

Santa Barbara Firefighter's Alliance

FIRE BALL 2009

By **JEANETTE CASILLAS** / CASA

IN SUPPORT OF COUNTY AND CITY FIREFIGHTERS, the Santa Barbara Firefighter's Alliance held its annual Fire Ball this summer at the Coral Casino in Montecito. The event raised funds to provide advanced technology safety equipment to local fire departments.



Chief **Tom Franklin**, SB County Fire Dept.; Janet Garufis, President and CEO of Montecito Bank & Trust; and **Andy DeMizzio**, SB City Fire Dept.



Cheryl Viera; **Dan McNamara**; **Diana MacFarlane**; **John Viera**; **Helene Schneider**, SB councilmember; **Joyce Schaar**

The Fire Ball raised about \$165,000 that will be used towards purchasing weather monitors, night vision goggles, and hand-held GPS systems. "A lot of what we purchase for the fire departments depends on what type of equipment will be exhausted," shared Cathy Cash, SB Firefighter's Alliance Vice President. "Different types of equipment are used for each fire." The money raised will also be used to fund the purchase of a replacement search and rescue dog for the County Fire Department. After ten years of service "Duke" retired last December.

Debra Borden and Roxanna

Solakian served as Event Co-Chairs and Andrew Firestone presented the program as Master of Ceremonies. The Alliance treated 320 guests to an evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.



Cathy Cash, SB Firefighter's Alliance Vice President; **Rikki Emory**, SB Firefighter's Alliance President; **Andrew Firestone**, Master of Ceremonies; **Ivana Firestone**; **Debra Borden**, Event Co-chair; and **Roxanna Solakian**, Event Co-chair



Back: **Roger Horton**, SB councilmember; **Eileen Horton**; **Marty Blum**, SB Mayor; **Joe Blum**; and **Adrienne Schuele**, SB Firefighter's Alliance Treasurer. Front: **Ryan Riddle** and **Greg Nuckols** from SB County Fire Dept.

oeuvres. "This year's Fire Ball was not formal and we tried to keep the overhead low," shared Cash. "We wanted most of the money to go towards the purchase of new equipment for our local fire departments."

For more information call 708-3565 or visit www.sbfirefightersalliance.org. You can send a tax deductible donation to the Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance to: SBFA, P.O.Box 3776, Santa Barbara, CA. 93130.

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