Over one thousand Santas united in brotherhood and friendship.

Report by J. Paul Raines

Our annual face to face meeting, as required by our by-laws, was held in Tampa Bay, FL, the site of our 2014 International Santa Convention.

All of the Officers and Board members of IBRBS were present except for Chris Martens, who was working with Disney in China. In the unanimous view of the Board, the meeting was very successful.

After each member introduced themselves, giving a brief, personal background, the Board discussed the following topics:

1) Why am I on the board and what do I hope to accomplish?
2) Three minutes from each member about their duties and responsibilities with discussion from other members.
3) Why are we an association and what do we offer?
4) Review of the 2012/2013 Board meeting in Santa Claus, IN.
6) Phone consultation with a Not-for-Profit Business Professional.
7) Further discussion after the phone conference.

Rather than try to tell you about each discussion, I will tell you that I believe most every board member is working hard to meet the requirements of their position.

I highly respect the authority of Jac Grimes and his desire to be the best Chairman that IBRBS has had. He puts in countless hours to carry out his duties.

President Rob Figley and his wife Diane have been doing vast research on the structure and workings of this grand organization and also working with professionals who help non-profits.

Bob Elkin has dedicated many hours to put on the best convention for Santas this Association has ever seen and for the lowest price.

On the web: http://www.ibrbsantas.org/
On Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/groups/IBRBSantas/
Greetings to all IBRBS Members,

Your Board of Directors has been working hard to help clarify the roles of the Board in the operations of the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas. We will never forget that we were elected by you, the members, to make IBRBS the very best Santa Organization on the planet.

No one on the Board receives any compensation for the work done on behalf of members and that amounts to several hours a week for everyone that serves.

Board elections are held in February of each year and we are the only National Santa Organization that holds open elections. I encourage those of you with leadership skills to join us on the Board. We could use your energy.

Here is the current state of our organization.

We are still not straightened out with the State of California. The Secretary of State insists that we have still not filed all the needed forms although we have paid all taxes and fees. We are having further discussions with our accountant and our attorney regarding this.

Our treasurer Paul Raines along with our Financial Secretary Steve Eastis are making sure all papers are filed and have taken this on to see it resolved.

It is clear to the board that it is time to consider moving the corporate registration out of California but we must be in compliance with the state before we can go forward with that. You will be kept informed.

We are still subject to and operating under the By-Laws passed while we were still known as FORBS. While many within our organization would like to
Greetings from the President of IBRBS!

First and foremost, I want to thank you all for your support to our fine Association. The Board believes that our continued success will be assured by becoming a more inclusive organization, but it will be up to the members to make that decision.

We will have an all member meeting in Tampa during the International Santa Celebration May 14-17, 2014. We will use this time to allow you to get to know the Board and tell the Board what’s on your mind. We want to discuss matters that affect the members. You are the reason there is an association.

Speaking of Tampa, we hope to announce the first recipients of our Santa School and Higher Education Scholarships there during the Celebration. Ginny Scott is working to form the Scholarship Selection and Oversight Committee. If interested, click and send her an email. Stay tuned for more information.

We are committed, as a Board, to keep our members informed on matters that affect them. We will do this through this Newsletter, posting approved Board meeting minutes on the website, our Facebook Site and other announcements from time to time.

Finally, in order to make our Organization work we need your help. Volunteer for a committee, get involved in a local chapter and share your expertise with your fellow Santas.

We all need to work together to make this the “Premiere Santa Organization Worldwide.”

Thank you,

Santa Jac Grimes
Chairman of the Board
March. Remember the main event will be Tampa in May with Santas coming from all over the globe. Almost all of the chapters of IBRBS will be having a special event to celebrate the season past and the season to come. We will list them in the Newsletter as we learn of them.

Social media such as Facebook is an important link to each other. The official IBRBS site is an important channel for communication. Santas North Pole Coffee Club is a nice friendly chat site Santa and the Business of Santa is an important source. Many of the local groups have their own sites which are listed in the Chapter section. There are many other specialized Santa Facebook pages out there. Most are run by dedicated individuals. Put Santa groups in the Facebook search and you will be amazed by what comes up. One I particularly liked was The Clan Claus Society a site of kilted Santas doing their Scottish things. There is a whole world out there awaiting your discovery.

Communications are the soul of any organization. This Newsletter can only be as good as the submissions to it. Let us know what your local group is up to. A picture can easily be worth a thousand words.

We have a column for vital statistics. We may have joyous news like weddings and births. We have sad news on occasion and need to honor those who have taken their last sleigh ride. Let us know the events you wish us to make record of. Vital statistics should be reported to Gary Kroft by the 15th of August for the next issue.

We have elected to distribute the newsletter in a PDF format. This way we can send you an email that it is ready with a link to download it. If you wish to have a hard copy it is easy to print.

If you missed the Spring issue it is available at: IBRBS Spring Newsletter

While my condition is not at all life threatening, it is life altering. The surgery to remove it, should that be the decision, is complicated and has a long recovery time. In my favor is that otherwise I am in good health. (Yay!) My prognosis for a full recovery is excellent. It will just take time.

I want to thank the Members of the Board for "keeping my seat warm." They are a fine group of people and I am honored to serve our Association with them.

Again, thank you for your support. It means the world to us.

Yours,
Santa Rob Figley
President, IBRBS

Editors Comments:
Santa Allen Keeney

Fellowship and communications are what it is all about. There are many levels from the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas to the Santas you personally know and get together with for coffee.

Around the country there are many local groups who meet periodically and swap tales and experiences. We also like to get together and party which we seem to do every spring. There are summer picnics and barbecues planned. Check out the IBRBS Facebook page for local events as they are announced.

It is our goal to make 2014 the year of IBRBS. Think of it as a coast to coast celebration of Santa and his world. There will be many regional gettogethers climaxing with the International Santa Celebration in Tampa on May 14-17. Three of the traditional events will be the Annual Santa Luncheon in Southern California. The Southern California event is marking its 20th anniversary. Next is the Red Suit Roundtable which occurs every February in Atlanta. Third is ClausFest in Gatlinburg in...
May 2014 presents everyone the perfect opportunity to visit Disney World. It is only a 75 minute drive from the front door of our Tampa host hotel, The Double Tree by Hilton. The same attractive room rate ($85) is available 3 days prior and 3 days post the Santa International Celebration, May 14-17, 2014.

Create some wonderful memories with families, children, grandchildren and your extended Santa family. Take a “Vacation of a Lifetime” with a Florida destination in May 2014. We might be given the opportunity to create special memories, such as these, just once in our lifetime.

A FUN FILLED International Santa Celebration and a visit to Disney World, what’s not to love and get excited about? With the inclusion of interactive workshops and seminars, it has been recognized that many of Santa’s accountants will allow a deduction of some of your expenses! (We recommend you consult with your own tax counsel)

And, we hope you agree with us, we think it is a lot more FUN to visit NEW and exciting cities, places and events! So...have you ever been to the Tampa Bay area for a “Santa Celebration and a Vacation?”

And, how many of you have even been to Florida on a FUN vacation? In the last 10 years? And since May is the pre-hurricane season and a little cooler, it is perfect!

In addition to Disney World, there are so many other FUN places and events around the Tampa Bay area, you could spend a couple of weeks and not visit them all. And, we will be setting up some Thursday FUN Day trips to several of them for you to choose from.

So we urge you to go to our website for the Tampa Event and click on the link for Early Bird Registration, $138 per person, with only a $38 deposit!...Sign-up today!

We urge you to compare and analyze the monetary value of what WE are including:

** A hot plated and served Breakfast Friday morning! (with two choices)

** A scrumptious Lunch served for a midday feast Friday noon! (with two choices)

** A scrumptious Lunch served for a midday feast Saturday noon! (with two choices)

And...also included.....

**The Saturday night Celebration Banquet, live music, entertainment, choice of cuisine.

** And a Vendor show that is FREE for you and is also FREE to the Vendors!

**All of this is included for $138.00!!!
We were recently asked if we planned a Fashion Show or a Parade. Our answer is: if enough folks who register tell us they want us to add either or both, we have done a little preliminary investigation and believe we could possibly offer both at no additional cost.

Don’t wait very long before registering and reserving your room, look at what is coming!

Exciting NEWS, starting this fall, we will have Twelve raffle drawings where a lucky winner will receive a FREE room upgrade to a Junior Suite for all four nights!

An approximate $60 per night upgrade! Total value of $240 (there will be six winners).

Additionally, starting this fall, we will have raffle drawings where a lucky winner will receive one FREE NIGHT of their four night stay (there will be six winners).

All contest rules will be posted in our next newsletter. You must be registered and have made your hotel reservation to be eligible. The earlier you register, the more raffle drawings your name will be in the pot and be eligible for a winning prize.

Thinking about coming to the International Santa Celebration in Tampa? Just Do It!

Questions, comments or suggestions, please email me or just give old Kringle a jingle!

Santa Bob Elkin, VP
Chair, International Santa Celebration
Toy Shoppe: 727-491-0533 Sleigh: 813-230-9254
Email: Bob Elkin

Room Reservations ($85 per night) at the Double Tree Hotel can be made by following the link on our website for the Tampa Conference.

Hotel Reservations can also be made by calling the Hotel at 813-879-4800. Ask for reservations, then give them this room code: IBS or International Santas, May 2014.
Press Release

International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas Announces Scholarship Programs

From the Board of Directors

Tampa, FL, June 1, 2013: The Board of Directors of the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas, at their 2013 Annual Board Retreat, unan-
imously passed motions to establish two schola-


rship programs for their members and member’s families. They are a Higher Education Scholarship and a Santa School Scholarship.

Higher Education Scholarship: Two $500.00 Scholarships will be awarded to members or their direct descendants to continue their education past High School. Applicants for the scholarship must be enrolled in a University, College, Community College, Trade School or qualified Job Retraining Program.

This scholarship can be used for tuition, books, fees or any expenses related to the recipient’s continuing education and are paid directly to the recipient. Those eligible for this scholarship are Santas, their spouses, children, grandchildren or great grandchildren.

Applicants must be a Member in Good Standing with dues paid in full for the 2014 season.

Santa School Scholarship: Two $500.00 Scholarships will be awarded to a Santa or Santa and Mrs. Claus to attend the Santa School of their choice. Applicants for the scholarship must be enrolled in a recognized Santa School. Tuition will be paid directly to the school and the remainder will go to the recipient to assist with meals, lodging, travel and other related expenses.

Special consideration will go to Santa or Santa couples that have not been to Santa school. Santa or Santa couples active in and recommended by their local IBRBS Chapter will also receive priority. Those eligible for this scholarship are Santa and Mrs. Claus’ and the Santa must be a Member in Good Standing with dues paid in full for the 2014 season.

Scholarship Recipients will be announced at the International Santa Celebration in May, 2014 in Tampa, FL and will be introduced if present.

Board Members, Officers and their families are not eligible for either program while serving their term of office.

The Board of Directors also passed a motion to establish a Scholarship Selection and Oversight Committee to establish criteria and manage the selection process.

Members and their spouses interested in serving on this committee should contact Board Chairman, Santa Jac Grimes. Committee Applicants should include a short statement of qualifications and why they want to serve.

Santa Jac Grimes
Chairman of the Board
International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas

Santa Chairs!
The Perfect Photo Prop for Any Venue
Three Sizes to Choose From
Seat the Entire Family or Santa with Kids
Quick and Easy Set-Up
Folds-Up for Transport and Storage

Patented Design by
Tampa Santa Jim Williams
(813) 333-5252
www.SeatsForSanta.com
All members, new and renewing, who pay their dues in 2013, will be in good standing until October 31, 2014.

The Board of Directors has decided that a member should get one Christmas season within their annual membership period. Therefore, if you pay your annual fee prior to October 31, 2013, it covers November 1, 2013 to October 31, 2014.

Click Here to go to website membership form.

FORBS life membership is honored by IBRBS.

Your opportunity to reach a thousand or more Santas and Christmas Professionals

ADVERTISE IN THE IBRBS NEWSLETTER

Business card-$25
Qtr page-$50
Half page-$100

Deadline to insure insertion in next issue:
Aug 16, 2013. Ads received after that will be inserted on a space available basis.

Send a finished jpeg to: Allen Keeney
Send payment to:
IBRBS
PO Box 255
Cypress CA 90630

Newsletters are archived so your ad will continue to be seen.

Rev. Rob Figley
is an ordained non-denominational Christian minister who specializes in custom written wedding vows and commitment ceremonies that are as unique and diverse as

Words with Meaning ~ Ceremonies with Spirit
Lone Star Santas Charities, Inc. (Lone Star Santas) is a group of men and women who live in Texas, and portray Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, Elves and helpers.

On April 17, 2013 a devastating fertilizer plant fire and explosion occurred in West, Texas, a small country town in North Central Texas just 18 miles north of Waco, with a population of about 2800. The explosion measured 2.7 on the Richter Scale, left a huge crater, and devastated a large portion of the town. Fifteen people were killed, most of whom were first responders, more than 160 were injured and more than 150 buildings were damaged or destroyed including the West Middle School which sustained heavy damage.

Investigators have confirmed that ammonium nitrate was the trigger for the explosion, but the cause of the initial fire is as yet unknown. The son of one of our Lone Star Santas members was one of the first responding Volunteer Firemen killed in the blast.

Acting as Second Responders, the call went out right after the devastating explosion for LSS members to rally together and collect toys and cash donations for our Mission we label "Convoy of Toys". This mission was to go to West, Texas and to deliver to the children of West the toys along with Love, Hope and Joy all wrapped up in a Big Santa Hug.

After getting clearance from FEMA and in conjunction with St. Mary’s School, the date was set. On Saturday May 18, 2013 we all met in Hillsboro, Texas at 7:45 a.m., first for group pictures, and then our "Convoy of Toys "along with a Police escort of 4 units to West left at 8:15 a.m.

Arriving in West at St Mary’s School, we were met by three FEMA officials there to oversee and document our efforts. Our 46 Santas along with a host of Mrs. Claus’s and helpers unloaded several trailers of toys numbering into the thousands. After setting up tables in the school gym and filling them overflowing with toys, we open the doors to the children and families of West. From 9:45 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. we delivered 2000 toys along with the Love, Hope and Joy wrapped up in a Big Santa Hug to 315 Children. We acted as councilors of sorts as we were there to listen while responding to difficult questions .. providing Emotional Support .. the Love .. the Hope .. the Joy and the Hugs.

I was coming in from outside the school when a SUV pulled up. A very nice lady along with her husband and high school son meet me and told me
their daughter had injured her ankle while playing ball and she couldn't walk on it. She asked if there was any way I could go pick out a toy for her and bring it to the car because by the time they made it to the hospital we would likely be gone.

The only public entrance was in front of the building and we were in the back. I went to the back doors and got one of my fellow Santas to open up and another Santa had a seat on wheels for the handicapped. We put her in the seat on wheels and brought her in the back door and we escorted the family through the tables of toys for her to choose several to take home. As I spoke with the mother and son, they told me how adversely they were affected by all the devastation in their neighborhood … that she had taken in three other families related to her who had lost everything and all were living in her three bedroom house and how lucky that it was not severely damaged structurally.

The son told me they lived 3000 yards from the blast and he was the only one home when the blast occurred. He was in the shower and was spared any injuries. He said he is a ball player and he had a couple of shelves above his bed lined with trophies and pictures from when he first started playing till now. He said when he got out of the shower that everything above his bed was gone except one thing … an Angel … and it was still sitting untouched.

One more story … a family came to the church where we were giving Love, Hope, Joy and Toys all wrapped up in a Big Santa Hug. The mother said her little girl had not smiled a smile since the explosion destroyed their home. When ... while with the Santas, she not only smiled ... but laughed for the first time. This is what it’s all about.

Sadly enough when you have lost everything .. necessities must be replaced first leaving no room to replace simple things like toys for the children. So our mission helps put normalcy back into these children's life by replacing the one thing to help get their minds off of the tragedy....Toys.

These are only a couple of the stories out of hundreds … and there are many stories. Lone Star Santas will be heading to other disaster areas soon. This was one of many missions for LSS, the first was the devastating tornadoes of Joplin, Mo. and then the Texas hurricane and wild fires last year. There are many more stories to come ... and many more faces that need a smile. Our prayers are with all who have experienced these recent disasters and our prayers are also with the first responders. Too much devastation too close to home.

The Board of Directors for LSS will be having much discussion about how we will be reaching out to the wonderful communities west of Fort Worth in and around Granbury and Cleburne, Texas and then on to the OKC area specifically in Moore, OK. hit by devastating tornadoes.

If you are looking for a way to give to those in need, please consider helping Lone Star Santas in their mission to spread Love, Hope, and Joy, along with a big Santa Hug to the children and families of these disasters.

We work in conjunction with FEMA, the Red Cross, and others to come in as second responders in these devastating situations. Children are not a primary focus during these situations, but they are still loved by Santa Claus, and we bring them the rest of the family that same love. Consider donating to our mission by going to our website at

Lone Star Santas Convoy

And clicking on the Convoy of Toys light, and using PayPal to donate.

This report filed for IBRBS newsletter courtesy of Santa Bob McMasters, member of the Lone Star Santas in conjunction with LSS BOD.
Featured Chapters
Every issue we will feature different chapters.
Send us your information so we may include your chapter in a future issue.

Norpac Santas
Seattle WA area

NORPAC Santas is an professional Santa Claus organization open to ALL Jolly Gents & Ladies.
Committed to Spreading Christmas Cheer as well as the Magic of Santa Claus throughout the Great Pacific Northwest.

Mark your calendars and please join us:
NORPAC SANTAS Membership Meeting & Summer BBQ
Saturday, August 3rd 2013 12:00pm
A POTLUCK Picnic at the Home of Santa Dennis & Michelle Simpson
1762 Vista Rama Dr E
Port Orchard, WA 98366.
For more Info: dsimpson@wavecable.com
360-871-1241 Toy Shoppe
360-621-1493 Sleigh phone

NORPAC SANTAS 4th ANNUAL GREAT WOLF LODGE CONFERENCE
November 7-9, 2013 Grand Mound Washington

Norpac Santas at Great Wolf Lodge 2012

Silver State Santas

The June meeting of The Silver State Santas in Las Vegas. One new potential Santa member; a visit from Santa Tim; and beginning paperwork to become the next chapter of IBRBS.
Contact: Charlie Bush  702 476 9925
Established in 2002, Santa’s Pack is the Portland/Vancouver areas First and Oldest Santa Claus Club!

Santa’s Pack membership is open to any person who desires to experience and share the joy of being a Holiday Performer. A Santa Claus may be "real bearded" or "traditionally bearded." A Mrs. Claus may be traditional or modern. An Elf or Reindeer may be any age or sex. We are here to equally support the professional, amateur and beginning Holiday performer. Contact Dave Cardiff, (360) 253-5899

This group is for anyone who is or has interest in being Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, an elf, a reindeer or any other Christmas related role. Others involved in groups, organizations, businesses or services related to Santa and Christmas are also welcome. The group is for those in the New England area but Santas from other regions are welcome. We strive to produce monthly get-togethers across the six New England states. We hope this will be a resource to meet each other, share experiences, exchange ideas, offer advice, provide information. Santas in New Hampshire meet for supper on the second Tuesday of each month around 6 pm at The Yard Restaurant, Manchester, NH. Informal gathering for a chance to socialize. We order individually off the menu. Affiliated with the New England Santa Society.

**New England Santa Society July Meeting**
*July 13* at 12:00pm at Essex Steam Train & Riverboat in Essex, Connecticut
Contact Santa Dan Greenleaf

**Santa Reunion and Camping Experience**
*July 19* at 7:00pm until *July 21* at 11:00am EDT
Sat 1pm- July Hoosier Santas Luncheon Albion Pizza Depot, 112 N. Orange street, Albion, Indiana (Across from the court house on the east side).
Sat 7pm - Santa Campsite Pot Luck Dinner Chain-O-Lakes 2355 East 75 South, Albion IN 46701 - exact location provided at luncheon. Those musically talented Santas bring your instruments for a sing-a-long.
Sun 10am - Common Grace Non-denomination Church Services available, northeast corner at the one and only stop light.
North Georgia Chapter

From David G. Shuman

I have sent invites for our next luncheon. I hope everyone will join us. This is our group so we can have whatever program we wish to. I was asked about forming a North Georgia Chapter of IBRBS. This is up to the group, and we will talk about it at the meeting. Mark your calendar July 27, 2013 @ 11:45 am Golden Corral I 985 / GA 20 in Buford, GA. ALL SANTA’S and HELPERS are welcome to enjoy lunch and fellowship.

Utah Santas

For information contact Bret Gold:
Santa@realwhiskers.com

SoCal Santas

Southern California
Contact Kevin Scott -714-828-1872

The SoCal Santas will be hosting the annual reunion luncheon that has been a Southern California tradition for two decades. It will in the old tradition, be a no host event. We are in the planning stage and open to ideas and suggestions. It will be a memorable event for all attending.

Inland Empire Santas California
Contact Gordon Bailey 951-544-5208

Watch the Inland Empire Facebook page for details or contact Gordon for information on the August meeting.
IBRBS Chapter Requirements:

There is a bit of confusion over the chapter designation. To be a “Chapter of IBRBS” you must have five IBRBS members in good standing petition in writing (with their signatures) to the Board of IBRBS for chapter status.

For a chapter application form click here: Chapter Application.

You can be a new group just forming or an established group reaffirming Chapter status. IBRBS does not in any way dictate what your local membership requirements or dues should be. Many chapters welcome Mrs. Santas and designer bearded Santas to full membership as well as Elves, Helpers and others in the Christmas community. That is your choice as an independent, affiliated chapter.

If you were a Chapter under FORBS you are still a chapter under IBRBS, unless your chapter officially withdrew.

The chapter receives several benefits, including the prestige of being affiliated with an international brotherhood. The single most important benefit is that a Chapter is covered by the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas blanket umbrella coverage of liability insurance for gatherings and events, as long as IBRBS is affiliated with the event. This will provide your Chapter with liability coverage of up to $2,000,000 per event. If you are hosting an event at a hotel or other facility and are required to furnish proof of liability coverage, IBRBS can supply you with this proof of coverage. Please allow 7 business days for the certificate to be issued.

If your group has five or more members and you have not formed a chapter, that is insurance coverage, and peace of mind, going to waste.

Again, for the application form go to: Chapter Application

Here is a list of official Chapters as we have them recorded today. If you got lost in the name shuffle of FORBS to IBRBS, please let us know.

CHAPTERS OF IBRBS
As of July 1, 2013

**SoCal Santas** Southern California
Contact [Kevin Scott](#) 714-828-1872

**Inland Empire Santas** California
Contact [Gordon Bailey](#) 951-544-5208

**NorCal Santas** San Jose California
Contact information needed

**Santas Pac** Portland Oregon
Contact Dave Cardiff 360-253-5899

**Norpac Santas** Seattle Washington
Contact [Dennis Simpson](#) 360 871 1241

**Palm Tree Santas** Florida
Contact [Bob Elkin](#) 813-230-9254

**Long Leaf Pine Santas** North Carolina
Contact [Ollie Sharman](#)

**New England Santa Society**
Contact Santa Dan Greenleaf

**Arizona Santas**
Contact Tammi Ridder 602-622-3809

**South Carolina Santas**
Contact information needed

**Utah Santas**
Contact [Bret Gold](#)

**Hoosier Santas** Indiana
Contact [Larry Shaw](#) 317-809-0797

**Cotton State Santas** Alabama
Contact Santa LaFain Freeman 256-452-8407

**Silver State Santas** Las Vegas, Nevada
Contact Charlie Bush 702-476-9925

We have heard that some members of chapters are unaware their leadership withdrew from IBRBS affiliation.

Inland Empire (CA) has re-affiliated and Orange County (CA) has reorganized as the SoCal Santas.

San Diego, Central CA, Surfside Santas and Northstar Santas have yet to officially re-affiliate.
Chapter information should be sent to Allen Keeney by Sept 1 for inclusion in the Fall Newsletter.

Chapter applications and any changes in your leadership and contact information should go to our Chapter coordinator: Gary Casey.

A few more words from your Editor:

This is YOUR Newsletter. My editorial was about communication. This newsletter is so you can hear from IBRBS and more important so IBRBS can hear from you. It is also a channel where you can hear from each other. This way the New England Santas can learn about what the SoCal Santas and vice versa are doing.

Your Chapter News is important to all of us. Your activities are a source of inspiration and brotherhood to all of us. We now have 12 active Chapters and I would love to have a story with pictures from each of you. I will start to lay out the next issue in the middle of August, with distribution being about the middle of September.

We will also start a listing of standing events and future activities.

Do you have a Santa related subject you are passionate about and would like to submit an article to Freddy’s Forum?

I notice among us we have several authors who have published. I want to start a standing list of these titles. Be sure to include a brief description, ISBN numbers, where the publication can be obtained, and last, but not least, the price. There could well be some Christmas shopping done from the list.

Who out there would like to start a health column? As Santas we are not a healthy demographic. When we have a health crisis our level of health may well determine our survival. Among our ranks I am sure we have a health professional who could write such a column.

Newsletter information should be sent to Allen Keeney. We also need vital statistic information. Who took their last sleigh ride? Who got married? Who became a parent? Who lost their mate? We realize some of you are private and do not wish to intrude so we will publish only the information we receive.

Vital Statistic information should be sent to Garry Kroft

Santa’s Checklist:

1. Has your body undergone any changes since you last wore your suit. I.e. weight change, foot swelling or anything else to cause a size change in any part of your costume?
2. If you are an event Santa check to make sure the same event planner is doing the events this year.
3. If you do an annual event every year it would not hurt to check to make sure the same management people are responsible for it this year.
4. If any of your local customers talked to you about doing a commercial with you in it for this season. It is time to remind them.
5. Stay in good shape and be ready for a good and busy season.
6. If you have an agent or agents you work through it is not to early to let them know you are still here.
Freddy’s Forum is a place where we will have an article each issue from our membership about a subject of interest. Send your articles to Allen Keeney.

Remember this is your Newsletter and it can be no better than the submissions we receive.

Santa Kevin Scott

Santa Kevin Scott at the Santa Ana Red Cross Blood Donor Center

I have been donating blood for many years. I made a promise to my Mom on her death bed that I would do all I can to save lives.

Giving blood makes one an instant HERO.

One day I went in to donate whole blood and this nice lady was there and talked me into doing the Aphaeresis program. What is Aphaeresis?

The process of aphaeresis involves removal of whole blood from a patient or donor. Within an instrument that is essentially designed as a centrifuge, the components of whole blood are separated. One of the separated portions is then withdrawn and the remaining components are transfused back into the patient or donor.

It really doesn’t hurt at all and I get to watch a movie while I lay there on their bed. I myself am close to my 300th Platelet donation. I want to go over 1000 donations. I think of how many lives I have helped to save by doing this. I know it could be me or a family member, or even a friend.

It hit me right in the gut this past Christmas morning. I did a home visit to a beautiful little 4 year old girl who is in remission. I was told by the Dad that she had been very sick and in and out of Children’s Hospital for months and months. She had been getting platelets daily for six months, Yes SIX months.

Her sister is 6 years old and was able to donate bone marrow and helped save her little sister. Both kids were very sweet and you would never know that little Marie had ever been so close to death. Her dad had told me that the Doctors had given her only a 15% chance of living. They were devastated and had to take time off work to be with the little girl to keep her calm and just be there. It really touched my heart hearing all of this. While I was leaving, I asked the Dad what is her blood type? It was A+. I welled up at that moment because I am A+. I held back and gave the girls hugs and reminded them Santa loves them. I broke down on the drive home, I was shedding big alligator tears.

It put it full circle for me because I donate so often and she was getting platelets every day for six months, so I just know in my heart that she got several of my donations. Made me realize that it is really important to donate. I started a campaign to get my friends all over Facebook to donate. If they can’t do the aphaeresis, they CAN do whole blood. I urge all of you that can to go donate and donate often. The life you save could be your own grand-kid, or any other family member. I feel bad when I am not able to donate because I feel I may be letting someone down. Peace and Love to you all.

Freddy’s Forum