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California State Assemblymember Cameron Smyth named Metro's Ann Kerman the 38th District's 2008 Woman of the Year. *Photo by Bob Kerman*

Woman of the Year Overwhelmed by Sacramento Honors

Metro's Ann Kerman selected by Assemblymember Smyth

By NED RACINE, Editor

(March 20, 2008) When California State Assemblymember Cameron Smyth (R-Santa Clarita) named Ann Kerman, a Metro constituent program manager in Regional Communications, as his district's 2008 Woman of the Year, he began a series of tributes Kerman initially did not grasp.

The highlight for Kerman was a March 10 trip to Sacramento with her

husband and two daughters and their seeing her in Smyth's seat on the Assembly floor. Son Brad could not attend.

"They were all given gallery passes, so they were able to watch Mom on the Assembly floor sitting in Cameron's seat," she recalled with a laugh. Smyth also presented Kerman with a plaque that noted her outstanding service and dedication to the people of the State of California.

"I hadn't really taken the honor that seriously until I was sitting on the Assembly floor and there was a keynote speaker who was the executive director of the California Department on the Status of Women," Kerman admitted. "There were 120 women who were recognized that day . . . She started summarizing the qualities of each of the women who had been selected. One thing that seemed pretty clear was that each of us—in some way—had made a difference in our community. It was pretty stunning."

"Then one of Cameron's aides said to me, 'Do you understand what a big deal this is?' And I said, 'Not really.' The aide said 'Cameron's gets to choose six women during his term as Assemblymember and you're one of them.'"

"I don't know why me. But I do feel very honored to be considered among the women who were recognized on the tenth of March."

"I had worked very closely with [the Assemblymember] as a community

member, and he had been very involved in several of the programs that I had developed in the Santa Clarita Valley when I was executive director of the Santa Clarita Valley School and Business Alliance,” Kerman said.

The Santa Clarita Valley School and Business Alliance offered students experience in the working world, in part by having them “shadow” business people and arranging internships. Kerman, a Valencia resident, served as the alliance’s executive director for eight years. She describes the alliance as an organization that “connects students with their future.”

In his announcement of her selection, Smyth stated Kerman’s “commitment to the students of our community is unmatched.” He also cited the more than 2,000 school and business partnerships the alliance had created during Kerman’s term.

She has also served as Chair of the Santa Clarita Valley Nonprofit Leaders Council and Chair of the Santa Clarita Career Technical Education Consortium.

Youngest is a freshman; 18 and 24, Lisa and Ruth. Son Brad could not attend. All Kermans. “My husband Bob was beaming. He was happy to be the trophy husband, he said. He said all he had to do was show up and look pretty.”