

Public Relations

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, PR

Happy 2021 – we can make it happy!

What a year it's been! I know we're all too happy to move on from 2020. But we still face challenges in the New Year.

One of the biggest challenges is recruiting, but that's nothing new. It is just more difficult in the age of COVID. So your help is once again requested. Here's what you can do:

- Send your HOA/COA a notice about our "Pay It Forward" meetings. These are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at our training center at 124 S. Pebble Beach. They last about an hour and the next one is Jan. 13th.
- Let fellow club members and neighbors know how you feel about your volunteer time and why you do it.
- Refer people to Chris McCann, Asst. Chief, HR if they'd like a tour or are curious about what volunteer jobs we have.
- Wear your Squad T-shirt out and about. All of us are "everyday Ambassadors" for our organization, not just on our duty days. Not only will you have people thank you, but you might have someone inquire about joining us.

Thank you dedication to helping the community. May 2021 be our best year yet – for each and every one of us.



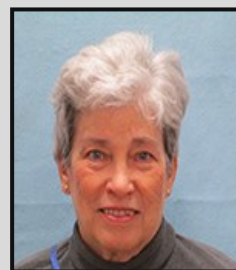
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Team Captains

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

Toughbook Reporting

By Merrill Pritham, Assistant Chief Quality Control



January 2021

The Siren

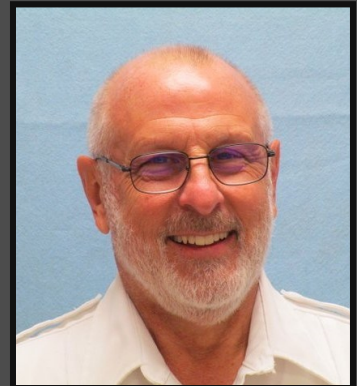
Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad

From the Chief's Desk

This year, 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone worldwide. It's no different for the Emergency Squad. We have faced difficult challenges in the past, but none so difficult as serving our community during a pandemic, keeping our volunteers safe while still providing service to our residents. The challenges continue and often change, but we work to meet each one, adjusting procedures and protocols as necessary.

Below is brief summary of our year.

- Community Disaster Planning in February – the Emergency Squad organized and coordinated two meetings for residents. Over 800 residents attended to hear from experts in insurance, home preparation and safety, and weather specialists.
- Covid Testing October, November, December – Squad members participated in COVID-19 testing at South Bay Hospital in October, November and December, testing more than 3600 individuals in a drive-through process
- School Supply collection – volunteers collected school supplies for a local elementary teachers, providing much needed educational and cleaning materials so that teachers would not be purchasing them out of their salaries.
- Operation Toy Soldier toy collection – This year volunteers and residents met a new record for toy collection for the children of active and deployed military families. Over 45 boxes were given to the organization that serves military families.
- National Award – Volunteer EMS of the Year – the Emergency Squad was recognized as the Volunteer EMS Service of the Year from EMS World and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians. This is a national award and the Squad is exceptionally proud of it.
- Fall Prevention Study with Sun Towers –
- 4224 emergency calls as of December 18th
- 1546 calls for fall patients – 44.3% of our calls (as of December 18th)
- 100% rating from Charity Navigator – the Emergency Squad received this rating from Charity Navigator – a nationally recognized organization that reviews non-profits financial stability to assist people in choosing how to make their donations count. Our 100% rating is a sign of our outstanding stewardship of the donations we receive from the community.
- Our Operations department has revised and updated our entire Forms program and re-vamped Policies. It is currently in the process of Revisiting Procedures and Assistant Captains/Captains classes.
- Newly updated the Squad's Disaster Plan book.
- Continuing with Squad Team Training, reconstructing Drivers Program along with preparing for future Community Symposiums. (Cont'd on page 2)



Chief Mike Bardell

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HIPPA

Toughbook Tips

Haste Makes Waste

Team Captains



SUN CITY CENTER EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

Birthdays for January 2021

Name	2	Roark Williams	18
name	2	Michael Jasudowicz	19
Terrie McNamara	5	Edward Cox	20
Wendy Rudolph	9	Walt Bowers	21
Elda Miller	9	Debbie Jasmer	22
Erma Faron	10	Jim Hunton	23
Gladys Rivard	12	Suzi Russell	25
Francis Reid	12	Dave Watson	25
Don Mayer	13	Julia Wickersham	27
Robert Means	14	Name	27
Geraldine Roth	17		



Anniversaries: January 2021

Fifteen Years:

Ten Years:

Five Years:

One Year:

Year 10-15-20-25-30

Monetary Awards
will be issued
in December

Stats Dec 2020 YTD

Ambulance Runs

Van Runs

Fall Calls (%)

Blood pressures

Sick List for January

Check our website at
SCCEMS.com



What's New?

Fifteen Years & Counting

Carol Watson T2 Dispatch

Carol is from Sheboygan, Wisconsin. She owned and operated a bath and body gift shop. She was very busy raising three children, playing bridge, sewing, knitting, and running the business.

Carol married her husband, Lyle, and they started traveling to Sun City Center as snowbirds, but soon moved to here permanently. Carol was young when she moved to Sun City Center and needed to keep herself busy so she started exercising and walking and going out to eat. Carol and her husband joined and supported the Security Patrol for many years, but Carol needed more. A former Squad member, Pat Geresy, asked Carol if she would be interested in joining the Emergency Squad, and she believes it was the best decision. She believes the Squad has become her "family." She loves being at the Squad where she can serve the community as a dispatcher on Team 2. Carol has a couple of hobbies, knit afghans and Bunka. She loved traveling to other countries, attending theater, being with people, however, with COVID around we all stay close to home.



Donations

On December 9th The Bay Area Arbor Gleaners Club Donated \$1000.00 to the Squad. The Gleaners support the work of non-profit community organizations. with cash donations. Thank you.

From L - R: Eileen Peco (Capt Team 6), Erwin Karl, Hilde Karl, Bill Ferron, Doris Ferron (Dispatch Team 4), Bob Boose, Jim Hiller (EMR Team 6), Freda Stearns, Bev Hiller (President Bay Area Arbor), Jerry Mitchell (EMR Team 6), Marty Gifford (Squad CF0), Kelly Kowall (My Warrior's Place), Mike Bardell (Chief), Alice Boose and her puppy Farwell, Mike McClintic, Bob Bizzano.



Chief's Notes Cont'd

- In the process of initiating and partnering with community Vaccine inoculations.
- Continuing with Squad Team Training, reconstructing Drivers Program along with preparing for future Community Symposiums.
- HR has implemented a safer Squad Security System.
- Lost 118 volunteers, mostly due to COVID-19. Many of these volunteers needed to step back due to the virus, because either they or a family member had pre-existing health issues making them more vulnerable.
- Recruited 43 new members.
- New RFID system providing greater safety at our facilities.
- And of course all the Covid-19 Health and Safety policies to protect our staff on Calls.
- Currently working with community partners to develop process for community vaccines.

None of this happens without the dedication of people like you. Thank you to all for your continued service to the community and the Squad. And may 2021 be a GREAT year for us all

15 Year Recognitions

Sheila Houlihan has served the Squad since January 2005 as a Dispatcher, but Sheila has also worked tirelessly in other capacities: organizing our annual toy drive, assisting with our awards dinners and ensuring the Squad gets the proper assistance from both Kings Point and the CA. Sheila is a member of Team 7 and is something of a night owl, working the night shifts more often than not.

Here she is receiving (with a hug) her 15year award from team mate EMT David Watt.

An updated photo of **Mary Borg** receiving her 15 year award from Chief Mike Bardell. Mary was featured in last month's Siren with her 10 year award with then Chief Dennis Floto.



Donations

On December 14th Emergency Squad received a donation of \$150 from the Sun City Center New England Club. The club provides social activities for local residents with New England roots or interests and is open to all Community Association residents.

From L - R: Deputy Chief Tina Drury, Eric Anderson (VP), Bob Sanchez (President) and Chief Mike Bardell.



Donations

The IndoAmerican Group of Sun City Center donated \$ 1,502.00 to the Squad on December 8. Marty provide background in formation on the Squad and gave the two representatives of the IndoAmerican Group a tour of our facilities.

Left - Right: Shree Tilak, Shashi Gude & Marty Gifford

