

Rick Rackers Annual Meeting and Installation of new Governing Body

Rick Rackers, an auxiliary of Assistance League of Long Beach, held its Annual Meeting and Installation of the new Governing Body on June 3rd at the Assistance League of Long Beach Philanthropic Center. With more than 70 members and guests, Public Relations Chairman Jessica Zifer "broadcasted" the Rick Rackers Race of 2008, a darling skit used to present the new Governing Body, in a NASCAR inspired theme. In the lead, was Chairman Karen Sprague, closely followed by the speedy Vice Chairman Cindy Gillis. "News anchors" Vicki Vaught and Sandra Allen helped Zifer to introduce the other officers that raced into their positions, including Melissa Murchison, Michele Ward, Cindy Bambam, Kelly Wigod, Nancy Smith, Shelly Barbre, and Assistance League Liaison Kathy Wade.

Luncheon followed the installation and was enjoyed by members and friends from the community who not only congratulated the incoming board, but also welcomed 14 "cool" new members who quickly took control by putting out a blaze when a "fire" broke out on the race track. To the rescue were Lisa Hain, Shannon Cofell, Nancy Valencia, Marisela Halachian, Dia Kaesman, Karen Blair, Sheryl Doornbos, Melisa Gruneisen, Karin Jenkins, Pam Karam, Susan Pilgram, Kristine Trost, Carolyn Wesling, and Kristie Wood.

These Rick Rackers are indeed ready to "Start their engines!"

FYI: Rick Rackers is a nonprofit volunteer organization, chartered in 1942, whose purpose is to carry on a program of philanthropic work to improve the lives of children in the community. Together with Assistance League's 6-12 Operation School Bell® program, they provide more than 6,000 school uniforms to Long Beach Unified School District elementary students annually and have a goal of clothing 10,000 children annually by 2010. For more information on Rick Rackers, Operation School Bell or to receive information on upcoming events, please call the Assistance League of Long Beach Philanthropic Center at (562) 627-5650.

Seen at the scene special "race fans" included: Karen's family Warren and Kirby Sprague, as well as Don, Joni, Andrew, Allison and Ashley Kirby. Friends: Sharyl Anderson, Karen Conklin, Debbie Danny, Teri Fitzgerald, Cheryl Fuller, Shelley Gustafson, Lynn Harp, Priscilla Hockett, Dawn McKenna, Donnel Richardson, Tammy Sargeant, Jennifer Schutt, Tami Stalker, Kim Whaley, Stephanie Eiler, Mary Crane, Ellie Schaffner, Shelly Sandler, Nanci Gee, Melinda Jacquier, Ginny Kennebeck, Melva Miller, Cindy Summers, and Virgie Barnes.