



The A. Points Bulletin

Metro Volunteer Program

Operation Data Assault

On a balmy and otherwise quiet May evening eight individuals determined to make a difference made their way up seven stories to one of the top floors of City Hall. As they sat in a small room looking out the large windows at the northern Las Vegas Valley, no one really knew how the evening would unfold. Each had answered the call and volunteered for this mission without knowledge of what would be asked of them in either time or skills. Each left family and friends to spend the evening doing whatever was asked... without question or reservation.

After a fast briefing they split up into two person teams, moved to their assigned stations, and set about accomplishing their mission. Whatever came their way, they knew they could handle it.

This stalwart group is neither a special operations

unit, a commando group or a military strike team. Instead they are members of the Metro MVP Program, volunteering their time and talents to help our Police Department serve the Las Vegas citizens. In this particular case they had come to the rescue of LVMPD's Risk Management office.

When a small research project into on-duty traffic accidents became a mountain of data, Lt. Brett Primas and his staff called MVP Co-coordinator

Sharon Harding for assistance.

"Within 2 days of our call Sharon had solved the problem," stated Lt Primas.

Emphasizing the importance of the project, Primas praised the volunteers for their response. He went on to commend their work ethic and motivation. "After telling them what we needed, we just got out of their way and let them work. They came to Detective Bill Cassell, who was the supervising officer, if there were any problems, but



Volunteer Coordinator:
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Coordinator's Corner

I want to thank all of you for continuing to volunteer in your weekly assignments. I know that the high gas prices and the heat have offered you valid reasons to skip a week. I must admit when I went with Charlie Desiderio and Greg Mize to write handicap parking citations on Sunday, the one thought I couldn't dismiss from my mind was they were enduring these 110 degree temperatures, getting out of their car, walking the parking lots, writing citations and they still managed to have a smile on their faces at the end of the four hours. I could see their passion. Their

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Assault...Continued from page 1 otherwise they worked without direction or supervision.....they were fantastic."

At the end of a long night "Operation Data Assault" was complete. Thousands of pieces of data had been extracted from hundreds of documents, and what was once a formidable mountain of paper had turned into useful information. Chaos had been turned into calm. Mission accomplished. They helped us identify and categorize what factors are involved in on-duty traffic accidents.

To some it was an extraordinary accomplishment but to these dedicated volunteers from the Metro MVP Program, it was just another night of doing what they do best... anything that is asked of them.

Lt. Brett Primas, Det. Bill Cassell, and all of the staff of the Legal Affairs Section wish to thank the following MVP volunteers, and commend them for a **JOB WELL DONE!**



- Dick Bennett
- Syonja Gustafson
- Jack Cook
- Pam King
- Rod Gandy
- Carmen Leone
- Nancy Guillory
- Ray Williams



Data Assault Team

MVP: Metro Volunteer, Phisherman

If you ever want to plan a fish fry in Laughlin, Mike Scott should be the first guest on your list. Mike is one of our Laughlin MVPs and is an avid fisherman. Since his retirement six years ago he follows his passion and takes 12 fishing trips a year. He often brings back as much as 600 pounds of fish.



Mike was recently featured in the May, 2004 edition of Western Outdoors in the article entitled "Guadalupe Gold". This article describes the excellent fishing near Guadalupe Island. Guadalupe Island is part of a volcano ascending 12000 feet from the ocean floor. This land mass has never been part of another continent so it is truly an oceanic island in every respect.

It's Mexico's westernmost possession located 150 miles off the Mexican coast and 220 miles southwest of San Diego. Pacific currents bring rich nutrients into the shallows surrounding the island. This draws in massive schools of bait fish and squid. All this forage attracts game fish and this abundance of forage allows game fish to grow to large size. It's not unusual to catch yellowfin tuna, bluefin tuna, yellowtail, albacore, seabass, sheep head and calico bass in the area depending on the climactic and oceanic influences the sea brings.



I'm A Volunteer Salesman!

By Charles Desiderio

I'm often asked why I volunteer for so many things? The truth is that I really don't know, except for the fact that I enjoy doing it. For the past several years I've had the pleasure of volunteering for the Handicapped Parking program for Metro as well as REACT and Child Seekers. I guess the feeling of making a difference really comes into play. For example, it is good to know that when I'm out doing one of these volunteer functions I free up a Metro Officer to do the really important job of protecting us and getting the bad guys. I guess if I think about it, that is what drives me the most.

I can't begin to put into words the feeling of self-satisfaction and importance you have when you are out in your MVP shirt doing something productive. I feel so strongly about the program that I am also a salesman, of sorts, reaching out to our community and letting people know about the opportunity that is available to them. If you ever had a chance to listen to my Public Affairs show on KSHP on Sunday mornings you have heard me talk about the wide varieties of volunteer opportunities that are available through the MVP program. If you like the MVP



program, you too should be a MVP salesperson and let your friends, coworkers and neighbors know what you do, how you do it and the great personal rewards that await them if they take the leap.

We are also fortunate that we have two dynamic people to go to if there are questions about the opportunities and commitment, Sgt. Skip Siefert and Sharon Harding are always available to answer your questions. In addition they can tell you or your friends about the variety of positions available and the commitment needed. Make no mistake there is a commitment that you must make to be a part of the program. My partner in the Handicapped-parking unit is Greg Mize; Greg and I have worked so long on this MVP program that we sometimes start to

think alike, that is one of the thing that I enjoy so much. You not only build a sense of doing good, but you have the chance to make serious friends through working together and building mutual respect. This can also be seen by some of the members of REACT, who know which of the members are the most reliable and know that when METRO has a call-out, key people will always be there to respond.

Let me sum up this brief column by saying that if you know people that do not volunteer for anything, you will be doing them a great service by suggesting they look into the MVP program. The personal rewards cannot be measured; they are too great. **Why don't you too, become a volunteer salesperson?**



Player's Club Members

MVP wants to honor those volunteers who have gone "above & beyond" their required four hours per week volunteer commitment to extraordinary heights in volunteer hours. For these volunteers we have established the "Players Clubs". Silver Club represents volunteers who have dedicated over 25 hours per month to the Department. Gold Club members are those MVPs who have committed over 50 hours per month to LVMPD. Diamond Club players have devoted over 75 hours per month to Metro. The Centurions have distinguished themselves by contributing over 100 hours monthly to help us fulfill our Mission of lowering crime. At the MVP Appreciation Luncheon a prize will be raffled off to every club and each volunteer that attains that club level will receive a ticket for that month. The following volunteers have attained Player's Club memberships for May, 2004:

Silver Club Players

Art Adams (42 hours)
Pat Adams (25 hours)
Charlene Ayd-Stann (25 hours)
Bruce Bacon (30 hours)
Earl Beach (32 hours)
Dick Bennett (25 hours)
Paul Casteel (36 hours)
George Danko (39 hours)
Dan D'Elia (27 hours)
Rod Gandy (31 hours)
Regem Heliste (29 hours)
Joe Langenberger (29 hours)
Dorothy Lewis (47.5 hours)
Jesse Lewis (47.5 hours)
Barbara Mitchell (26 hours)
Mary Ponton (34 hours)
Margaret Priest (46 hours)
Robert Schurheck (32 hours)
Michael Scott (39.5 hours)
Bernard Siebert (25 hours)

Gold Club Players

Robert Burton (51 hours)
Ruth Pekar (60 hours)
John Phillips (56 hours)
Eber Priest (71 hours)
Dorothy Sundquist (57 hours)
Bruno Villa (56 hours)
Marc Zuckerman (63 hours)

Diamond Club Players

Bob Hoban (80 hours)
John Moses (80 hours)
Judy Smith (80 hours)
Murray Weinstein (78 hours)
Ray Williams (91 hours)

Centurions

Barbara Hayward (128 hours)
John Martine (104 hours)
Rick Meade (118 hours)
Stanley Pekar (102 hours)

Volunteer Opportunities

Detention Services located at Casino Center & Clark. Hours available between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m Monday thru Friday. Duties include filing, shredding, answering phones and clerical duties.

Domestic Violence located at 3016 W. Charleston needs help between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday thru Thursday to do data entry inputting dispositions on domestic violence cases in LRMS.

Health & Safety located at 101 Convention Center Dr. needs help between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday thru Friday for data entry.

International Police & Fire Games 53 volunteers at the Riviera Hotel during the week August 5th to August 12th. These volunteers will work a 4 hour shift and will be doing registration.

South Central Area Command located at Las Vegas Blvd. and Russell needs a volunteer to help with clerical duties 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Personnel Bureau located at 101 Convention Center Dr. needs help registering donors for our blood drive on August 5th from 9 a.m. to noon.

VIVA on the Monorail volunteers will begin training the middle of July. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact our office at 229-5609 or e-mail us at s5068h@lvmpd.com.

Death By Volunteer

Pat Waddel

Ok, so it is an expression a little overused, but then volunteering in the Homicide Department means seeing more than one's fair share of death. While murder is never routine, I have come to realize that it is just the way some humans deal with their problems, logical or not. And while a few things resemble what one sees on television, it is a very different view from the real side. Witnesses who refuse to testify, suspects that won't cooperate, crime scenes that leave no clues, long waits for lab reports and mounds of paperwork to prepare for cases going to the DA—are just a few of the glitches one doesn't see on the crime shows.

Working with two other volunteers, our goal is to do any job that will save time for the detectives so that they can pursue more immediate duties. Recently, we put together individual case files for all eleven suspects in the Laughlin River Run Case. This was quite time-consuming, taking a couple of months to extract specific details about each gang member from the eighteen files developed by the detectives working the case. However, the time it saved detectives to pursue other cases was of great

assistance to them. Certainly, one of the more memorable tasks was looking for body parts. One squad was in need of extra help, and time was critical. Upon entering the office, I was asked if I would be willing to dig in the dump for a head, arms, and legs. They did not have to ask



twice! We raked through garbage for several hours finding only legs, crab legs to be exact. Thank goodness for fireman's boots since much of the garbage consisted of food and liquid. Later, I was able to visit the morgue as the coroner examined the hands and ears found in the suspect's car.

Additionally, some of the duties consist of: scanning photos, printing photos from the computer, scanning case files to organize into e-files, watching video surveillance tapes for details, downloading information into data bases, copying video tapes, reviewing reports, writing

letters, organizing crime scene photos, copying and burning CDs and putting together PowerPoint presentations. The types of jobs and the amount of work vary daily.

One of the projects, which I enjoy most, is reviewing cold cases with retired detective, Dave Hatch. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience that he is willing to share. He, along with Lt. Monahan, have allowed me to attend local conferences and suggested reading material on the topic, which have been extremely useful. Together, we look at cases, currently those of the eighties, and determine whether or not they are still workable. Recently, we

received positive results on evidence we sent to the lab from a 1987 case. It was very exciting to finally get word back that could ultimately lead to the conviction of a murderer who thinks he "got away with it".

Above all, however, I have found a great group of folks who work hard to "get the bad guys". They are a pleasure to work with and willing to help when there is a question. They are serious about what they do, but don't take themselves too seriously. That makes for a wonderful work environment and a great place to volunteer.





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Continued from page 1...Corner mission was to guarantee people with disabilities a parking space; they were successful. They made a difference in many people's lives that Sunday.

We are still looking for MVP volunteers to complete training with the American Red Cross. Our goal is to have a group of competent emergency responders who have CERT training and Red Cross awareness to assist in the event of a major disaster in our area. By cross-training we hope to alleviate confusion during a disaster response and effectively build a relationship with our primary leader of voluntary

emergency response, American Red Cross. After completion of the basic Red Cross courses we will be able to utilize your newly acquired skills for major call outs only (multiunit apartment fires, shelter assistance calls, etc.) Mark Zuckerman, Dick Bennett, Super Mike Berceseny, Jack Horn and Carmen Leon have taken on this new endeavor with me, as we work towards completing our five required courses.

Please complete and return our survey about YOU. We want to verify your contact information and update any new skills or interests you've recently acquired. If we have miscalculated your volunteer

hours, please contact our office at 229-5609 so we can correct our mistake.



Our next Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training starts Tuesday, July 6th, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and continues every Tuesday for 6 weeks at the City Fire Department Training Center located at 833 N. Mojave. We still have seats available so please call or e-mail us to register.

