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Peace Officers Association

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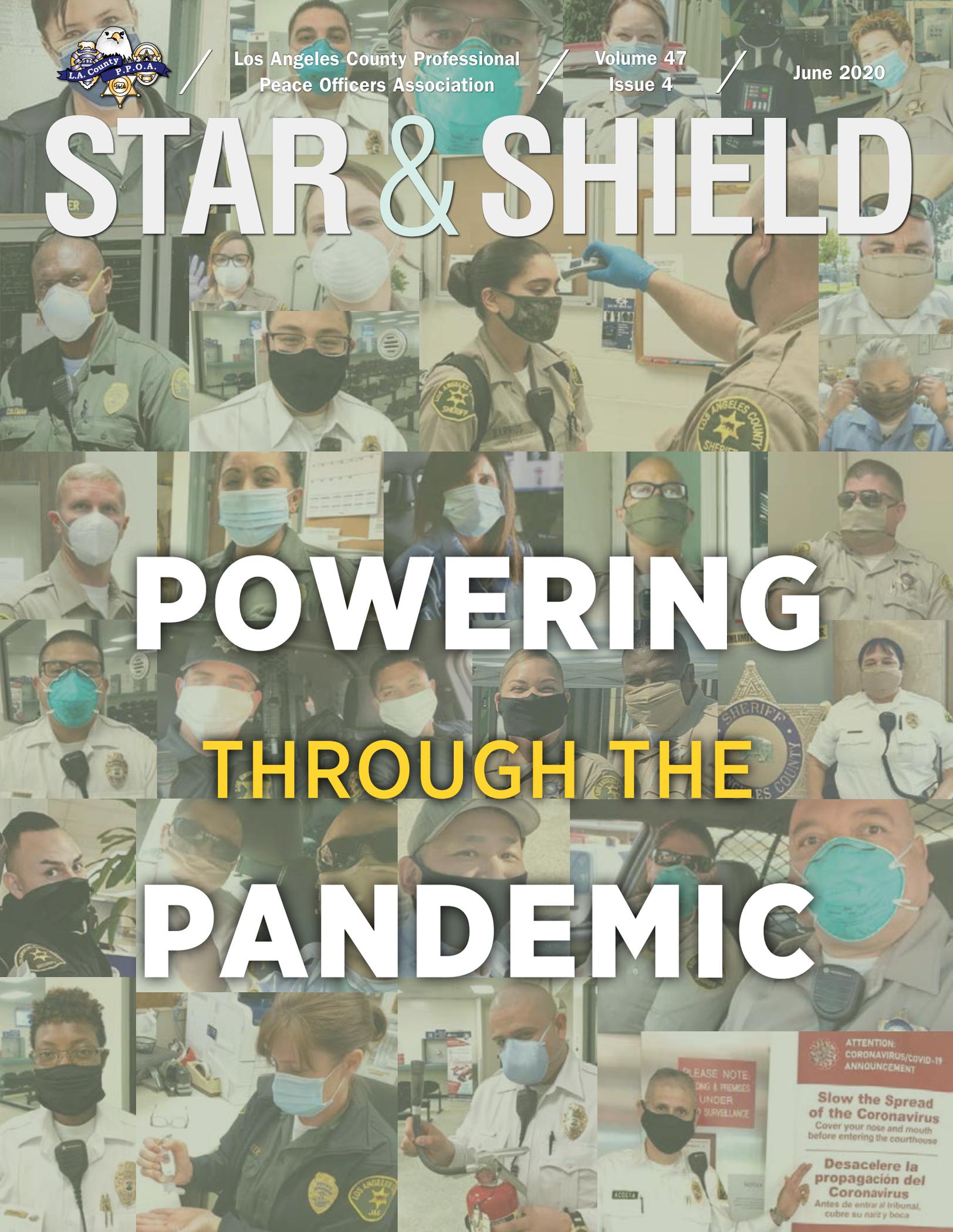
June 2020

STAR & SHIELD

POWERING

THROUGH THE

PANDEMIC



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Star & Shield is the official publication of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA). Opinions expressed by individual Board members or contributing authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the entire Board.

The Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the PPOA offices at 10 a.m.

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For updates, resources and information, check out *PPOA.com*.

FACEBOOK

April 29: After COVID-19 recovery, C/As Sonia Muñoz and Christopher Lumpkin are back at work and fully healthy.



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What Has Your Union Done During the COVID-19 Pandemic?

As you can see from our cover, this issue of *Star & Shield* is outlining issues and the work performed by PPOA related to the COVID-19 pandemic. While PPOA continues to provide the best support and communication possible to our members, the most rumored question reported back to the Board of Directors and delegates is from members asking, “What is PPOA doing during the COVID-19 crisis?” Here is the shortlist of efforts put forth by PPOA, on behalf of its members:

- Ensuring members’ health and safety
- Monitoring the direction provided to members by the Sheriff’s Department (LASD), District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation (DABOI) and Department of Medical Examiner (ME)
- Continuing to assist members with health concerns, grievances, administrative investigations and payroll issues
- Advocating with other labor organizations to establish benefits and protections during this crisis
- Holding County agencies accountable for clear directions, communications and actions related to our members during the crisis

During the past two months, PPOA resources have been stretched thin trying to address the numerous health and safety concerns of *you*, our membership. Daily reviews of documentation from the County Emergency Operations Center, the Sheriff’s Department Operation Center and Custody Division Operations Center, and constant updates from the County Board of Supervisors and the governor’s office all factor into our response. Our first priority was to demand the employers (LASD, DABOI and ME) to provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to our members, especially those in high-risk environments like jails, hospitals and public-facing assignments. These efforts continue today as the Department continues to experience difficulties in replenishing critical supplies to our members. Additionally, PPOA advocated early for the temperature taking of employees to discover possible COVID-19 cases, which was, over objections of LASD executives, later initiated by LASD Custody Division and is now being considered Department-wide.

Testing has been determined to be the key to success in “flattening the curve” of COVID-19, and PPOA has been intimately involved in the LASD process, with Board member Lieutenant Ryan Vienna acting as the team leader of the testing team. His leadership and communication have been instrumental in PPOA being able to vet and answer members’ questions and concerns.



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As a result of the advocacy efforts of PPOA, with the assistance of other labor organizations, we were able to establish alternative quarantine and isolation locations for our members. Through these efforts, positive testing COVID-19 members have hotel rooms available to them should it become necessary to isolate away from their families.

It should be noted that we appreciate the efforts of LASD, DABOI and ME to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 by providing telework options to those whose duties have allowed for it, as well as administrative leave to those being quarantined for work-related exposures. There have been times, however, when PPOA was forced to hold various Department executives accountable for their actions/inactions related to the COVID-19 crisis. While

most supervisors and managers have addressed their employees’ concerns in a professional and caring manner, some have had to be formally admonished all the way up to their Department head.

And through it all, PPOA continues to address day-to-day issues and concerns, such as representation at grievances and administrative investigations, and meeting and conferring on critical policy and Department changes. Believe me, this is *no* easy task with a Sheriff and BOS at war, and the always surprising edicts that are announced publicly, at least on a weekly basis, if not sometimes daily, with *no* advance or proactive discussions with PPOA. Our phones and emails explode on those days.

The next steps for PPOA include addressing the significant financial crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, looming like dark clouds on the horizon. Many conversations are currently occurring between the County, the departments, the Coalition of County Unions and other labor organizations. This economic issue is very fluid as of this article with many unknowns, including how much federal reimbursement, if any, the County will recover for this fiscal year and the projected budget effects for fiscal year 2020–21. Of this much, I can be sure, the fiscal solvency of the County is of great concern.

As the reopening of our communities begins, please continue to practice good habits that you have learned during this pandemic. We say it all the time related to officer safety: complacency kills. The same is true here. Please do your part to keep yourself, your families and communities safe and help all of us avoid any type of resurgence of COVID-19, which would damage the efforts already exerted.

Thank you for being a member of the PPOA family, and as always, if you need assistance or support, we are just a phone call or email away. ❤️

Unprecedented Global Health Crisis and the Economy

As the U.S. Navy hospital ship *Mercy* departed Los Angeles on May 15 after a seven-week deployment, the fact that the ship treated just 77 patients was proof that this magnificent vessel was never needed to serve as a relief valve for our local medical facilities battling COVID-19. The 1,000-bed ship was not tasked to treat COVID-19 patients but to provide medical, surgical and trauma care to other patients to free hospital beds from the anticipated influx of COVID-19 patients. The federal government deserves a sincere thank-you for allocating this invaluable asset to Los Angeles. It appears that the Los Angeles health-care system has been able to handle the patient influx caused by COVID-19, and that is extremely good news.



Wayne Quint
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Nonetheless, the bad news is that as of May 24, the Los Angeles County Department of Health has identified 44,988 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of Los Angeles County, and a total of 2,104 deaths. The 6,159 people who tested positive for COVID-19 (14% of positive cases) have been hospitalized at some point during their illness. There are 1,491 people who are currently hospitalized, with 26% of these people in the ICU and 18% on ventilators. There are testing results for 436,000 individuals, with nearly 9% of people testing positive. Los Angeles County has the highest rate of deaths from COVID-19 in the state and the second-highest infection rate. Despite these numbers, L.A. County does appear to be moving towards “flattening the curve” and has announced a five-stage reopening process based on risk. Stage 1 is the Safer at Home mandate, which has impacted 10 million County residents; stages 2–4 cover the reopening of businesses based on risk and stage 5 is fully normal operations by the Fourth of July. This is also extremely good news.

But make no mistake, as a result of the unprecedented COVID-19 health crisis, our country, our state and our County have in record time been thrust directly into an immediate financial crisis that will more than likely lead to a recession.

The U.S. unemployment rate in two months (February–April) has dramatically surged to a high of 14.7% in April, well above the Great Recession–era peak of 10% in October 2009. In the single week ending on March 28, 2020, nearly 6.9 million Americans filed initial unemployment claims. This was more than 10 times higher than the single-week peak during the Great Recession of 665,000 initial claims in the week ending March 28, 2009. Over 38 million initial unemployment claims have been filed from March 14–16, 2020. This amount is higher than the total number of cumulative initial claims over the entire Great Recession that lasted 18 months

(January 5, 2008–June 27, 2009). Experts say that even though almost all states across the country have begun to reopen their economies from lockdowns, the expected drop in U.S. gross domestic product for the second quarter, April through June, will be the steepest ever.

California, which is the fifth-largest economy in the world, has an unemployment rate that has nearly tripled from 5.5% in February 2020 to 15.5% from mid-March to mid-April. The rate has surpassed the peak of California’s Great Recession (July 2007–February 2010) of 12.3%. California employers have eliminated a historical 2.3 million payroll jobs in just one month. This one-month total already surpasses the loss of 1.3 million California jobs during the Great Recession. As of April 12, California has

seen 1.4 million new unemployment claims for a total of 5.1 million. Every one of California’s 11 industry sectors showed job losses in April. Hopefully, these numbers are temporary, but the path to recovery remains to be seen as the “new normal” of dramatically altering past business practices will have to change until COVID-19 is no longer a global threat.

OUR COUNTRY, OUR STATE AND OUR COUNTY HAVE BEEN THRUST DIRECTLY INTO AN IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL CRISIS THAT WILL MORE THAN LIKELY LEAD TO A RECESSION.

Governor Newsom announced at his May 2020–21 budget revision update that California will have a \$54 billion budget deficit. That figure is higher than the deficit during the Great Recession and obliterates the state’s once-healthy reserves of \$16 billion. The \$54 billion deficit is driven by three factors:

- \$41 billion in revenue loss
- \$7 billion increase in health and human services programs, mainly Medi-Cal, the state’s health program for the poor
- About \$6 billion in additional spending, mainly driven by the state’s response to COVID-19. The governor is adamant that the federal government must pass a relief package for state and local governments.

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Custody Assistant Position Review Brings Calculated Optimism

The previous months have been filled with fear, anxiety, frustration, anger and even relief. As you read this, my prayer is that the worst is behind us and that we have made substantial progress towards regaining our normal interactions and activities.

COVID-19 presented many challenges. The grind was constant, ensuring that custody assistants were provided all the avenues of protective equipment, health care and administrative options available from the Department.

We pushed to make sure the messaging was all-inclusive because there were numerous times it was not. Through it all, there were times of unity, reassurance and caring for our partners and their families waiting at home. As always, you represented yourselves with pride, toughness and professionalism.

Throughout this unprecedented firestorm, PPOA still made efforts to conduct regular business for our classification. Nevertheless, several scheduled meetings were postponed due to COVID-19.

The last CCW's meeting with the Department was genuinely productive, with discussions regarding potential policy. PPOA requested some changes in language that we felt were better for the membership. Those requests appeared well-received, and we now await a follow-up from County Counsel to schedule our next meeting.

Previously, I mentioned that PPOA reached an agreement with the Department to have the C/A position reviewed. The



Rosario "Tony" Coleman
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purpose of this was to document the duties regularly performed by custody assistants in comparison to sworn personnel in custody.

This review has been needed in order to deal with the way things have historically been viewed and to point out that what was established back then, is now a far cry from what is now a functional, independent, action-taking position.

I look forward to sitting down with the Department and going through the review's content and navigating a path towards dealing with some of the fundamental concerns that you have voiced mightily throughout the years in meetings, emails, texts and phone calls.

We will proceed with calculated optimism, as we know nothing is accomplished with a wave of the hand or the wink of an eye. But there is also a belief that

there are enough forward-thinking individuals on both sides of the table. Both sides are invested in this Department and both are looking for a return on that investment.

I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU ALL FOR YOUR STRENGTH AND PROFESSIONALISM DURING WHAT IS AN UNIMAGINABLE EVENT IN OUR LIVES AND CAREERS. YOU'VE SHOWN UP AND PERFORMED YOUR DUTIES ADMIRABLY.

Hopefully, this opportunity allows us to exchange meaningful dialogue on how this position has evolved and how it is a stabilizing part of custody, our patrol stations and court lockup, as well as how it should be perceived, equipped, taken care of and utilized.

That is the reason why I took those issues public in a news conference on May 6. The event drew attention to the County's financial concerns and its effects on first responders and public service workers. It was also an opportunity to provide our uniform the public forum to express what we're dealing with during the pandemic. Information about this event was included in the Week in Review email PPOA members received on May 16.

→ continued on page 10



News conference for unions to shine spotlight on L.A. County's financial concerns

Remembering a Fallen Brother: Security Assistant Anthony E. Hopkins

While preparing this article for *Star & Shield*, very sad news arrived about the passing of Sheriff's Security Assistant Anthony Hopkins. The 17-year LASD veteran died on May 19 following a courageous battle with cancer. Hopkins was assigned to Pasadena Courthouse and was a valued member of PPOA for his entire career. Please keep the Hopkins family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult period. Funeral services are delayed due to COVID-19, but condolences can be sent to:

*PPOA ATTN: Hopkins Family
188 E. Arrow Hwy
San Dimas, CA 91773*

We will ensure that everything is promptly forwarded to the Hopkins family.



Jody Clouch
PPOA Board Member
Security Officer, LASD
jclouch@ppoa.com

and golf courses. Naturally, we all have plenty of questions about how a bureau closure would affect PPOA members assigned there. Unfortunately, I don't think anyone has the answers to those questions at this point. Compounding the obvious challenges presented by this plan is the fact that neither PPOA or ALADS received details of the Sheriff's planned closures until the media briefing was streamed live. But PPOA has since been in contact with Department executives and we will inform members when there is anything concrete to report about this matter.

Please be sure to monitor news from PPOA for updates. If you hear rumors, let me know, and I'll do my best to address it. But keep in mind that most of the predictions about how the budget drama will ultimately play out between the Sheriff and the County supervisors are speculation at best.

PARKS BUREAU CLOSURE AHEAD?

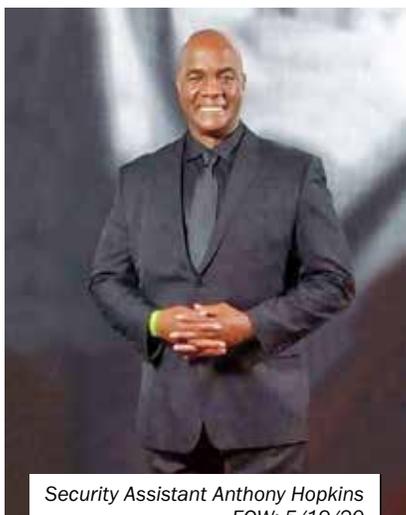
During a news briefing last month, Sheriff Villanueva announced plans to alleviate the LASD budget deficit by potentially closing two patrol stations, eliminating two bureaus and ordering several reductions at units throughout the Department. According to the Sheriff's proposal, the closures of Altadena Station and Marina del Rey Station will save \$12 million annually, and closing Parks Bureau and Community Partnership (COPS) Bureau will save an additional \$62 million a year. He also said the Department will reduce the number of DST Academy classes from 12 to eight per year, providing a savings of nearly \$22 million.

As many of you know, Parks Bureau has roughly 200 employees and is responsible for public safety at 177 County parks, trails

CCWs AND UNIFORM COLOR CHANGE STILL AT HAND

For obvious reasons, COVID-19 forced the Sheriff's Department to reprioritize a number of issues affecting PPOA members. Up until a couple of months ago, we had a series of meetings with Department representatives about CCWs for security officers and custody assistants. As my fellow PPOA Board member Tony Coleman attests in his article (page 6), we actually felt the most recent of those meetings was productive. Then the coronavirus took hold. We are now in a holding pattern but look forward to scheduling a new meeting with County Counsel once we get the green light.

→ continued on page 10



Security Assistant Anthony Hopkins
EOW: 5/19/20



SSO Class #56

If Cops Weren't So Tired or Broken, They Could Probably Save California

I just read that our governor plans on closing more state prisons and all juvenile facilities. Not solely due to budget, but as part of his “philosophy” in switching to education and rehabilitation. Elon Musk is pulling out of California. Rumor is, more than 25% of tech firms are thinking about moving out of state. This is not just for tax reasons. Some of the highest-paid employees not only cannot afford to live here, but the living conditions are horrible in what used to be the most desirable location to live. Is Newsom right, or has his cheese slid completely off his cracker?

We have had liberal leadership in the state for a while, but these proposals seem so far out of touch it amazes me. In the 80s, L.A. County jail counts hovered around 20,000. Today, I am betting we have less than 13,000, and the County has doubled in population. Do the math on that. I got a text from a friend today that simply read, “clean your guns.” San Francisco closed down residential streets to allow tents to fill the streets for “persons who are experiencing homelessness” (yes, that is the new term) and they no longer prosecute crimes related to homelessness (a very broad interpretation).

The governor’s plan to close prisons seems to follow the Prop 47 plan: save money on incarceration and put that into rehab centers. That second part never happened with Prop 47. Yet, here we go again. We only incarcerate the most violent these days, and now he wants to let even more out? What kind of rehab for an ADW suspect would that be exactly? “Sorry you had to shoot at that man, let’s sit down and talk about your childhood instead of taking you to jail.”

California has the potential to descend into the sea, that is for sure, if only figuratively. Politicians seem to really not care about public safety. Newsom needs to spend a few shifts riding in some



Jim Schallert
PPOA Retiree Liaison
LASD retired
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of our fast stations (and going to calls, not just sugarcoating it), and talking with the bleeding victims instead of looking at his checkbook and reading fan mail from the ultra-left.

So many retirees have left the state, and I know countless more active-duty personnel who are counting the days before they reach up and pull the ejector handles, launching them about 849.9 miles northeast. I have always considered myself pretty moderate politically, as many of you are. I worry about the future of California now more than ever under this Legislature and governor.

Unfortunately, I have no solutions. I wish cops could run the government. We are trained to solve problems fairly and have more problem-solving experience than anyone up there. But cops are no longer

popular in much of the world, and many of us are too tired or broken after our careers to take on that challenge. Maybe that is because we speak the truth and don’t care if it hurts your feelings to hear it. These days, everyone gets a trophy.

I WISH COPS COULD RUN THE GOVERNMENT. WE ARE TRAINED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS FAIRLY AND HAVE MORE PROBLEM-SOLVING EXPERIENCE THAN ANYONE UP THERE.

Recently, it appeared Democrat Christy Smith lost her bid for the 25th Congressional District to Mike Garcia, a Republican. This flip may be seen by some as a good sign, or a fluke that was due to poor turnout. We will see.

I hope you retirees who remain in the Golden State support the changes that we need. Look at the candidates running in your area and reach out to help the ones who would make positive changes. We do still have voices. Heck, we even recalled a governor in the recent past! I do think the majority of Californians will eventually wake up to what is going on, but by then, the cow may have left the barn.

I hope all of you are staying well and safe, practicing social distancing, supporting your local small businesses and being a pain in the ass to those politicians who are ruining the state!

Until next time, keep the emails coming by sending them to jschallert@ppoa.com. 🇺🇸

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Comprehensive COVID-19 Resource Page Available at PPOA.com

We want to remind PPOA members that a comprehensive resource webpage for COVID-19 updates is available at PPOA.com. All issues impacting members are covered, including PPEs, emergency paid sick leave, paid administrative leave and more.

Wayne Quint → continued from page 5

According to a forecast released by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, our unemployment rate could surge to a record high, possibly doubling the County's most recent unemployment peak of 13.4% in 2010, following the Great Recession. The projected loss of payroll jobs could top 1.2 million as the full impact of business shutdown orders to fight COVID-19 is felt. Again, all of us hope that the reopening of the economy and easing of mandates results in a dramatic deviation of projected unemployment rates and loss of payroll jobs.

In Los Angeles County, the fiscal year 2020–21 Recommended County Budget (RCB) was submitted to the Board of Supervisors on April 28. It must be noted that the RCB was largely prepared *before* our County went on the Safer at Home order in mid-March. The \$35.5 billion proposed budget will see major revisions as a result of the unprecedented health crisis that has tragically impacted Los Angeles County harder than any other area in California.

Our County CEO, Sachi Hamai, is projecting a \$1 billion drop in revenue for this fiscal year (ends June 30) and an additional \$1 billion-plus next fiscal year (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021). As of May 26, there have been no budget updates or action plans regarding the County's anticipated loss of revenues from Prop 172 (public safety sales, realignment sales, Measure H sales and hotel taxes). The County anticipates closing out this fiscal year with almost \$200 million in cash, although that amount reflects a drop of \$950 million from earlier projected levels. Unfortunately, due to the unprecedented acceleration of the COVID-19 crisis, the County is still collecting and analyzing financial data and will provide updates during the subsequent RCB phases that will continue until the fiscal year 2020–21 budget is finalized in September.

For PPOA members working at the Sheriff's Department, the present budget "turf war" between Sheriff Villanueva and the Board of Supervisors is based on the April 28 RCB that does not include post-COVID-19 financial data and updated revenue projections. On May 4, Sheriff Villanueva announced that there would be deep cuts to the Department, including closures or reductions at the Marina del Rey and Altadena Stations, closing of the Parks Bureau and reducing homeless outreach services and specialized units to reduce the Department's budget deficit. Inexplicably, PPOA became aware of these proposed actions during the Monday morning

briefing and immediately notified the Department that it had violated its obligation to meet and confer with PPOA regarding its proposed changes to our members' working conditions that are scheduled to occur on July 1. PPOA has requested that the Department provide specific information and data regarding the Sheriff's proposals and have been advised that its plans are still in progress. As soon as PPOA is provided information, we will meet with the Department to determine what impacts there may be and collectively work with the Department to ensure that all PPOA members (who are essential workers) have their interests and rights fiercely defended and protected.

Please remember that many rumors will circulate regarding operation and fiscal issues at the Department of Medical Examiner, District Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Department in the upcoming months. Stay factually informed by reading the Week in Review that is electronically available every Saturday morning, checking your emails for PPOA updates, utilizing the PPOA mobile app, *PPOA.com* website and LAPPOA Facebook page or by calling the PPOA office. Each PPOA member, who is also a designated County of Los Angeles essential worker, has gone above and beyond the call of duty by bravely working every day through the COVID-19 pandemic (with less than adequate protective equipment), sacrificed their personal and family's wellness in service to residents and incarcerated inmates and provided unparalleled public safety protection to the County of Los Angeles in an unprecedented global crisis.

Stay well, thank you and may God bless you and your loved ones. ❤️

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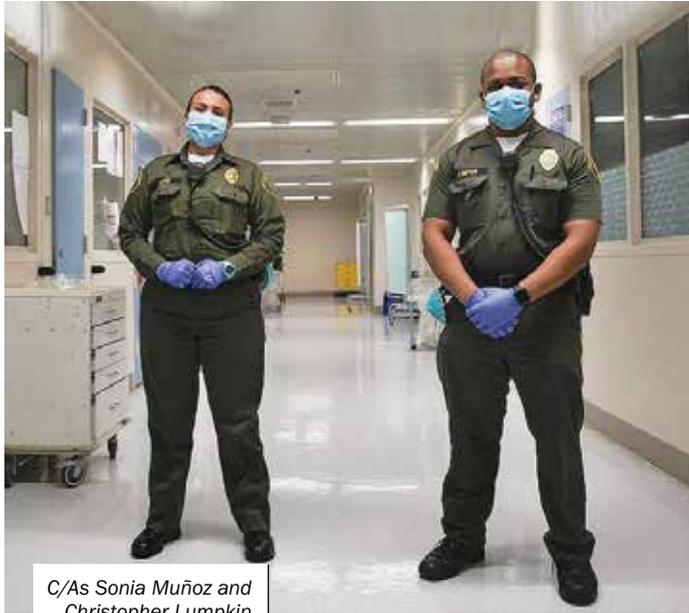
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C/As Sonia Muñoz and Christopher Lumpkin

May also featured National Correctional Officers Week. With that, I want to recognize Custody Assistant Class #1, who graduated on May 1, 1987.

The struggle they endured as the first group to walk the halls of a custody facility, facing harassment and dealing with an unsupportive environment from a group they were there to help is inconceivable.

On behalf of PPOA, thank you, Class #1. We carry on for better because you have already seen worse.

We also offer a well-deserved salute to Custody Assistant **Robert Wagner**, who battled COVID-19 through hospitalization. Two additional custody assistants, **Christopher Lumpkin** and **Sonia Muñoz**, have been given a clean bill of health and are back to work after recovering from the coronavirus. You can read an eye-opening *Associated Press* article about their ordeal on the PPOA "621Strong" Facebook page. Their recoveries are testimonies of the kind of people we are and the kind of partners we have.

In closing, I want to acknowledge you all for your strength and professionalism during what is an unimaginable event in our lives and careers. You've shown up and performed your duties admirably. My hope is that this obligation to duties does not become collateral damage in the wake of the coronavirus.

Thank you. As always, take care and be safe. ❤️

Progress on the LASD security personnel uniform color change is also on hold during the pandemic. The color change survey for PPOA members I referenced in my article earlier this year will be distributed to members as soon as we're able to pick up where we left off in the spring. Stay tuned.

CORRECTION: BLACK YELLOW

Speaking of uniforms, please be aware that DOC Notice #50 (email on April 3) incorrectly indicated that the Class B uniforms approved during COVID-19 were to have black lettering on the name badge. That lettering should actually be yellow, as this was the color formally approved by the Department. We are told the verbiage in our MOU will be corrected soon.

CONGRATS TO SSO CLASS #56

Although COVID-19 prevented Security Officer Class #56 from celebrating its graduation at a ceremony with family and friends, I

was honored to meet them after completion of five weeks of training. I was especially proud to present a flashlight from PPOA to the top recruit, **Officer Sienna Arbiso**. It is also worth noting that four of the class members were promoted from security assistant to all of you from PPOA!



Officer Sienna Arbiso, SSO Class #56

While we're on the subject of former security assistants, I want to give a special shout-out to one of the Department's newest DST graduates: **Deputy Jessica McDaniel**.

She was sworn in by Sheriff Villanueva in April with her fellow deputies in Class #447. Congratulations, Deputy McDaniel!



Deputy Jessica McDaniel, DST #447

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

If anyone knows a co-worker who tested positive for COVID-19 and needs support of any kind, please tell him or her to contact me. PPOA wants to help in any way possible, but we must be contacted directly by the individual in question.

Stay safe, everyone. ❤️



Powering Through the Pandemic

During these challenging times, law enforcement has come together like never before to fight the invisible enemy known as COVID-19. The cover of this issue of *Star & Shield* features some of the many brave first responders who have powered through the pandemic.



Supporting Members in the Field

PPOA was grateful to receive a generous donation of medical-type masks in April from the president of Renogy, Dr. Yi Li, with coordination from Assemblymember Philip Chen (AD55). PPOA President Tab Rhodes and Board member Tony Coleman then made the rounds to distribute hundreds of masks to Patrol and Custody Divisions. While our goal is to ensure that PPOA members have facial coverings for personal use, we urge all members to also make every effort to obtain appropriate PPEs through the designated chain of command. 🇺🇸



Donating to Captain Holloway, C/A Thorne and OPS staff at North Facility



Donating to Assistant Sheriff Gross for Patrol Divisions



Donating to Assistant Sheriff Chase for Custody Divisions



Donating to South Facility



Donating to NCCF Captain Silgero



Receiving mask donations at the PPOA office

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY PUBLIC SAFETY PROMISE



Jeannine J., Class of 2010

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Retirement Season

February through May is affectionately known in the law enforcement family as retirement season. Pandemic aside, that time of year traditionally brings bittersweet feelings as those retiring look forward to the next chapter, while those “left behind” at work bid adieu to partners who have cleaned out their desks. Although COVID-19 has not necessarily prevented PPOA members from retiring, it has unfortunately upended retirement parties. Since these are normally events in which plaques are presented, memories are shared, jokes are told at the honoree’s expense and heartfelt tributes are offered by friends, PPOA wants to acknowledge our many members who retired without the usual fanfare in the last few months. We appreciate your dedicated service and wish you a healthy and happy retirement. You have definitely earned it! 🇺🇸

We enjoyed seeing a few “rookie retirees” acknowledged on social media. Congratulations!





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National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

In April, the law enforcement community made it a point to recognize the hard work of loyal public safety telecommunicators nationwide. PPOA proudly acknowledges the many dispatchers and LETs behind the radio who represent the “calm in the chaos.” You are the best in the business, and we thank you for your commitment to the safety of your partners in the field and the communities you serve. We’re also grateful to those who shared great photos like these on social media! ❤️



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Free COVID-19 Testing for L.A. County Essential Workers

Any PPOA member who resides in L.A. County is now able to receive free COVID-19 testing throughout the County of Los Angeles. More info can be found at www.covid19.lacounty.gov/testing.

Because PPOA members are deemed essential workers, the need to be COVID-19 symptomatic is not criteria to receive the free test. Again, PPOA members must reside in L.A. County to receive the test and must make an appointment online at www.lacovidprod.service-now.com/lrrs. 





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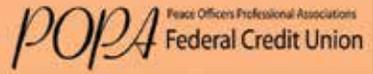
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POPA Federal Credit Union NMLS 852741 provides mortgage loans in agreement with CU Members Mortgage, a division of Colonial Savings, F.A. NMLS 401285

Heroes at Heart Campaign

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf launched a program last month in which it pledged to donate \$1 from each “Heroes at Heart” coffee, tea or mug purchase to first responder organizations like the California Peace Officers’ Memorial Foundation, California Fire Foundation and American Nurses Association. Coffee Bean has raised over \$500,000 since 2012 for first responder and military organizations and PPOA is grateful for its continued support. For more information, please visit www.coffeebean.com. ☕



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California Streamlines Workers' Compensation for Essential Employees

On May 10, an executive order was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom to effectively streamline workers' compensation claims for essential employees who contract COVID-19.

Under this executive order, essential employees in California who are diagnosed within two weeks of reporting to work between March 19–July 5 will be presumed to have contracted COVID-19 on the job. This shifts the burden of proof that typically falls on an employee and instead requires companies or insurers to prove the employee didn't get sick at work. The executive order is in place for 60 days and is retroactive to March 19.

"PPOA, along with our fellow first responders, are grateful for Governor Newsom's actions today. It gives us all a sense of certainty," stated PPOA President Tab Rhodes. "I also want to acknowledge our Sacramento legislative firm, Lang, Hansen, O'Malley & Miller, which has worked with PPOA for the last two months regarding COVID-19 issues such as this."

Additionally, the PPOA Board is thankful for the efforts and support on this issue provided by the Law Offices of

James J. Cunningham, as well as our workers' compensation firms, Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke, Sherwin & Lee, LLP, and Straussner Sherman.

Key provisions of the executive order include the following:

- Removes burdens of access to workers' compensation for all employees risking their health and safety to deliver critical services outside their home during the statewide stay-at-home order
- Creates a time-limited emergency workers' compensation benefit (rebuttable presumption) that COVID-19 was contracted at a workplace
- The presumption will stay in place for 60 days after the issuance of the executive order. 🇺🇸

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IT PAYS TO READ

STAR & SHIELD

THREE \$100 PRIZES

Every issue of *Star & Shield* will feature a different hidden word. The word will be used only once in the entire magazine — your challenge is to find it!

Members who find the hidden word and register through our website (PPOA.com) by the end of this month will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 prizes. Contest ends June 30, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. PDT.

This month's hidden word is:

Descend

To move or fall downward

Online registration only. Please do not call the PPOA office to register for contest.



County Seeks to Reopen Fringe Benefits Contract

On April 27, the Coalition of County Unions (CCU), of which PPOA is a member, was officially notified by the Los Angeles County CEO's Office of its "desire to reopen the 2018–2021 Coalition of County Unions Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding fringe benefits." The reason cited for the reopening is "to discuss the County's matching contribution (up to 4%) to 457 plan participants." Further, the request comes "on the immediate and anticipated ongoing expenses associated with the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

PPOA was advised of the potential of this move by the CEO's Office during a conference call on April 16. On April 24, a conference with CCU leadership was conducted with every union on that call in agreement that the reopening of the MOU cannot and will not occur until detailed fiscal information of the County's budget is provided. The information requested includes the current and projected expenses and loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 crisis, the proposed fiscal year

2020–21 budget, and any changes to the fiscal year 2020–21 recommended budget once federal and state reimbursements for the COVID-19 response are identified or received.

This request of the County was not a surprise. Once the CEO notified the unions that MegaFlex employees would not be receiving matching contributions to their 401K (up to 4%) and 457 (up to 4%) plans for the remainder of this fiscal year, PPOA circled the wagons with other union leadership and began discussing various scenarios and strategies. The chair of the CCU, working with legal counsel and budgetary consultants, has prepared a detailed information request in response to the CEO's notification. PPOA will continue to work collaboratively with all parties to address these concerns and defend any potential circumstances which would represent a loss of any kind to our members. Additional budget information regarding the deep impacts from COVID-19 can be found at www.lacounty.gov/budget.



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Beware of Coronavirus Scams!

Scammers and fraudsters are taking advantage of people's fears by trying to capitalize on the coronavirus outbreak through various channels. Below are some of the latest scams to watch out for and avoid. Remember, POPA Federal Credit Union will never ask for any sensitive personal information over text or email. When in doubt, call your financial institution directly. For more tips on avoiding coronavirus scams, visit www.fic.gov/coronavirus.

- **Caution:** Seniors are especially vulnerable to these schemes and are often specifically targeted by criminals.

What to do: Be sure to speak with your parents and elderly family members about these scams and how to avoid them.

- **Facebook posts:** One particular scam targets seniors through a Facebook post, informing them that they can get a special grant to help pay medical bills. The link within the post takes them to a fake website claiming to be a government agency called the "U.S. Emergency Grants Federation," where they are asked to provide their Social Security number under the guise of needing to verify their identity. In other versions, fraudsters claim individuals can get additional money, but the victims have to pay a "processing fee" first to receive the grant.



What to do: Don't click on any links and/or input any sensitive personal information. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is a scam, so don't fall for it.

- **Robocalls:** Scammers will try to get your bank account number or other sensitive personal information using the current pandemic to test your vulnerabilities. Some will claim they are calling from the Social Security Administration, Medicare testing facility, etc.

What to do: Just hang up. Don't press any buttons, don't give any information, don't even speak.

- **Fake cures and treatments:** The Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Food and Drug Administration are warning the public to be on alert for any company claiming to have a cure or treatment for coronavirus.

What to do: Don't fall for it. Don't buy or promote anything with claims to treat or prevent coronavirus. According to the FDA, there are no approved vaccines, drugs or investigational products currently available to treat or prevent the virus.

- **Fake emails, texts and phishing:** Scammers have always used fake emails or texts to get you to share valuable personal information (account numbers, SSN, login IDs and/or passwords) in order to steal your identity, money or both.

What to do: Don't click on any links sent to you by a person or company that you don't know. If you click on one of these links, it can install viruses onto your computer or device.

- **Fake charities:** During times of need, like natural disasters or pandemics, many fake charities will try to profit off the public's generosity by creating sophisticated websites, emails, phone calls, etc. that often use names that sound similar to real charities.

What to do: Do some research when it comes to donations. There are sites where you can verify the charity, such as Charity Navigator and Charity Watch. Real charities won't rush you into donating. If any "charity" wants donations in cash, by gift card or by wiring money, don't do it. Real charities will take credit cards or checks — both of which are safer ways to pay. ♥



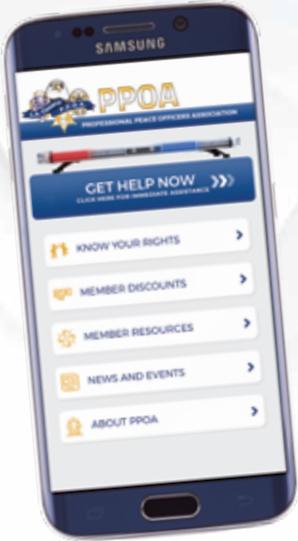
STAR & SHIELD CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the PPOA members below for winning the "Find the Hidden Word" contest in *Star & Shield*. If your name is listed, that means your entry was drawn as one of the winners for that month's issue. Please call Greg Torres at (323) 261-3010 to claim your \$100 check.

\$100 PRIZE WINNERS

(April issue — the hidden word appeared on page 26)

Stephen Barnett, retired member
Diana Cerda, Custody Assistant
Cindy Gonzalez, Law Enforcement Technician



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The beautiful bronze and granite California Peace Officers' Memorial located on State Capitol grounds in Sacramento contains the names of more than 1,600 courageous peace officers who have laid down their lives in the line of duty protecting and serving their fellow Californians. Tragically, every year more names are added.

You can help the CPOMF in our mission to underwrite the annual California Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony, maintain the memorial monument, subsidize survivor support groups, and support the families of our fallen heroes through our educational grant and financial assistance programs.

California law allows taxpayers to make voluntary tax-free contributions on their personal state income tax returns to the "California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation Fund". Simply indicate the amount to be donated where instructed on the tax return form. Importantly, the law requires that all contributions be used to maintain the California Peace Officers' Memorial and for activities in support of the surviving families of our brave men and women peace officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We urge the more than 100,000 peace officers serving California to help us **Take Care of Our Own**.

California Resident Income Tax Return 2019		FORM 540
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110 Add code 400 through code 419. This is your total contribution.....	• 110	00

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For more information please visit www.camemorial.org

2019 California Line-of-Duty Deaths

Officer Natalie Corona

Davis Police
Department

EOW: January 10, 2019

Sergeant Steve Licon

CHP — Riverside Area

EOW: April 6, 2019

Officer Tara O'Sullivan

Sacramento Police
Department

EOW: June 19, 2019

Officer Andre Moya Jr.

CHP — Riverside Area

EOW: August 12, 2019

Deputy Brian Ishmael

El Dorado County
Sheriff's Office

EOW: October 23, 2019

END OF WATCH

PPOA extends sincere condolences to the family members and friends of the following members who passed away in March, April and May:

Retired Law Enforcement Tech.

Donna West

EOW: March 8, 2020

Retired Sergeant

Reynold Itow

EOW: March 11, 2020

Retired Lieutenant

Richard Dyer

EOW: March 11, 2020

Retired Deputy

Hiroshi Isago

EOW: March 11, 2020

Retired Sergeant

Russell Brown

EOW: March 13, 2020

Retired Deputy

Dan Robinson Jr.

EOW: March 21, 2020

Retired Sergeant

Tom Segars

EOW: March 25, 2020

Retired Lieutenant

Art Escamillas

EOW: March 31, 2020

Retired Sergeant

Harvey Hathaway

EOW: April 3, 2020

Retired Sergeant

Arthur Howell Jr.

EOW: April 3, 2020

Retired Sergeant

Charles Robinson

EOW: April 11, 2020

Retired Sergeant

Louie Kemp Jr.

EOW: April 19, 2020

Retired Sergeant

Richard Zimbel

EOW: April 19, 2020

Retired Marshal Lieutenant

John Russell

EOW: May 1, 2020

Security Assistant

Anthony Hopkins

EOW: May 19, 2020

Retired Lieutenant

Dennis O'Neill

EOW: May 20, 2020



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› Chairman Coleman

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› Chairman Blankenship

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612 Negotiations

› Chairman Rhodes

612 Training

› Chairman Satterfield

614 Negotiations

› Chairman Lee

621 Negotiations

› Chairman Blankenship

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Go to www.ppoa.com and click on the Amazon Smile link to help the Star & Shield Foundation make an even bigger difference.

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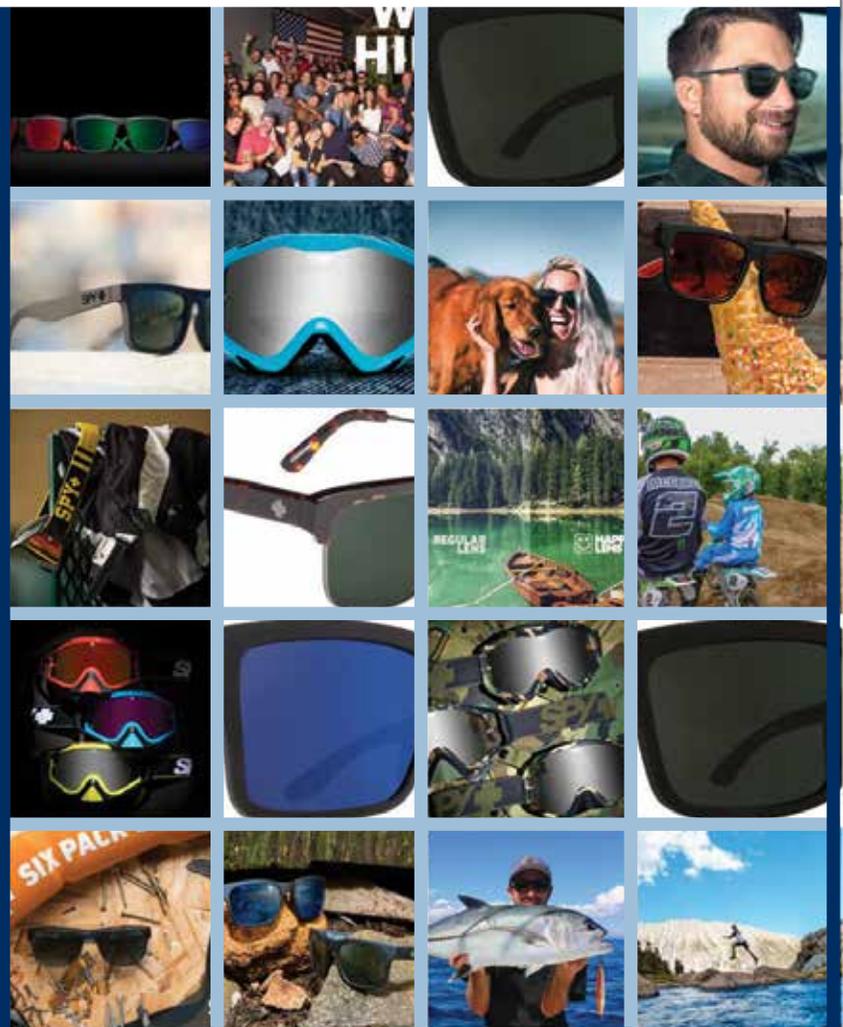
In a February “PPOA Week in Review” email, we shared an exclusive discount offered by Electric Eyewear for PPOA members. In March, we announced a similar discount offered to PPOA members from Spy Optic Eyewear. Both of the eyewear and accessories companies generously agreed to offer an exclusive 40% discount to PPOA members as a measure of gratitude for your service to Los Angeles County. We want to thank them both for standing with us, and we encourage PPOA members to support those who support law enforcement.

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New submissions are added on a first-come, first-served basis each issue. Please send within first week of each month to ensure timely inclusion. Sellers are encouraged to list price of each item listed. No work numbers or County email addresses may be used in ads. Submissions must be made in writing, not over the phone. Ads run for three months. PPOA is not responsible for any claims made in a classified ad.



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Making a false or fraudulent workers' compensation claim is a felony subject to up to five years in prison or a fine up to \$50,000.00 or double the value of the fraud, whichever is greater, or both imprisonment and fine.