



METRO VOLUNTEERS SAVE THE DAY!!!

LVMPD Team 47 raised the red flag and MVPs came to their rescue. Team 47 was just one of the 223 teams competing in the 20th Annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay.

This is a 120 mile, 20 stage foot race starting 19 miles north of Baker, CA on State Highway 127 at an altitude of 700 feet and climbing slowing to 5,600 feet at Mt. Springs Summit where it continues downhill to the finish line at Silverton Hotel in Las Vegas.

Law enforcement teams compete from places as distant as Germany, Wales and Canada.

Metro volunteers were “catchers” for Team 47 runners as they finished their leg of the relay. “Catchers” are essential because often runners are disoriented and

continue to run past their leg. Without our help Team 47 could have been forced to forfeit the race. A successful partnership with LVMPD Team 47 and MVP won them 5th place in the 800 Division.

Next year we will staff more volunteers to “catch” all legs and runners can concentrate on running. With such focus I wouldn’t be surprised if LVMPD Team 47 captures first place in 2005!

Race for the Cure

Metro Volunteers joined the Ninth Annual Komen Las Vegas “Race for the Cure” by directing the traffic into all available parking areas. This was no easy task since over 12,000 people participated in the Race this year. It is the largest 5K race in the state of Nevada. Up to seventy-five percent of the proceeds from the Race remain right here in the community to support local breast health initiatives and the remaining twenty-five per cent is committed to funding breast research



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through the Komen Foundation Headquarters.

Early detection and research are the keys to reducing these estimates that 40,110 women and 470 men will die from breast cancer during 2004. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among women ages 40-59, but we can change the future with our continued support.



WHY VOLUNTEER?

By David L. Berger, Volunteer

Last week I had a meeting with Sharon Harding about the possibility of changing my assignment in the department. I became a volunteer upon completing my MVP training on May 15, 1997 and have held three positions during the past seven years, the last five of those years as an instructor at the 'In-service Training Academy'. I teach officers how to testify more effectively on the witness stand because in my professional life, I am an "expert witness" in the courts. Also, during that five-year period I earned my second P.O.S.T. certification from the Nevada Attorney Generals Office as a qualified academy instructor. My first P.O.S.T. certification was granted upon completion of the Police Academy in Los Angeles, California when I became a Peace Officer in that State. Incidentally, "P.O.S.T." stands for PeaOfficeS Traning and it is an agency within the Attorney Generals Office of every State in the country that establishes the qualifications for law enforcement officers and in fact certifies them as Police Officers.

I began my professional career in California as a



State licensed private investigator and security guard company operator in 1954; sold that business, comprised of two hundred employees, to a retired Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department in 1975 and joined the Los Angeles County's District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation as a Detective. In 1980 I entered the judicial area as a Forensic Consultant and Expert Witness in State and Federal Courts. Throughout the United States I testify in both criminal and civil trials where "Law Enforcement" and "Security" are relevant issues in the pending litigation; a job which I still engage in to this day at age seventy-four and fifty years since the beginning of my career. I have also served as Director of Security for two major corporations in Southern California.

During the entire period of the above time I found the time to donate my time to various p o l i c e jurisdictions. In the nineteen-sixties during the period I owned my d e t e c t i v e agency. I was a reserve federal police officers at the Veterans Administration

Police Department, as a Detective. This was followed by service as a volunteer for the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department in the Crime Prevention unit for ten years and finally, in Los Angeles, as a Specialist Reserve Police Officer with the Los Angeles Police Department for my final seven years in Los Angeles before moving to Las Vegas. I joined Metro that same year, 1997.

So, all of that being said, the question remains ---- "why volunteer? You're doing, as a volunteer, what you do every day of your life as a professional".

As I look back over the years I can honestly state that my volunteer service to the various agencies have provided me with the most rewarding moments of my life. I have earned a good

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living doing what I do on a professional level and have received much recognition from my peers but the handshakes and “thank you’s” I receive from police officer-students and other Metro employees are my proudest moments. The checks I receive for my work are the way I make a living and they come and go, but the little certificates of appreciation are treasured possessions that will remain with me always. They represent the fruits of the labor of love. They represent efforts given by me because I sincerely want to, not because I have to. I have

helped win and have been on the losing side of literally hundreds of court cases, one more doesn’t affect me one way or another. But the pride I feel when a student calls me up to tell me about the defendant who just got convicted, partially due to his testimony, and who thanks me for giving him or her the confidence to get up there on that witness stand is immeasurable.

We volunteers do what we do because we **want** to. It is our way of saying “thank you” to those men and women who daily put their lives on the line to protect us, and our loved ones. It is a

way to help support a community that has provided us with a place to live, friends and a way to earn a living all of our lives. It fills gaps in systems that are under staffed and under funded and need help. It gives those who are retired a way to be continually productive and active. It certainly isn’t because of the huge salary we receive.

In closing, may I say to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department: “Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve”.



Diamonds and Denim

Note received from Joyce Cataldi, Special Events Coordinator, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, re Metro Volunteers’ participation in the JDRF Gala, April 17, Texas Station.



“Thanks to all of the Metro Police Department volunteers we had an outstanding event. We had approximately 550 people in attendance at the Gala, 110 Silent Auction Items which raised over \$45,000; 12 Live Auction Items which raised over \$20,000 and our Fund-A-Cure which raised over \$60,000. In all combining all the auction items, Fund-A-Cure, along with our table sponsorship we raised over \$110,000! Thank you, thank you!”

“There isn’t enough kind words I can say about your volunteers. They are all just remarkable. I especially love the cards in which you generate giving them each their volunteer job for the evening! That made our volunteer registration so much smoother.

Thanks again for all your participation. We could not have accomplished our goals without all of the Metro Volunteers”.

Volunteer Opportunities Available



DSD Staff Operations Bureau

located at Casino Center & Clark. Hours available between 700-1600 hours Monday-Friday. Duties include filing, shredding, answering phones and clerical duties.

Office of Intergovernmental Services located at 4th & Stewart. Hours available between 900-1300 Wednesday or Thursday. Duties include file maintenance, supply room organization and inventory control, copying, shredding, phones, light typing, some computer research and other general duties as they arise.

Bike Rodeo at Will Beckley Elementary located at 3223 Glenhurst (Pecos & DI) on Thursday, May 27th, 9 a.m. to noon. We need MVPs to fit helmets, show videos, check bikes and interact with children.

Special Olympics - Swimming Competitions - on Saturday, May 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the LV Municipal Pool on 431 E. Bonanza Road.

Special Olympics - Field & Track Competitions - on Saturday, May 22, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at UNLV -

Myron Partridge Track Stadium.

Nevada Blind Center needs help decorating for their annual BBQ from 1 p.m.- 3 p.m. They also need help in the evening serving desserts, selling raffle tickets, and clearing tables from 4 p.m.- 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 20th.

Plaza Desk - Monday 1200 to 1600 hours - Volunteer assists public in their dealings with LVMPD and the city government.

Detention Services located at Casino Center & Clark. Hours available between 700-1530 hours Monday-Friday. Duties include alphabetizing and updating paperwork.

Gun Registration located at City Hall. Hours available between 700-1530 hours Monday-Friday. Duties include filing gun registrations.

Red Cross Detail is a new opportunity for MVPs to cross train with the Red Cross. Call Sharon for information -229-5609.



Special Olympics Track and Field

Metro volunteers encouraged athletes, measured distances and recorded times at Western High School for the 2nd Annual Special Olympics Track & Field Events. It started out as a windy morning but soon the winds died down and temperatures were just perfect. Twenty-six elementary, middle and high schools competed in 20 different events.

We did such a great job that we've been invited to assist at the Special Olympics Swimming Competitions on May 22 at Las Vegas Municipal Pool.

The Special Olympics, established in 1961, is an international program of sports training and competition for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.



Stan Pekar
Volunteer of the
Month

Sharon Harding

Stan Pekar has been named "Volunteer of the Month". Stan volunteers in the Volunteer Services Office. He is known as "Stern Stan" and is keeping a close watch on the number of volunteer hours logged per month. Expect to hear from Stan if you fail to fulfill your volunteer commitment. He volunteers about 100 hours per month and does everything from conducting interviews, scheduling appointments, coordinating special events, sending letters, and managing our volunteer database. He is truly a pleasure to work with and he is always happy to help.

His interest in Law Enforcement began many years ago while he was serving in the Army during WW 2. At that time he was stationed at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah. One day when he was goofing off, the sergeant came to him and told him to pack his barracks bag and move to the Brick Barracks. He politely, and I use that word humorously, reminded him that was an MP barracks. The sergeant informed him that he had volunteered to become an MP. His interest in volunteering came early in his life. His MP duties varied widely and consisted of Italian prisoners of war guard, guard house guard, street patrol in Ogden, gate guard, etc. These duties continued after he was shipped out to the garden isle of Guam. It was OK except people kept shooting. This must have been the ritual welcome. After his

discharge in 1945, he returned home in Cleveland, Ohio and worked part time for Pinkerton Detective Agency while pursuing his career in Engineering. After surviving a Cleveland winter he knew a move was in the picture. California or Bust!

He was hired by a company called Parker-Hannifin as an engineer but his interest was still in Law Enforcement. He joined the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department as a mobile reserve deputy and served for eight years until he moved to Santa Monica where he signed up as a mobile reserve police officer. During this period he was employed by Hughes Aircraft Company in the Space Division. He stayed with Hughes until he retired in 1986 as Product Assurance Manager for spacecraft programs.

After retirement, his wife, who also had retired from Hughes, and Stan relocated to Honolulu, HI. After three months of loafing by the pool and traditional sightseeing, he knew retirement was for the birds. In January of 1987 he was the first volunteer for Crime Stoppers with the Honolulu Police Department. He continued in this assignment to recruit and schedule other volunteers until he once again retired in October 1997. I might point out that the Crime Stoppers now has 72 volunteers covering 24/7 most of the time.

They then moved to Las Vegas where he was employed as hotel security at the World Trade Center Hotel of Las Vegas until it was purchased by the Convention Center. Since he had no desire to become a couch potato, he applied to

the MVP. That was in July 2003 and he found a home. He talked his wife into joining and they are both working for me. They try to volunteer as many hours as possible because he believes the secret of volunteering is complete dedication. He has been putting in approximately 20 to 25 hours a week and his wife does likewise if her schedule at the Convention Center allows. He recently graduated from the Citizens Police Academy and he thought it was informative, interesting and exciting. He wants to continue this learning experience and has joined the Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. He is always willing to learn new things and push his comfort zone. He is a great example of the type of person I want to be when I grow up. I appreciate his continuous dedication to volunteering and consider myself lucky to have him on board our team.



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Congratulations!

Congratulations to Marc Zuckerman,
volunteer handicap parking site coordinator



for Southwest Area Command! His excellence as the Knights of Pythias' Great Chancellor for the entire state of Nevada has earned him a proclamation from Governor Kenny Guinn and a proclamation from Mayor Oscar Goodman. They even declared April 17th, 2004 Marc Zuckerman Day in honor of his service to the state of Nevada.

The Knights of Pythias is an international fraternal organization established in the 1800's. Their original charter was even signed by President Abraham Lincoln. They are a service association whose activities include feeding the homeless, adopting a highway and assisting in Special Olympics. We salute you **Marc** for a **Job Well Done**.