



SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



THE SIREN



News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

January 2016

From the Desk of the Chief

Happy New Year to the best volunteers anywhere! Thank you for making 2015 a successful year, for stepping up when we needed you and serving the community and the Squad.

As we start 2016, we know already that we will be short of volunteers for working on the ambulance. Whether just a confluence of factors or just timing, we will be stretched thin this winter. Knowing this, we are primarily looking for volunteers willing to have patient contact. This is our primary mission and the reason we exist. If you have neighbors or friends who are looking for something meaningful to do, please suggest that they come by and visit the Squad.

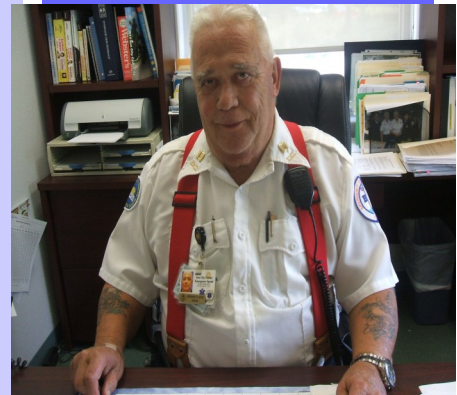
I also want to acknowledge our volunteers going to EMT school this year. We have a large class and we appreciate the time and effort it takes to attend school, study and pass the classes. Thanks go to Walt Bowers, Team 3, Debbie Jasmer, Team 4, M.J. Ricketts, Team 4, Bud Wiehe, Team 3, Chris McCann, Team 1, Tom Burlage, Team 8, Emily Gempler, Team 2, Merrill Pritham, Team 3, and Erik Sager, Team 5. Many thanks and good luck to all of you.

March marks the time of our annual elections. There are 3 seats available on the Board of Directors. Now that we have had a few years in our current form of organization, I know the Board is running smoothly. If you have business skills that could help the Board, please consider running for one of the open seats. The Board is focused on the business side of the Squad, while I run the operations side. We always need talented people with diverse skills to assist us. Deadline for submitting applications is January 25th and the election is March 10th at our annual meeting.

We also have several administrative positions open. Bob Rusnak has served as Deputy Chief of the Squad for the last four years and is ready for a break. His is a critical position for maintaining order and resolving operational issues. We will also need a new Purchasing Manager. We have been fortunate that Ron Windsor has served in this capacity for a long time. He will be retiring from the Squad in March. We appreciate his dedication.

It takes all of us to make this place run as efficiently as it does. I am proud to be your Chief—you are an amazing group of people. Thank you for all you do.

Happy New Year—may it be your best year AND our best year yet.



Chief Dennis Floto

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Annual Awards Dinners

This year our annual awards dinners were held at the Veterans Theater in Kings Point on December 14th and 15th.

Our awards dinners recognize those volunteers who have given the Squad and the community more than ten years of volunteer service. Each year we recognize those milestone anniversaries of 10, 15, 20 or 25 years. We do actually have volunteers who have served longer than 25 years – Joan Ambrose and John Cortese. We have several more with over twenty years of service, who will soon celebrate their 25th anniversaries.

Shown on the inserted page are most of our award winners. Not attending this years awards, but recognized for their dedication are:

Carol Block	Team 6	10 years
Joe Cox	Team 3	10 years
Martha Finley	Team 3	15 years
Ron Windsor	Team 1	10 years
Pat Harkins	Team 2	10 years
Jeffrey Rein	Grants	10 years
Carol Watson	Team 7	10 years



BOARD'S 2016 ELECTION

by Eileen Peco

SQUAD BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION – THREE POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION

The Standing Election Committee is soliciting for candidates for the three positions that are up for election on the Board of Directors. Each position is for a term of three years. If you are a Voting Member of the Squad and are interested in serving on the Squad Board there are applications in the Ready Room. Simply fill out the form and deposit it in the Candidate Application box.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: JANUARY 25, 2016

ELECTION WILL BE HELD AT THE SQUAD ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 10, 2016. MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Run Report December 15

Monthly

Ambulance Runs	459
Van Runs	88
B/P	155
Falls	

Year to Date

Ambulance Runs	5092
Van Runs	1109
B/P	2124
Falls	1306

Sick List

Roy Skinner - IT

Lynn Kjollesdahl— Team 5

Pete DeRupo—Team 5

Bob East—Team 6

Herb McKittrick—Team 6



Published by SCC Emergency Squad. Editor-in-Chief, Dennis Floto; Editor, Robin Watt. Articles are accepted up to the 25th of the month for the following month's issue. Items may be addressed to THE SIREN and posted in "The Siren" mailbox, located directly below Team 8's mailbox. U.S. Postal Mail should be addressed to: Sun City Center Emergency Squad, The Siren, 720 Ray Watson Dr. Sun City Center, FL 33573. When addressing email, subject line should state: THE SIREN and be sent to: robinw@scc-ems.us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Day	FIRST	LAST
2	Aileen	Engel
2	Julie	Schneider
4	Doug	Gatchell
4	Ken	Kleen
4	Elizabeth	McDonald
5	Thomas	Burlage
6	Linda	East
6	Sally	Haight
7	Jan	Huber
7	Gill E.	Jessee
7	Marsha	Marshall
7	Donna	Ward
8	John	Hargraves
8	Elaine	Shaefer
9	Rebecca	O'Dell
9	Peggy	Seagrave
10	Gary	Krcil
10	Arleen	Sanders
11	Barbara	Caleca
11	Linda	Mascetti
15	Carol	Zeller
16	Mary	Borg
17	Rosalie	Rochford
19	Christine	Martin
19	Marcia	McKee
20	Michael	Bardell
20	Kathy	Zdrodowski
21	Ron	Shackelford
23	Grace	Ryan
24	Louis	Ballance
24	Jane	Foppe
25	Robin	Devling
25	Mary	Houston
25	Robert	Leonard
25	M.J.	Ricketts
26	Irene	Arnio
26	Wendy	Arnio
27	Michael	McClintic
30	Doris	Ferron
30	Jeffrey	Rein
31	Dick	Schneider

Hunger in Sun City Center

Working on the ambulance or van, many of us have the opportunity to see how some of our local residents may be going hungry. Even those of us not having direct patient contact probably know or suspect that some of our neighbors are not eating as much or as often as they should to maintain their health.



There are numerous ways that we as an organization might serve as part of the solution. Food drives, making note of "possibly hungry" homes when we respond to a call, leaving a list of local food pantries and meal sites are just a few of the possible ways.

But the first thing we need to do is raise our own awareness and educate ourselves to the possible solutions. Several recent articles in local papers have highlighted the fact that Sun City Center and the surrounding community have a significant number of people who struggle to keep food on the table. This is shown in the Hunger Map below.

While we have food assistance programs in our community, most seniors are either embarrassed to seek assistance or feel guilty that they may be taking something from others. We also encounter cases where declining mental abilities affect a senior's ability to fix a meal or shop for food.

Listed below are some of our local food programs. This list will soon go on the ambulances and vans and be available at the front desk as well.

Food pantries:

- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Good Samaritan Mission
- Prince of Peace Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Meal Site

- St. Andrews Presbyterian Church/Metropolitan Ministries Andy's Kitchen
Lunch on Wednesday only. Open to all.

Meals on Wheels

- Coordinated by Samaritan Services; must sign up

Mary Pietro Fund

Provides funding assistance for low-income seniors for food and medication. Does not pay participant directly, but will provide funds to provider

Ambulance crews – the next time you go on call and check the refrigerator for the vial of life, please take a quick look to see how much food is there and whether it looks like a science experiment. Would you be willing to eat what's in there? Then leave behind the list of local resources.

Meals of Hope

For the eighth year, Sun City Center Rotary Club will be coordinating Meals of Hope. This charitable event brings together local service clubs, churches and other volunteers to assist in packaging thousands of meals for local food banks and pantries. This year it is Jan 16th and will be held at Veterans Theater in Kings Point from 12pm to 3 pm. If you wish to help, there will be a sign-up sheet on the Community Relations Bulletin Board if you wish to participate as a Squad member. Members of the Squad that wish to participate as a group will meet in the lobby of the theater at 11:30 am.



There is no specified time limit to stay. Stay an hour or stay all three hours. If you want to help represent the Squad for this important event, please wear your Squad T-shirt if you have one or your smock or cap.

Featured Volunteer—Linda Hughes

By Jan Huber



Dates to Remember:

Jan. 16—Meals of Hope—Veterans Theater

Jan 25—Board of Director Application deadline

Jan. 27—Ambulance Crew Meeting—3PM Education Building

March 10—Board Election

Anniversaries

Maint	Bromberg	Paul	1
Team 6	McAdams	Patricia	1
Team 8	Churchill	Janice	3
Team 8	Churchill	Don	3
Team 3	Richard	James	3
Team 3	Clarke	James	5
Team 7	Stansell	Karen	5
Team 7	Houlihan	Sheila	10
Team 5	Robinson	Peter	10
Team 2	Schneider	Elizabeth	10
Team 6	Cole	Carolyn	15
Team 3	Gray	Nancy	15
Team 4	Lahti	Emily	15

Happy New Year

May 2016 bring you
great health and
happiness

