

Steve "The Bear Whisperer" Searles and International President Sylvester Neal to speak at the 91st Annual District Convention in San Diego!



Steve "The Bear Whisperer" Searles - "The Intelligence of Black Bears" Keynote Speaker • Inter-club Luncheon • Saturday, August 20, 2011

Who and what is *The Bear Whisperer*? Steve Searles, Mammoth Lakes' Wildlife Specialist, is featured in Animal Planet's new show, *Bear Whisperer Returns*, a follow-up on the 2010 hit *The Bear Whisperer*. "It's silly," Steve says about the title. "I rarely whisper." The show follows Steve as he wrangles the bear population in Mammoth Lakes, California in his own unique fashion. Rather than shoot a bad bear on sight, Steve prefers to condition them with firecrackers, rubber bullets and shouts of "Bad Bear!" in order to instill a fear of man into the creatures for their own safety. "The only things I know about bears they taught me," Steve says about his methods.

Searles is a self-taught bear expert who's been working with bears for nearly three decades. He helped formulate Yosemite National Park's initial bear program and also invented the "Scat" kits that are now routinely used for bear aversion/conditioning.

Searles began working with the town of Mammoth Lakes in 1996 and today, is employed as its Wildlife Specialist. Using unique methods to haze the bears and educate the public, Steve is helping Mammoth properly interact with its wildlife. Before Searles began his work, the bears in Mammoth would have been trapped or shot with a tranquilizer gun - or maybe just shot, period. "People were tired of killing bears. Even bear hunters don't want to shoot a bear that's in a trash bin," he says. "That's why people like the idea of teaching them to have fear of people and run away." Something that is not instinctual to the bears when they are born.

What it boils down to for Searles and those who work with him is two-sided respect. Humans should respect the bears by cleaning up after themselves and bears should respect humans by not trashing their homes and belongings. Sometimes both just need a reminder and that's where Steve comes in.

For more information about "The Bear Whisperer", visit www.thebearwhisperer.com

Sylvester Neal, Kiwanis International President

Keynote Speaker • Interfaith Breakfast • Friday, August 19, 2011

Sylvester "Syl" Neal, 2010-2011 Kiwanis International President, has belonged to the Kiwanis Club of The Valley, Auburn since 2003. He is a former member of the Kiwanis Clubs of Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, and earned Kiwanian of the Year honors four times. He served as Governor of the Pacific Northwest District in 2002-2003. He is a life member of Kiwanis International and a Diamond-level George F. Hixson Fellow of the Kiwanis International Foundation. Before joining the international board, Syl served on international committees for youth services, Children's Miracle Network Telethon, Kiwanis membership diversity, and membership growth-North America.



Syl is a retired Alaska state fire marshal. In addition to his involvement in Kiwanis, he has chaired the Alaska State Fire Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and served on the board of Alaskans for Drug Free Youth and two community college boards. He has also held volunteer positions with United Way, Special Olympics and served as chairman of the Alaska Fallen Firefighters Memorial fundraising committee. He is an ordained deacon in his church and received the Citizen Volunteer Award from the Anchorage School District. Syl and his wife, Doris, are parents of five children and have seven grandchildren.

Reserve your tickets now for the Inter-club luncheon and Interfaith Breakfast as we do not anticipate selling tickets on-site!

Register at <http://us.ootoweb.com/2011cnhdcon>.

Kiwanis

California-Nevada-Hawaii District

Serving the Children of the World™

www.cnhkiwanis.org

Also Joining us in San Diego . . . Kiwanis International Past President Paul Palazzolo and Drs. Andrea Thorp and Sarah Christian-Kopp!

Paul Palazzolo, Kiwanis International Immediate Past President

Speaker • Second General Session • Saturday, August 20, 2011

Paul Palazzolo, immediate past president of Kiwanis International, is a 26-year member with perfect attendance and past-distinguished president of the Kiwanis Club of Springfield-Downtown, Illinois. He earned distinguished honors as Governor of the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District in 1994-95, and served as District Secretary, District Treasurer and as president of the District foundation board.

Paul holds a degree in finance from the University of Illinois and is the auditor of Sangamon County, Illinois. He also is a licensed real estate broker. In addition to Kiwanis, he has served his community in many ways, including park district trustee, airport authority treasurer, and leadership roles in Salvation Army Tree of Lights Campaign, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central Illinois and Senior Center Services Board. Paul and his wife, Suanne, are parents of a daughter and a son.



Drs. Andrea Thorp and Sarah Christian-Kopp, Kiwanis Doctors - "Saving Kids' Lives"

Speaker • First General Session • Friday, August 19, 2011



The goal of the Kiwanis Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship is simple: *Save and improve the lives of children by training doctors in the latest pediatric treatment.*

In 2007, Dr. Andrea Thorp completed the Kiwanis Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) Fellowship at Loma Linda University Hospital and became our first Kiwanis Doctor. She and her colleagues Dr. Tim Young, our second Kiwanis Doctor, and Dr. Sarah Christian-Kopp, our third Kiwanis Doctor, each treat more than 3,500 children annually, and, to date, have trained more than 1,000 first responders throughout our District.

Dr. Thorp currently serves as the Assistant Program Director for the PEM Fellowship at Loma Linda University and is directing the medical aspects of the Kiwanis Doctor Program. Dr. Kopp started as the third Kiwanis Doctor in July 2010. She completed medical school at Loma Linda University Medical Center and trained in emergency medicine at Maricopa Hospital in Arizona.

Dr. Kopp has returned to Loma Linda University to complete her fellowship training in pediatric emergency medicine and works with Dr. Thorp to lead seminars throughout our District.

For more information about the Kiwanis Doctor Program, visit www.cnhfoundation.org



To hear these speakers, be sure to register for the District Convention!

Register at <http://us.ootoweb.com/2011cnhdcon>.