

Mel Vernon -
Tribal Captain, San Luis Band of Mission Indians

Mel Vernon is a well-respected public speaker and educator with an emphasis on the history, culture, and folklore of his Luiseno people. Captain Vernon has more than 15 years of experience working with teachers and educators at all grade levels throughout southern California. Serving as Tribal Captain of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, Mr. Vernon has been active in civic engagement and cultural preservation, working with museums, libraries, schools, and the community to bring education and awareness of Luiseno Cultural Heritage.

Mel has served as a board member or trustee for many local agencies and organizations, including the San Diego Archaeological Center, San Diego Mayor's Advisory Board, Office of Native American Concerns Archdiocese Los Angeles Advisory, Old Mission San Luis Rey Foundation, and the San Luis Rey Rotary.

Mel is also an author and professional musician and has played for corporate events in major venues and resorts including Hawaii, Bangkok, Grand Cayman, Las Vegas, and Cancun.

Mel is presently active fronting his classic rock band The Kings of La Jolla, in local San Diego venues.