



Media Release

February 3, 2020
Contact: Juan Camero
(650) 348-7600
juan@visitsmcsv.com

Our Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony was a Success!

On Friday, January 31, the [San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) (SMC/SV CVB) hosted its Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony at the new [Grand Hyatt at SFO](#). The program included the presentation of the Peninsula Recognition of Passionate Service (PROPS) Awards, the unveiling of the CVB's Annual Report and an insightful presentation by this year's keynote speaker, Erin Francis-Cummings, President and CEO of Destination Analysts.

John Hutar, President and CEO of the SMC/SV CVB, unveiled the 2019 Annual Report which highlighted an overview of the Bureau's accomplishments from September 2018 – October 2019. The report listed a summary of sales accomplishments that resulted in 27,955 room nights booked by the Bureau's sales team, generating \$18 million in economic impact in our area. The Bureau assisted with 130 film requests – a high number of requests that speak to our region's beauty. Additionally, the report summarizes the Bureau's efforts in trade shows attended (46), social media efforts, and public relations achievements in print and digital media, among other accomplishments.

In her keynote address, Erin Francis-Cummings (President & CEO of Destination Analysts) gave a brilliant presentation on the State of Travel in 2020, which provided attendees with important information on the Outlook for Travel, including international and domestic travel sentiment and some of the challenges and opportunities that the hospitality industry faces.

This year, the "President's Award" was presented to Fred Crowder, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures for San Mateo County. Fred was honored and recognized as an outstanding community member, who has gone above and beyond for the Bureau. The "Heart of Hospitality" award was presented to Paul Maloney, Executive Chef at [37 North at DoubleTree by Hilton SFO](#). Paul has been considered best in class for the work he has accomplished and has perfectly embodied the essence of our "As Fresh as it Gets" Program.

The PROPS Awards were designed to honor superstars in the hospitality and tourism industry for their hard work and dedication. Nominations were open to all employees of SMC/SV CVB partner organizations. This year's nominees and winners were as follows:

Behind the Scenes Award:

Maira Carrera – Housekeeping Inspectress at the Best Western Plus Grosvenor Hotel (winner)

Richard Macadaeg – Breakfast Attendant at the Residence Inn Redwood City San Carlos

James “Jim” Oliver – Shipping and Receiving Officer at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront

Alysa Soo – Events Administrative Assistant at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

Sam Wolf – Apprentice at Tripp Distillery

Unsung Hero Award:

Rudy Recinos – Maintenance Manager at Hotel Focus SFO (winner)

Drew Barwick – Server at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

Teresa Carmona – Breakfast Attendant at the Residence Inn Redwood City San Carlos

Rose Restauero – Events & Catering Sales Coordinator at the Best Western Plus Grosvenor Hotel

Mirna Roque – Breakfast Attendant at the Hotel Focus SFO

Innovation in Hospitality Award:

Kara Newport – CEO, Filoli House & Gardens (winner)

Jim Seki – Assistant Front Office Manager at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

Attendees left the event with a gift sourced from [Half Moon Honey](#), and one winner from each table went home with the centerpiece, which included a set of locally grown herbs from [Rocket Farms](#) in Half Moon Bay, an “As Fresh as it Gets” cookbook, a mesh produce bag and a San Mateo County/Silicon Valley CVB candle.

About San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau

The San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau is a destination sales and marketing organization created to promote overnight stays and encourage tourism for its 170 partner hotels in San Mateo County and Palo Alto, CA.

###