

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY
MAN & WOMAN
of the **YEAR**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
Nomination Instructions 2026



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BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Santa Clarita Valley Man & Woman of the Year Recognition is to honor men and women who have given outstanding volunteer service to the Santa Clarita Valley area; and to showcase the non-profit organizations in the Santa Clarita Valley that inspire these people to give their time and resources.

REQUIREMENTS TO BE NOMINATED

- Individual volunteer services must be given to a group or organization that is a designated 501(c)3, community service organization.
- Volunteer service is defined by long-term community commitment (**NOT** work related)
- Volunteer service includes, but is not limited to, the years of volunteer service, the type of service, and the impact of the service that was provided to multiple local organizations.

GUIDELINES FOR NON-PROFIT NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Organizations may nominate up to two (2) volunteers each year – one man and/or one woman. The NOMINATION FORM is available online at <https://www.scvmanwomanoftheyear.org/>
 2. The nominating organization must be a registered 501(c)3.
 3. Working with your nominee(s) compile, by bullet points, their Santa Clarita Valley VOLUNTEER HISTORY, with dates where possible. This volunteer history should include the nominee's name, mailing address, phone number, and email address.
- Please email this to Gloria Mercado-Fortine: gmercado@earthlink.net

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4. For promotional materials, we will need:

- A color photograph (head shot) of your candidate(s) in JPEG or PNG format
- Your organization's logo in JPEG, PNG or PDF format
- At least a paragraph describing your organization including its goals, philosophy, and outreach in our community (100-400 words)
- Three or four pictures showing your organization at work.

5. The criteria used by the Committee are weighted as follows:

- Volunteer effort – 40 points
- Years of service – 20 points
- Impact and commitment to nominating organization – 20 points
- Number of 501(c)3 organizations this individual has served.
(No additional points are given in nominated by more than one organization)

The Annual Awards Gala

Friday, May 1, 2026

Hyatt Valencia Main Ballroom



PAPARAZZI PARTY

The nominees for Man and Woman of the Year are first presented to the public, to the media and to the selection committee at the annual **PAPARAZZI PARTY, March 4, 2026.**

As the contact person for your non-profit, you will be asked to present your nominee in a **SHORT INTRODUCTION SPEECH (2 minutes)** in front of the media and the previous Man & Woman of the Year Honorees (Selection Committee). We ask that you email this speech to us so that we may use the contents in our publicity after the party.

If you are unable to attend, we will need the name of the person who will make the introduction (s). **Former honorees cannot introduce nominee(s).**

Be prepared to talk to the media about your organization. In fact, it would be a good idea if you had materials available that night showcasing your organization that the attending media organizations can take with them (four copies should suffice). We are unable to design promotional materials for your organization, but we shall provide opportunities to promote your philosophy and objectives before and during the event.

Those invited to the PAPARAZZI PARTY are **(1)** the presenter of the non-profit, **(2)** the nominee(s) and one guest, **(3)** the previous Man & Woman of the Year honorees and **(4)** the representatives from the media. This media event is at no cost to your organization. A light dinner and drinks will be served.

SCV MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR GALA

The winners will be kept in confidence until the Awards Dinner. The Selection Committee, comprised of previous honorees, will have already met and chosen, according to the criteria listed here, the **2026 Man & Woman of the Year** from the nominees submitted.

If your nominee is selected, someone from your non-profit will be invited to speak briefly at the recognition dinner in tribute to their volunteerism. You will not know ahead of time. Please be prepared.

*A portion of the proceeds of the Gala Event will go to the nominating organization

Premium tables will be available to the nominating non-profit organization the evening of the Paparazzi Party. Reservations will open to the public for the Gala on March 6, 2026, the day after the PAPARAZZI PARTY and will remain open until we sell out or up until one week prior to the event. Our expectation is that every nominating organization will fill at least one table (10 seats). Tables fill quickly and your table placement depends on availability on the date of your paid registration. No walk-ins are accepted.

Reservation forms and credit card processing are available on our website:

<https://www.scvmanwomanoftheyear.org/>

If you need to mail in your forms, pictures, etc., you will find information on where to mail in the Contact Information section of this document.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: <https://www.scvmanwomanoftheyear.org/>

Mailing Address:

SCV Man & Woman of the Year
16164 Sierra Highway
Santa Clarita, CA 91390

Questions about reservations:

Margarita Figueroa

mfigueroa@santaclaritaconcrete.com

Questions about nomination procedures, documents, media sponsors or tickets:

Gloria Mercado-Fortine

gmercado@earthlink.net

Questions about Sponsorships and Non-Profit Publicity:

Kim Kurkowski - kim_kurkowski@hotmail.com

Jackie Hartmann – jhartmann49@gmail.com

TIMELINE

Friday, January 2, 2026	Nomination Forms Available Online
Friday, January 30, 2026	Deadline for Nominee Submission
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	Paparazzi Party (Nominee Organization Registration Available)
Thursday, March 5, 2026	General Public Reservations open to Gala Event
Monday, March 16, 2026	Deadline for Non-Profit Promotional Information
Friday, May 1, 2026	SCV Man & Woman of the Year Gala Event