



June 2002

HOTLINE PHONE: 310-217-7628

Web Page: <http://www.rbcertaa.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been wonderful riding the crest of the wave since March. RBCERTAA has finally become a **nonprofit** Public Benefit Corporation, which will enable us to receive tax-free donations and contributions from individuals and businesses. Since the last edition of our newsletter, our sponsorship program, mostly through the efforts of Tom Henderson, has netted us \$850 from local businesses (check out the "Sponsors" page on the RBCERTAA website). Also, through the considerable efforts and negotiating over the past few months, John Moawad had secured \$10,000 from **Honda Motors** for duffel bags complete with our CERT logo. **WAY TO GO JOHN!**

With the influx of contributions, we can repay the membership that has been financially supporting the association over the years. We can now look forward to acquiring some of the things that have been talked about for some time. For example, we would like to have a RBCERTAA vehicle to tow the RBCERTAA trailer that we will get through the Von's grocery card program. And, maybe, a small cook trailer to cook hot dogs, etc. at recruiting booths set up at local community events. Your Board of Directors is very forward-looking and invite the membership to more actively participate. Give us your ideas at the monthly board meetings. This is **YOUR** association. Get involved.

Jared Van Sloten
CERTAA President

GENERAL MEETING

The March 2nd general meeting was rescheduled and held on March 23rd along with a training drill at the Redondo Beach Library. Pete Villasenor taught the training drill on Team Operations. **Mayor Greg Hill**, joined by US Congresswoman Jane Harman, Councilman Mike Gin, Councilman John Parsons, Councilman Kurt Schmalz and **Fire Chief Pat Aust**, was on hand to show support for the CERT Program. Nominations were submitted for the new RBCERTAA Board of Directors. The election will be held at the June 22nd training exercise.

ELECTIONS

The election for the RBCERTAA Board of Directors will be held on **Saturday, June 22nd** at the Redondo Beach Library. Nominations were made at the March 23rd General Meeting to fill the eleven Board positions. Nominees have fulfilled all the requirements per RECERTAA Bi-laws and have completed a personal bio that will be included in the election package. Present members will cast ballots at the June 22nd meeting and training drill. You must be in attendance to vote. Each member will vote for 11 candidates. The 11 nominees collecting the most votes will become RBCERTAA Board Members. The Executive Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) will be elected by the Board of Directors.

RECERTIFICATION

Don't forget that your **CPR certification** and First Aid cards are only effective for two years. If they are about to expire, please plan to attend one of the upcoming CPR classes: June 20th (CERT Academy #19) or September 26th (CERT Academy #20). Please contact Tony Israel at: tony.isreal@redondo.org to sign up.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

If you would like to get more involved with your association, please feel free to attend any of the board meetings. The meetings are held at 6:00pm on the **second Thursday** of each month at the **Cimmaron Café** located at 5160 190th Street (190th and Anza – next to 99 cent store). The social starts at 6:00pm and the meeting is called to order at 6:30pm. We currently have several projects in the works. Vons is offering to help purchase a stocked Disaster Triage Trailer by donating a portion of VONS CLUB cardholder's purchases. The trailer contains trauma kits, stretchers, medical supplies, trauma patient packs, backboards and triage banners. The board is also working on sponsorships identified on the RBCERTAA website (www.rbcertaa.org). Make sure to check it out!

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

June 5 (Wednesday)	CERT #19 Begins
June 13 (Thursday)	CERTAA Board Meeting
June 19 (Wednesday)	CPR Recertification
June 22 (Saturday)	Shelter Training, Election
June 26, July 3 (Wednesday)	First Aid Recertification
July 11 (Thursday)	CERTAA Board Meeting
July 13 (Saturday)	CERT #19 Graduation
July 20 (Saturday)	Relay for Life
September 5 (Thursday)	CERT #20 Begins

BI-ANNUAL CERT MEET

On Saturday, April 13th, the Los Angeles City Fire Department hosted their bi-annual CERT training day at the Los Angeles Police Training Academy. All CERT members were invited as guests to participate along side the original LA CERT Team. The day included four classroom lectures covering the future of CERT, a live high-voltage demonstration by DWP on electricity and its dangers, the Red Cross presented information on the new levels of CERT in the LA CERT program and the LAFD held a lecture on setting up a command post and staging areas.

Tad Friedman of the Torrance Fire Department, along with one of his co-workers and Pete Villasenor, led the 34 members of our combined CERT teams to the staging area. We took over from there and for the next couple of hours worked as a mutual aid CERT team. We raced each other laying fire hoses, connecting them to their source and putting nozzles on. Once this was complete the water flowed and it was a race to see who could knock over the traffic cones first! We then tried lifting and cribbing a 6,000lb SUV on a trailer off Randy the Rescue Dummy. Of course we were successful but three on a lever was a new lesson in teamwork!

Search and Rescue with Triage went without a hitch (except for the guy we left in the closet). Lesson learned – always go around the room checking every opening! But nowhere did we shine like in the first aid area. Our leader organized us very quickly and all knew their jobs. If I were a victim I would take comfort in knowing that this CERT team was there to take care of me. It was also comforting to know that no matter where we may travel, CERT members throughout our state, and I'm sure across the country, train as hard as we do. These individuals are all heroes in my eyes. Lets hope they never have to prove it.

In closing, this event was a huge success. I look forward to the next one in six months. I hope that Redondo Beach will be well represented at the next event. Keep an eye out for the LA-Cert Biannual training date!

Mike Grady

RBCERTAA TO MAN FIRST AID BOOTH

RBCERTAA will have a booth at the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life at Aviation Park on Saturday July 20th. Volunteers with advanced first aid or EMT type training are needed along with CERT members to man the booth. Mike Grady is putting together a team of C.E.R.T. members, firefighters, friends and families from around the South Bay to participate in the Relay. The team will walk in honor of Mike's sister Kathie Smith who is currently battling thyroid cancer. We will camp in the infield while at least one of our group walks at all times. If you are not the camping type you can come walk, visit and return home. At 9pm the lights are turned off, luminaries (candles in bags with personal messages inscribed on them) are placed around the track and all participants walk together in silence as a tribute. If you would like to participate in this wonderful event or just want to make a tax deductible donation, please contact Mike Grady at (310) 376-7963 or e-mail mikegrady@rbcertaa.org.

Disclaimer: RBCERTAA does not endorse or in any other way support any charitable organizations. This space is provided as a courtesy with Board permission.



SIMULATION

CERT Academy 18 graduated on Saturday, April 6th. For the first time, a group of CERT Alumni organized a **Disaster Simulation**. Pam Hoole (CERT Academy #16) was the coordinator for the day. David Hoole (CERT Academy #16) acted as the safety officer ensuring that people did not hurt themselves. The scenario for the disaster was a severe earthquake with a number of victims trapped in and around a burning house. The old fire hose tower, with its basement and stairs, was the ideal location. There was even a real fire in front of the steps for the rescuers to put out.

There were 8 victims which included: a child with a head wound; one dead body; a man with spurting arterial bleeding from his arm; a boy with a broken leg; a woman with a dislocated shoulder; a man with a sucking chest wound; a man with spinal injuries; and a pregnant lady with an impaled leg. The victims were chosen so that there would be at least one victim in each of the triage categories: minor, delayed, immediate and dead. All of the victims played their roles to perfection!

The graduates were organized into three teams: **Fire Suppression**, **Search & Rescue** and **Medical**. An Alumni Mentor supported each team. The function of the Fire Suppression team was to shut off utilities (gas and electric) and put out the fire. The Search and Rescue Team then went in to search for victims, perform any required first aid and bring them out to the medical area. The Medical Team was responsible for bandaging and looking after the wounded.

Overall, the simulation was a great success and great fun. The fire department has decided to make it a permanent part of future graduation days. Kudos to all who contributed to making this event a success!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

RBCERTAA would like to recognize **Pamela and David Hoole** as a tremendous asset to our association. We have seen the Hooles in action and are always amazed at the energy and excitement that they bring to the activities they undertake. They seem to be at home planning, designing, organizing and presenting at CERT events. Their kind of enthusiasm will keep our association in the public eye, making recruiting easier and our membership growing. Pam and David were responsible for the first ever RBCERTAA designed disaster drill at the graduation for Class #18 on April 6th (see "Simulation" article for details), hosting the "RBCERTAA Information and Recruiting" table at Fire Station 1 at the Rbfd Open House on May 11th and also hosting the RBCERTAA booth at the Chamber of Commerce's Competitive Advantage Expo held on May 23rd at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.



Our special thanks to the Hooles for a job **WELL DONE!** Their continuous contribution of time and energy is an example of what we need to do to keep our association receiving the recognition it deserves

CERT BAGS

Is your CERT bag complete? Having trouble finding supplies? SOS Survival Products in Van Nuys has it all. Call Customer Service at 800-479-7998 or email them at: sos-info@sosproducts.com and ask for the 2002 catalogue. SOS accepts MasterCard, Visa and American Express. If they don't have it they will help you find it!

If you haven't done so already, make sure to purchase an official CERT T-Shirt and Sweatshirt. You can print out an order form from the website.

CERT COOK BOOK

Every Thursday night during your CERT training, you were treated to delicious treats courtesy of your fellow classmates. Someone had a great idea; let's combine the recipes of your favorite dishes into a CERT Cookbook! Send us your recipes!

CERT APPRECIATION DAY

Due to scheduling conflicts, the RBCERTAA Appreciation Day will be postponed until September. We'll let you know the new date as soon as possible.

CERT POCKET GUIDE

All CERT graduates are eligible to receive a free copy of the 24-page CERT Pocket Guide. Fitting into a shirt pocket, the guide serves as a quick reference emergency procedures, including some not covered in the classes. Triage, First Aid, CPR, cribbing, fire extinguishers, map, gear to pack, and much more are covered quickly and clearly. Pete has already used the guide during a training drill.

The Pocket Guide was produced by Garth McWhorter and Jared Van Sloten. The guides are available at all training drills, CERT General Meetings and Board Meetings.

Pete's Corner

What a year! So far we have seen CERT class 18 graduate, followed that with part two of the Teamwork and Leadership series, and received recognition and praise by Congresswoman Jane Harman, Mayor Greg Hill and City Council. It would usually be hard to top all that but there is much more in store for our group.

We have begun to "reach out" and are now starting to become more involved with our CERT neighbors in Torrance. That is exactly what this program is about – **neighbors helping each other** – and I applaud the work of the Alumni Board and Mike Grady to "reach over the fence". We had some members attend the L.A. City CERT Refresher Drill in Westchester and found that all CERT members enjoy the special camaraderie of the group regardless of where their training took place. We will advertise all future L.A. CERT opportunities available to our group.

A new Citizen Corps Council is being established in Redondo, at the direction of the Mayor, to keep Redondo at the forefront of Homeland Security and preparedness. In early May we were represented in a City meeting with a representative from the Office of Homeland Security. His goal is to research 10 U.S. cities that were felt to have cutting edge programs already in place consistent with the President's USA Freedom Corps Program. That's right, we are considered to be a model city right now! The new council will help coordinate all the volunteer capabilities within the city.

What's next? There will be a two part Sheltering Operation class hosted by the Red Cross. This important disaster function is a natural for our group because medical aid and psychological support are provided at these shelters. Trained volunteers like our group are desperately needed to assist them during emergencies. The first class will be in June at the library followed by a high profile drill in mid July to demonstrate just what CERT can do in conjunction with the Fire Department, American Red Cross and city disaster preparedness personnel. Check the website for times and dates of these drills and other exciting RBCERTAA events and opportunities. Remember, **confusion is the chief cause of worry during disasters and preparedness for "the unexpected" leads in a good direction.** See you at the next drill.

The CERT Closet is open!

Show your support for CERT with the purchase of a t-shirt or sweatshirt.
Just fill out the form below and mail, along with your check, to the address listed.
You'll receive confirmation of your order and details on pickup.

C.E.R.T.A.A.

T-Shirt & Sweat-Shirt Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Order: _____

Item	Cost Each	M	L	XL	Total Quantity	Total Cost
T-Shirt	\$15.00					
Sweat Shirt	\$25.00					
					Grand Total	

Make check's payable to: Redondo Beach CERTAA

**Completed order forms and checks can be dropped off at RB Fire Station 2, attention Pete Villasenor.
You will be notified when your order has been filled. Shirts will be available for pickup at Station 2.**

**Redondo Beach CERT Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1894
Redondo Beach, CA 90278**

Address correction requested.