

March 2020

The Siren

Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad

AMBULANCE

From the Desk of the Chief

Last week, the weather was pretty cool, but I'm sure around June, I will be longing for some cooler weather.

With the constant media attention, it seems all you hear about is the coronavirus. How many times have you heard something is going to kill us all? Anyone remember Y2K, Swine flu or Ebola? Annually, more than 60,000 people die from the flu; so far deaths from this virus are under 2500. We are monitoring this with Dr. Ksaibati, and will make any changes we need to at his direction. Right now, we need to keep people from panic mode. To prevent most illnesses, we emphasize common things such as washing your hands frequently. If you don't feel well, stay at home and away from others. And of course, if you don't feel better soon, see your doctor. Just as we have done for a long time, if a patient is coughing, put a mask on them. If that can't be done then the crew needs to don masks.

Often the patients we see may be more than ill or injured. Losing a partner, independence, physical abilities, friends or family leave many in our community isolated. Depression in seniors is a serious issue. Learn a little more about this issue in Patty Trela's article.

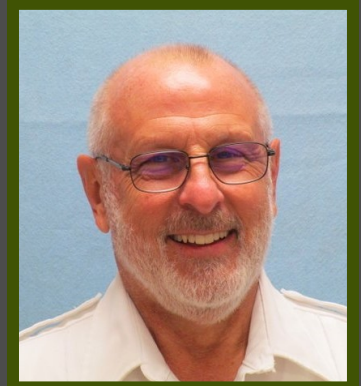
We just co-sponsored, with the Security Patrol and Samaritan Services, the Disaster Planning 2020 seminars for homeowners. I feel our three organizations will receive the most calls for help after an event, and that we are long overdue in working together to develop a cohesive message and approach. I particularly want to thank MaryAnn Meeker and Eileen Peco for their leadership and long hours in putting this together with the committee.

We have many community events in the next two months. We will need many hands to assist with Fun Fest and our April symposiums. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be on the ready room wall several weeks in advance of each.

Be sure to vote in the Board Election. Ballots are available at the captain's desk. March 12th is our annual meeting at Community Hall, from 11 am to 2 pm.

And finally, as always - ask your friends and neighbors to consider joining the Squad. As retirees, we need to replace ourselves frequently!

Thank you for being the amazing group of people that you are. It's an honor to be your Chief.



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

Birthdays for March

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Lloyd Banfield | 2 | | |
| Pamela Evoskevicz | 2 | Jeanne Krull | 17 |
| William Grussi | 4 | Richard Bishop | 20 |
| Sharon Skaryd | 4 | Deanna Montes de Oca | 20 |
| Dayle Martin | 5 | Mike Brezec | 21 |
| Richard Bothroyd | 7 | Lynette Heisler | 23 |
| Thomas Ginter | 8 | Richard McCormick | 23 |
| Harold Jeffrey | 8 | Sam Sudman | 23 |
| Shelia Houlihan | 9 | Jo-Ellen Bromberg | 24 |
| Dorothy McKenzie | 9 | Amber Haynes | 24 |
| Dana Wallace | 9 | Peg Noeltner | 24 |
| Margaret Sill | 11 | Betty Richner | 24 |
| Shirley Dwyer | 12 | Louise Howe | 25 |
| Al Carter | 13 | Cheryl Van Kirk | 26 |
| Eliot Marcus | 14 | Timothy Zion | 26 |
| Phyllis Cowden | 16 | Teresa Paddubny | 30 |
| Sylvia Eddens | 17 | Bob Bizzano | 31 |
| | | Virginia Defever | 31 |
| | | Mary Porterfield | 31 |

Anniversaries Team#/ Years

Three Years:

Wendy Helton T-3, Karen Leonard T-1, Leo Scire T-5, Patricia Johnson T-6, Rick Fox T-5, Jorge Ignarra T-1, Nancy Birkett T-6, Michael Jasudowicz T-0

One Year:

Randy Heath T-7, Donna Heath T-7, William Lotz T-1

amazon smile

Check our website at
SCCEMS.com



Stats March 2020

Run Report

Ambulance Runs 365

Van Runs 96

Fall Calls 125

Blood pressures 108

Sick List for March 2020

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Peg Campbell | T-4 |
| Barry Bogart | T-4 |
| Emily Lahti | T-4 |
| Linda Mascetti | T-5 |

Seniors Living in Isolation

By Patty Trela, MA/EdD Psychology, Public Affairs Rep

Sometimes seniors feel isolated in their own home. They may experience health issues that lead to a depressed mood. They may feel removed from family and friends. They may feel alone with their own thoughts, with no one to talk to, and no opportunity to get out of the house. The thought of our parents, grandparents, friends and loved ones living alone and being lonely is scary. Research on senior lifestyle indicates that isolation, loneliness and depression can place seniors at risk for serious health issues, negatively impact their mental health, and lead to an increase in mortality. According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), the physical and geographic barriers that isolate seniors from family, peers and communities can prevent them from receiving benefits and services that can improve their ability to live healthy, independent lives (Senior Lifestyle, 2020).



How can we help? The Emergency Squad is in a unique position to help. We respond 24/7 to the needs of our community by providing emergency services for health related issues. We often see life situations where our senior neighbor may need support beyond transport and we can help by offering information about the many resources we have here in Sun City Center such as rides to the doctor, meal programs, caretaker programs, visit with community friends, etc. The Squad will soon have an updated 2020 resource card available to help our senior neighbors find the resources they need and connect to our community. Hopefully, with more support our senior neighbors will begin to feel less isolated and know that we care.

The Squad is about neighbors helping neighbors!

ABOVE & BEYOND

Every day our volunteers go the extra mile helping the residents in our community. Our mission is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," and this is what separates us from other ambulance services. Occasionally though, our volunteers go above and beyond to help the residents of our community.

February 20

Team 2 was on duty and took a call for a person who had fallen in the shower. The shower door was broken during the course of assisting the patient. With assistance from the County, the patient was extracted and our crew took the patient to the hospital.

Here is where our wonderful volunteers went above and beyond: Team Captain Betty Richner and the van crew, Carl Bonenkamp (photo left) and Ana Bauer (right) went to the patient's home with heavy gloves, biohazard bag, cleaning materials and "elbow grease." They proceeded to help the patient's spouse dispose of glass and clean up blood and fecal matter. This is completely above and beyond our normal duty protocols, but as we know, many in our community need the extra assistance!



We are blessed to have such caring and dedicated volunteers. Thank you Betty, Ana and Carl!



February 26

Team Captain Jim Ryan had a call from a gentleman who just came home from the VA with a new CPAP machine to be used with his oxygen concentrator. He was a little confused and starting to panic. Jim could not give him adequate advice over the phone and told him we would try to help.

So, Jim called Shirley Bardell; Shirley recommended calling Karen Stansell. Karen is an EMR on Team 7 and a Respiratory Therapist at Brandon Hospital. Jim left Karen a message and when she returned his call, she graciously agreed to assist. Karen went to the patient's home and settled him down. She showed him the ON/OFF button for his CPAP, checked the operation, checked his O2sat and made him comfortable. After assisting the patient, she went to the Squad to report the outcome.

Karen recently had her 10 year anniversary with the Squad. She's shown on the right with Team 7 Capt. Karen McInnis.

What a star she is! She demonstrated the qualities that make our volunteers so special.



The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA)

by Linda Eargle, PhDg, HIPAA Compliance Officer

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) impacts every one of our interactions each day. We all are aware of the need to get the patients to sign the HIPAA acknowledgement before we transport and that we need to protect patient information. The latter is problematic. There are times that we have to decide when we are protecting the patient and when sharing the information is in the patient's best interest. Each month, I'd like to provide a case for us to discuss on our duty day. This month, I'd like to present a case where the EMT/EMR makes notes on the patient's vital signs. The patient is transported to the hospital and care is assumed by the ER staff. What do you do with your notes on the patient?

Consider: When are your notes governed by HIPAA laws? Are there Florida statutes that relate to how to deal with your notes? What would a plaintiff lawyer say?

NOTE: In this case, the statutes and rules/regulations relate to the emergency medical agency so the SCC EMS is responsible for procedures with any medical information. As the HIPAA officer, I'm asking everyone to follow this procedure: **Any patient medical information should be entered into the medical record and paper copies of notes should be shredded before you leave the squad for the day.** Next month, I'll give you my perspective on the above questions and my rationale for the above procedure.

Email, or put a note in my squad mailbox, a summary of your team's discussions and your examples of trying to determine when and how information should and should not be shared.

HIPAA is everyone's responsibility. HIPAA law violations are punishable by the agency and the individual and penalties include \$10,000 or more fines and federal prison time.

What do you say when asked about the Squad?

By Robin Watt, Assistant Chief
Public Affairs



What do you say when friends or neighbors ask you about the Squad? Do you tell them about the camaraderie you feel working with others to help our community? Do you mention the new friends you've made? Or the new skills you learned that enable you to help our ill or injured neighbors? Maybe the satisfaction that comes from your contribution to the well-being of the community?

All of those are important points. But what do you say when they ask why we always need more volunteers?

Most of our volunteers are retirees; our average age is around 70 years old. The biggest reason we are always looking for new volunteers is that often we "age out" from being able to work on the ambulance or van. This is usually due to our own health issues. But sometimes we need to leave or step back due to family health issues, or to care for adult children or our grandchildren. Our younger volunteers usually leave because of job opportunities or family constraints.

Our greatest need is always for volunteers who are willing and want to have patient contact. That doesn't preclude needing volunteers in other areas, but our primary mission is helping our neighbors in their time of need.

Share your feelings about our wonderful organization with your friends. Invite them to join us.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The SCC Emergency Squad's 2020 Board of Directors Election will be held at the Squad's Annual Membership Meeting on March 12, 2020, at the Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach, Sun City Center, FL

Doors to the Community Hall open at 11:30 am. Meeting starts at Noon. This meeting is not a luncheon, however, light refreshments will be served.

In-Person Voting: Members may vote **in Person** at the Annual Membership Meeting on March 12, 2020.

Absentee Voting begins February 25, 2020 and runs thru March 11, 2020

Absentee Voting in Person: Members may vote by Absentee Ballot in Person in the Ready Room. Absentee Voting will be conducted from 7 am to 5 pm by the Team Captains.

Toughbook Tips

By Merrill Pritham,

Asst. Chief, Quality Control

EMT's depend on EMR's and Drivers to bring the best we can offer to our patients.



Everyone needs to keep in mind what we carried in to a scene must also be carried out, for example. If you are called to a fall be sure a blood sugar is checked and ask for the result so it goes on the report. Same with blood pressure and O2 SATs. Remind each other to wear vests when on an accident scene and masks when dealing with someone with respiratory symptoms. And gloves at all times

A few reminders from February reports: a nosebleed is a hemorrhage, mark the time if you call a sepsis alert, recheck O2 after you start or change the rate and note it, not just "improved", for organ system please don't use "unknown", remember to use "United States", not "US", and for location type, not "roadways" if the patient fell off the toilet.

Stay safe and wash your hands!

Published by the SCC Emergency Squad. Editor-in-Chief, Mike Bardell; Editor Robin Watt, Assisted by Patty Trela. Articles are accepted up to the 25th of the month for the following month's issue. Items may be address to The Siren and posted The Siren mailbox, just below the Team 8 mailbox. US Postal mail should be address to: Sun City Center Emergency Squad, The Siren, 720 Ray Watson Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573. When sending by email, send to robinw@scc-ems.us, subject line: The Siren.

Team Captains

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Team 1 | Robert Leonard |
| Team 2 | Betty Richner |
| Team 3 | Chuck Russ |
| Team 4 | Tim Zion |
| Team 5 | Ken Ayers |
| Team 6 | Dick McCormick |
| Team 7 | Karen McInnis |
| Team 8 | Jim Ryan |