The Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association is committed to continuing a “Tradition of Success” in serving a satisfied membership through an effective and expanding professional association. We are a proactive and imaginative organization working in union with employers and other professional groups for necessary changes in policies, laws and legislation that are conducive to the well-being of our members. We will promote the professional interests of our members and the law enforcement community by protecting and enhancing their individual and collective rights.
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other year in the record books! Unfortunately, 2017 proved to be a difficult and tragic year. On October 1, the biggest civilian mass killing in U.S. history impacted our members who attended the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas. Several PPOA members lost loved ones or suffered injuries while attending the event. The shooting was a senseless act by a cowardly man. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted, and we pray for a full recovery for the injured. On a positive note, we witnessed the best in the LASD in their response to the Las Vegas shooting. The Department sent many teams of personnel to help our injured employees and assist the local police in what was surely an overwhelming logistical nightmare. Also in 2017, at the peace officer memorial events in California and Washington, D.C., we honored the sacrifices of Sergeants Steve Owen and Al Lopez, who died in the line of duty in October 2016. In addition, we said goodbye to several members who lost their lives in 2017 in non-work-related incidents.

Looking back at the tragedies over the past year reminds me of the importance of family, friends and good health. It also reminds me that my job is simply that: a job. Although I care greatly about my job and the Sheriff’s Department, it is secondary to my family, friends and health. At least, it should be. How many of us have sacrificed for the job — our marriages, our health, our children? My guess is that all of us have. Maybe 2018 is the year we should all take a hard look at what is most important to us and adjust our lifestyles and our priorities.

For several years now, the Sheriff’s Department has been in a deep funk. Let’s make 2018 a turning point, the year when positive changes are made to improve the organization. I have one New Year’s resolution request of upper management and the Sheriff: I ask that when you make management decisions, you do so with compassion toward your employees. Treat them like human beings with families and mortgages, not just names on a piece of paper in an investigative file. Focus more on becoming better leaders instead of better managers. There will be times when you have to take unpopular actions and discipline employees who do wrong. That is expected. But do so with compassion and fairness. This is not an unreasonable request. Many of you already believe you are doing so, but I ask you to look introspectively and really ask yourself, “Am I doing the right thing?” If managers refocus on their greatest resource, their employees, maybe we can move the Sheriff’s Department in the right direction. Quite honestly, what you are doing now ain’t working.

Management is the key to positive change. Once management starts moving in the right direction, the employees will follow. Happy employees result in better work performance, fewer sick call-ins, less misconduct, fewer mistakes and overall better service to the people of Los Angeles County. Here is a New Year’s resolution request for the employees: If you see positive changes in your boss, or if your boss already treats their employees well, rededicate yourself to being the best you can be. Give them 110 percent. Make your boss look good by doing your job the right way, working hard and working as a team. If you notice a change in your boss, let them know and give them some kudos. Everyone likes a pat on the back every once in a while.

No, folks, I have not dipped into the eggnog early this year! I simply refuse to give up hope. I love the Sheriff’s Department. I love the people I work with (regardless of rank, civilian or sworn, or job assignments). I love what we do and how we do it. We just need better leadership. A little will go a long way toward improving the work environment, thereby improving the quality of service provided by the Sheriff’s Department. Now let’s join hands and sing “Kumbaya” together!

I think 2017 was a tough year in many ways, and I hope 2018 will be better for all of us. I pray that all of you find happiness and good health in the new year!

LASD Report Card

Each year for the past several years, I have been rating the Sheriff’s Department in our Annual Report on its overall performance under the leadership of the Sheriff. This year will be no different, except my ratings will be based largely on the Department’s willingness (or unwillingness) to address its shortcomings. Jim McDonnell has had three years to lead this Department, and he now owns the good and the bad about it. He is no longer the “new guy” who deserves a pass or the “outsider” who needs time to learn about the Department. In my opinion, he owns everything about this Department and has had plenty of time to make necessary changes.

The Sheriff’s Department is a large organization and, like the Titanic, can be difficult to change from its course when the need arises. But also like the Titanic, if the Department doesn’t change course when facing adversity, it will end in disaster. This is where
the leadership of the Sheriff and his executives is crucial. It is the
actions and inactions of the executives that impact the quality of
the Department, and it is the leadership or lack of leadership of
Jim McDonnell that dictates what the executives do to improve the
organization.

This past year, I have seen great successes that made me proud of
the LASD, and I have seen epic failures. Although not everyone will
agree with my assessment of the Department, I hope most people
will agree that changes need to occur. I believe it is my role as PPOA
president to effect change and hold the executives’ feet to the fire
to ensure that employees are being placed first and that treatment of
the employees is fair and equitable. Everything in this report has already
been expressed to, and discussed with, Sheriff McDonnell (except
the actual ratings). It is my hope that the Sheriff and Department
executives use this information to develop strategies to improve
the operations of the Department and working conditions for its
employees. In the past, many executives have brushed this off as
disgruntled opinions or angry rhetoric. That is probably why there
has not been enough change. Many executives paint a rosy picture of
the Department (it’s certainly rosy for them) and disregard what is
really going on. My response to them: “If you aren’t part of the solu-
tion, you are part of the problem and it’s time for you to retire!” We
need forward-thinking executives who truly want the Los Angeles
County Sheriff’s Department to be the greatest Department in the
world. Not cover up misdeeds. Not act like there is nothing wrong.
Not lie to the Sheriff or keep information from him. We need leaders
who face the challenges head-on and find solutions. So let’s look at
how the Department did in 2017.

Organizational Changes

It took Jim McDonnell several
years to make changes at the
executive level, but he finally
did so earlier this year. This
was something we had requested since
the day he took office. In order for him to
fix what was wrong in the Department, he
needed to replace the old leadership with
new leaders who would take the Depart-
ment forward. Unfortunately, McDonnell
did not make changes right away, and corruption
and nepotism continued. How could it be as
bad as when Baca and Tanaka were running
the Department? In my opinion, the people
changed, but the same favoritism and abuse of
power still existed. It was just different people
abusing their position.

Finally, early this year, McDonnell selected
his executive team, and it is too early for a full
assessment of their performance. I have seen
good and bad with their decision-making. I
have seen questionable conduct by some of
them and I have still seen abuses of power
and favoritism. But in fairness to McDonnell,
he has made choices from the deck he was
dealt and it has been an improvement. I have
worked with most of the executives in some
fashion over my career, and I know we can
work with the team in place now.

The most significant positive organizational
change was bringing in an outside person with
a budget background to manage the $2.6 bil-
lion budget. Assistant Sheriff Jill Serrano will
hopefully correct some of the financial mis-
management and manipulation and steer the
Department on a more ethical and responsible
path. It is too early to assess her effective-
ness, but I am impressed by some of the
decisions she has made in such a short period.

We continue to have issues with the Con-
stitutional Policing Advisors (CPAs), who have
far too much influence in personnel decisions
involving discipline. I must reiterate what I said
last year: The CPA positions were created in
violation of law (meet and confer require-
ments), as well as in violation of our MOU.
The Department not only lied about the role
of CPAs (ironic, considering the strict hon-
esty policy) but, rather than admit the error
of their ways, they also make excuses and
circle the wagons to defend their position.
We are grateful that, following our concerns
about the influence the CPAs were having on
decisions that should be made at the captain
or chief level, the Sheriff addressed the issue
to some degree. A new policy was created,
outlining the involvement of CPAs and the
emphasis that the chiefs and captains have the
ultimate decision-making authority on
discipline. Our labor representatives and attor-
neys have noticed a change when dealing with
Department managers, who now are making
decisions with “less” interference from the
CPAs. Still, we believe the CPAs should be
completely removed from the process and
serve no real purpose for disciplinary matters.
They should focus on constitutional issues
only and not be involved in areas outside of
their responsibility. Frankly, the Sheriff should
eliminate the CPA positions and hold his exec-
utives accountable for all their decisions. It is
as simple as that.

The Department received an improved B–
rating because of the positive changes Jim
McDonnell made in his leadership team. He
needs to continue to make more changes and,
above all else, demand accountability of those
on his team. One significant change he needs
to consider is the elimination of the CPAs al-
together, or the removal of the CPAs from the
disciplinary process.

Promotions

The Sheriff’s Department con-
tinues to have problems with the
promotional process for every
rank. There is no rhyme or rea-
son behind their selections. After a recent
promotion to captain of an executive’s aide, I
asked the executive why he promoted his aide,
who had very little experience, very little time
in grade and had not worked the field super-
vising others. His response was shocking:
He said that because this lieutenant worked
directly for him, he knew he was capable of
being a good captain. Really? That was this executive’s criteria? What about all the other lieutenants who had more experience, more leadership skills, more education and more time in grade ... but had not worked for him? Because he did not know them, they were not considered for promotion? What a horrible message to send to all the lieutenants!

The blame, however, lies with the Sheriff himself. McDonnell needs to establish criteria for promotions that eliminate favoritism and nepotism and, instead, compare the resumes of every lieutenant to select the most qualified. Because the decision makers have proven themselves unable to fairly select the most qualified candidates, maybe the resumes should be blinded (no names) and should include experience, discipline, education, demonstrated leadership, managed projects and charitable services. Or maybe the decision should be made by a third-party promotional company that has expertise in this area. I don’t know the answer, but I know the current system is broken. We have advocated to eliminate banding and to promote in numerical order, which would eliminate favoritism in the selection process and eliminate employees moving around (e.g., becoming an executive aide before having adequate field experience) simply to get promoted. We can all support promoting the person with the highest score. Of course, this means the Department’s exam process must be a validated process, but that, too, can be accomplished.

Department executives have shown their bias and inability to select employees based on merit. It is time for the Sheriff to decide if the selection process should be removed from the hands of his executives (a numbered list would fix this problem) or placed in the hands of a third-party exams specialist. If the Sheriff makes no changes to the current process, he is acknowledging his acceptance of a bias and unfair promotional process. This is what got the Department in trouble in the past, and we hope this Sheriff does not make the same mistake.

The Department has taken no steps this year in improving the selection process. We once again recommend the following, which will allow for the needs of the Department while promoting those whose deserve to be promoted:

“The Department would receive a higher rating if it switched to a numbered list, which would remove all the posturing and promote candidates based on their scores. To address a ‘needs of the Department’ issue such as needing a female or foreign-language-speaking person at a specific assignment, the Department should institute the ‘rule of five’ or the ‘rule of 10.’ This would allow the Department to choose someone lower on the list (but no lower than five or 10 individuals). But in doing so, it guarantees everyone above that in the group of five or 10 to be promoted before being allowed to go to the next group of five or 10.” — Recommendation from 2016

**Accountability and Transparency**

The reason for this low grade is largely due to a double standard that exists between accountability for executives and accountability for everyone else. Sadly, we have heard of instances where Department executives have avoided investigation and discipline while lower-ranking employees are being disciplined and fired. I don’t need to go into specifics or discuss a particular executive, but we know it is happening. What is uncertain is whether Sheriff McDonnell is aware it is happening. We all know that in the past, former Sheriff Lee Baca was kept in the dark on some issues by his subordinate executives. We do not know whether this action is still occurring, or if Sheriff McDonnell is aware of what is going on. If he isn’t aware, Sheriff McDonnell needs to do the tough thing that all leaders must do: He must demand integrity at the highest levels and be willing to investigate his executives and hold them accountable. He must not tolerate any abuse of power by executives, and he must make it perfectly clear to all of them that it will not be tolerated.

Another area of concern is transparency, or lack thereof. We all know about the debacle over the car stickers, changing the “o” in “Tradition of Service” to a lowercase “o.” Hundreds of thousands of dollars were wasted on changing stickers on old cars that were getting ready to be retired from service. But the disturbing part is the cover-up and the lies that were given to the media about the cost of the stickers and the labor involved. For a Sheriff to espouse a strong commitment to integrity, how does he allow subordinate executives to commit such acts with impunity? Sheriff McDonnell needs to fully investigate the misconduct of his subordinate executives and hold them accountable. It is not a pleasant thing to do, and probably one of the hardest things to do as a leader. But it needs to be done.

I would be remiss if I didn’t address the Sheriff’s position on accountability and transparency to the public. Earlier this year, the Sheriff’s Department tried to release the names of 300-plus employees with perceived Brady issues to the District Attorney’s Office. ALADS filed a lawsuit on behalf of these employees (including PPOA members). The court has stopped the Department from releasing the information, but the Department is challenging it through the courts. The Department claims this is important for transparency from the perception of the public (i.e., ACLU, reporters, BLM). It is more about a Sheriff being influenced by his liberal civilian handlers (i.e., CPAs) and media relations people to project a positive image to anti-cop folks. For lack of a better explanation, I suspect the Sheriff and his executives were manipulated into believing the release of this information was necessary, lawful and would make the Sheriff look good publicly. But it was not necessary at all, which is why it’s not being done in other jurisdictions. It is not lawful, at least so far, from the court’s perspective. It may have looked good to anti-cop groups, but it certainly looked bad to the employees of the Sheriff’s Department. I had many members complain about the lack of support from the Department. It doesn’t look good when you volunteer to discredit your own employees, especially when there was no vetting, review or appeal process for the employees prior to being placed on this list. Many are on the list for acts committed 20 years ago. This “battle over Brady” has really soured the employees against the Department and Sheriff McDonnell.

**Discipline, Investigations and Relieved of Duty Status**

The Department has made some improvements in this area, but it is a long way from where it needs to be. It has
increased the number of IAB investigators, which was one of our recommendations. This has helped prevent investigators from taking shortcuts and jumping to flawed conclusions. Relieved of duty cases have improved significantly from Jim McDonnell’s first year, which was quite abusive, but it still needs work. The Department needs to follow its own policy and use ROD when there appears to be a violation that would result in significant discipline or termination. I have discussed this with some executives who believe the policy states that employees should be relieved of duty if the allegation could lead to significant discipline or termination. Then maybe the policy needs to be reviewed. If that’s the case, you may want to hold on tight, because a person can allege just about anything against just about anyone, including executives. If that is the Department’s criteria, they may be in for a rude awakening when they are put to the task of applying this standard to themselves.

Although I believe it has a long way to go to improve the area of discipline and investigations, the Department has done a better job this past year and earned an average rating. But the Department could receive a higher rating if it changed the ROD policy and utilized it sparingly, only when necessary, with an understanding that getting ROD is a significant event in our careers. As stated before, removing the CPAs from the investigatory and disciplinary process would also help in earning a higher rating. We strongly believe that captains, commanders and chiefs are fully capable of making decisions and should be accountable for their decisions. They should be provided with written guidelines and the flexibility to take into consideration the uniqueness of each case and each employee.

Morale

Morale is still a major problem in the Sheriff’s Department, and little has been done to improve it. Staffing shortages are still much too high, overtime is excessive, CARPing is still being used at some units, discipline is excessive and inconsistent, ROD is improperly used, the promotion system is unfair, and the list goes on and on. These problems become exacerbated when the Department spends money on changing stickers on patrol cars instead of funding recruitment to address a hiring shortage. These problems become a bigger issue to the troops when executives avoid discipline or even becoming subjects of investigations while line-level employees are being fired for far lesser violations.

Fortunately for the Sheriff, most employees still work hard even when morale is low. That’s a testament to their work ethic and dedication to the oath they took. But it shouldn’t be that way. The Department desperately needs to address the morale problem. I have recommended for years that the Sheriff go to a patrol station unannounced to ride with a deputy or sergeant and ask them how they feel about the Department. He will get a much more accurate assessment than listening to the yes-men around him who are telling him everything is “A-OK, boss.”

Compassion and Cooperation

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I am creating this category because I think it is important for our members to know about my interaction and observations of Jim McDonnell himself, not the Department. I understand that he is ultimately responsible for all the low ratings above, and we still have major concerns with the effectiveness of leadership. But this category is about my observations of McDonnell’s compassion toward the employees, his respect toward PPOA and his willingness to resolve issues we bring to him. These are things most employees never see. Over the past three years, I have seen McDonnell quickly respond to officers killed in the line of duty, employees who died off-duty, and employees seriously injured or ill. This may seem like no big deal to many who think the Sheriff should drop everything and respond to care for his employees during such difficult times. But McDonnell is different than what I have seen in the past. When the shooting occurred in Las Vegas earlier in the year, McDonnell flew out there and met with our injured employees immediately. When a custody assistant was killed in a tragic off-duty car accident, he was there consoling the C/A’s family and spoke at the memorial services. During every tragedy this past year, McDonnell was there for our members and their families. I believe McDonnell has a great deal of compassion for injured or sick employees and the families of those who have died.

McDonnell has also been very responsive to PPOAs inquiries and issues. I have brought several specific issues to him, and many of them were resolved directly by him. Granted, many are minor issues in which a subordinate executive made a bad decision. But nonetheless, many sheriffs would stand firm on a management decision regardless of whether it was right or wrong. He has also notified us of critical issues of importance to PPOA and our members by personally calling or texting me. This response may seem minor to some, but it is a sign that he is thinking of PPOA when issues come up. He has worked with our recommendations, such as creating the recruitment task force, and he has allowed us to interview him on specific topics of concern to our members. Because of all this, I am grateful for our access to him and his cooperation with PPOA. There are still many bigger issues that he needs to address before they end up in litigation. I am hopeful that he will continue to listen to reason and make decisions that are best for the employees, best for the Sheriff’s Department and best for the County of Los Angeles.

Summary

The biggest improvements at the Sheriff’s Department in 2017 were the selection of new leadership to move the Department forward, the creation of a recruitment task force, the compassion shown by Sheriff McDonnell toward his employees, and the cooperation and relationship between PPOA and the Department. The biggest failures were a continuing unfair and unjust promotional process, low morale, excessive discipline and ROD process, and a double standard between executives and the rest of the employees. These are critical problems that the Sheriff needs to make a priority in 2018 to truly move the Department forward. The men and women of the Sheriff’s Department deserve no less.
Los Angeles was a starkly different world in 1951 than the one we know today. The size and shape of the county and its law enforcement agencies underwent dramatic shifts, seemingly from one day to the next. In the span of 15 years (1945–1960), Angelenos were introduced to three of the largest public housing developments west of the Mississippi River, the Rams, the Dodgers, the Lakers, In-N-Out Burger, the world's first four-level freeway interchange and more. During that time, the L.A. County population doubled from three million to six million. California newcomers poured into communities like Lakewood, where the number of residents exploded from 15,000 in 1948 to 90,000 in 1952. In other words, this was a time like no other for the L.A. region, and the growing pains were evident.

While Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz and District Attorney William Simpson were devising plans to protect the public from Mickey Cohen and an “influx of Eastern killer hoodlums,” deputies and DA investigators were concerned about their own livelihoods and careers. Increased responsibilities, rapid growth, and threats to rights and benefits all played a role in prompting employees from the Sheriff’s Department, the DA’s Office and the Coroner’s Office to meet late one evening in 1951 at the Hall of Records. They shared ideas about how to collectively protect their general welfare as peace officers, shook hands and agreed to form the Los Angeles County Peace Officers Protective Association (POPA).

The Board retained an attorney and provided each union member with false-arrest insurance. POPA’s initial efforts centered on defending members’ rights, convincing the County to issue a pay increase and fighting the 1952 proposal to abolish public employee retirement systems. In this sense, POPA’s most important responsibilities have remained unchanged over the last 60 years. The union’s perseverance has resulted in a much-expanded role: PPOA (the acronym was altered slightly from “POPA” in 1978, but the original pronunciation has stuck) is now one of the most influential law enforcement associations in the nation. Few single-employer unions have as much impact locally and statewide as this one. In six decades of service, PPOA has accomplished much more than could be listed on this page. A few highlights include:

**4850 Time**
POPA sponsored legislation in the 1960s to establish a key benefit for peace officers: paid time off for line-of-duty injuries. Additional legal action in the early 1990s secured 4850 time for custody assistants.

**Retirement Credit**
POPA’s efforts in 1972 resulted in a military buy-back program for L.A. County in which peace officers can make a retirement contribution for years in the military and get additional credited service for retirement.

**Disability Coverage**
In 1990, PPOA cofounded the Peace Officers Relief Fund (PORF), which provides 100 percent employer-paid, long-term disability income, as well as life insurance coverage.

**Safety Equipment**
Thanks to PPOA’s efforts over the years, peace officers no longer have to purchase their own firearms and safety equipment (e.g., vests), as well became standard issue by Los Angeles County.

**Medical Presumptions**
POPA’s full-time legislatice efforts have paid off efficiently over the last three decades, resulting in presumptions for cancer, blood-borne pathogens, heart disease, lower-back (duty belt) injuries, staph infections and more.

**POPA Federal Credit Union**
POPA members established their own credit union in 1978. The full-service, nonprofit, member-owned institution now offers four full-service locations in Los Angeles County for all PPOA members.

**Fraternal Order of Police**
In 2005, PPOA affiliated with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) — the world’s largest organization of law enforcement officers (325,000 strong). The FOP provides PPOA members with a national voice on legislation and a crucial legal defense plan. The FOP was also the driving force behind HR 218 (enacted in 2004), which allows active and retired officers to carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of state or local laws.

**Ventura II Lawsuit**
In 2006, a lawsuit filed by PPOA successfully increased pension benefits for future retirees and added $200 million in benefits for those already retired.

**Scholarships**
Every year, PPOA offers 12 scholarships worth $13,500 total to help further education for PPOA members and their dependents.

**PPOA Online Uniform Store**
POPA members can purchase uniform apparel and accessories at discounts up to 35 percent off retail prices. The store is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**Star & Shield Charitable Foundation**
POPA’s Star & Shield Foundation provides financial support to families of fallen officers, members in need and worthy causes.

**New Members**
POPA proudly enrolled 389 new members in 2017, bringing total membership to 9,046 (a record number for this association). The state of your union is strong, and we are fully committed to forging ahead in 2018 as a leader among the nation’s most effective law enforcement associations.
If you are reading this, you are most likely a valued member of the law enforcement family. In this family, we proudly take care of our own. That’s exactly why PPOA members established the Star & Shield Foundation (originally named the Professional Peace Officers Charitable Foundation) in 2001. Since then, the Foundation has proudly raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support worthy organizations and causes. The most important of our missions is providing assistance to the families of fallen officers.

As you can imagine, the challenges (emotional, financial and otherwise) facing family members of a peace officer killed in the line of duty can be completely overwhelming. In addition to delivering immediate funds to the survivors, the Star & Shield Foundation helps family members navigate the pressing schedule of events held to honor fallen officers.

The Foundation’s most significant fundraiser is our annual Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament held each June. The first 11 annual tournaments have netted approximately $500,000 for families of fallen officers. The upcoming tournament will be held on June 11, 2018, at Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier. If you would like to support our Foundation as a tournament sponsor or volunteer, please call the PPOA office at (800) 747-PPOA.

More information about each of our 2018 events will be available via Star & Shield magazine, PPOA.com, social media, email blasts, and the enclosed calendar and benefits booklet.

All Foundation proceeds stem directly from fundraising, merchandise sales and the generosity of donors. The mission of your Foundation would not be possible without the generosity of countless PPOA members and the extended law enforcement community. Please consider a one-time tax-deductible donation or setting up a monthly payroll deduction to help the Star & Shield Foundation continue its dedication to families of the fallen. Call (800) 747-PPOA or email info@ppoa.com for more information.

The Star & Shield Foundation is governed by the following individuals:

**Star & Shield Foundation Board Members**
- Brian Moriguchi (Sheriff’s Department)
- Jim Schallert (Sheriff’s Department)
- Jim Blankenship (Sheriff’s Department)
- Rogelio Maldonado (District Attorney’s Office)
- Kevin Thompson (PPOA)
- Jim Cronin (Sheriff’s Department, retired)

**Board of Governors**
- Jackie Lacey (District Attorney), Co-Chair
- Jim McDonnell (Sheriff), Co-Chair
- Paul Roller (PPOA)
- Gold Lee (Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke, Sherwin & Lee)
- Julie Sherman (Straussner Sherman)
- Aaron Straussner (Straussner Sherman)
- Richard Cohn (Landsberg Orora North America)
- Mark Deitch (911MEDIA)
- Cary Fletcher (RaSport Inc.)
- Suzy Campeau (Lavi Spine and Ortho)

Partial list of recipients supported by PPOA and the Star & Shield Foundation in 2017:
- BBQ/Bone Marrow Match Event for Sergeant Jorge Chavez
- Breast Cancer Research Foundation
- California Community Foundation
- Children’s Advocacy Center
- Children’s Camp: United Peace Officers Against Crime
- Concerns of Police Survivors
- Crime Survivors: Survive & Thrive Run
- Devil Pups, Inc.
- Fallen Heroes Fund
- Family of fallen Alameda County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Mike Foley
- Family of fallen California Highway Patrol Officer Lucas Chellew
- Family of fallen Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department Deputy Robert French
- Family of fallen Whittier Police Department Officer Keith Boyer
- Fight for Life: City of Hope
- Fueled by the Fallen
- L.A. National Cemetery Support Foundation
- LADA Pink Patch Program
- National Peace Officers Memorial Lunch
- SAPOA Widows and Orphans Fund
- Sergeant Steve Owen Highway Memorial Sign
- Sheriff’s Relief Association
- Special Olympics
- STAR 6 Foundation
- Survivors Memorial Fund
Defending workplace rights is the most crucial mission of any truly effective labor union. For the past six decades, PPOA labor representatives have worked around the clock (they are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year) to ensure that all members of this union receive the professional respect, employment rights and legal protections to which they are entitled. After all, you have a right to work under conditions that permit your job to be done safely and effectively. Most importantly, you have a right to experienced, professional union representation. Your union reps and attorneys are starkly different from the lawyers peddling their services in middle-of-the-night, low-budget television commercials. In fact, each and every member of the PPOA defense rep team has more than 20 years of experience with law enforcement and/or labor union representation.

Since January 2017, the PPOA staff has received thousands of calls from members dealing with various issues. More than 700 of those calls were forwarded to PPOA’s labor representation team. In the end, approximately 300 became cases handled by our in-house labor representatives and/or attorneys — the rest were resolved informally via telephone, meetings, conflict resolution or correspondence.

Of the cases handled by the PPOA labor representation team in 2017:

- 111 were internal investigations
- 60 were grievances that either began as such or became such as a result of the investigation
- 10 were civil service appeals
- 8 were internal criminal investigations

PPOA labor representatives and attorneys (no less than half a dozen specialized firms) are uniquely experienced and familiar with local, county, state and federal administrative agencies and the laws that govern all aspects of the workplace. This allows PPOA to provide skilled representation in every area of labor, including but not limited to:

- Arbitration
- Contract enforcement
- IAB investigations
- ICIB investigations
- Grievances
- Unit-level investigations
- Unfair labor practices
- Workplace issues

If you are not a dues-paying PPOA member, we encourage you to join the union and protect your career. If you are a member, we thank you for helping your union move forward and remind you to call PPOA as soon as you suspect anything may go awry at work. We can help. It’s what we do for members every day.
Four years ago, PPOA established its own in-house insurance agency. Understandably, some members have asked “Why?” The answer is fairly straightforward: Your union set up the PPOA Insurance Agency for the same reasons it established a credit union, a college scholarship program and an online uniform store. All of these benefits are designed to help PPOA members save money and achieve financial stability. By eliminating insurance middlemen (brokers often unfamiliar with the needs of law enforcement personnel), our insurance agency ensures that PPOA members will not be coerced into purchasing overlapping policies from multiple agents who represent multiple insurance providers (this happens more than you’d think). PPOA insurance reps don’t work for insurance companies; they work for you. They provide a no-obligation review of your coverage and will be frank with you about the coverage you may need or, just as importantly, the coverage you don’t need.

We believe that the best way to help you obtain the best coverage — at the best possible price — is to help you understand what you need to know about insurance. Have you ever wondered what kind of damage is covered by a basic homeowners policy? Or what types of coverage are generally included in a standard personal auto policy? Want to find out about a disability income policy? Have you ever wondered how much of your paycheck you can protect and how much it would cost? Are you curious about when the time is right to apply for long-term care? Want to know whether an HMO or PPO is best for you and your family? What’s the difference between a disability income policy and a long-term care policy?

We want your insurance to work hard for you and your family. Let us help you find the right protection while giving you the peace of mind that comes with knowing you are covered. The PPOA Insurance Agency is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and professionalism in our relationship with you, our client. Our mission is to help your reach your financial goals.

**Disability Income Protection**
Provides income to those who are injured on the job, are sick or can’t work. Does not require you to use or exhaust sick time or vacation time, but does allow you to replace up 40 percent of your income (in addition to state disability income).

**Critical Illness**
Relieves financial pressure caused by health issues like heart attacks, strokes or cancer. It provides a lump-sum benefit for covered illnesses — ideal for those who don’t have funds to cover at least six months of expenses saved in the bank.

**Accident Expense**
Pays benefit amount based on covered injury. Preferred by people who benefit from, or have children engaged in, sports or recreational activities.

**Life Insurance**
Term policy with death benefit up to $350,000. Does not require a physical or blood/urine tests.

**Homeowners, Auto, Boat Insurance and Much More!**
Discounted rates extended to all PPOA members. PPOA Insurance Agency representatives visit L.A. County work sites regularly to meet with our members and discuss insurance-related issues. If you’d like them to visit your work location, please contact PPOIA at (909) 599-8627.

PPOA Insurance Agency
188 E. Arrow Hwy
San Dimas, CA 91773
www.ppoia.com
As a PPOA member, you have access to an array of benefits that extend far beyond your workplace. The strength and size of your union has helped PPOA secure group discounts and exclusive programs not normally available to individual consumers. In fact, a quick glance at the benefits, perks and privileges listed below makes it easy to see how PPOA members can easily save enough money to offset monthly union dues.

**POPA Federal Credit Union**
POPAC Federal Credit Union is full-service, nonprofit and member-owned, with more than $170 million in assets and four full-service locations in Los Angeles County.

**Free Non-Job-Related Legal Advice**
One free consultation with an attorney is available each year for every PPOA member.

**Free Insurance Coverage**
POPAC members (active and retired) are given a $4,000 accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance policy at no cost. Plus, active POPA members receive an additional $4,000 in AD&D and life insurance policies.

**Legal Defense Plan**
Active PPOA members are provided with defense coverage for civil and criminal actions arising in the scope of duties.

**Peace Officers Relief Fund (PORF)**
POPAC administers this free, long-term disability coverage and $100,000 life insurance policy for active, sworn members.

**POPA Insurance Agency**
POPAC members have access to an array of plans designed to complement County-provided benefits, including disability income protection, critical illness, accident expense, homeowners, auto, boat, motorcycle and more.

**Star & Shield Magazine**
A complimentary subscription to PPOA’s official magazine is given to all members.

**Star & Shield Magazine Contest Rewards**
POPAC members have won thousands of dollars in prizes by entering contests posted in each issue of Star & Shield magazine.

**Star & Shield Foundation Uniform Store**
POPAC members save up to 35 percent off retail prices for LASD uniforms purchased through PPOA.com.

**Annual Calendar & Benefits Booklet**
Members receive a pocket-sized resource listing PPOA benefits and the Smart Saver Blue Pages — a directory of local businesses offering special discounts to PPOA members.

**Group Discounts**
Members enjoy exclusive deals for amusement parks, movie theaters, cellphone service and more.

**Free Notary Service**
There is an experienced notary public on staff available to PPOA members at no charge.

**Pre-Labor Day Barbecue**
Hundreds of members and 30-plus vendors gather annually for free food, prizes and fun.

**Annual PPOA Fishing Trip**
A private boat for PPOA members is chartered every summer for a day of angling near Catalina Island.

**Purchasing Power**
Members who enjoy online shopping can now do so with convenient payroll deduction plans.

**LEO Web Protect**
POPAC members can protect personal privacy by having their information removed from the Web.

**Healthview Body Scan**
Active members carrying ALADS Blue Cross insurance are eligible for a free, noninvasive scan and consultation.

**Red Book Auto Fleet Discount**
Members save both time and money when purchasing a new vehicle via the Red Book.

**POPA Conference Center**
A modern, multiuse conference center is available to members at no charge.

**Estate Planning**
United Estate Planning offers peace of mind and exclusive discounts to PPOA members.

**Rose Hills Memorial Park**
Members are entitled to exclusive discounts and convenient payment plans.

**Financial Planning**
PPOA's financial planning team is available to assist members through education, analysis and personal program planning.

**Annual Retiree Luncheon**
For 12 years running, PPOA has hosted a free lunch reunion at the Sheraton Fairplex for its retired members and guests.

**PPOA Mobile Barbecue**
In 2016, PPOA purchased a barbecue trailer as a means to help the Board and staff meet with members at assignments throughout the county while providing freshly grilled meals. We also plan to use the trailer to support law enforcement employees deployed to critical incidents.

**PPOA Annual College Scholarships**
Every year, PPOA awards 12 college scholarships worth $13,500 total to members and their dependents.

**Affiliations**
PPOA members benefit from affiliations with a number of significant associations, including Southern California Alliance of Law Enforcement, California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations, Fraternal Order of Police, Public Employees Staff Organization, California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation and more.
Per tradition, California lawmakers burned the midnight oil before the final gavel fell to mark the end of session in September. The looming deadline resulted in hundreds of bills being debated in the last 48 hours of the session. As most California residents are aware, legislators passed sweeping new legislation this year to address hot-button issues like illegal immigration and the state’s housing crunch. Through it all, PPOA lobbyists were actively seeking passage of bills we sponsored or supported while simultaneously seeking to halt legislation that would adversely affect law enforcement. Your union’s commitment to the legislative process stretches back more than 30 years and has greatly impacted the rights and benefits of thousands of PPOA members.

Here is a partial list of bills introduced in this year’s legislative session that PPOA actively sponsored, supported or opposed:

**Sponsored by PPOA**

**AB 1298: Peace Officers Procedural Rights**
- Authored by Assembly Member Santiago
- **Status: Active bill, in committee**

This bill would require, when any public safety officer is under investigation and subject to interrogation by his or her commanding officer, or any other member of the employing public safety department, on the allegation of making a false statement, that any administrative finding of the false statement shall require proof based on clear and convincing evidence. The bill would specify that this provision would apply only to allegations of false statements and would not apply to or affect any other allegation or charge against the public safety officer.

**AB 1408: Parole — Supervised Release**
- Authored by Assembly Members Cooper, Dababneh and Lackey
- **Status: Vetoed by the governor**

This bill would provide a range of important reforms associated with managing the population of ex-offenders who are subject to post-release community supervision, and does so in a manner that can be expected to enhance public safety in our communities.

**AB 1428: Peace Officer Transparency**
- Authored by Assembly Member Low
- **Status: Active bill, in committee**

This bill would increase positive communication between law enforcement and the communities they serve. It specifically addresses written notifications regarding complaint investigations, mediation programs to resolve biased policing complaints and more. Ultimately, it would provide a better balance of transparency and accountability while still protecting the safety of officers and victims.

**ACR 31: Sergeant Steven C. Owen Memorial Highway**
- Authored by Assembly Member Lackey
- **Status: Chaptered by secretary of state on August 31, 2017**

This Assembly Concurrent Resolution designates a specified portion of Highway 14 in Palmdale as the L.A. County Sheriff’s Sergeant Steven C. Owen Memorial Highway.

**SB 655: POBAR — Coroners and Deputy Coroners**
- Authored by Senator Galgiani
- **Status: Active bill, in committee**

This bill would include coroners and deputy coroners within the application of the Public Safety Officers Procedural Officers act, thereby creating a state-mandated local program by imposing new duties on local agencies to follow the requirements of the act with respect to these officials.

**Actively Opposed by PPOA**

**AB 42: Bail — Pretrial Release**
- Authored by Assembly Members Bonta, Bloom, Chiu, Jones-Sawyer, Quirk and Stone
- **Status: Failed**

This bill would require agencies that offer pretrial services — all but a handful of counties already have them — to do a risk assessment of defendants soon after they are arrested. The assessment and accompanying recommendations would be sent to a judge, magistrate or court commissioner, who would then order the release of defendants — with or without conditions — within a certain number of hours.

**SB 10: Bail — Pretrial Release**
- Authored by Assembly Members Bonta, Bloom, Chiu, Jones-Sawyer, Quirk and Stone
- **Status: Held until 2018**

This bill would largely eliminate the use of money bail by having courts rely instead on assessments of an offender’s flight risk and danger to public safety.

**AB 221: Workers’ Compensation — Liability for Payments**
- Authored by Assembly Member Gray
- **Status: Failed**

This bill would have reduced or eliminated access to reasonable and necessary medical treatment to cure or relieve cumulative trauma injuries for injured workers. It allowed the workers’ compensation insurance carrier (and the employee) to bear no liability for medical treatment under certain circumstances.
**Supporting a Member in Need**

PPOA participated in a fundraiser to support Sergeant Jorge Chavez in his battle with leukemia. The 17-year LASD veteran was in need of a lifesaving marrow donor, and this event at San Dimas Station resulted in nearly 200 people stepping forward to be tested for a possible match. In addition, union staff and volunteers fired up PPOA’s mobile barbecue trailer to grill lunch for all in attendance.

**Sheriff Interview**

Sheriff Jim McDonnell was the subject of an extensive three-part video interview at PPOA in January, specifically to address the issue of Department morale. That video remains viewable at PPOA.com.

### JANUARY

**Death Penalty Discussion**

Sacramento County District Attorney Ann-Marie Schubert visited the PPOA Board meeting for a discussion about the challenges facing efforts to fix California’s death penalty.

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**Barbecue for Custody**

PPOA staff, Board members and volunteers grilled lunch for hundreds of hungry custody personnel at MCJ/TTCF/IRC.
Addressing Dangers of Prison Reform
PPOA President Brian Moriguchi joined legislators and law enforcement officials to introduce AB 1408, a bill designed to address the issues that police have with prison reform measures, including AB 109. The bill was drafted in response to the murder of Whittier Police Officer Keith Boyer in February.

Heroes Ride
PPOA’s Star & Shield Foundation proudly welcomed more than 250 motorcycle riders for the 5th Annual Heroes Ride and Car Show. The escorted ride from the Hollywood Bowl to Biscailuz Center paid tribute to fallen officers and military veterans.

APRIL

New Challenge Coin Honors Fallen PPOA Members
The Star & Shield Foundation unveiled a new memorial challenge coin to honor two fallen PPOA members. The polished, detailed coin features the names and badge numbers of LASD Sergeants Steve Owen and Al Lopez. The coins are available at PPOA.com, and all proceeds benefit the Star & Shield Foundation.

MAY

Al Le Bas Remembered
PPOA representatives were proud to stand alongside the widow of Al Le Bas as the former LASD chief and U.S. Army lieutenant was honored in a tree-planting ceremony at Pitchess Detention Center. Le Bas was an original member of PPOA when the union was formed in 1951, and a trusted friend to many in the LASD family.
MAY

L.A. County Peace Officers’ Memorial
PPOA was proud to sponsor the 48th Annual Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremony held at Biscailuz Center Training Academy.

JUNE

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
PPOA and the Star & Shield Foundation co-hosted a luncheon for LASD and LAPD personnel attending the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony in Washington, D.C., and helped pay travel expenses for PPOA members who were on hand to pay tribute to fallen comrades.

California Peace Officers’ Memorial
The Star & Shield Foundation paid travel expenses for the families of Sergeants Steve Owen and Al Lopez to attend the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Ceremony in Sacramento.

Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament
PPOA hosted the 11th Annual Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament at Friendly Hills Country Club. Thanks to generous sponsors, volunteers and golfers, these tournaments have raised approximately $500,000 for the families of fallen officers.
**JULY**

**PPOA Scholarships**
PPOA proudly presented $13,500 in college scholarships to a roomful of bright young minds. These scholarships are awarded annually to PPOA members and their dependents.

**AUGUST**

**PPOA Members Address County Supervisors Regarding Commission**
PPOA recruited members to speak at a County Board of Supervisors meeting about the importance of establishing a new public safety commission to address the impact of criminal justice reform. For more on that commission, see page 19.

**SEPTEMBER**

**Another Cop Killer’s Parole Overturned**
PPOA spearheaded a law enforcement effort to petition the governor to overturn a grant of parole for the man who murdered LAPD Officer Duane Johnson in 1984. Thankfully, the governor agreed to keep the cop killer behind bars.

**PPOA Helps Overturn Parole for Cop Killer**
PPOA helped organize a large committee of law enforcement organizations to petition the governor to overturn the grant of parole given to a cop killer who murdered San Diego police officer Archie Buggs in 1978. To his credit, the governor denied parole for the former gang member.
2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER

**Labor Day BBQ**
PPOA hosted its 17th Annual Labor Day BBQ at Biscailuz Center and proudly fed hundreds of union members who joined us for a fun afternoon.

**Las Vegas Shooting**
PPOA Board members Brian Moriguchi and Chris Lee flew to Las Vegas immediately following the mass shooting, in order to assist PPOA members and other law enforcement personnel impacted by the tragedy.

OCTOBER

**Valor Awards**
PPOA proudly sponsored the 2017 LASD Valor Awards, in which more than 60 deputies, sergeants and lieutenants were honored by the Department for acts of sacrifice, heroism and courage.

**Honoring Steve Owen**
PPOA was proud to sponsor and help coordinate the dedication of a freeway sign honoring fallen Sergeant Steve Owen.
Unit 612 Negotiations
The PPOA Unit 612 negotiating team officially opened salary contract talks with the County on November 16. The Unit 612 contract expires on January 31, 2018.

Help in the Wake of Tragedy
Following the tragic car accident that claimed the life of Custody Assistant Anthony Thompson Jr. on November 19, PPOA immediately offered support to his mother, LASD Sergeant Ottawa Cureton, sponsored a reception for family and friends following the memorial service, and facilitated an online donation page via the Star & Shield Foundation to help Anthony’s family in their time of need.

OCTOBER

PPOA President Appointed to Commission
PPOA President Brian Moriguchi was appointed to the newly formed L.A. County Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Safety. Two months earlier, PPOA members testified in support of the commission to help County supervisors get a closer look at the dangerous impact of Props 47 and 57 and AB 109.

NOVEMBER

PPOA Director Pushes for Initiative to Counter Prop 47
New Executive Director Wayne Quint joined the coalition of cops and prosecutors speaking on the steps of the State Capitol on October 30 to advocate for a proposed initiative that would reverse specific elements of Prop 47 while adding 15 crimes to the list of violent crimes without possibility of early release.
Everything that PPOA has accomplished in 67 years of existence is due in large part to actively involved members. From lawsuits to contracts to legislation, generations of PPOA members have stepped forward to be difference-makers. Your own level of involvement is up to you, as PPOA membership presents plenty of opportunities to be a part of the process. Traditionally, only 2 to 3 percent of PPOA members contribute time to important roles such as the Board of Directors, negotiating teams, committees, event volunteers and the crucial network of members known as PPOA delegates.

Your union is represented by more than 150 delegates at facilities throughout the county. The role of the PPOA delegate is vital in facilitating effective communication between the union’s Board, staff and membership. Quarterly meetings are held midweek at various facilities in order to discuss all union-related topics with delegates.

The first meeting of 2018 is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, at Almansor Court in Alhambra.

In addition to meetings, delegates receive updates (via email and County mail) containing updates from PPOA on issues affecting members. Delegates are asked to make this information accessible to their co-workers. PPOA also calls upon delegates when input is needed on classification-specific topics, or when opportunities arise to serve on a committee or attend union-related events.

Do you have a desire to get more involved and be “in the know” when it comes to issues your union is tackling? All active PPOA members are invited to become delegates. Remember that you are the union, and progress for your classification is deeply dependent on how active you are as a PPOA member and what you are willing to do to take steps forward.

If you are interested in becoming an actively participating delegate, please contact Greg Torres at gtorres@ppoa.com.
Year after year, PPOA commits to the solemn yet honorable task of assisting family members dealing with the loss of a fallen officer. Assistance from the Star & Shield Foundation is provided in a number of ways — from straight donations to sponsoring entire families as they attend memorial ceremonies in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

The Star & Shield Foundation is a prime example of your union’s dedication to law enforcement personnel and their families. The Foundation currently hosts no fewer than three events annually to raise funds for members of the law enforcement community in need. These include the Peace Officer Memorial Golf Tournament, Heroes Ride and Oktoberfest. If you would like to partner with us as a sponsor, participant or volunteer at any of these events, please call the PPOA office at (800) 747-PPOA.

Most importantly, PPOA extends heartfelt condolences to the families of the following peace officers who died in the line of duty in California in 2017:

- **Officer Gerardo Silva**
  Redwood City Police Department
  EOW: January 20, 2017
  Cause of death: Heart attack

- **Officer Keith Boyer**
  Whittier Police Department
  EOW: February 20, 2017
  Cause of death: Gunfire

- **Officer Lucas Chellew**
  CHP — South Sacramento
  EOW: February 22, 2017
  Cause of death: Motorcycle accident while in pursuit

- **Deputy Michael Foley**
  Alameda County Sheriff’s Office
  EOW: February 23, 2017
  Cause of death: Struck by vehicle

- **Deputy Jason Garner**
  Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Department
  EOW: May 13, 2017
  Cause of death: Automobile crash

- **Deputy Robert Rumfelt**
  Lake County Sheriff’s Office
  EOW: August 22, 2017
  Cause of death: Heart attack

- **Deputy Robert French**
  Sacramento County Sheriff’s Dept.
  EOW: August 30, 2017
  Cause of death: Gunfire
Professionals Representing Professionals