



Porter to lead SYV Youth Coalition

SYVUHS District board of education president elected chairman

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The Santa Ynez Valley Youth Coalition elected officers for 2014 and recognized its volunteer of the year during the board's Jan. 28 meeting.

Bruce Porter, president of the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District board of education, has been elected chairman of the group, formerly known as the Santa Ynez Valley Coalition to Promote Drug Free Youth.

A 1976 West Point graduate who retired as a colonel, Porter is now an Edward Jones financial adviser in Santa Ynez. He spent his career in the Army Corps of Engineers and served in Operation Desert Storm.

Porter has been a school board member since November 2008 and is serving his third consecutive one-year term as board president.

A 2008 SYVUHS graduate, Perla Navarro will serve as vice chairwoman. Navarro is working at the high school as an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) tutor.

Additionally, coalition members honored Julian J. Ramos as 2013 volunteer of the year. He has served on the coalition since 2006 and is also a member of its Community Outreach Committee.

He is a familiar face around the Valley as he has spent most of the past eight years as a reporter for the Santa Ynez Valley News.

Founded in 2005, the Youth Coalition is a collaboration of volunteer community members dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing and reducing alcohol and other substance abuse among youths and adults.

The organization is sponsored by Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People, which provides staffing and administrative support for its programs and services.

For more information, call Coalition Director Mary Conway at 686-0295, or visit www.syvdrugfree.org.