

## Public Relations

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, PR

I am hopeful that as more people get vaccinated, we'll see a return to the community's more "outgoing" nature! Hopefully, this means more events, more club meetings and more gatherings of all kinds.

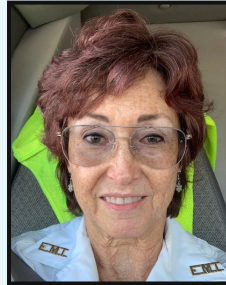
For the Squad, we have missed having "social" contact with our community through these events. These are always opportunities to educate our newcomers about who we are and what we do. It's a chance to recruit new volunteers, do blood pressures and have a good time while doing "good!"

I have heard rumors to the effect that the CA is considering having "FUNFEST" in October, since its usual March schedule has come and gone. I'm also hearing about more opportunities for outdoor gatherings.

This will all mean that we'll need volunteers to help spread the "word." As always, I want to make sure we give as many volunteers as possible a chance to participate. Some events will require more than one shift and others will be shorter, but please know I want to give everyone who wants to help, a chance to be out there!

And if you hear about upcoming events – please shoot me an email so we can get it on the calendar!

robinw@scc-ems.us



## HIPAA

By Linda Eargle, HIPAA Compliance Officer

West Georgia small EMS agency reached a \$65,000 resolution agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services. What does that have to do with you and the SCC EMS? One person made a mistake, which resulted in a detailed review of the organization, legal proceedings between the federal government and the agency with a 14 page agreement and close federal supervision. What if this were SCC EMS?

Over the next several months, I'll post comments about the violations cited. This month, my topic is one we've mentioned before, written medical information. HIPAA covers any written information that is not given to the appropriate healthcare provider, on paper, in a notebook, on a glove, on your hand. Proper care includes always having the information in your immediate position and disposition of such information is to shred, wash all writing off the glove before disposing and wash your hand as quickly as possible after transferring care or documenting the care. If you have questions, feel free to give me a call or I'll be happy to come to your team to talk more about HIPAA security procedures.



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### Team Captains

<b>Team 1</b>	<b>Robert Leonard</b>
<b>Team 2</b>	<b>Betty Richner</b>
<b>Team 3</b>	<b>Chuck Russ</b>
<b>Team 4</b>	<b>Tim Zion</b>
<b>Team 5</b>	<b>Ken Ayers</b>
<b>Team 6</b>	<b>Eileen Peco</b>
<b>Team 7</b>	<b>Karen McInnis</b>
<b>Team 8</b>	<b>Jim Ryan</b>

April 2021

# The Siren

Newsletter of the Sun City Center  
Emergency Squad



## From the Chief's Desk

Well, it's April and we are still dealing with COVID-19. I feel like I am in some version of Groundhog Day. If you don't get this, you are much younger.

We are still waiting to see if we are chosen to be a vaccination site. We have 32 EMTs trained and able to give the shots. All of them took a class on injections and completed the additional requirements.

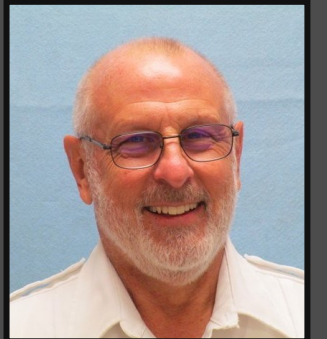
Our annual meeting took place this week and we were incredibly happy to see so many in attendance. Personally, I like "in person" meetings rather than conference calls or even a Zoom call any day of the week.

Everyone will be getting a new badge. This will take some time for HR to roll out. This involves new software and printer and a plastic card with the chip already embedded. Please be patient.

The Department of Transportation said they agreed with our concern over the median strip on 674 and Ray Watson Dr. They have removed the concrete curb and put asphalt in. We continue to monitor and if something should change, we will let you know. Hopefully it should be completed soon.

We have already started work on the drainage ditch to the side of our squad building and the parking lot. We are hopeful that drainage will be improved and that the site will look more attractive.

As always, thank you for all you do.



Chief Mike Bardell

### Inside this Issue

#### Updates & Reports

#### Squad Escorts Fall Volunteer

#### What's New?

- Foot Health Month
- Recruiting Meetings
- Our Wheelchair Vans
- Upcoming Dates

#### Public Relations HIPAA Toughbook Tips

#### Team Captains



SUN CITY CENTER EMERGENCY SQUAD





# UPDATES & REPORTS

## Birthdays for April 2021

John Kunzler	2	Frank Gatto	16
Daniel Zawacki	3	John Kosin	17
Vallery McKeegan	4	Anthony Marro	18
Marcia Lederberg	4	Darlene Whitehurst	19
Len Phillips	6	Mohsen Khalifa	20
Russ Girgenti	6	Mary Duncan	21
Janet Meyer	7	Christine Zewin	21
Mary Bramel	7	Kevin Kaspar	22
Jennie Casey	7	Sheri Angel	22
Betsy McGhee	8	Bud Wiehe	23
April Lester	9	Cricket Fraser	25
Diane Simon	9	David Graves	26
Juliana Tappen	11	Gretchen Chapman	27
John Irvin	11	Reinhold Baal	29
Lawrence Bardsley	12		
Cindy Rohr	14		

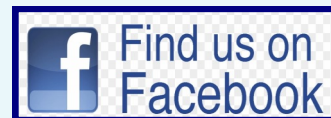
**amazon**smile

## Anniversaries: April 2021

**Five Years:** Mervyn Hollander T5,  
Marlene Hollander T5

**One Year:** Ari Basen T8

Check our website at  
**SCCEMS.com**



## Stats March 2021

**Ambulance Runs 367**

**Van Runs 151**

**Fall Calls ( %) 167**

**45.5%**

**Blood pressures 98**

**Y-T-D Falls 451**

## Sick List for April 2021

Naomi Layton	T1
Marcia Lederberg	T1
Brian Saffell	T1
Stan Zabetakis	T1
Jackie Kisner	T8

# What's New?

## April is Foot Health Awareness Month

They take us everywhere; they carry all the weight; we completely take them for granted, until they cause us a problem. So, what am I talking about? Our feet!

April is Foot Health Awareness Month, so we should learn a little more about our poor, neglected tootsies!

Our feet have a combined 25% of the body's bones; 18% of our joints and 6% of our muscles. There are more than 7000 nerve endings in our feet, more per square inch than anywhere else in our body. Injuring any of these impedes our ability to keep moving, remain self-sufficient and independent. In addition, a foot injury can affect our gait and balance; it can put added stress on knee and hip joints. Our ability to function and our quality of life are directly affected by our ability to walk comfortably. The best way to keep your feet healthy is not to wait for something to go wrong. Be proactive! Here are a few tips to help you out:

- Check your feet once a week: look for cuts, blisters, redness, swelling or calluses that may cause your toes or feet to be uncomfortable in your shoes. Better to catch these problems before they become impairments.
- Wear proper fitting footwear and the appropriate footwear for whatever sport or activity you are doing. When shoe shopping, shop at the end of the day to compensate for any swelling of your feet. Make sure shoes have room for your toes and are comfortable in the heel. Tight-fitting shoes can cause foot problems that might take weeks or months to resolve.
- Keep your feet clean and dry. Fungal organisms, like athlete's foot, love moisture. After your shower or bath, make sure you dry your feet, including between your toes.
- If you are diabetic, get regular foot check-ups. Diabetes can cause circulatory problems and without proper blood flow, healing of wounds is prolonged.
- Should you go barefoot? Best not to: shoes and slippers protect your feet from those "nasty" furniture legs, which are quite painful when your toes catch them. They also are more likely to prevent you from catching your toes in a throw rug.

Remember, as Leonardo da Vinci said, "The human foot is a masterpiece of engineering and a work of art." We should treat it like the masterpiece it is!

Information from Healthline and CareMount Medical.

## Our Wheelchair Vans

Every day, our crews come in, check out the wheelchair van and take patients to their dialysis or doctors' appointments. On average, we provide approximately 1200 van rides a year, averaging 100 a month. These may include transports out of the hospital, but most of the time they are serving wheelchair bound residents, taking them to appointments within a 25-mile radius of Sun City Center.

The van requires an EMR and an EMR/driver, both of whom are CPR certified. They are both mentored in van operations before working as a team, on their own.

Appointments must be scheduled in advance to ensure availability. A minimum of 24 hours is requested, but many of our dialysis patients schedule long in advance, several days a week. Calling the day of the appointment may mean no transport from the Squad as most week days are heavily scheduled in advance.

Our dispatchers keep a daily schedule in the dispatch office and are the point of contact to schedule appointments. Calls should come through the business line and not the emergency line.



A new wheelchair van starts at \$60,000 to meet our specifications.

John Lackey and Joanne Koncick, Team 7 on wheelchair van duty.



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

Every year we do an annual awards dinner, recognizing the service of members who have reached milestone dates with the Squad. This year, that event is scheduled to take place on **November 19th** at Community Hall, providing that the CA has reopened its facilities. That will depend on CDC guidelines and the rate of positivity.

The Summer Appreciation Lunch is scheduled for **August 26th** at the Kings Point Veterans Theater.

## Squad Escorts Fallen Volunteer Tom Porter on Final Homecoming

On Saturday March 13th, The Emergency Squad held an honor escort for ten year volunteer Tom Porter, who passed away in tragic and sudden circumstances, out of state. All of the Squad's ambulances, wheelchair vans and administrative vehicles, plus more than 50 Squad volunteers in their personal cars, escorted Tom's ashes for his final homecoming in Kings Point. Tom, a Viet Nam Veteran, retired from Chrysler Corporation and moved with wife, Jeanette, to Sun City Center. He joined the Squad in 2011 and became an EMR/Driver on Team 7. He served as a driver/mentor for many new volunteers and loved helping his neighbors. "This is the first time that I know of, that the Squad has held a procession honoring one of its volunteers," said Chief Mike Bardell. "Most of our active and retired volunteers who pass away, do so at home, in hospice or in the hospital. The circumstances here, were different and it seemed fitting to escort him the last few miles home. We greatly appreciate the support the community offered to the Squad and the family."



Don't Forget Our Recruiting Meetings  
on the 2nd Wednesday of Every Month at the Training Center



Let your friends and neighbors know that we hold information meetings monthly and would love to share what we do at the Squad. If you can come to the meeting, please feel free to bring friends and neighbors with you.