

AARBF SPOKESPEOPLE

Contacts and Background for the Press

AARBF welcomes inquiries from the press and is available to provide spokespeople for media interviews (spokespeople include staff experts in burn prevention, survivor services, and juvenile firesetting, medical professionals, burn survivors and fire personnel).



Alisa Ann Ruch

Burn Foundation

SCOTT VANDRICK

Contact information: (818) 848-0223, svandrlick@aarbf.org

Topics: Burn survivor recovery, burn prevention, fire safety, nonprofit administration, treatment of burn injuries

Bio: Scott joined the staff in the fall of 2006. Previously, Scott was the Executive Director of an international not-for-profit called Wheels for Humanity. Before that, Scott worked as the Development Director for one of the most respected arts organizations in the nation, Cornerstone Theater Company. Scott is a graduate of the UCLA.

JOHANNA WILKIE

Contact information: (818) 848-0223, jwilkie@aarbf.org

Topics: burn prevention, fire prevention, burn and fire causes, juvenile firesetting

Bio: Johanna Wilkie joined AARBF in the winter of 2004 with a degree in English and a minor in Philosophy from University of Massachusetts Amherst. Before coming to work at AARBF, she spent 2 years teaching English as a Second Language in Boston, and previously taught in Rome, Italy. She had also worked in the Development office of Tufts University Medical School. As Prevention Manager, Johanna promotes and oversees our Prevention programs, such as Firefighters in Safety Education, Protect Your Child, and Juvenile Firesetter Intervention.

PATRICIA MIESZALA, RN

Contact information: (818) 767-6782, pmieszala@ca.rr.com

Topics: burn prevention, fire prevention, burn and fire causes, juvenile firesetting

Bio: Patricia Mieszala is President of Burn Concerns National Consultant and Education Services, which she founded in 1981. Pat has 40 years of experience and national and international recognition in the areas of psychiatry, burn care, rehabilitation, prevention, fire and life safety, child firesetting, and injury prevention. She has worked closely with the National Fire Protection Association, the American Burn Association, and FEMA, as well as many other state and local organizations on burn prevention efforts. Since 2005, Pat has led most of the juvenile firesetter intervention trainings that AARBF provides to the fire service and other community stakeholders. She currently serves on the AARBF Board of Directors.

CAPTAIN MIKE GONZALEZ

Contact information: (650) 515-6142, otter.mouser@pacbell.net

Topics: California fire service relationship with AARBF, Champ Camp (summer camp for burn-injured children), nonprofit leadership, fundraising

Bio: Fire Captain Mike Gonzalez, retired 2004, has been a member of the SSF FD for over 28 years. He retired as Fire Captain in 2004. Mike worked in suppression and assisted with public relations, fire prevention, code enforcement and arson investigation. Safety on the emergency ground, in the public or private arenas were always Mike's priority. Mike has been integral to AARBF programs since 1989 when he assisted with the South San Francisco Professional Firefighter's Golf Tournament benefiting the AARBF. Mike also has been active volunteer at Champ Camp, AARBF's summer camp for burn-injured children since 1997. He also spends time volunteering for the Boy's and Girl's Club of North San Mateo County and the San Mateo County Critical Incident Stress Management Team.

RENÉE CROTEAU

Contact information: (415) 495-7223, rcroteau@aarbf.org

Topics: Champ Camp (summer camp for burn-injured children), burn survivor recovery,

Bio: Renée joined the Burn Foundation staff in the fall of 2004. Her undergraduate education is in Social Work and she has a Master's Degree in Non-profit Management. Before working with the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation she came from Children's Hospital Central California where she was involved in fundraising at the hospital. In addition Renée has been actively involved working with people with disabilities for over 12 years. As Associate Executive Director, Renée assists with the overall functioning of the Foundation as well as managing the Central California office and Survivor Services teams.