

President's Message
By Phil Simon
2008 President Santee Chamber of Commerce

On Wednesday, June 25, 2008, the Santee School District Foundation and the Santee Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the fifth annual Golf Classic at Carlton Oaks Country Club. This year the majority of the proceeds will continue to fund and expand instructional programs in the Santee schools for grades K-8 students. Participation by the community as a sponsor for the Golf Tournament or as a golfer will pave the way for students to expand their education. And, the golf event offers a great day for co-workers and community members to play golf and network in the Santee community.

There are a number of sponsorships available ranging from a title sponsor of the event for \$10,000 to a tee or green sponsor for as little as \$150. Golfer fees are inexpensive at \$120 per player especially since the money is used for the education of children in Santee. For more information please call Karen Ortega at 619-258-2308.

Santee's Dr. Johnson Selected Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Lisbeth Johnson, superintendent of the Santee School District has been selected by the Association of California Administrators (ACSA), to receive the Administrator of the Year Award in the Superintendent category and will be honored at an Awards Dinner.

The Awards Dinner, hosted by the Association of California Administrators in conjunction with the San Diego County School Boards Association will honor Dr. Johnson and other exceptional leaders in education from ACSA Region 18, covering San Diego and Imperial counties.

Dr. Johnson's leadership of the Santee School District began in 2003 with many obstacles to overcome. She brought high expectations for student achievement to Santee and eight of Santee's nine schools now boast API scores exceeding 800. With her ability to unite people for a common purpose, Dr. Johnson has raised employee moral to an all-time high and invited the community to be active participants in the vision and success of the school district.

Dr. Johnson effectively brought the Santee School District from "Good to Great" by developing and putting into action a strategic plan, implementing a district fiscal recovery plan, and leading the effort to pass a \$60 million dollar school modernization bond. She has implemented technology into the classrooms for students to be prepared for today and for the future.

"Dr. Lisbeth Johnson is an outstanding superintendent," said school board president Dan Bartholomew. "She models authentic leadership and has set her direction to serve children and leave a legacy in making a difference in the lives of the entire educational community in Santee."

Santee Roots Go Deep for California Coast Supervisor

By Terri Miracle, Community Relations Manager

Kimberly Schonert knows a lot about Santee from her responsibilities as branch supervisor of California Coast Credit Union's location in Trolley Square. But she had roots in the community long before she accepted the position.

As a third generation Santee resident, Kimberly and her family have a permanent connection with the city. When the school district was building a new high school, they asked for name suggestions from local citizens. Kimberly's grandmother, Arlene Gage, recommended Santana, meaning "devil winds," because it's so hot in the summer. Her idea was selected, and it's been Santana High School ever since.

Although Kimberly's parents and eldest brother attended Santana, Kimberly graduated from West Hills. She set up her own home with her husband Mark, and the couple now have two daughters, Kaylyn, 3 years, and Taylor, 7 months, plus the family has two dogs.

For Kimberly, living and working in the same community is ideal. "I love the small town feeling," she said. For example, "I like that a member I help can also be someone that helps me at the grocery store."

Member service is a natural part of Kimberly's personality. She began her career as a teller at California Coast's Clairemont branch in October 2001, then received a promotion to Santee Branch Lead in 2005. Last May, she was promoted to Santee Branch Supervisor. Five more employees at the branch are also Santee residents.

"I love the welcoming and friendly nature of the staff at the Santee Branch," Kimberly said. "We care about the community we support, and it shows in our interactions. We have definitely become friends with our regular members and are always anxious to make new friends."

As a full-time supervisor at work and busy wife and mom at home, Kimberly still makes time for fun. She loves baseball plus shopping and concerts in Trolley Square.

Southern California Special Olympics Event in Santee

Kiwanis held the 25th Silver Anniversary Special Olympics track and field events at West Hills High School on Saturday, April 5, 2008. The events were a qualifying meet for the state-wide Special Olympics meet.

Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.

Special Olympics currently serves 2.5 million people with intellectual disabilities in more than 200 programs in over 180 countries. Today, Special Olympics stands as a leader in the field of intellectual disability. It is a truly global movement, with 550,000 participants in the United States.

Kiwanis Divisions 11 and 31 hosted the event. Division 31 consists of 15 clubs with 445 members from the East County area and Kiwanis Division 11 with 13 Clubs and 354 members is from South Bay and the City of San Diego area. The two divisions combined their efforts as part of Kiwanis International's One Day Project.

Saturday, April 5, marked the second annual observance of Kiwanis One Day, a day when Kiwanis and its family of clubs — Circle K, Key Club, Aktion Club, Builders Club, and Kiwanis Kids—join forces with their communities for a day of hands-on service. More than 600 Kiwanis-family clubs nationwide were expected to participate in the day's activities this year.

The athletes came from Long Beach and Orange County as well as locally to participate. The organizers of the event had 223 athletes register with 600 volunteers to guide the athletes through the activities. Organizations who volunteered were Circle K Clubs, Key Clubs, Builders Clubs and K-Kids. Community volunteers came from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, high schools, college students, U.S. Border Patrol Explorer Troop 1997, Campus Life, Mother Goose Parade queen candidates, Knights of Columbus and Reality Changers, (dedicated to helping kids in the Inter-city of San Diego) and Vets-4-Vets. Every athlete was given a T-shirt and was introduced to his/her "Buddy". Every volunteer was also given a T-shirt.

Athletes ran, threw softballs and jumped for the next four hours. The "Classic Wheel Chair Race" culminated the seven events that were a part of the day's activities. A total of 1,846 medals were handed out to the participants.

The Kiwanis Club of Santee was a participate in the Special Olympics program, furnishing both individuals and money to the program. The local Kiwanis club has many service projects to assist the local community. For additional information about Santee, call the president, Amber Reeder at 448-6383 or kidopractor@aol.com is the e-mail.

Anyone interested in supporting the Special Olympics events in Santee can send checks to: Kiwanis Special Olympics, Box 711629, Santee, CA 92072.