

## *Career Firefighter of the Year*

### **BATTALION ONE**

#### **FIREFIGHTER DANIEL HANSEN**



Firefighter Daniel Hansen was formerly assigned to Engine 64 in the City of Westminster and is now at Truck 43-A in the City of Tustin. In addition to his firefighter duties, he still serves as Post Advisor for Explorer Post 9664 at Fire Station 64. Daniel also serves as a member of the Explorer Academy cadre of instructors where he teaches firefighter skills during the week-long Explorer Academies held each summer. Daniel has created a standardized academy notebook which serves as the current training guide for Fire Explorers. In recognition of the significant time and effort that Daniel has contributed to the Explorer Program, he has received the William H. Spurgeon Explorer Advisor of the Year award for 2012. This award is the highest recognition for individuals and organizations contributing significant leadership to the Exploring program in Orange County.

Firefighter Hansen has also been instrumental in helping probationary firefighters assigned to his station prepare for their six-month and one-year testing processes.

Daniel contributes his off-duty hours to community projects such as Yorba Linda's Canned Food Drive and the MDA's Fill the Boot Campaign.

Daniel is continuing his own career development by attending pre-paramedic courses to eventually advance to Firefighter/Paramedic.

## *Reserve Firefighter of the Year*

### **BATTALION FIVE**

#### **RESERVE FIREFIGHTER KEVIN McARTHUR**



Reserve Company Officer Kevin McArthur has nearly eight years of service as a reserve firefighter. He graduated from Reserve Academy in 2005 and has been an active member of the Reserve Program on Patrol 26 in the City of Irvine since that time. Kevin has taken on numerous projects and areas of responsibility from Training Officer to Reserve Company Officer. Currently, Kevin serves as a guide and mentor to the current Training Officer and the newer reserves. He has maintained over a 90% attendance rate on drill nights and is very active with responses, coverage, and community event participation.

Kevin is very involved in the Irvine community, coordinating personnel for and participating in community events such as CERT, Team Kids, The Great Park and OCFA sponsored events. Kevin has become very active with Irvine's CERT program and has trained to become an instructor. He continues to be active with the Spark of Love Toy Drive, volunteering as a driver during the collection campaign each year.

Kevin attended Fire Academy at Crafton Hills College in 2005. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Public Administration and two Associates Degrees in Fire Science and Liberal Arts. He uses his training, education and experience to mentor and train the newer reserves, taking the lead in company skills and driver training.

## *Manager of the Year*

**BATTALION CHIEF**

**MARK "POKEY" SANCHEZ**



Chief Mark Sanchez's tenure as our Training Chief exemplifies accomplishment. His desire to search out, acquire and deliver the very best training for our personnel never rests. He is in contact with fire agencies across the country reviewing a variety of training and safety programs. He has been instrumental in providing numerous training opportunities to OCFA personnel. Mark makes a personal effort to ensure that each topic offered is appropriate and taught by the most qualified personnel available. He provides critical oversight for all academies from the Battalion Chief Academy to the Firefighter Academy. The quality of the basic quarterly Training Activity Group (TAG) training has been drastically improved. Without exception, after every TAG session, the training section receives compliments from the field on the quality of training they received.

Chief Sanchez believes in his people, and he inspires them to believe in themselves and their abilities. Personnel assigned to his section flourish and grow.

For many years, Chief Sanchez has been actively involved in his community through his devotion to a men's baseball league. His team, called "Victory", plays on a local, regional and national level and has experienced a great deal of success. Due to their success, the team's gear is provided by various sponsors and is replaced on a regular basis. Rather than discarding the old equipment, Mark seeks out other organizations and community groups that can use the equipment.

Chief Sanchez is clearly devoted to the betterment of the OCFA and its people. His efforts toward providing valuable training and addressing the safety of our personnel are a personal mission and commitment.

## *Professional Staff Employee of the Year*

**FIXED ASSETS ACCOUNTANT**

**KERI RODRIGUEZ**



Keri is one of the "shining stars" of the Finance Division. She has worked in several areas within Finance, including Timekeeping, Accounts Receivable and General Accounting. As the Fixed Assets Accountant, Keri is tasked with completing a monthly analysis of the fixed asset general ledger accounts. This past year, she developed a standardized "decision tree" to document this process. This decision tree will improve the accuracy and consistency of OCFA's fixed asset reporting and will improve the documentation provided by Finance to the external audit firm. She is currently developing a new monthly reconciliation to analyze all expenditures charged to the Public Safety Systems project, which will further improve the quality of our year-end audit documentation.

One of her most significant achievements this past year was serving as a member of the Santa Ana Equipment Transition team. In a time frame of approximately 3 months, Keri issued approximately 600 fixed/controlled asset tags and updated OCFA's financial records for equipment that was received from or purchased for Santa Ana stations.

One of Keri's greatest passions is volunteering with Children's Hospital of Orange County. Her son, Jace, was severely burned in an accident as a toddler. Keri has transformed that difficult experience into an opportunity to help other parents going through similar situations. She and her husband volunteer at CHOC fundraising events, and both Jace and she are frequently asked to speak at various CHOC events.

Keri is a highly valued member of the Finance Division and a great representative of the OCFA. She is an excellent communicator, dependable, hardworking and always presents an energetic and positive attitude.

# *Unsung Hero*

## MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

### ROTHCHILD ONG



Rothchild Ong is the typical hero personality, most people don't know he's there but he has impacted their life for the better in some way or another.

As a Management Assistant, his job is to run reports and provide recommendations based on these reports. Instead of running the usual reports Roth learns what decisions need to be made from the reports and builds them according to the needs of the individual.

Roth has mastered SharePoint, and is continually learning new automation tools to create efficiencies for all of Fire Prevention. On his own, he learned website design and was instrumental in developing the new Ready, Set, Go! Website.

This past year, OCFA had a need to recruit more staff for the Educator's Safety Trailer. When the recruitment was announced, Roth was the only person to show interest. He completed the training and testing and has been very valuable to the Education Program in delivering the trailer to events.

Roth's previous career includes drift racing. He has an amazing understanding of cars and assists co-workers when in need. More than once, Roth has run diagnostics on co-workers cars to tell them what they need to tell their mechanics when taking cars into the shop.

Roth is an amazing, hard working person who will drop everything to help a co-worker. He is extremely giving and supportive. He gives one the confidence to try almost anything.