



DIGEST

1984 Volunteer of the Year Recognition Awards Program

The second annual Los Angeles County Volunteer of the Year Recognition Awards Ceremonies and Luncheon Program was held on May 11, 1984 in the Grand Hall of the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The event honored Mr. Jon Seifert as the 1984 Los Angeles County Volunteer of the Year for his long and faithful service to abused and neglected youth for the Department of Public Social Services.

"Volunteerism has its own rewards, but this recognition is the frosting on the cake. This is the feeling that academy awards winners must feel," Mr. Seifert said.

In 1964, Jon Seifert began tutoring his nephew because he was having school problems. Word of his success spread and friends and neighbors began coming for help for other children. Mr. Seifert began offering campouts as a reward and in 1965 purchased a camper for this purpose. The boys formed a group and named themselves the Street Urchins.

In 1966, Mr. Seifert became a volunteer for the Department of Public Social Services, and agency staff began referring boys with a history of abuse, neglect, or other special problems. Initially he worked with children with learning and/or psychiatric problems. Later he worked with children who needed special attention and enjoyed

the outdoors. Many of these children were from one parent or very poor families; some were in foster care.

Over the years the Street Urchins has served boys from 8 through 16 years of age. Currently members of the group are from 8-12 years old. DPSS referrals have precedence, but in some instances community referrals are accepted to meet a child's special need. The purpose of the group is to provide wholesome, organized activities for children who might not otherwise have them. For example, some children in the group had not been beyond their own community prior to being in the group. They have gone camping at the beach and the mountains, have gone fishing, seen shows and visited Disneyland.

Mr. Seifert's involvement as a volunteer to children spans seventeen years. He has seen some youngsters in the group evolve into mature adults and maintains contact with them as necessary. Over the years he has worked with 100-150 children, most referred by DPSS. In 1983 alone, the El Monte resident provided 1150 hours of service through this program. He has been able to meet part of the expenses through donations from grocers, fast food outlets, and a small number of private donors; but the balance is subsidized by himself. In addition to working with children, he has worked directly with their parents, foster parents, and Children's Service Workers.

The former Navy seaman has also been active in the Volunteer Services Fund, a non-profit organization with tax exempt status. This group acts as an umbrella organization for various groups in the community, enabling them to raise funds and grant the contributor a tax deduction by virtue of the group's tax exempt standing. During the past year this organization has helped "SAFE", a coalition of foster home re-



Jon Seifert, Volunteer of the Year

cruiters in Southern California counties and also the DPSS Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Mr. Seifert is President of the Volunteer Services Fund.

The awards program was sponsored by the Board of Supervisors, who declared the week of May 6-12, 1984, Volunteer Recognition Week in Los Angeles County in conjunction with National Volunteer Week. A significant new feature of this year's recognition awards program was the selection of special categorical award recipients who were named as follows:

Distinguished Volunteers (5):

Patty Eckér, Adoptions; Robert K. Holmes, Glendale Municipal Court; Juana D. Soria, Mental Health; Mary Lou Kennedy, Public Library; Helen H. Reardon, Sheriff.

Material Resources: Lula Meshack, Community Services.

The Environment: Sander Romick, Beaches and Harbors.

Arts, Sciences and Humanities: Florence Siudmak, Arboreta and

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Botanic Gardens.

Public Safety: Sadelle Brussell, Superior Court.

Health: William John Henderson, Harbor/UCLA Medical Center.

Humanitarian: Ida Mae Wells, Public Administrator-Public Guardian.

Youth: Megan Cavagnaro, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital.

Also honored at the festivities were 41 departmental volunteers of the year and nine departmental youth volunteers of the year. Each of these volunteers was presented with an award scroll by Supervisors Deane Dana and Michael D. Antonovich. The departmental volunteers of the year were selected by departmental selection committees to be nominees for the County Volunteer of the Year Award, various categorical awards, and for the County Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. Two selection committees met on April 2 and 3, 1984 to carefully consider each nomination and to select the recipients for these recognition awards.

Dr. George Fischbeck, the humorous weatherman for KABC-TV's Channel 7 "Eyewitness News," was the Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Fischbeck has also made many volunteer contributions himself. Dr. Fischbeck was presented a scroll for being a Humanitarian and a

Goodwill Ambassador to Children. The presentation was made by Board of Supervisors Chairman Deane Dana.

Dr. Fischbeck has demonstrated his love and concern for children from all walks of life including students from inner-city schools, Navajo Tribal Schools, Boy Scouts of America and Lutheran Sunday School.

He has provided goodwill and cheer for the past 10 years as the Master of Ceremonies for the Annual Christmas Party for 600-700 young patients of the Pediatric Pavilion, LAC-USC Medical Center. He has provided the same goodwill and friendly rapport to many severely disabled youngsters at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital and toys for disabled children through his successful KABC-TV community service, "Toys for Porterville."

In his welcoming speech, Harry L. Hufford, Chief Administrative Officer/Director of Personnel, said that the Board of Supervisors sponsored the Volunteer of the Year Awards Program to recognize the many contributions of thousands of volunteers and to pay special tribute to those volunteers who have distinguished themselves in dedicated service to the citizens of Los Angeles County. Forty-one persons were awarded scrolls in recognition of their being chosen Departmental Volunteers of the Year. They are:

Patty Ecker, Adoptions; Peter F. Said, Agricultural Commissioner; LaVonne Rodstein, Animal Care and Control; Florence Siudmak, Arboreta and Botanic Gardens; Sander Romick, Beaches and Harbors; Barbara Louise Nelson, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner; Lula Meshack, Community Services; Daniel Tirre, Consumer Affairs; Daniel Leon, County Clerk; Mark E. Johnson, County Counsel; Rebecca S. Reeder, District Attorney; Edward Henry Lewis, Farm Advisor; Betty Jeanne Farmer, Flood Control District; Troy L. Sutterfield, Forester and Fire Warden.

From Health Services: Ramona R. Gutierrez, Ambulatory Care Ser-

vices; Robert Leigh Brewer, Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Center; William John Henderson, Harbor/UCLA Medical Center; Jean Galloway, LAC/USC Medical Center, General Hospital; Herman Epstein, M.D., LAC/USC Medical Center, Pediatric Pavilion; Jean A. Gifford, LAC/USC Medical Center, Women's Hospital; Myrtle Holmes, Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center; Una M. Fain, Mira Loma Hospital; David Barry Zemechman, Olive View Medical Center; Mary Lou Porter, Public Health Programs; Shirley M. Cencak, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital; Dr. Warren Harry Schmidt, Human Relations Commission; Juana D. Soria, Mental Health; John B. Mathews, Military and Veterans Affairs; Joycelyn Turner, Parks and Recreation; Carolyn Martin, Personnel; Bill Folsom, Probation; Ida Mae Wells, Public Administrator-Public Guardian; Jane Maison, Public Defender; Mary Lou Kennedy, Public Library; Jon Seifert, Public Social Services; Michael C. Turk, Purchasing and Stores; Patricia M. Rostker, Senior Citizens Affairs; Helen H. Reardon, Sheriff; Sadelle Brussell, Superior Court; Robert K. Holmes, Glendale Municipal Court.

Nine youths were awarded scrolls in recognition of their being chosen Departmental Youth Volunteers of the Year. They are:

Shawn Elizabeth Barton, Community Services; Mark Mihaljevich, Forester and Fire Warden; Sheila Kay Nichols, Harbor/UCLA Medical Center; Veola Ann Billings, Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center; Lorraine Villavicencia, Public Health Programs; Megan Cavagnaro, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital; Francesca Mozqueda, Probation; Frank F. Cordova, Sheriff; and Maria V. Castaneda, Treasurer-Tax Collector.

The following is a brief description of the Volunteer of the Year Categorical

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County of Los Angeles
DIGEST
EDITORIAL BOARD
HARRY L. HUFFORD
Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Personnel
CHARLES R. STEAKLEY
Editor
EDITORIAL OFFICE
Room 783, Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: 974-1785

Award recipients and their accomplishments.

Distinguished Volunteer: PATTY ECKER, Adoptions. On her own initiative, secured KNXT station resources and time valued at \$416,000 per year to produce the weekly adoption series "Wednesday's Child" to help place children in need of adoption. Through her efforts, the series has resulted in 72% of the children shown placed with permanent families at no cost to the County.

Distinguished Volunteer: ROBERT K. HOLMES, Glendale Municipal Court. He has given many hours of his time to the Glendale Municipal Court, both as a volunteer judge pro-tem and as a member of various committees. He organized and implemented the small claims judge pro-tem program which utilizes the volunteer services of local attorneys, and drafted a mandatory arbitration plan for the court, which has resulted in earlier resolution of contested cases.

Distinguished Volunteer: JUANA D. SORIA, Mental Health. She has been extremely effective in helping to achieve significant progress in the areas of education, community resources, community development, health and human services with special emphasis on the needs of Hispanics, children, the elderly, and the mentally and developmentally disabled. She has achieved these improvements through active participation in twelve different organizations and committees during the past twelve years.

Distinguished Volunteer: MARY LOU KENNEDY, Public Library. She has donated countless volunteer hours as a successful fundraiser and community activist for her local Lakewood libraries. Her willingness to share her expertise with others has benefited libraries throughout the Los Angeles County Public Library System and the State of California.

Distinguished Volunteer: HELEN H. REARDON, Sheriff's Department. She is the person most responsible for creating at the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's station, one of the largest and

most successful law enforcement volunteer programs in the country. She developed a station staff support group of 20 volunteers, a six-person neighborhood watch speaker's bureau, a kid-print program for fingerprinting elementary school children, and a crime awareness program for the business community.

Material Resources: LULA MESHACK, Community Services. She organized and trained groups of volunteers in the method of distributing mass amounts of food commodities to the hungry throughout Los Angeles County. She developed and implemented a system to deliver the food to the sick, handicapped, and shut-ins, and assisted Community Services staff with the training and orientation of the multitude of agencies and churches that participate in the commodities distribution program.

The Environment: SANDER ROMICK, Beaches and Harbors. He served as a volunteer consultant to department staff by writing the request for proposals which was sent to prospective firms for a proposed marketing and advertising campaign designed to enhance department revenue. He assisted in the review of bids, in interviews with the bidding firms, selection of the successful firm, and in evaluating the plan submitted by the selected firm.

Arts, Sciences and Humanities: FLORENCE SIUDMAK, Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. She has volunteered tens of thousands of hours at the South Coast Botanic Garden over a period of ten years. She established the Horticultural Library, Gift Shop, the "Discovery Walks," "Children's Day at the Garden," "Arbor Day," Junior Docent, and adult educational programs, and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.

Public Safety: SADELLE BRUSSELL, Superior Court. Over the past three years she has devoted much time and energy enhancing the programs of the Child Advocates Office. She has been a conscientious, assertive, and sensitive child advocate for

abused children who are entering the court system, and has expanded her own activities as a volunteer to include children's court assistant and the training of new volunteers.

Health: WILLIAM JOHN HENDERSON, Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. He has donated 8,150 hours to the patients and staff at the Harbor/UCLA Medical Center as a volunteer since 1976. He is a very productive volunteer in the emergency room and on the wards in transporting patients, collecting laboratory specimens, delivering medications and supplies, feeding babies, and training new volunteers.

Humanitarian: IDA MAE WELLS, Public Administrator-Public Guardian. She has worked as a volunteer for over seven years to bring the best of the outside world to Public Guardian Conservatees isolated by their disabilities and to improve the quality of their lives. She has been a major resource for clothing for the many conservatees whose resources are severely limited and has been of great assistance in maintaining and improving their mental health.

County Youth Volunteer of the Year, 1984: MEGAN CAVAGNARO, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital. She has been a Rancho Los Amigos Hospital volunteer for the past two summers, assisting the nursing staff in the pediatric unit. She has provided extra attention to severely physically disabled youngsters, escorted them to appointments, picked up and delivered supplies, dressed, fed, played games, talked, and read to the children all in a cheerful, mature and effective manner.

Special County awards were also presented to members of the Photo Reserve Company assigned to the Training Bureau of the Sheriff's Department in recognition of over 2000 hours they have volunteered to film a video training program sponsored by the Department of Personnel on the subject of controlling absenteeism. The awards were presented to:

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Board adopts proposed budget for 1984-85

On May 1, 1984, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Chief Administrative Officer's Recommendations for the Proposed County Budget for the 1984-85 fiscal year which begins July 1. Public Hearings on the Proposed Budget will begin June 11, with the Board's Budget Deliberations scheduled to commence June 18. The Chief Administrative Officer indicated that, for the first time in seven years, the recommendations essentially maintain current services, provide for no program curtailments, and provide some limited augmentation in Board priority areas of justice, fire protection, and children's protective services.

The recommendations provide for an increase in the General County Budget of \$369.3 million or 8.1% and a net position increase of 602.8. The proposed budget provides staffing increases of 923.3 positions in critical priority areas, while all other County functions are recommended at a net decrease of 320.5 positions. The net decrease of 320.5 positions in other departments involves no layoffs and basically reflects staffing adjustments for contracting and reduced workload.

The CAO noted this budget still does not provide for a number of critical unmet needs, protection from major unfunded liabilities, infrastructure replacement and reserves for economic uncertainties. He also indicated that this budget assumes funding included in the Governor's Budget for local governments as provided in SB 1300 (Marks). **Unless one of the two major local government financing bills (SB 1300-Marks or AB 2468-Cortese) is enacted, the Proposed Budget will be short a minimum of \$65.4 million and program curtailments would be a certainty.** The CAO indicated that the County would be vigorously pursuing the passage of various legislative proposals, now under consideration, that would provide essential funding for the Proposed County Budget and critical unmet needs.

The major changes in the budget include funding for mandatory increases in expenditures for welfare, the courts, expanded jail and juvenile detention population, and local justice functions of the Sheriff, District Attorney and Probation. In addition, the budget provides program expansions in law enforcement, prosecution, probation investigation/supervision, fire protection, mental health and children's services. The budget also makes provisions for salary increases.

The CAO indicated that the Governor's 1984-85 Proposed State Budget provides a significant and critically needed infusion of additional revenues for county governments. Many of the concepts in the Governor's Budget grew out of his New Partnership Task Force on which the Board was represented. Many of the County's legislative fiscal goals, as reflected in the Task Force's recommendations, are included in the Governor's proposals. However, the CAO noted that the Governor's proposals do not adequately address the following issues of import to the County:

- An alternative County revenue source, such as the tippler's tax, to fund critical unmet needs in the Justice System and other areas.
- State funding of welfare and the courts.
- Adequate cost-of-living allowances and reimbursement caps in State mandated health and welfare programs.

He stated that broader local financing reforms are still required to ensure long-term fiscal independence for the County. In addition to the Governor's proposals, the CAO stated that the budget recommendations reflect economies and efficiencies achieved through the Board's continued emphasis on management improvements in a variety of areas. The Early Separation Program, while providing an alternative to layoffs and reductions to streamline County management, also facilitates the

County's departmental consolidation efforts. Contracting, productivity improvement, and revenue generation efforts have also contributed savings to maintain current service levels. In total, these efficiencies will generate \$12.8 million in savings which has been reallocated to maintain current services.

As mentioned above, public hearings on the Proposed Budget begin June 11. After the adoption of the State Budget in June, the County will know the precise amount of State financing it can expect next fiscal year. The Board can then commence its deliberations on the 1984-85 Final County Budget, which, under the County Code, must be concluded by August 1, 1984.

County's 1984 U.S. Savings Bond Awards Program Set

Los Angeles County's 1984 U.S. Savings Bond Campaign Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 22 at 11:50 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room.

During this year's Campaign, Los Angeles County exceeded its goal of 5,000 new and increased savers. This is a substantial achievement and represents more than 50 percent of the U.S. Treasury's National goal of 10,000 new and increased savers for all County governments throughout the United States.

1984 Volunteer of the Year . . . (continued from page 3)

DAVID SMIRNOFF, Director
PETER SAXBY, Director of
Photography
and PETER MANOS, Assistant
Director

They sacrificed their personal time over six consecutive weekends to complete this worthwhile project.

Because of the considerable generosity, professional expertise and resourcefulness of these individuals and other Reserve volunteers on this project, a highly artistic product has been produced.

Assessor's Office adjusts employee work schedules for Olympic Games



County Assessor Alexander Pope encourages Assessor's employees to make work adjustments in order to take time off during the Olympics.

The 1984 Summer Olympics will be held in Los Angeles from July 28 through August 12, 1984. With an influx of up to one million additional people in our area during July and August, there have been predictions of severe traffic problems, especially in the downtown Los Angeles area. The Board of Supervisors is concerned about the possible affect this may have on all employees' ability to get to and from work during the games and they requested that all departments report on operational adjustments related to the Olympic Games.

One interesting plan includes the Assessor's "9/80 Work Plan." By working nine hours per day instead of eight, employees get every other Friday off. The employees will be allowed to work on their regular days off up to the Olympics and then schedule the earned accumulated overtime off during the games.

Where feasible, Assessor's employ-

ees working in the Hall of Administration may work in a regional or area office near their homes.

Other options available to Assessor's employees include:

- Adopting a "dual work schedule" for the period of the Olympics; for example:
 - 8-hr. employees - 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 - 9-hr. employees - 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- For those employees who work in the Hall of Administration, helping to make arrangements for employees who live near one another to carpool or vanpool during the games.
- Scheduling a "short" workday combined with benefit time; for example, working 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon with vacation or "Personal Business" time taken from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. (8-hr. employee) or 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. (9/80 employee).

RETIREES . . .

The following people have retired in recent months after more than thirty years of service to the County:

Probation: Carrie Marks, Joseph Tokeshi.

Also: Arthur Bard, Assessor; Jerry Cunningham, Beaches; Mark J. Gale, Public Social Services; Johnny T. Rodriguez, Sheriff; Delmar Hollenbeck, Harbor General Hospital; George Vasquez, Communications.

The following have retired with over twenty-five years of County Service:

Sheriff: Bruce K. Kamman, Donald Ray Smith.

Also: Iride A. Whitney, Public Health.

Protecting your car from crime

Over a million cars were stolen in the U.S. during the last year. Millions more were vandalized or stripped. The following are a few tips on how to keep yours from becoming a statistic.

First, know that your car doesn't have to be new or special. Professional car thieves will steal anything that's easy to steal. Even if it's not very new a good deal of money can be made by selling the parts.

Remember these tips:

1. Roll the windows up tight.
2. Store spare keys in your wallet, not in the car. A professional thief knows ALL the hiding places.
3. Replace door lock pulls with the slim, tapered kind. They're almost impossible to pull up with a coat hanger.
4. In the driveway, park your car with the nose toward the street, so anyone tampering with the engine can be easily seen.
5. Never leave the engine running, even in your own driveway. Some thieves hang out at convenience stores, just waiting for an unattended car with the engine running.
6. Install different locks for the door, ignition, and trunk. Then a thief who gets your door key still won't have the one for the ignition. Lot attendants who use your ignition key can't use it to open the trunk. If you make it as difficult and as time-consuming as possible for a thief to steal your car, the thief will look for one that's easier.

There are several anti-theft devices on the market. The kill switch is like having a second ignition switch. The car won't start unless a hidden switch is activated. Alarm systems are also available which sound loudly if the car is tampered with or jostled. One former car thief said he protects his auto by using the tapered door lock buttons, the kill switch, and an alarm.

Auto strippers can remove almost

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Sheriff's department recruits volunteer interpreters



VOLUNTEER INTERPRETERS—Sheriff Sherman Block talks with five interpreters who are members of his Citizen Volunteer Interpreter Program. From left are, Mr. Surendra Udeshi (Gujarati and Hindi), Mrs. Carmen El Sahrgty (Arabic), Sheriff Sherman Block, Mrs. Lya Cutcher (German), Mr. and Mrs. Taufik Ardi (Indonesian and Mandarin Chinese).

Where in the world could a person travel to a single place and hear Russian, Vietnamese, Persian, Chinese, Armenian, Tagalog and many other languages spoken? The answer is Los Angeles County, which has replaced New York City as the number one entry point for immigrants. Several hundred Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies are fluent in Spanish, but only a small number can communicate in the languages of our newest immigrant groups.

To answer this need, the Citizen Volunteer Interpreter Program was begun by Sheriff Sherman Block in June of 1982. The Program has grown to 200 volunteers who speak 72 different languages, the largest program of its kind. These volunteers have been

called upon to assist at a variety of crime scenes with the interviewing of victims and witnesses and the interrogation of suspects. They have also assisted with court testimony and with the translation of documents. Their efforts have enabled the Sheriff's Department to break through language and cultural barriers to quickly deliver needed services and assistance.

As we approach the exciting period of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, these volunteer interpreters will be particularly valuable. The Sheriff is continuing to recruit volunteer interpreters for all languages except Spanish. Anyone interested in joining the Volunteer Interpreter Program should call the Office of Special Programs, 974-4878.

Protecting your car . . .

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anything from your car in minutes. Take these precautions when you can:

1. If you must park on the street, look for a spot that is well lighted and has plenty of traffic at night. Plan ahead if you park during the day.
2. There are also anti-theft devices for parts like wheels, gas caps, and seats. A hood lock will help to protect the engine and accessories.

When parking in city lots, don't tell an attendant how long you'll be gone unless you have to. Leave only the ignition key. Write down your speedometer and fuel gauge readings on your claim check—in full view of the attendant if possible. Check your readings when you return to make sure no one has driven your car somewhere and switched parts. This does happen.

Luggage, packages, or purses in your car are an open invitation to theft. Lock them in the trunk, out of sight. On vacation, your out-of-state license tells a that the trunk is full. Take valuables out of the trunk at night.

To protect yourself while in the car, park in well-lighted areas. Going to your car, have the keys ready to unlock the door. Check the back seat before you get in.

Keep doors locked and windows rolled up most of the way while driving. If anyone should try to force his way in, honk the horn repeatedly.

