



2014 Year in Review

Looking Back as We Look Ahead

Dear Foundation Board Members,

I want to thank you for your service to the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station and all of its dedicated staff and volunteers. This has been a wonderful year for our Foundation and we should all be very proud of our accomplishments.

I thought I would take the time to give you an overview of 2014.

As the year started, Captain Paul Becker had retired at the end of 2013, and after a brief, and impressive, stint with Lt. Robert Lewis as interim Captain, we transitioned to Captain Roosevelt Johnson, who, yet again, was another superb selection of a captain for our station. It seems like we have had quite a run of successful captains, as I fondly recall my first years on the Board with Commander Anthony La Berge as Paul's predecessor.

We are still reveling in the accomplishment of late 2013 that continued into 2014 with the procurement of a self-contained, \$330,000 Command Post. This marked the most significant accomplishment of our Foundation's history. This event underscored that our fundraising capabilities, while critical to our mission, is only one element of our success. The assembly of business leadership present within our Board is in a position to also enact change by voicing our valley's requirements. Don Fleming played a very important role in negotiating with the city and county to gain their recognition and support in allocating the funds towards this project. With the plans scrubbed and further developed by the county, we now have a state-of-the-art Command Post ready for delivery this February. We should all be very proud.

The last year marked a switch in our bylaws, moving toward being a "Give" or "Get" organization. This move recognized that the seniority of the individuals and companies represented in our Foundation -was, by itself, a supportive basis for meeting our capital requirements, and the focus needed to move away from utilizing these same elite community leaders to perform extensive fundraising efforts.

It was a year of changes in our Board composition. We are so grateful for the past contributions of the individuals who have served our Foundation. In 2014, we saw the following retire: Steve Sturgeon, Steve Chegwin, and John March. Neal Thurman, a former Vice President of the Foundation, received a promotion to the San Antonio Six Flags operation, and Rick Crivier, who joined, then tragically passed away following a surgery. We also had our "handler" changes as Deputy Jeremy Carr was given another assignment, and Deputy Yesenia Holwager took on the responsibility.

We were fortunate, however, to have some wonderful new recruits for our Foundation in 2014. Kicking off the new lineup of great new members is Todd Stevens, Vice President of California Resources Corp.; Jerry Cain, CEO and Founder of Merchants Bancard Network; Don Spiller, replacing Neal Thurman as

Six Flags Magic Mountain's representative; Tony Demma, Founder and CEO of Accurate Freight; Steve Leach, President of Numatic Engineering; and Jessica Lee, a Reserve and team member of our station's Search & Rescue Team and a PHD with Boston Scientific. So, with five having left, and six new members coming on board, we continue to grow!

Significant events of the year include our Captain dancing on behalf of our Foundation in the "Dancing with our Stars" event. Our Foundation came in second, with a total of almost \$26,000 raised at the event. Roosevelt showed our community that he is not afraid to dance, and when it comes to issues, he faces them head-on! Much thanks to Moe, Linda, and Alex Hafizi for founding and directing this event!

We also were privileged, yet again, to have a wonderful cocktail party at Linda and Moe Hafizi's beautiful home. Besides our Foundation Board members and guests in attendance, were several community leaders. A good time was had by all, and we clearly established some greater ties to the community from which we can foster continued financial and community support for our mission.

This year marked the combining of the well-established Search & Rescue Golf Tournament with our Foundation. I started the Golf Tournament nine years ago, and it has been a joy to watch it grow. The newly formed joint venture netted over \$30,000 for the two entities, with the proceeds being pro-rated by revenue origin, and coming close to a 50-50 split. Many of the Board members chose to take on sponsorship roles in the event including: Neal Thurman and Magic Mountain with the top sponsorship position. Also sponsoring were Don Fleming and the Auto Dealers Association; Jim Biscailuz and Global Protective Services; Steve Leach and Numatic Engineering; Tony Demma and Accurate Freight; my business partner, Jay Catlin, and me, and AMS Fulfillment. Other support included Don Fleming recruiting Mercedes with a Hole-in-One sponsorship, John March with a Cigar Sponsor, Jerry Cain with a foursome, Todd Stevens with some awesome Dodgers tickets, and Jessica Lee with some beautiful auction baskets.

Not lingering in the limelight of the Command Post success of last year, 2014, while not being one of our bigger expenditure years, did see some important investments. Perhaps most importantly was the purchase of ten breeching tools to be available to all school deputies and patrolling sergeants. A huge increase from the one previously on-hand, this investment stands to dramatically improve response time in the event of an emergency building access requirement. We also supported training expenses; a volunteer recognition dinner for the station's 100-plus volunteers; support to the Baker to Vegas running event that is a wonderful team builder for our station; a local student scholarship dedicated to the late Deputy, Devin Freeman; and a number of other smaller donations. The lighter year of expenditures resulted in some material growth of our bank account, giving us a starting balance of over \$60,000.

Some goals for the New Year will include outfitting the new Command Post (arriving in February), with miscellaneous items that will be vetted and deemed important to be included in the new post. Other events include our Volunteer Recognition Dinner, a passenger van for the YAL, VIDA, and the Explorers, and continued support of the Baker to Vegas Run. Other items will develop and be reviewed for our consideration.

Jill Mellady, our marketing guru, revamped our "Be Our Star" program, making it a simpler presentation. She also worked with Moe on the December issue of *The Magazine of Santa Clarita* with an appeal seeking support and new Board members. Jill is kicking off 2015 with updates to our website, and Cookie is reaching out to our Board members to get current biographies in place so that we can spotlight our impressive Board constituents!

Our October meeting took on some new direction with our meeting at the Oak Tree Gun Club, where Jim Biscailuz treated us to an introduction and use of several of his guns. The fun at the range was followed by dinner and meeting at the club's meeting room. This meeting was meant to be the kick-off for other

types of fun and informative Board meeting events. Top marksman efforts were awarded by Jim to Moe, who – while never having held a gun – turned out to be our most enthusiastic student!

Wrapping up this “Ode to 2014”, I want to thank you for your participation. Our Board would not be the same without you.

Our accomplishments are plentiful; our mission to our community and our station personnel and volunteers remains important and focused. You can be proud of our station’s accomplishments, and the safety record that makes our city stand above others, and you can take solace in knowing you were a part of not only driving that success, but also bringing our station its due recognition.

2015 will be a great year for our Foundation.

Most sincerely,

Ken Wiseman
President, SCV Sheriff’s Foundation