



**Andrew DiMizio**, Fire Chief, Santa Barbara City; **Michael Williams**, SBFA board member; **Michael Dyer**, Fire Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.; **Bob Niehaus**, SBFA President; and **David Sadecki**, Captain, Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.

## Santa Barbara Firefighters' Alliance

# FIRE BALL 2011

By **Jeanette Casillas** / CASA

**H**EROES IN DRESS UNIFORMS along with family, friends, and supporters came together at the Coral Casino for one of the hottest tickets offered this summer, when the Santa Barbara Firefighters' Alliance hosted the 2011 Fire Ball.

"The purpose of the Fire Ball is to raise funds and community awareness in support of the mission of the Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance – to assist our County and City firefighters with acquisition of advanced-technology equipment to make both our community and our firefighters safer," shared Bob Niehaus, SBFA President.

The Fire Ball raised approximately \$200,000 net, after all expenses, that will be used towards purchasing advanced technology equipment.

"Our firefighters have developed a

long list of current advanced technology equipment needs, and we will be spending these funds to acquire some of these items," shared Niehaus. "Our immediate priorities are for thermal imaging cameras (allowing rescuers to see through dark and smoky conditions to find victims or smoldering hot spots inside walls); arson kits based on iPad technology that facilitate rapid determination of the causes of fires; and automatic external defibrillators that communicate directly with hospital emergency rooms to speed assistance to heart attack and other victims."



Event Chairs **Jo Sadecki** and **Margie Niehaus**



**Eric Gray**, Santa Barbara County Fire Dept. and search and rescue dog **Riley**

In partnership with Fireman's Fund, Momentous Insurance Brokerage presented the Santa Barbara County Fire Department with a \$30,000 grant that will be used to purchase individual radiation monitors for its Hazardous Materials Unit. Located close to Southern California's two operating nuclear power plants, they must be able to quickly and easily measure nuclear radiation in the event of an emergency.

Jo Sadecki and Margie Niehaus served as Event Co-Chairs and John Palminteri presented the program as Master of Ceremonies. About 250 guests enjoyed an evening that included a fire demonstration by the City Fire Department, a special appearance by Riley the search and rescue dog; a silent and live auction; and music by Lois Mahalia and Maitland Ward on guitar.

"The highlight of the event for me was the overwhelming out-pouring support for our firefighters," noted Niehaus. "We had several dozen sponsors who underwrote our efforts, and I spent the evening speaking with as many of them as I could."

For more information call 708-3565 or visit [www.sbfirefightersalliance.org](http://www.sbfirefightersalliance.org).



**Harwood "Bendy" White**, SB Councilmember; **Kathy White**; **Erin Graffy de Garcia**; **Maggie Wordell**; and **Steve Wordell**



**John McNamara**, Captain, Reno Fire Dept.; **Brenda McNamara**; **Diana MacFarlane**, SBFA board member; and **Dan McNamara**, Captain, San Ramon Fire Dept.