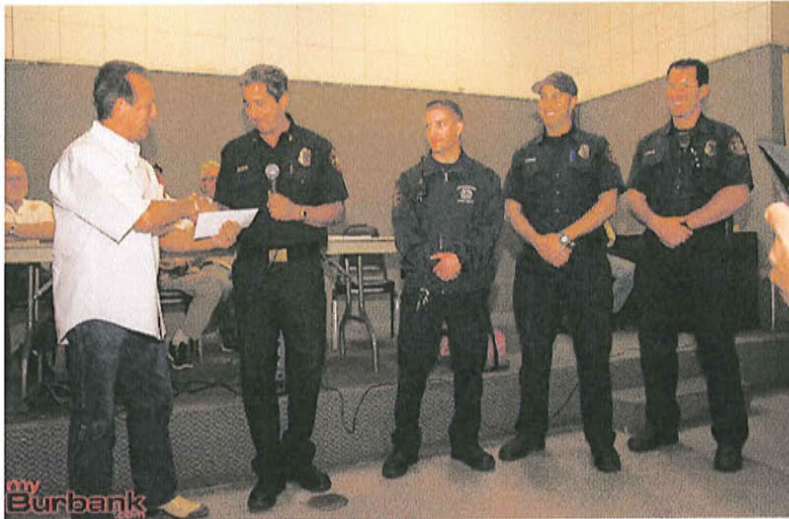


Road Kings Give Again to Burbank Charities

By [Joyce Rudolph](#) On May 14, 2015

Nonprofit groups that preserve Burbank's past were among organizations receiving donations from the Burbank Road Kings during their April meeting at the Elks Club.



(Photo by Ross A. Benson)

Ron Barone, battalion chief of the Burbank Fire Department, accepted a check for the Fire Department Muster Club and Historical Society. Joining him were Muster Club members Steve Byrne, Steve Rushing and Jeff Ponton.

The organization is dedicated to preserving the fire department's history and the antique vehicles in its fleet including the Christie Steamer, the Moreland Pumper and the Crown Pumper. For a closer look at these beauties go to the Muster Club's Facebook page.

Barone thanked the Road Kings and added two anecdotes. When he joined the department 28 years ago, several fellow employees were also Road Kings members and maintained the fire trucks. They earned his trust because the vehicles were always in tip-top shape, which Barone attributed to the knowledge they gained through their participation in Road Kings. Barone added that his love of antique vehicles comes from his 90-year-old dad who still owns 17 vintage vehicles.

"We'll do our best to keep those vintage apparatuses in Road Kings-calibre shape," he said.

Other groups receiving donations were the Burbank Police and Fire Museum, Burbank Mounted Police, Burbank Historical Society, Relay For Life, Boys & Girls Club of Burbank and Greater East Valley, Burbank Temporary Aid Center, Burbank Veterans, Boy Scout Troop 50, Horses for Veterans and Dog Tags for Soldiers' Kids.



(Photo by Ross A. Benson)

The Burbank Road Kings are celebrating their 63rd year in Burbank. The club sponsors two car shows each year to raise funds for Burbank charities, said Don Baldaseroni, car show chair, past president and executive board member.

“With today’s financial crunch that all city’s face, it is very important for all organizations and businesses to do as much as they can to support the nonprofits that are so essential to a great city like ours,” he said.

This year the June car show has been cancelled because Johnny Carson Park is closed for renovation. But the group will be heading to Santa Anita Park in October for the annual car show at the race track.

The Road Kings display their cars at community events throughout the year and provide vehicles that dignitaries ride in during Burbank On Parade. The car club is

recognized around the world as a premier club and one of the oldest in Southern California, Baldaseroni said.

Notable club members of drag-racing fame include “TV” Tommy Ivo, Bob “the freight train” Muravez, who was inducted just this March. Former “Late Night” host Jay Leno is also a member and attends many car shows.