



Wings and Things



Monthly Update • Travelers Aid Society of San Diego • January 2016

There will be no meeting in January

Christmas & New Year's Greetings

The staff at Travelers Aid would like to thank everyone for their dedicated service to our volunteer program. We wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

Major Conventions

January 8	SD Spring Home Garden Show	100,000
January 12	America's Got Talent Auditions	3,000
January 16	SD Travel and Adventure Show	14,000
January 23	Soc. of Lab. Automation & Screening	5,000
January 27	Cattle Industry & NCBA Trade Show	6,000

Major Events

January 1	New Year's Day
Thru January 7	Ice Skating at the Hotel Del
Thru January 10	Ice Skating at Viejas and Liberty Station

Monthly meeting

Ambassadors and their significant others and friends attended a wonderful Holiday Event hosted by SDCRAA at the Paradise Point Resort on Mission Bay. The Ambassadors were thanked by Airport Authority Board member, April Boling, President and CEO, Thella Bowens, President of Travelers Aid, Kathleen Baldwin, and Chairman of Travelers Aid Board, and a volunteer herself, Pat Fox. Thanks to the Airport for a lovely evening.

Attendees enjoyed the music provided for by Reggie Benitez, DJ of Soundscape San Diego. He did a great job and had a lot of people dancing. A record number of volunteers were out there "cutting the rug." It was a great evening.

Thanks to JetBlue for their very generous donation of two positive space tickets to anywhere JetBlue flies. Also thank you to United Airlines for their donation of a \$250 coupon. We also had three sets of 4 tickets to the Holiday and Poinsettia bowls.

The Volunteer of the Year for 2015 is **Kate Felke**, who regularly works the Post Security Podium on Thursdays. She won't let the shift go vacant if she is around and for months she has at times worked the podiums three times a week! She is a helpful, outgoing dynamo and we are lucky she likes to work at the Airport and passengers. Congratulations and thanks Kate!

Welcome to New Volunteers

We would like to welcome new volunteer, **Dianne O'Connell**, who joined us at the train station. She will be working two Mondays down at the Santa Fe.

Thanks so much for joining our volunteer program.

Airport Updates

During this **busy holiday season**, please make sure that all the desks are covered during your shifts. Just a quick phone call to the other desks to verify that everyone is in their place. People get sick and sometimes volunteer subs forget their shifts. Be willing to break up your team to assist another desk that might be short-handed. Thanks!

The new **TSA PreChek** office is open in Terminal 2 East near the American Airlines ticket counter. Their operating hours are 8-4:30pm. They are closed on weekends.

The new Rental Car Center will be opening on January 20. The RCC is being opened up to the "neighborhood" on January 14, with two tour times, 1-3pm or 5-7pm. Please let Gina know if wish to attend and what time frame you wish to go.

Mobile Volunteers are asked to check in with their desk counterparts when they start their shifts. Several times lately we have needed a second set of hands at the desks. So check in and make sure that everyone is on board, and lend a hand if needed.

Santa Fe Station

We have several openings at the Santa Fe Station. If you are interested, it only takes one additional training session to get started. Please contact Gina at 619-400-2266 or Cynthia at 619-295-8393, ext. 310.

Welcome to **Dianne O'Connell** and **Mike Schooling**. Mike Schooling has been at the airport, primarily subbing, but he is now working Tuesday afternoons at the Santa Fe station.

Happy Birthday

We send lots of January birthday wishes to **Connie Bailey, Ron Bain, Tony Carchedi, Marshall Cohen, Maricarman Garcia, Marion Griffin, Carly Grimm, Mary Hansen, Betty Hayes, Betty Lloyd, Craig Maginnis, Mariam Morad, Jean Murphy, Marsha Oliva, Beverlee Reed, Michaele Shapiro, Ben Simpelo, Muriel Smith, Marty Tabachnick, Mary Thompson, Betty Tomaino, Paul Wagner, Betty Webber, Dona Whitaker and Barb Wilder**. We hope you all have a wonderful day.

Tickets & Tours

To obtain **Old Town Trolley** and **Seal Tour** passage, you must contact Gina at least 72 hours in advance with the date (2 dates for Seal Tour) you wish to go. Your request will be submitted and they will try to accommodate your request. If you have already used your guest passes for the Old Town Trolley, you can download a "Hometown Pass" from their website and can accompany any paying passenger for free. Kindly note, this is not available on weekends. There are no



tickets, your name is listed on the passenger manifest. **No Seal tours on weekends and no OTT on Holiday weekends.**

Maritime Museum entrance privileges can be obtained by contacting Gina at least 72 hours in advance by email (preferred) at gbernsen@gmail.com.

Midway Museum will give you a museum pass by showing you Travelers Aid nametag or Airport badge when you go to their ticket window. You will have to purchase tickets for those accompanying you.

Get Well Soon

Hurry up and get better **Kay Atz, Joe Baptista, Ronn Garton, Evelyn Iturri, Beverlee Reed, Dodie Schulz, Richard Townsend, Trudy Verdick** and **Bob Wilde**. You are missed and we look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Advisory Board Highlights

We had 5 Board members finishing their 3 year terms. They are **Phyllis Achuff, Pat Fox, Dotty Herzog, Karen Krusen, Michael Shapiro**, and **Gary Zeugschmidt** (TA Board Chair). Thank you to all for your continued support and advice.

The new volunteers replacing them on the Board are **Bob Lettas, Bob Muller, Donna Capps, Ernie Arellano** and **Pat Fox** who is now Board Chair for Travelers Aid.

Continue to let your VAB members know if you have concerns or send them to the Suggestion Coordinator. If you have concerns, please contact our Suggestion Coordinator, **Candy Bell** who can be reached for comments and suggestions at 619-501-7573 or preferably via email at bell.candy@gmail.com.

Ready, Pet, Go! Therapy Dog program

We would like to welcome, **Sharon La Spada** and her Vizsla, Harley and **Jodi Nayoski** and her St. Bernard, Gracie. They have already been out in the terminals spreading their special kind of joy. Thanks for joining Ready, Pet, Go!

We pair a team up with a badged Volunteer Airport Ambassador, so they can answer Airport directional questions and be a second pair of eyes. Volunteers watch for other service dogs, large crowds of people coming down the concourse, etc. and let the Team owner know as they are watching their dogs interact with the passengers. Most of the dogs can go for approximately two hours. If you haven't tried a shift, you should! It will definitely make you smile and it's an opportunity to spread some happiness and calm in the Airport.

Kudos for our volunteers

Thank you to those who have done extra shifts over the last month. They were **Diane Aerts, Alan Avond, Jules Barad, Judy Bentovim, Donna Capps, Richard Ewens, Johanne Geoffrion, Gil Garcia, Gary Hess, Bill Irwin, Nancy Kaye, Merrilee Kazarian, Marc Lampe, Ellen Levy, Lois Maxam, David McDowell, Mariam Morad, Dennis Murray, Joe & Kathy Naylor, Barbara Nichols, Sami Olenik, Pat Ramsay, Dave St. Onge, Sandy**

Shaut, Don Sichel, Nancy Stockton, Charlie Tamm, Miho Tattersall, Richard Townsend, Jim Trapp, Janis Walsh, Barbara Zasueta and **Marjorie Zhou**. Your willingness to help enables us to provide excellent service to our passengers.

Pizzas for the Troops

Thanks again to **Gianna James** for spearheading the Pizza deliveries to the Service members traveling through the USO on the 17 thru 20 of December. The Ambassadors raised over \$1500.00 to purchase pizzas. Gianna and her posse delivered 120 – 14 inch Papa John's pizzas. The total cost was \$1900 and Papa John's donated over \$900, leaving a USO donation, from the volunteer collection, of approximately \$400. This was a banner year!

This year we also received donations from JetBlue Airlines, Paradise shops, Virgin America, American Airlines, as well as the Airport Authority.

It is estimated that 1500 service members passed through the Airport USO and ate pizza those few days before Christmas! Thanks to the volunteers who made donations to support this endeavor.

CPR Training

The Friends and Family course teaches CPR, AED use, use of barrier devices (i.e.: Pocket Mask) and relief of choking in adults and children. It is intended for those wishing to have basic awareness of cardiac emergencies. **Course Length: Two hours with no break**

January Thursday, January 21, 10am – 12pm
February Wednesday, February 17, 2pm – 4pm

To sign up for a class, email Mary De Felice at mary.defelice@san.org and provide your **first name, last name, and contact number**. This class is available to all Airport Authority employees and tenants. Class size for each training session is limited to facilitate learning, so early registration is encouraged. To avoid any no-shows, we kindly request that you send cancellation within 48 hours of the start of class should a situation arise that prohibits you from attending. **All classes will be held in the Lindbergh Conference Room**

Please note that classes may be cancelled should there be less than four attendees.

These classes are conducted by airport-contracted paramedics, whose primary responsibility and priority is to respond to potential or actual medical emergencies. All employees signing up for these classes must accept the possibility that a scheduled class may be delayed and/or cancelled with very short or no advanced notice due to the unavailability of instructors.

Farewell

We are sorry to say farewell to our second male Japanese student, **Yuta Tezuka**. He is returning to Japan for school, but not without an adventure in North America! We wish him all the best in the future.