this past year. To the bulging freshman class of NAIW members, I have just a few words: You are on a winning team!

I am also very honored to report that I won the first-ever Region VIII presentation of the Young Professional of The Year award. This came as truly one of the highest honors of my life and career. NAIW has been a fixture of my career since the beginning, and I could be happier to be in the midst of her reciprocated appreciation and affection. The pleasure is all mine! I am incredibly stirring. In addition to having very vivid and challenging backgrounds, the students' prestigious assortment of achievements is on par with the most "advantaged" minds in the country. The Rising Above trophy case, in other words, gleams very brightly.

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In Fellowship,

*Anna Vaage*

President, San Francisco Chapter of NAIW

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## Premium Inspiration

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood. ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand. ~ *Vince Lombardi*

Challenges are what make life interesting overcoming them is what makes life meaningful. ~ *Joshua J. Marine*

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## 2007-2008 Region VIII Young Professional of the Year

Anna Vaage represents to me what “Young Professional of the Year” is all about. I first met Anna in 2006 at the CA Council Meeting in San Francisco. Anna was representing her local association, San Francisco Chapter of NAIW, in the Council’s CWC Speak-Off. Not only was she competing at the Council Meeting, her local was the host association and she was a busy volunteer in making the event a success.

Anna was one of the first people to offer to help me when I became Council Director-Elect. She volunteered to serve on the Credentials Committee at the Region VIII Conference in Arizona and she served as Chairperson for the Meet the Candidates Committee at the 2007 CA Council Meeting. She is currently serving as the President of the largest local association in Region VIII and chairs her association’s Horizon Plan Committee and Program Committee.

Anna has never hesitated to accept a task I have asked of her. Usually, she volunteers before I even have a chance to ask. I don’t have a complete list of all the Anna accomplishments, local board positions and committee service but based on my experience with her, it must be a very long list. She has been such a dynamic member of NAIW that she is being asked to serve as the CA Council’s Young Professionals Liaison for the 2008-2009 term.

Anna has consistently demonstrated an eagerness to be involved that is rare in her generation and it is due to her extraordinary commitment to NAIW that I believe Anna Vaage is the best candidate for the Region VIII Young Professional of the 2007-2008.

In fellowship,

*Tish Riley, CPIW, DAE*  
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