

Costa Mesa Police Department's 2015 Employee of the Year Awards

Volunteer of the Year -- George Villazuela:

George has been a volunteer for Costa Mesa for more than five years. He currently is helping numerous units and does a great job in balancing out his work. For all those who ask to see/have a copy of speedometer readings...George takes care of that. For those of you who come to work and have a clean/washed car...George takes care of taking units to the car wash. He has many tasks as a volunteer and yet has such a great attitude.”

George comes in every week with a smile on his face, is dressed sharp and always ready to work where needed. George takes pride in his work and has worked hours in keeping the Detective Bureau pawn slips in order and up to date. This may seem like a tedious task, and it is, he spends hours, making sure they are organized and the proper paperwork is completed so they have an accurate database to pull from.

Police Explorer of the Year -- Celia Quijivix

Celia is 19 years old. She was born in Santa Ana and grew up in the city of Costa Mesa. She attended Estancia High School her freshman year, then transferred to Early College High School to further her education. She graduated from Early College High School in 2015 with a 3.6 GPA and had completed 40 college credits. She currently attends Coastline Community College and maintains a 4.0 GPA. She is scheduled to obtain her AA degree this upcoming summer. She plans to transfer to a 4-year University to further her education and earn her bachelor's degree.

Celia joined the Costa Mesa Police Explorer post in 2012 and has risen to the rank of Explorer Lieutenant. Two of her greatest achievements include graduating from the OCLEEA Explorer Academy and volunteering over 300 hours during the Orange County Fair. Her favorite task as an Explorer Lieutenant is teaching and mentoring new explorers. Over the years of being an explorer, she has worked practically every events and has volunteered over 3000 hours. Helping our community has been a privilege and also fun for Celia.

Some of the awards she has received throughout high school and while being an explorer include:

- 2015 Newport-Mesa School District Distinguished Student Award
- Several Student of the Month Awards

- 2015 Golden Explorer Award
- Early College Soccer Team Captain

Celia's future aspirations include finishing school with at least a Bachelor's degree and having a career in law enforcement. Celia can't wait to help out in the city she grew up in and make a difference. She recently accept the job offer as a Police Aide for the Costa Mesa Police Department and is looking forward to beginning a new chapter of my career in law enforcement.

Police Explorer of the Year -- Kimberly Velasquez:

Kimberly grew up in the beautiful city of Costa Mesa. She graduated from Estancia High School in 2015 with a 4.2 GPA. She currently attends Golden West College and maintains a 4.0 GPA. As a Lieutenant for Post 198, she has been given the opportunity to broaden her horizons and excel as a person. She currently supervises approximately forty explorers and manages the post's activities. She has volunteered over 3000 hours helping the community since 2011.

Kimberly's biggest accomplishment was being chosen as the team leader and leading her team to a local competition in 2013. It was her first year being in charge of a team. Kim's team represented the CMPD Explorer Post well and won third place in suspicious vehicle scenario and first place in CSI. She learned a valuable lesson that day: in order to achieve in life you need to believe in yourself and tell yourself that you can. Additionally, in 2015, Kimberly was recognized by the Orange County Law Enforcement Exploring Advisors Association (OCLEEAA) and received the Golden Explorer Award, which is the highest award given to an explorer. She credits Her accomplishments to the Explorer Post Advisors, and her family.

Kimberly's immediate goal is to transfer from Golden West College to Cal State Long Beach. Her long term goal is to have a successful career in the field of law enforcement.

Civilian of the Year -- Jessica Peters:

Jessica is from North Hollywood and grew up in the San Fernando Valley until she moved to Costa Mesa in 2007 to finish her senior year of high school. She used to work at Universal Studios as an admissions host. She also worked at Macys as a sales associate. She graduated high school from Orange Coast Middle College High School, and graduated from OCC with an associate's degree in liberal arts. Jessica then transferred to Cal State long beach and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology.

She has worked for Costa Mesa PD since December 2007, having worked in the Detective bureau as an Aide, traffic as an Aide, CSS in the field and front desk.

Jessica has worked to improve the functions at the front desk. She has written a front desk manual and worked with supervisors to improve front desk procedures. She hopes to further improve more functions at the front desk and at the police department.

Civilian Supervisor of the Year – Sandra Lozano:

Sandra grew up in the City of Whittier, California. Prior to beginning a career in law enforcement, Sandra worked 10 years in the private industry for a nurse's registry and home health agency as their assistant administrator. Sandra was in charge of hospital and in home care scheduling, accounts payable/receivable, and payroll. She joined the Whittier Police Department in June 1990 as a Records Bureau Police Services Assistant which included working in the Jail and Dispatch Relief. In 1992, she was asked to join the Public Relations Recruitment team and work events and to be a puppeteer for the McGruff and Officer Ollie Educational Programs in schools and at public events. In 1995, promoted to a Senior Police Services Assistant which was a line level supervisor. In 1998, promoted to Records Supervisor I. In 2000, promoted to Records Supervisor II, which included being in charge of the Property and Evidence Unit.

Sandra attended and graduated with honors from Whittier High School. She attended and graduated from Rio Hondo College in Whittier with an Associate's Degree in Supervision. She attended and graduated with honors from the University of La Verne with a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management.

In December 2004, Sandra joined CMPD as the Police Records Administrator. In 2006, she began to assist with backing up the accounting specialist duties. In November 2009, she was asked to assist with supervision of the Property and Evidence Unit. In 2010, she began to assist with research and purchasing of uniforms and other department items needed. In 2011, Sandra joined the CMPD Peer Support Team. In 2013, she joined the research team for a CAD and RMS system. In, 2014 she was on the build and implementation team for the new computer system. In 2015, she became the main system administrator for the system.

In 2005, Sandra volunteered to participate in the Citizens Academy to learn about the department not only the history, but what we had to offer. In 2008, Sandra received the Civilian of the Year award. She is currently a member of the Equipment Evaluation Committee, Manual Committee, Purchasing Committee, California Law Enforcement Association of Records Supervisors, California CLETS User Group, California Association for Property and Evidence, International Association for Property and Evidence, Southern California SunGard User Group and the Orange County User Group.

Police Supervisor of the Year – Sergeant Stephanie Selinske:

Stephanie is from Costa Mesa. She was born at Hoag Hospital and lived in Costa Mesa until 6th grade. She worked for the Orange County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy and Sheriff's Special Officer and also at a Civil Engineering firm for 3 years prior to starting a career in Law Enforcement.

Stephanie graduated from Rubidoux High School and has attended Irvine Valley College, Riverside Community College, and Goldenwest College. This coming September will mark 20 years with Costa Mesa Police for Stephanie. She has worked Patrol, Traffic, Detectives, as a Corporal, Patrol Sergeant and Detective Sergeant.

Stephanie is a two-time Century award winner for DUI arrests, a Supervisory Leadership Institute graduate. Stephanie's Future Goals are to continue to make a difference at CMPD and in the Community and to Promote to the Rank of Lieutenant. Stephanie's personal future goals are to write a book, travel and continue to enjoy being a mom. 2015 was challenging being the sole supervising Sgt. in the Bureau, but the memorable moments were the constant teamwork in the Bureau.

Police Officer of the Year – Officer Lance L. Healey

Officer Lance L. Healey grew up in Farmington Township, Pennsylvania, and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1985. During his 20-year career as a Marine, Lance held all Scout Sniper positions, including: Team Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Platoon Commander and Chief Instructor at Camp Pendleton's Scout Sniper Basic Course, where he trained 127 snipers for deployment with the Marines and Navy S.E.A.L.S.

Lance faced multiple combat tours in Central America, Africa and the Middle East, including Operation Restore Hope (Mogadishu, Somalia 1993) and Operation Phantom Fury (Fallujah, Iraq 2004). In 2005, he retired as a Gunnery Sergeant and joined the Costa Mesa Police Department, where he has served on patrol and furthered his training.

Officer Healey currently serves as the Sniper Team Leader for CMPD SWAT, responsible for the section's monthly training. He firmly believes everyday is a training day, and still strives to further his own tactical knowledge and share it with others. His involvement in the Training Bureau includes serving as a Firearms Instructor, development and execution of the new 16 hour POST-mandated firearms course, and development and administration of the Pre-Academy, as the Lead Instructor, preparing recruits from multiple agencies for the Sheriff's Academy.

Lance hopes to reestablish Costa Mesa's K9 program and develop a new standard of excellence to ensure the program's long-term success.

