

**April 2022**

# ***The Siren***

***Newsletter of the Sun City Center  
Emergency Squad***

**AMBULANCE**

## **From the Chief's Desk**

One of the best things about this time of year, is the flowers and trees are starting to bloom and the weather is what we wish we could have all year. One of the worst things about this time of year, is that we will soon be saying "see you in the fall" to our wonderful snowbirds. While we hope they have a great summer, we will miss them none the less.

That being said, the issue of summer staffing will soon be upon us, as it is every year. However, this year, it is projected that a lot of us will be traveling more since Covid (at least so far) has leveled out and all of us are anxious to see family and friends or take that long awaited cruise/vacation/train/plane or auto trip. In addition, the EMS industry, as a whole, has been experiencing elevated levels of stress due to many reasons, the least of which being staffing. This can also be seen in the hospitals, especially the emergency rooms. It is important to do whatever works for you, but I am encouraging you to take some time off and refresh yourself. We will get through the summer and continue to support the community.

You are our most important asset, and your well being is paramount. So, I urge you to take a break, travel, do a "stay-vacation" or whatever works for you. When you return, the squad will still be here.

For those traveling, please stay safe, pay attention to the weather and keep checking your squad email now and then so you can stay in touch and up to date. But by all means, enjoy yourself.



**Chief Mike Bardell**

### **Inside this Issue**

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Statistics and Sick List**

**Community Relations**

**All Squad Meeting**

**Team Captains**



**SUN CITY CENTER**

**EMERGENCY SQUAD**



# UPDATES & REPORTS

## Birthdays for April 2022

John Kunzler	2nd	Julie Petersen	14th <sup>th</sup>
Jeanne Michel	2nd	Cindy Rohr	14th
Daniel Zawacki	3rd	Laura Butler	15th
Lois Hansen	3rd	Frank Gatto	16th
Valerie McKeehan	4th	John Kosin	17th
Marcia Lederberg	4th	Sharon Dolan	18th
Len Phillips	6th	Tony Marro	18th
Barbara Davis	6th	Dee Whitehurst	19th
Tom Ginter	8th	Mohsen Khalifa	20th
Janet Meyer	7th	Mary Duncan	21th
Mary Bramel	7th	Chris Zewin	21th
Betsy McGhee	8th	Bud Wiehe	23rd
Diane Simon	9th	Jim Neyenhouse	24 <sup>th</sup>
April Lester	9th	Cricket Fraser	25th
Julie Tappan	11th	David Graves	26th
John Irvin	11th	Gretchen Chapman	27 <sup>th</sup>
Lawrence Bardsley			
	12th		

## April Anniversaries

Team #

### 10 Year Anniversary

Sandra Dillmuth 4

### 5 year Anniversaries

Cricket Fraser 4

John Gentry 8

Thomas Ginter 3

### 3 year Anniversary

Gail Letzring 1

Jim Abney 6

Nancy Heiss 8

Marty Heiss 8

### 1 Year Anniversaries

Barbara Page 7

Irene Vettraino 6

Rich Pungello 4

Phil Prather 2

Jim Claro 7

Don Sattazahn 0

## March Statistics

Ambulance Runs 409

Falls 136

% of calls 33%

Van Runs 101

Blood Pressures 101

## Sick List

Team 1 Dee Whitehurst

Team 4 Mary Bramel  
Maureen Kurowski

Team 5 Bob Lucas  
Leo Scire

Team 7 Suzanne McFadyn  
Walt Prouty  
Dennis Nash  
Sharon Crabtree  
Laurie Odmark

Team 8 Gail Roy

# April is Public Health Awareness Month

In the last two and half years, we've heard from public health departments at every level – County, State and Federal. But prior to COVID-19, I suspect many people had no idea what public health departments were for. We've heard about flu shots for so many years, that most of us consider those as messages from our pharmaceutical companies. Or perhaps our doctor has always recommended getting our flu shots, and we never considered it a part of anything larger – such as preventing epidemics.

So where do we fit in and do we fit in?

And of course the answer is a resounding yes - in multiple ways! Our patient care reports that go to the State, provide data on our community and age group which is included in the State database. Our Fall Prevention programs and health symposiums are aimed at improving the health of our community. Providing blood pressures to the public, helps individuals stay informed about the current status of their health. All of these efforts, plus more, are part of "Public Health" actions and issues.

Public health infrastructure provides the necessary foundation for all public health services—from vaccinations to chronic disease prevention programs to emergency preparedness efforts. The Public Health Infrastructure objectives address high-performing health departments, workforce development and training, data and information systems, planning, and partnerships.

A strong public health infrastructure includes a capable and qualified workforce, up-to-date data and information systems, and agencies that can assess and respond to public health needs. While a strong infrastructure depends on many organizations working together, public health departments play a central role in the nation's public health system. Federal agencies rely on a solid public health infrastructure in state, tribal, local, and territorial jurisdictions.

Information from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

# What's New?

## Proposed changes to SQUAD HIPAA Policies by Linda Eargle, HIPAA Compliance Officer

Greetings! Your input is needed as we work on creating specific HIPAA policies and procedure documents. The current document, last edited in 2009, contains HIPAA regulations, laws, policies, and procedures. Last month, I proposed changes to our procedures for phone calls. A copy will be in the dispatch office to make it easier for your review and feedback of the call procedures, during April.

Why are HIPAA policies and procedures so important? Did you know that if YOU disclose protected information, both you and the Squad face legal charges with hefty financial and/or incarceration charges? According to the online HIPAA Journal, 2020 resulted in the most financial penalties (\$13,554,900) ever. While HIPAA violations are very unusual for EMS agencies, last year I reported on a GA EMS agency that was involved in a legal battle for six years with a negotiated agreement of \$60K plus legal fees.

The procedures should ensure we protect both verbal and/or written communication in any manner and every Squad member adheres. In May, the Siren will have proposed procedures related to fax, emails and verbal communication. Feedback is always welcome! [Lindaea@scc-ems.us](mailto:Lindaea@scc-ems.us)



## Pam & Tim Zion 10 Year Anniversary

In February of 2012, Pam and Tim Zion joined the Squad, Pam as an EMR and Tim as a Driver. .

Now, ten years later, Tim is Captain of Team 4, still driving and Pam is an EMT, having gotten her license in the Spring of 2015.

Shown below receiving their 10 year awards are:  
Pam Zion, Deputy Chief Tina Drury and Tim Zion.



## Open Board Seat

There is an open Director position on the Squad's Board of Directors. The Board is currently seeking applicants for this position. The position will be for a term of one (1) year commencing with the Board's April meeting. The Board of Directors will select a new Director from the applications received.

Applications, including qualifications and requirements, are available starting today (March 28) in a folder on the counter in the rear of the ready room. All interested and qualified Squad members are encouraged to apply for this position.

**Completed applications with supporting materials must be delivered to Human Resources no later than close of business Friday April 15, 2002.**

If you have any questions regarding the position, application, or selection process, please feel free to call or email me, Ken Ayers, c: 615-513-2542 or

email: [kena@scc-ems.us](mailto:kena@scc-ems.us)

## Dance Extravaganza Donates

The Dance Extravaganza held on February 25<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Theater was a great success! The event included eight dance troupes including: Cloggers, the Happy Tappers, Hula Honeys, Jazzmatazz, the Silver Shakers, the Silver Tappers, the Timesteppers and West Coast Swing/Hustle dance club. The Extravaganza raised \$2100 for the Emergency Squad. The Squad is most appreciative of the donation.

Pictured below, L to R: Cindy Rohr, Bruce McCay, program EmCee, Susan Wright, Chief Mike Bardell, Kathy Hammond, and Jafali.



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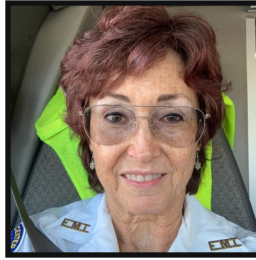
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## Community Relations

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, Community Relations

Back in 2010, The Squad did its all-squad photo and team photos with the help of HCFR's Ladder Truck 28 and their handy-dandy "cherry-picker." Phone cameras were not quite as common, but digital cameras were, so Paramedic-Firefighter Greg Barsumian went up in the bucket to take our picture.



Fast-forward to 2020 – Year of the Coronavirus! We actually discussed getting an all Squad photo in February of that year – just before the virus took off and everyone began wearing masks. Once we understood the seriousness of the virus, we thought postponing the photo was the only thing to do. And besides, who would want to see a photo with everyone wearing a mask?

Enter 2021 – we got our hopes up and asked the County about the possibility of again, having a ladder truck come down for a few hours, but this time it was nixed by the Fire Department. Plus Coronavirus was still going strong! Things were simpler in 2010!

Fortunately, vaccines have finally allowed us to get together again and no masks were required for the photos. The date, March 25th, was chosen on several factors – the availability of the photographer, and catching our "snowbirds" before they migrated North, being the primary issues. It fell on a TEAM 4 duty day and we all tried to stay out of their way. Photographer James Corwin Johnson climbed a ladder for us – and, except for Team 4, we all got our teams and all Squad photos done in record time!



## Patient Acuity Definitions

By Diane Simon, Asst. Chief QA

These categories fall under the Situation Tab on the ePCR report.

### 1. Is the patient critical? RED

Presents with life-threatening illness or injury with a high probability of mortality if immediate intervention is not begun. We should be calling HCFR for support if we determine that the patient needs immediate assistance and proceed with intervention to the best of our ability until they arrive.



### 2. Is the patient Emergency? YELLOW

Presents with symptoms of an illness or injury that may progress in severity or result in complications. Treatment needs to begin quickly.

### 3. Is the patient lower acuity? GREEN

Presents with symptoms of an illness that has a low probability of progression to more serious disease or development of complications.

The EMT needs to make these determinations based on our Medical Standing Orders and how the patient presents to them when they are first observed and then final acuity based on the "Intervention" done at time of transfer or refusal to transport.

## Annual All Squad Meeting

The annual All Squad meeting was held March 24<sup>th</sup> at Community Hall. This is our annual business meeting, as required by our bylaws, where the usual course of business includes voting for a slate of new Directors. Due to having only 3 candidates and 3 positions to fill, no vote was required.

Our new directors are: Kelly Knigge, Shaun Brauch and Skip Aylesworth. The Board of Directors re-appointed the following positions: Chief/CEO - Mike Bardell; CFO - Marty Gifford; HIPAA Compliance Officer - Linda Earle.

We thank the nominations committee: Beverly Brown, Helen Corradi, Cricket Fraser, Betsy McGhee, Maureen Kuroski and Noreen Schramm for their efforts.

Shown below, Board Chairman Ken Ayers recognized Sheila Houlihan for her many years of dedicated efforts in collecting toy for Operation Toy Soldier and other local organizations.



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## Team Captains

<b>Team 1</b>	<b>Mary Christiano</b>
<b>Team 2</b>	<b>Betty Richner</b>
<b>Team 3</b>	<b>Walt Bowers</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>