President’s Message

“Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
-Helen Keller

Have you ever complained about something in your neighborhood and didn’t give it a second thought to do something to change that situation? I have! But then, I was asked by someone, so, why don’t you do something about it?

Getting involved is the first step to creating change. Civic engagement creates a better community, bringing people together around a common purpose. Connecting with your neighbors, problem solving, and working with local officials to address issues creates a more united community. It’s empowering!

Our Neighborhood Associations are working hard to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods...each NA addressing the particular needs of their area. We have about 25 active associations located across our city, and we’re looking to recruit more.

Won’t you join us to become an agent of change in your neighborhood! Contact us at nacsbcal@gmail.com to find the Neighborhood Association where you live. We are looking for community members who share our vision.

IF NOT YOU, WHO?

~~ NAC President, Janette Mckaig ~~
NENA (North End Neighborhood Association) is one of the first NAs to organize in the 1990’s. They started out as a very involved group and continue to be active to this day. NENA has enjoyed strong leadership over the years and has maintained the support of many dedicated neighbors and “cluster” leaders.

While meeting in various locations in their early years, they eventually settled at the Arrowhead Country Club meeting room for general meetings. During Covid restrictions, they continued to meet safely outside at residences or virtually.

And they didn’t give up neighborhood clean ups...carrying out several over the last year. Christmas 2020, NENA members joined hands to conduct a successful car caravan distributing toys to neighborhood children!

Going forward, NENA looks to improve their ability to stay connected within their neighborhood through more effective use of social media outreach and their own unique website. They have plans to increase community participation by identifying and developing projects of interest and relevance to local residents.

NENA continues a long tradition of community involvement!
Steven is an enthusiastic and dependable community volunteer—but he is more than that. He is a community and art advocate who helps to beautify our city through various art projects and by designing city murals. He is a regular participant at clean up events and promotes urban gardening as well. He is also involved at the Garcia Art Center, with Music Changing Lives, with Operation New Hope and he inspires others in his capacity on the SB Art Association Board.

Steven has lived in San Bernardino for 30 years, is a veteran, and he is interested in participating in the newly activated Northpark Neighborhood Association.

He wants to see a better, more productive, and more colorful San Bernardino. **Steven, we thank you for your military service and for being a community servant!**

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**A Bit of NAC History...Where We Have Been**

Neighborhood Associations owe their origin and inspiration to the Del Rosa Neighborhood Action Group (DRNAG), a grassroots organization, which formed in 1994 to reduce blight, reduce crime, and to unify people around those issues. In 1996, local resident and realtor, **Freddie Spellacy**, expanded this concept into a city-wide plan to identify 50+ defined and named neighborhoods or clusters which came under the guidance of the Neighborhood Cluster Association (NCA), now known as the Neighborhood Association Council (NAC). Our neighborhoods are comprised of residents (homeowners/renters), businesses, churches, and schools.

Over the years, many hundreds of neighborhood clean ups have been held and code enforcement violations have been reported. These efforts contribute not only to beautification, but to improved public safety. During our NA meetings, we exchange valuable information which empowers residents to understand and address issues.

In the process, relationships are built with fellow neighbors and local officials, and community engagement is strengthened...it's about **Community Building**!

We honor your legacy and we thank you, Mrs. Spellacy.
**Where We Are Going**
Increase and Expand our Collective Strength
Inspire and Develop Leaders
Encourage Community and Civic Engagement

**We are excited about the next**
NAC Community Leadership Academy.
**Updates to follow**

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**Call for Recruits!**

We are launching a **Recruitment Campaign** to grow NAC by strengthening existing NAs and by increasing active ones! We will be reaching out to **YOU**, our community stakeholders and partners, and we ask that you reach out to us.

**We need your help to identify Community Leaders!**

“Be the Change You Wish to See” - Ghandi

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**Alas!** We are beginning to open up with meetings and events!
NAC Presidents Monthly Meetings resumed in person on May 1st, featuring Co Supervisor Baca and Karen Suarez, Uplift SB

Currently Active Neighborhood Associations **(we’re growing):**

- Arrowhead Community Builders
- Arrowhead Farms
- Arrowview
- Belvedere
- Blair Park
- Civic Center
- DRNAG
- DMV
- Hudson Park **(new)**
- Kendall Hills
- Meadowbrook
- Mt Vernon
- Muscupiabe
- NENA
- Northpark **(new)**
- Perris Hill
- Rancho West
- Riverview **(new)**
- Scenic Riverwalk
- Shandin Hills
- South Pointe **(new)**
- Terrace West
- Valley College
- Verdemont
- Wildwood Park

Please contact the Neighborhood Association Council for individual NA information...nacsbcal@gmail.com