

## BIO: STEVEN R. FAZIO



### A Valley boy's journey

Steve Fazio's roots in the San Fernando Valley date back to the 1960's, when his family moved from Chicago. He grew up in the Valley in a middle-class family that valued hard work and education. A graduate from North Hill's James Monroe High School, he had a strong interest in law enforcement. However, his very persuasive father enticed him to come and work in the family's dry cleaning business.

### Growing up in the family business

While growing up in the 1970's, Steve began his indoctrination in the family business at a young age by sweeping floors, painting walls and doing whatever was necessary at any given moment. After high school, Steve continued to work for his dad and learning life leadership and business skills from his father. In his mid-20's, Steve left the family business and established his own dry cleaning and shirt laundry business where he grew his company and his business acumen. About five years after his departure from the family business, Steve's dad invited him to take the company's reins and became his father's successor.

Steve's business career spans over four decades. Under his leadership, the company has grown in revenues, profits and geography. Headquartered in Woodland Hills, Fazio Enterprises now has locations in Los Angeles and Nevada.

### To protect and serve: Los Angeles Police Department

As a kid, Steve wanted to be a police officer. As an adult, Steve always felt an obligation to serve the larger community. Since 1981, his childhood dream became a reality when he began serving the city as a Los Angeles reserve police officer. He spent 40 years in uniform working in a variety of assignments including patrol, undercover vice, the fugitive task force and the gang unit. Steve is currently assigned to the LAPD's well-respected Robbery Homicide Division where he works as a cold case homicide investigator.

Steve completed the California POST Academy Instructor Certification Course (AICC) in 2017 in order to serve as an instructor at the LAPD's Edward Davis Training Facility where he educates recruits in tactics and firearms.

### A love of public safety: Los Angeles Fire Department

In addition to his service with the LAPD, Steve was asked by Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa if he would expand his public service by serving as a member of the Los Angeles City Fire Commission (2013-2016). Steve was unanimously approved by the Los Angeles City Council. He brought the same level of enthusiasm and commitment to the LAFD as he does with the LAPD. Steve is very proud that the week Mayor Garcetti took office, he asked Steve to remain on the Los Angeles Fire Commission, thereby making Steve the only Commission member to serve both mayors.

### A commitment to national defense: California State Guard

Steve's public service endeavors doesn't end at the borders of Los Angeles. He is also an officer with the California State Guard which is part of the U.S. Department of Defense and his unit, the Emergency Response Command, is one of the few that is operational and aligned with the Army.

### A life-long love of education

Steve earned both an MBA and doctorate at Pepperdine University. Upon graduating, he was selected to be a member of the faculty as an Executive in Residence, where he taught business strategy and business theory. Steve received the university's Distinguished Alumni Award for his service to Pepperdine. He is a Graziadio Business School board member emeritus and has served as a senior fellow for Pepperdine's School of Public Policy.

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With an MBA and doctorate in the rear-view mirror, Steve went on to attend Harvard Business School, where he graduated from HBS's prestigious Executive Leadership program.

Wanting to apply his years of experience resolving conflicts in the streets of Los Angeles, Steve is currently completing a certification in Dispute Resolution at the acclaimed Strauss School at Pepperdine University.

### **Bringing the dream of education to others**

Bringing his passion for organizations and education a bit closer to home, Steve was the founding president of the Sierra Canyon School. Sierra Canyon was originally established in the 70's as a day camp and then expanded to a well-respected, U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award-winning school that ran from EK to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Steve would go on to assist Sierra Canyon's founders in carrying out their goal to acquire land and build a new upper school that would extend the school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The position included locating and purchasing additional property, negotiating a buy-out of the owner's interest, participating in a nationwide search for a new school head, and identifying and seating a strong board of trustees. Steve was heavily involved in developing a major upper school addition to the campus from hiring consultants and architects; working with the city to secure the required entitlements; working with the community to facilitate environmental impact surveys; hiring contractors and to working with lenders and the community to raise \$30 million to build the new state-of-the art facility.

The Sierra Canyon School now educates nearly a thousand students each year and is recognized as one of the finest and most diverse independent private schools in California.

### **Fostering young business leaders**

Steve has also been committed to the business community through his leadership in three Young Presidents Organization (YPO) chapters. Steve chaired YPO Santa Monica Bay; was a founding member and twice chair of YPO Hollywood Chapter; and a founding member for a new YPO-Gold chapter that now consists of over 110 members. YPO enabled Steve to become closely involved with well over 300 local business CEO's, as well as several hundred presidents and CEO's throughout the world.

### **Family life: A great wife, great kids, great dogs**

Steve is happily married to Nicole. Living in Woodland Hills, they have three daughters, one son, and two Standard Poodles Millie and CiCi.