

## Annual Meeting 2004

The Chapter's 2004 Annual Meeting took place on November 7th at the Glendale Hilton. The morning program "Progress & Promise in MS Research" focused on cutting-edge research that's happening right here in Southern California Norman Kachuck, MD from USC and Rhonda Voskuhl, MD, Nancy Sicotte, MD, and Susan Harkema, PhD from UCLA shared their varying areas of study. Chapter President, Leon LeBuffe discussed the Society's new Promise 2010 research initiative.

Following lunch and a review of the Chapter's fiscal year, we proudly honored the year's outstanding volunteers.



*Sue Meltzer*

**Sue Meltzer** received one of the Society's most prestigious awards, the *Norm Cohn Hope Award* for her 3 decades of outstanding volunteer efforts and leadership. She has stepped forward as a member of the Chapter and National Boards, as a board member of The Marilyn Hilton MS Achievement Center at UCLA, and as the Chair of the Golden Circle campaign during a key period when the campaign quadrupled in annual income.

**Susan Keith** accepted the *Grisanti Trustee of the Year Award* honoring her reign as the MS Walk champion for the last four years, raising more than \$160,000. Susan always attributes her success in part to the support of her strong partner, trustee Jeanne Perry, who presented the award.



*Susan Keith & Jeanne Perry*



*Carolyn Roberts & Madeleine Sherak*

Madeleine Sherak, PhD presented the *Programs Key Award* to **Carolyn Roberts, PhD** for lending her professional expertise as a licensed marriage family therapist in counseling others with MS. This year she also developed and piloted an exciting new spirituality program to promote wellness.

**Julie Kaufer** received the *Development Key Award* for her work as co-chair of The Golden Circle. Julie has been instrumental in cultivating donors and her business savvy has helped the Chapter to grow the campaign in many new directions.



*Julie Kaufer & Sue Meltzer*



*Team Engelman*

The *Rookie Of The Year* award went to **Traci Engelman**. When Traci's brother was diagnosed with MS, she wanted to do something to help. She started MS Walk Team Engelman, and in her first year as a team captain, Traci organized over 60 team members and they raised \$28,225.

Trustee Harland Green presented the *Self Help Group Leader Award* to **Denise Kish** for the dedication she shows as she facilitates support groups in both the San Diego and Upland areas.



*Denise Kish & Harland Green*



*Kelsey Linford, Nadja & Anna Kennedy, Bailee Flaughter  
Trustee Julie Kaufer and Cody Knue*

This year, we couldn't pick just one **Youth Volunteer of the Year**, and so we decided to honor 3 remarkable girls who have clearly demonstrated that age does not matter when it comes to making a difference. In her first year as a Walk participant, seven-year-old **Bailee Flaughter** raised over \$4,000 in honor of her grandfather. **Cody Knue** started the Fighters of MS team when she was only nine and since that time her team has raised more than \$6,000. Every week during the past three summers, **Kelsey Linford**, with the help of her friends Nadja and Anna Kennedy, has been selling snow cones in the front yard. The girls went door-to-door with flyers, helping to not only drive business, but also to raise awareness about MS and the National MS Society.

**Lucky and Tony Van Beers** accepted the *Special Event Key Award* from Jonathan Strum for their work as volunteer leaders at the MS Walk. Playing host to over 5,000 walkers, they make sure all of the vendors, sponsors and volunteers work together to get the site ready for the tired walkers and then take care of them when they return.



*Lucky & Tony Van Beers  
with Jonathan Strum  
(center)*



*Vicki Connor-Medina & Tom Sherak*

Tom Sherak presented two *Public Awareness Awards*. Doreen Roberts accepted award on behalf of **Viacom** for their generous annual donation of bus shelter and billboard space to promote the MS Walk over the past eight Walk seasons.

General Manager Vicki Connor-Medina also accepted an award on behalf of **High Desert Broadcasting** for raising a tremendous amount of awareness in the Antelope and Santa Clarita Valleys by promoting the MS Walk site in Lancaster on their radio stations over the last 3 years.



*Doreen Roberts & Tom Sherak*

We'd also like to recognize the awardees who were unable to attend the luncheon. Congratulations and thanks to trustee **Bruce Hecker** our *Volunteer of the Year* for his continued generosity donating his gourmet catering services to many of our events including Golden Circle recognition events, the MS Challenge Walk and QVC's Cure by the Shore. Congrats also to **Sue Upshaw**, our *Peer Counselor of the Year* and to **Farmer John**, our *Volunteer Group of the Year*.