

Santee Echo Newsletter

President's Message

In this, my final article as President, I wish to express my deep appreciation for allowing me to serve you, your business and the Board of Directors of the Santee Chamber of Commerce.

What an incredible year of accomplishments at the Santee Chamber of Commerce - your accomplishments. Accomplishments such as the new Member to Member program. A ground breaking Awards Night. Record attendance at morning and evening mixers. And, the publishing of a Special Edition Newsletter sent to every business and residence in Santee.

More important than our past accomplishments is the future of the Santee Chamber of Commerce. The future where the Chamber is working for you to help business grow in Santee. The business that will help you to become more profitable and give back more to help deserving community organizations.

Growth and profitability in Santee are up to you. Get involved with the Santee Chamber of Commerce - come to the events - support other businesses and be a part of the community. It will be rewarding and we need your help.

I wish you the very best during this holiday season. December is traditionally a time of good business - good cheer and a time to give back. Make sure that you carry this spirit beyond this month and make 2008 an incredible year for all of Santee. Happy Holidays!

Best regards,

Howard Kummerman
President

Miss Santee and Miss Santee Teen

Do you want the chance of a lifetime to represent our city? The Miss Santee and Miss Santee Teen Pageant is an opportunity to be a part of history and become a positive ambassador in the community. Applications now are being accepted for the two positions!

Contestants for Miss Santee and Miss Santee Teen must be a resident of Santee for at least 4 months prior to the pageant and be between the ages of 13 and 26. There is no entry fee for the pageant, however, contestants will be asked to sell 15 tickets at \$15 each.

The pageant will be held on Friday, March 14, 2008, starting at 6:30 pm at Sunrise Community Church, 8805 North Magnolia Avenue in Santee. Rehearsals for this event are scheduled for Sunday 2/17, 2/24, 3/2, 3/9 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The dress rehearsal will be held on March 13th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The Miss La Mesa and Miss La Mesa Teen pageants will also be selecting their 2008 titleholders during the same show.

Additional information is available in the Chamber office located at 10315 Mission Gorge Road, Santee. The material will contain information on the orientation meetings, items you need to bring to the orientation session, clothing requirements and the categories that are the basis for selecting a Miss Santee and Miss Santee Teen representatives. For more information you may also call Pageant Director, Ms. Alex Stathoulis at 619-698-4136 or by e-mail at misssanteepageant@yahoo.com.

The Miss Santee program has been a city tradition for over 35 years! If you are interested in becoming a contestant or a scholarship provider please contact the director today.

Santee Echo Newsletter

Contractor Scams and Disasters

The Contractors State License Board, which operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, licenses and regulates California's 278,000 contractors. The CSLB investigates more than 20,000 complaints against licensed and unlicensed contractors every year. Check out CSLB by phone at (800) 321-CSLB or on-line at www.cslb.ca.gov.

The CSLB has publications that can be obtained either by phone or on-line. Help is also available by contacting the Better Business Bureau.

There are groups of transient criminals that pose as door-to-door home repair contractors who rip off homeowners throughout California with painting, roofing, and paving scams. Not every door-to-door solicitor or family-owned business operates in this way; however, the Santee Chamber of Commerce urges consumers to be wary and to watch for any of these "red flags."

The Scammers:

- Often related by family and solicit door-to-door;
- Come across as friendly, but can use high-pressure or scare tactics;
- Are reluctant to give an up-front price or provide a written contract;
- Demand payments in cash;
- Immediately cash checks (sometimes changing the amount before cashing);
- Drive customized newer vehicles with out-of-state license plates;
- Use toll-free (800) telephone numbers instead of local numbers;
- Have post office boxes or suite numbers instead of actual street addresses;
- Target the vulnerable, like elderly or recent immigrants; and
- Offer complimentary inspections and then offer to fix "problems."

The Scammers also:

- Say they have leftover material at a cheap price from another job;
- What they claim is a "sealant" is actually a useless, watery liquid that they spray on roofs, fences, or driveways;
- Push a few new wood shakes under old roofing shakes and apply a useless oil; or
- Charge by the can for painting and then exaggerate the amount they say was used.

Tips to Avoid Being Scammed

- Watch out for door-to-door solicitations—especially when they want to start work immediately;
- Be aware that your contractor must notify you of your right to cancel within three days of signing a contract;
- Be a good neighbor and report any suspicious home improvement activity if your neighbor is elderly or otherwise vulnerable; and
- Get free information from the CSLB, like "10 Tips for Making Sure Your Contractor Measures Up."

If you or a neighbor have hired or been solicited by someone fitting the description of these traveling criminals, please contact the Contractors State License Board in Southern California at (562) 466-6017 or in Northern California at (916) 255-2924.

The Building Industry Association of San Diego County has published a list of approved contractors that includes the type of work the business does, name of the owner, a phone number, e-mail address and the license type and number that the business has obtained from the state. The Chamber has this information and can be reached at 619-449-6572.

Santee Echo Newsletter

The Santee Historical Society has come to life once more

The Santee Historical Society (SHS) went dormant during the years of ill health suffered by Harriette Wade, past president of the SHS. Upon Harriette's passing last year, about eighty cartons of memorabilia were retrieved from her home and, over the past six months, have been sorted into collections by year.

Found in these archives are artifacts dating back to Santee's early history, including the early settlement of Cowleston by George Cowles, (pronounced 'Kohls'), and his wife Jennie, who later married Milton Santee... as well as great quantities of newspaper clippings and photos, and other items of historical interest.

The archives are presently stored in the old Polo Barn on the grounds of Edgemoor Hospital, thanks to the generous help of Dianne Jacob, County Supervisor. Listed on the National Historical Building Register, the Polo Barn was built in 1913 to house the polo ponies of John Dupee who settled in Santee.

When the SHS needed a place to sort and store all of Harriette's materials, we inquired about the Polo Barn and were granted the opportunity to use it for a year. In the long run, once Edgemoor Hospital moves into its new location, the SHS would love to have the complete use of the Polo Barn as the permanent home of the Historical Society, and a museum to house the city's early artifacts. We are putting out a call for anyone who was a member in the early years of the SHS, and we are looking for anyone who originally had a lifetime membership so that we can honor them and welcome them back.

The SHS is currently looking for people who are interested in appreciating and preserving Santee's heritage. New members are being signed up, and quarterly meetings are being held at New Frontier Mobile Home Park, 9255 Magnolia Avenue in Santee.

Our next meeting will be held on December 3rd, 2007 when our guest speaker will be 'George Cowles'. Please join us in preserving Santee's past for our future generations to appreciate. For more information, please call: Elaine P. Murphy, President at 619-448-8099 or Elaine Brack, Treasurer at 619-443-0573.

Santee Echo Newsletter

Sexual Harassment Training Deadline

AB 1825, signed in 2004, requires California employers with 50 or more employees (including temporary service employees, independent contractors and employees outside the state) to provide newly hired or promoted supervisors with two hours of classroom or other interactive sexual harassment training within six months of assuming a supervisor position.

Therefore, all managers initially trained in 2005 must be retrained by December 31, 2007. Employers must provide training to all employees who have "supervisory authority," which generally includes anyone who has independent authority to:

- hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward or discipline other employees;
- direct the work of other employees;
- resolve employee conflicts.

Employees who make recommendations to managers about such matters also must receive training if their recommendations are likely to be acted upon.

According to the state regulations implementing AB 1825, the state of California or a political subdivision thereof (local agencies, counties, public school districts, etc.) also are employers. Employers subject to the training requirement are those with 50 or more employees, temporary workers or contractors for each working day in any 20 consecutive weeks in the current or preceding calendar year. The 50 individuals do not need to work at the same location or within California.

New Businesses

Businesses created after January 1, 2006, having more than 50 employees as defined above must provide sexual harassment supervisor training within six months of their establishment and every two years thereafter.

Businesses created before January 1, 2006, that expand beyond 50 employees must provide sexual harassment supervisor training within six months after they become eligible under these regulations and every two years thereafter.

Documentation

Businesses must maintain documentation of a supervisor's training completion for a minimum of two years. The documentation must include the name of the supervisory employee trained, the date of the training and the name of the training provider.

Training Must Be Interactive

California law also requires that the training be "interactive." This means that video training alone is likely insufficient without discussion, role-playing, a question-and-answer session, or other similar techniques led by a qualified trainer.

Easy Compliance Solution

CalBizCentral, the source for California business and human resource compliance products, presented by the California Chamber of Commerce, is providing businesses with a fully compliant, cost-effective training program. Customer service phone is (800) 331-8877. □

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

NARFE, one of America's oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/retiree organization is governed by an elected leadership consisting of 1,500 chapters, 50 state federations, plus the District of Columbia, Panama, the Philippines and Puerto Rico. NARFE members, 350,000 strong, represent a broad spectrum of government services.

Santee Echo Newsletter

NARFE'S current legislative agenda focuses on enacting bills to:

- Extend the Premium Conversion rights that federal and postal employees have to federal annuitants, so that retirees too can pay their Federal Employee Health Benefits premiums with pre-tax dollars and save an average \$400 each year; and,
- Repeal the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), two provisions which can substantially reduce the expected retirement income of retired federal workers.

There are several benefits for an active or retired federal employee to be a member:

1. NARFE's legislative program is crafted by its members at a national convention. The local chapter adopts resolution which are forwarded to the national convention. Once approved, the goals become NARFE's legislative program for the next Congress.
2. A member's federal retirement, life insurance, health benefits and other benefits can change from time to time, and NARFE keeps the membership abreast of those changes.
3. NARFE's award-winning monthly magazine contains information you won't find anywhere else on national legislation affecting retired and current employees, questions and answers on federal retirement and health benefits, Association news, member profiles and chapter photos. It also carries financial planning stories and lifestyle features, all written specifically for members of the federal family.
4. Membership in NARFE has privileges of its own. Earn back your membership dues with valuable savings on auto, long-term care, dental and supplemental insurance plans. From car rentals to moving services, hotels and travel offers, get the most for your money through trusted names you'll recognize.
5. NARFE sponsors 60 scholarships a year, each in the amount of \$1,000. High School seniors who meet the academic requirement, and are children, grandchildren, stepchildren and great-grandchildren of current NARFE members are eligible.
There are 95 chapters in California. The local group is the El Cajon Valley chapter. Warren H. Savage is the president and can be reached by e-mail at chiefskip@aol.com. □