

Vinita Anand, Secretary, National Seabee Divers Association

The spouse of a Navy Seabee Diver, Vinita Anand has been involved with the Seabee diving community for 12-plus years. During that time, many divers have come and gone from Underwater Construction Team Two, and because of this, Anand sees the importance in having an organization whose purpose is to preserve the rich history and collect the “sea stories” of the Seabee divers, both young and old.

Anand works as a resource and information specialist at Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center, a nonprofit that provides services and supports for children and adults, with and at risk for, developmental delays and disabilities. She has been responsible for the Center’s public relations, including Web site, Intranet, e-mail newsletter communications, various print publications, Network of Care, and many other projects during the 10 years she has worked for the organization.

She is currently serving as treasurer on the all volunteer board at her homeowners association, where she actively works with management to ensure a pleasurable living experience while at the same time ensuring that the individual homes and common area are maintained to the highest standards. Her most recent volunteer experience was coordinating a local neighborhood spay/neuter effort for feral cats, through which 40-plus cats and kittens were trapped, fixed, socialized and placed in forever homes.

She chaired the Family Readiness Group at Underwater Construction Team Two from fall 2007 to fall 2009, during which numerous social and educational activities and events were planned for the families stationed at the Command, such as holiday events, deployment briefs, personal safety and security training and welcome home activities. “This was a great opportunity to build and grow an organization whose primary mission is to ensure families are ready and prepared for and feel supported during deployments, thereby ensuring mission readiness and success,” explains Anand. As chair, Anand managed multiple committees, including welcome, event and fundraising. She also served concurrently as recording and correspondence secretary and was responsible for all aspects of communication from minutes to e-mail correspondence, the Web site, making flyers and promoting events.

Another notable experience for Anand was volunteering at the Wildlife Waystation, a nonprofit that rescues wild animals and provides lifelong sanctuary and rehabilitates native wildlife, where she assisted with many activities, including cleaning animal cages, organizing work parties around the ranch to clear brush and repair infrastructure, and planning twice yearly volunteer appreciation events for 400-plus staff and volunteers.

Anand has a master’s degree in Public Health with an emphasis in Environmental Health and a bachelor’s degree in Geography/Environmental Studies, both obtained from the University of California, Los Angeles.

In her free time, Anand, who lives in Port Hueneme, enjoys spending time with her husband homebrewing and at the beach, and with her family in Los Angeles. She also enjoys reading everything from non-fiction to murder/mystery and international spy thrillers.