

Valley ROADRUNNER

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Chamber installation—

Diane Conaway honored, Jim Quisquis installed

The Chamber of Commerce's annual Installation Dinner Friday night included the recognition of the Citizen of the Year, installation of officers, and some special recognitions, such as small and large businesses of the year.

Diane Conaway, honored Friday night as Valley Center Citizen of the Year for her many volunteer activities, challenged her fellow residents to help out their community.

"It's truly amazing for a country girl from Delaware to be recognized when there are a dozen people I can think of who could have been honored," she said.

She described how in 2003, when she started an email list to keep people informed of the needs of fire survivors, that the listing acquired a life of its own.

Mrs. Conaway, who is a local Realtor, said that up until that point that she hadn't been very close to her fellow Realtors. "Until then I thought of them as competitors. But I found out that they are my friends."

She credited her husband of 28 years, Duane. "You have to have a good wingman, and he's mine."

The North San Diego County Assn. of Realtors (NSDCAR), which recently formed a 501 (c)(3)

called Valley Center Community Aid Group, has raised \$50,000 over five years, she said. She plugged the group's upcoming golf tournament on May 5. "It's the most fun you can have at a golf tournament," she said.

She also put in a plug for the Valley Center Music Boosters. "My kids are musicians. I don't have a musical bone in my body and neither does my husband," she said, but added that they do all the work they do for the Boosters to help their kids and other kids who take music. She mentioned that the Boosters will have their annual fund-raising jazz concert on May 4.

"I think my forte is keeping people in the know about things," she said, and advised people to "Act globally and think locally."

To prove her point about how many people in the community work together on causes, and how interconnected they all are, she asked people in the audience to stand if they were involved in various volunteer activities. More than half of the audience stood.

"No one person does it by themselves. Together we can make a difference," she said.

Special guests Kevin Jeffries, 66th District Assemblyman and Bill Horn, Fifth District Supervisor, helped install directors and gave special



Portino's was honored as Small Business of the Year at Friday's Chamber of Commerce banquet, with chef Frank McCarron holding the plaque. Next to him are Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries and Outgoing Chamber president Shawneen Burdick.

awards to honorees such as Citizen of the Year, Diane Conaway; past president of the Chamber, Shawneen Burdick and co-chairmen of Western Days, Charlie Smith and Carla Miller.

Installation

Directors installed included Jim Quisquis, president; Claudia Johnson, vice president; Rick Restivo, Secretary; Lori Heck, Treasurer; Shawneen Burdick, past president, Chelsea Good, John Yeager, Charlie Smith, Terrill Burdick, Doug Schuch, Carla Miller, Tom Bumgardner, Phyllis Kamps and John Smylie, Chamber Counsel.

Chamber Ambassadors installed included Chairman Jennifer Tullis-Schultz, Keith DeTellum, Pegi Prior, Kathleen Patton and Cesar Perez.

Quisquis in his acceptance speech promised to

do everything in his power towards the "elevation of Valley Center," focusing on its enhancement and raising of its standing.

He thanked the many organizations that do their best to enhance Valley Center. "So many people do so many things to enhance the community," he said.

Portino's was honored as Small Business of the Year, with the ebullient Frank McCarron, the winner of the Best of the West honors last March at the International Pizza Expo, just as excited this year to get the only slightly less prestigious award from fellow Chamber members.

Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort was honored as the Large Business of the Year.