

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL



Small Family-Owned Business Award 2005 Outstanding Family-Owned Business Awards

This year's small business award recipient, Western Pump, Inc., has built its reputation and business culture on more than 15 years of honest and ethical business conduct. With two generations of the family running the business, Western Pump employs 50 people at its San Diego headquarters and operates in California, Arizona, and Nevada.

Dennis and Jan Rethmeier are the principal owners of Western Pump, the only fully integrated petroleum and lubrication systems firm in Southern California. Having taken over the company in 1988, Dennis and Jan enlisted the help of their two sons, Ryan and Derek, to turn a struggling company around into a \$9.3 million organization today. Currently, Ryan is a vice president and heads up sales and estimating. Derek is a field construction foreman and is an expert in piping, welding and general construction of fueling and lubrication facilities. Recently Dennis and Jan's daughter, Dana, came on board, and she manages the warehouses and is responsible for inventory control, purchasing, and shipping and receiving. Dennis is still at the helm as president, and Jan is the secretary of the corporation, providing guidance and support to the family business. Strong family values, hard work, persistence, and making it through some very tough times have provided solid grounding for all members of the Rethmeier family, and it shows in the success of their small family-owned business.