

October 2020

The Siren

Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad

AMBULANCE

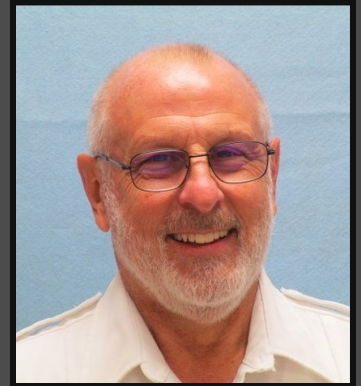
From the Chief's Desk

Fall is arriving, even if only for a short period. I'm sure most of you know that we have received a lot of attention with the National Award from EMS WORLD 1 and coverage on TV (Vice News) along with the local papers. Some might say - what the heck is all the fuss over, however, I am here to tell you we truly have a story to tell. This is because of what each and every one of you and what you do every day. It is much easier to get someone to give money than it is their time. You are truly about Paying it Forward, and giving of yourself.

I am concerned about stress and depression in the community and in the Squad. We generally are social beings and having been confined for so long is having an effect on people. Please try to be tolerant with others. These things affect people in different ways. Take me, for example, I've always been quiet and shy.

Things are starting to open up again, so don't be surprised if the Covid positive test numbers go up. We have to get back to something more normal. We should not let fear rule our lives.

If you find yourself watching the news all the time, you might start to think the world will end. But it won't and we will all get through this together. If you need to talk to someone, please remember, we have resources in place for you. Enclosed in this edition of the Siren is an information sheet, *Morale among Squad Volunteers*. From the Crisis Intervention Stress Debriefing Committee (CISD). You will also find more information about the members and their phone numbers posted on the back bulletin board in the ready room.



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



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Anniversaries: October 2020

Fifteen Years: Pat Harkins T-2

Ten Years: Robert Leonard Sr. T-1

Five Years: Margaret Campbell T-4, Cynthia Slaughter T-7

Three Years: Barbara Multon T-1, Larry Crabtree T-5, Shirley Watt T-7, Kenneth Allison T-4, Kristin Schram T-8, Sharon Crabtree T-7

One Year: Jackie Kisner T-8, Connie Spillan T-8, Mary Christiano T-1, Ron Caputo T-6, Susan Caputo T-6, Mary Fisher T-3, Don Mayer T-2, Betsy Schwartz T-5, Scott Eichfeld T-0



Stats September 2020

Ambulance Runs

Van Runs

Fall Calls (%)

Blood pressures

Sick List for October

Bob Rusnak	T-2
Gert Affayroux	T-2
Val Graves	T-5
Noreen Schramm	T-6
Jim Hiller	T-6

Check our website at
SCCEMS.com



Grants: NonProfits Needs List

Three grants were awarded to the Sun City Center Emergency Squad by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay for specific help with a needs request from nonprofit organizations. The Sun City Center Emergency Squad requested support for personal protective equipment, maintaining a safe work environment, and sanitizing.

Personal Protective Equipment-\$1500.00. Gloves and masks for all ambulance and van crew as well as patients during pandemic

Safer Workplace -\$2000.00. Keep Squad members safe by sanitizing the work environment (hard and soft surfaces) and purchasing N95 masks & nitrate gloves.

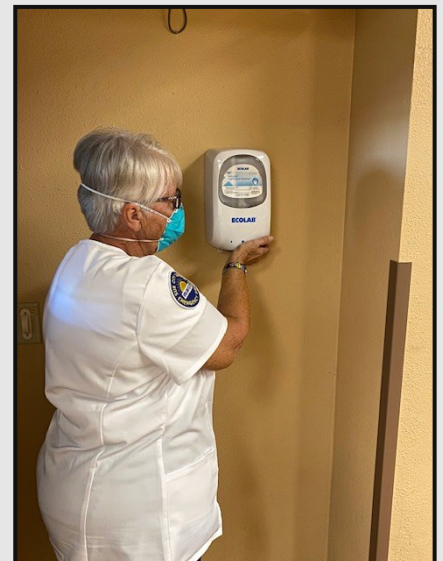
Sanitizing - \$1200.00. Touchless hand sanitizing dispensers for our volunteers to use and stay safe.



Winnie Hicks



Sally Reid and Al Harris



Pam Zion

What's New?

Donations

AmCap Insurance Donates \$7,500.00 to the Emergency Squad. This is the 5th year that AmCap has donated to the Squad.

From left: Barry McKee, Lloyd Banfield, Tom Canady, Doris Feron, Terry Blankenship, Emily Lahti, Mary Gifford, Greg Waltz, (Mack, Mack and Waltz Insurance), Robert Munns (Marketing Manager for AmCap), Ken Ayers, and Chief Mike Bardell



Something New for You

A new virtual community forum has been established by the Men's Club of Sun City Center as a partial remedy for the stay-at-home blues. The club calls the forum the Second Wednesday Community Forum; a virtual meeting place for ALL community residents. Each month a local leader will speak and be available to answer questions. The one-hour program will start at 11 a.m.

On Wednesday, October 14th, Mike Bardell is scheduled to address the community.

This forum is hosted on Zoom software and free to attend. To join the program, residents should simply open the following link in their browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/98653725137>

To connect by telephone for voice only participation, dial 312-626-6799 and enter the meeting number = 986 537 25137

Help on the Way



Tina Drury, Deputy Chief

For all who have worked multiple teams and donated so much of your time there is a light at the end of tunnel. Through many resources such as social media, Facebook, staging ambulances and our many publicity outreach efforts in the many papers that we will have as many as ten (10) new EMR's on board soon. Speaking with Christ McCann in Human Resources she mentioned that we have some very strong candidates.

So please hold on...help is on the way.

AAUW Woman of Distinction: Robin Watt

The local branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is proud to honor Robin Watt as a local Woman of Distinction for 2020. Originally, scheduled for March 14th the presentation needed to be rescheduled due to the pandemic.

On Saturday, October 10 at 10 AM the AAUW will present Robin with her award at the Sun City Center Emergency Squad Training Center located at 124 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. Also, the presentation will be available for remote viewing through Zoom.



Zoom Information will be emailed to you when available with a hyperlink to click to go directly to the Zoom presentation. Yes, you will need to have the Zoom application on your phone or computer for remote viewing.

Public Relations

By Robin Watt, Assistant Chief Public Affairs

INVITE!

Remember what it's like to get a personal invitation? Especially from someone you like?

Maybe it's time to try that again, with our recruiting efforts. Can you imagine if we each invite several friends to our **2nd Wednesday evening meeting**? Of course, not everyone would accept, but even if 10% of our efforts were rewarded, it would be a great recruiting effort.

So what do you need to know to invite them?

The meeting starts at 6PM and lasts about an hour.

Light refreshments are served – usually cookies and coffee.

There are many opportunities to help.

There is no hard sell. We want people who want to be here.

The next meeting is October 14th, 6PM at our training center at 124 S. Pebble Beach. Invite your friends and neighbors. Invitations are located at the captain's desk and the front desk.



HIPAA

By Linda Eargle, PhD, HIPPA Officer & Fall Prevention

As we begin to see cooler weather and our friends who have been away for the summer return, please think about the HIPAA challenges. First, everyone is consistently getting patients to sign the HIPAA policy acknowledgement. We are revising the current HIPAA patient information form that we provide each patient; the electronic original will be in our forms folder.

One of the challenges I've seen this summer is when and what to say to children of our patients. If the patient calls their child or if the child talks to the parent and the parent ask us to talk to the child, consent has been given. Unfortunately, we can't verify the patient's permission to give information to the adult child if the patient is not around or is not alert and oriented.

Caring neighbors are also a challenge. Recently, a neighbor was in the house when we arrived. If the patient gives verbal permission for us to discuss their information in front of the neighbor, we can do so. However, it's important to ask permission. We have a responsibility to only share patient information to those who have a medical reason to know certain information and that decision is made by the EMT. HIPAA violations can result in costly fines (up to \$10,000) and/or other costs.

I look forward to October 31, cooler weather and the end of daylight savings time.



October Updates:

Flu and pneumonia vaccines are scheduled and will be available here at the Squad on October 22 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Bring your Medicare/Insurance cards. More details will be forthcoming, along with a reminder email as we get closer to the date.

Key Locator Updates

Have you moved? Do you need to update your key locator card? This card provides information on how we can safely enter your home, should you need help, but are unable to let us in. The information goes into a secure database that is not accessible except by dispatch, and only when then when it is needed.

Key locator cards are available at the front desk, Fill it out and return it to the mailbox marked Key Locator, next to the ladies restroom in the center hallway.

Toughbook Reporting

By Merrill Pritham, Assistant Chief Quality Control

Yikes! Are people getting exhausted from being on duty so much? The errors on reports seem to be increasing...wrong sex, adding E to all addresses, omitting vital signs, misdiagnosing, from calling a laceration a snake bite to pronouncing the patient as dead.

All falls need a blood sugar, including slips out of chairs or out of bed.

Respirations are always "applicable".

All trauma needs to be documented. Describe the injury and what you did to treat it.

Please do not use "unknown" for the patient's sex.

Use "sick" and "no other cause" thoughtfully.

Remember to document wearing vests when responding to a MVA.

Please take care of yourselves and get enough rest. We need you all!



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-emt.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	Eileen Peco
Team 7	Karen McInnis
Team 8	Jim Ryan