

Santa's Sleigh Went Missing!

By Gina Uzunyan, President, and David R. Walker
Southland Regional Association of Realtors®

Six dozen children stood outside in the cold waiting for the ride that never came. Was Christmas going to be canceled? No way!

Instead, Santa Claus with an assist from eight elves — cleverly disguised as volunteer Realtors and Association staff — loaded up two sleighs.

They had decided: If the children couldn't come to the Christmas Party, this group would take the party to the kids!

But let's back up a little. Early on the morning of Wednesday, Dec. 7, more than 80 students from Noble Avenue Elementary School in North Hills were



Pictured above, left to right, some of the people who made the Kids' Christmas Party happen: Noli Reyes, Michelle Gerhard, Michael Dean Vincent, Lela Leong, Gina Uzunyan, Teresita Perez, Gary Warshaw, Vilma Letosky, Angela Parekh, Rana Link, and Sylvia Hanna.



**SOUTHLAND REGIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, INC.**

lined up along the curb.

They were waiting patiently for school district buses that were scheduled to ferry them to the headquarters of the Southland Regional Association of Realtors in Van Nuys.

Every year SRAR throws a Kids' Christmas bash, com-

plete with a festooned hall, games, videos, food, sweets galore, gifts, faux snow and sometimes even a shiny red fire engine with sirens wailing serving as a sleigh with a jolly Santa perched on top.

Contributions from local Realtors, real estate offices and the Association make it all possible.

But the buses were MIA with little chance of rounding up replacements

in time to keep the children smiling.

Like the good problem solvers that they are, the Realtor volunteers and staff

'Through the chaos and drama, it transformed into the greatest afternoon!'

launched "Plan B," which just happened to be hatched on the spot.

Two Association vans were unlocked, loaded full with gifts, food and drinks for 80 plus students. Santa was cued and off



they went.

"We weren't giving up on that party," said the chair of the event, Teresita Perez. "It definitely was not like our normal kids' party. Yet, through the chaos and drama, it transformed into the greatest afternoon!"

The party had to happen for yet another reason: The kids were chosen to attend because they had won a class contest — they all had a perfect school attendance record! No way Santa could be absent!

The Southland Regional Association of Realtors® is a trade association with more than 9,500 members serving the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys.



Risk Management — Skillfully Avoiding Issues

The Risk Management Committee of the Southland Regional Association of Realtors hopes Realtors never need their services. But since unexpected issues occur in any business, their goal is to offer a schedule of meetings and a wealth of information that will shield managers, Realtors and their clients from surprises. That includes opportunities to learn what state regulators view as common mistakes too many people make or offering expert speakers on how the city's new earthquake retrofit ordinance will be implemented and enforced.

Pictured above, from left to right: SRAR's Risk Management Committee members Jeff Kahn, Olga Moretti, Steve Spile, chair; Gina Uzunyan, SRAR 2016 president; Rick Fong, CalBRE assistant commissioner for enforcement; Nancy Starczyk, SRAR president-elect; and Carlo H. Banki, CalBRE special investigator and facilitator. Committee member not pictured, Kathy Mehninger.

Tech Committee

From Speed 'App' Specials to Realtor Expos

From two quick speed "App" special events, one in Van Nuys and the other in Santa Clarita, to the big annual Realtor Expo attended by hundreds of real estate professionals, SRAR's Technology Committee always concentrates on its core mission: showcase current technology that promises to benefit clients and increase Realtor productivity.

Pictured top photo, left to right: Director Liaison Erika Kauzlarich-Bird, Yair Harpaz and Phil Schomberg. Bottom photo: Sher Hann, Howard Katchen, and Pascual Salazar, the committee chairman. Not pictured: Jeff Phillips, vice-chairman Nancy Troxell-Carnahan and Kenneth Dorfman.



2017 Inaugural Ball

The Southland Regional Association of Realtors will hold its 97th Inaugural Ball on Saturday, Jan. 21, to install Nancy Starczyk as president and swear in the 2017 leadership team.

Tickets for the event, which will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Universal Hotel, can be

obtained at www.srar.com.

Sponsors include: Spile, Leff & Goor LLP, Keller Williams Realty, CRMLS, Re/Max Valencia, Augusta Financial, Franklin Loan Center, LOGIX, SoCal Gas, SUPRA, TICOR Title, Bank of America, Five Point, Mel Wilson & Associates, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Realtor.com, Realty Executives, and Glen Oaks Escrow.

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www.SRAR.com | Real Estate Questions? E-mail Gina Uzunyan, SRAR 2016 President, c/o DavidW@SRAR.com

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