



STAR & SHIELD



RETIREE REPORT

2020

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Retreating Into Retirement

As I prepared to put fingers to keyboard for this issue of PPOA's annual Retiree Report, I reviewed the article I wrote exactly one year ago for retired members. Just in case you don't recall everything written in this column word for word, my article was a riveting and exquisitely crafted (tongue firmly planted in cheek) piece about the numerous factors that go into retirement planning. Those, of course, were the halcyon days of 2019, when men and women in law enforcement had the luxury of planning for a smooth transition into a well-deserved retirement. That was then, this is now.

One look at recent headlines reveals that cops are not gently stepping into retirement as much as they are running away from their proud careers, driven by the current state of affairs:

- "Police Counter Protests, 'Defund' Push With Retirements, Resignations" (*Washington Times*, August 13)
- "SF Police Appear to Be Doing Their Own Defunding As Cops Leave in Record Numbers" (*San Francisco Chronicle*, August 16)
- "Chicago Police Are Retiring at Twice the Normal Rate" (Fox News Chicago, August 18)
- "More Than 200 Officers Resigned or Retired Since Colorado Police Reform Bill Became Law" (*Denver Post*, August 18)

You get the picture. And if you are still active but at the



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tail end of your career, you *really* get the picture. Friends and colleagues who have already retired will tell you that the motivation to retire gets stronger as you begin to envision your next chapter in life. That optimism is natural. Unfortunately, the motivation for thousands of cops nationwide who have been hastily retiring lately is not because of what the *future* holds as much as it is because of what the *current* job is up against.

Make no mistake: a pandemic mixed with civil unrest, knee-jerk scrutiny and political expediency (did I mention it's an election year?) is presenting challenges this year that will adversely affect cops for years, and likely decades, to come.

Retirees often state they are relieved they "got out" when they did. That sentiment has never been more applicable, and I'm envious of all 3,000-plus retired PPOA members enjoying life on the other side. Six months ago, I was making final travel arrangements to attend the now-canceled LASD Retiree Roundup in Laughlin, Nevada, for my first time and reunite with former colleagues. I had planned to let my retired friends tease me about being a "working stiff" and complain to them that the environment couldn't get much worse for law enforcement personnel.

Little did I know! ♥

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For more information, visit leowebprotect.net/lappoa.

LET Job Study, Political Pressure and More

Summer is almost over, and several critical issues are still impacting members while new issues have materialized. We continue to deal with COVID and seem to have become accustomed to daily life with wearing masks and keeping our distance from the public.

PAY INCREASES

Some have asked the question about our pending pay raises. I can tell at the time of writing this article that we are still set to receive 2.5% on October 1, and for those at top-step, a 2.75% pay raise on January 1, 2021. If you are not at top-step, don't worry, once you reach top-step, you will be given the 2.75% raise. This will be the last pay raise for the current contract. As far as the future contract, we will have to wait and see how long and how bad COVID will affect the County tax collection and the ability for the County to provide service.



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POLITICAL PRESSURE

With all the protests and calls to defund law enforcement in America, the California Legislature has certainly not missed out on the opportunity to introduce new legislation. Many bills have come out to tie the hands of peace officers and place new rules and restrictions on how they perform their jobs. Reading some of these bills would just make your head spin. If much of this legislation becomes law, it will certainly make being a peace officer in California a job that most will not consider in the near future.

Speaking of politicians, our very own Board of Supervisors decided to jump on the bandwagon in the name of addressing social justice and racial inequities by placing a measure on the November ballot. The measure introduced by Supervisors Kuehl and Solis would require that 10% of locally generated,

unrestricted County money — about \$400 million — be spent on housing, mental health programs, jail diversion, employment opportunities and social services. The County would be prohibited from using the money on prisons, jails or law enforcement agencies.

Here is the problem: the County is already spending millions on these issues, but now Kuehl and Solis want to play “identity politics” by mandating anywhere from \$350–\$500 million a year, depending on taxes collected, to be spent. What better way to make that permanent than getting the voters to approve such a measure? Who do you think is going to take the biggest hit? The Sheriff’s Department, of course, but it will spread to the other County departments as well.

The other problem I have is the way the board went about doing this. It was put on the agenda last minute, with no notification to the Coalition of County Unions or SEIU, other cities within the county and County department heads. That is a clear violation of the County Code and the board’s obligation to give 90 days’ notice to the unions. I don’t believe the board can delegate authority over the County budget to the electorate, and most importantly limit or restrict the power of future Board of Supervisors to determine budgets.

No one is saying there cannot be improvements or that the issues brought forth by Kuehl and Solis cannot be addressed, but the board’s actions in this matter (with the exception of Supervisor Barger) are reckless, irresponsible and, quite frankly, draws into question their ability to govern. Perhaps it’s time to have a discussion about placing oversight on the Board of Supervisors.

Until next time, stay safe my friends. ❤️

COUNTY BUDGET

We still have the battle of wills going between the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors over the state of the County budget. There is little talk from what we see, and both parties are waiting for the other to flinch. The only problem here is that this rift between the parties has a huge impact on the members of the Sheriff’s Department. From captain on down, we stand to permanently lose items that we won’t get back. PPOA has talked to both sides, encouraging the parties to come together and work out a deal. Hopefully we won’t have to deal with a job fair this month.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNICIAN JOB STUDY

The LET job study, I am sorry to say, is moving with the speed and agility of a three-toed sloth. COVID has been the excuse for the delay, and while we have had commitments from the CEO’s office to conduct site visits, those visits get canceled, citing COVID concerns. In an email to the CEO’s employee relations representative, I made it clear to him that this study is a contractual obligation, and asked that he meet with his people to figure out a game plan. The site visits only last a few hours, and all of our facilities have taken the appropriate measures to ensure a sanitized environment.

Some good news: the federal appeals court struck down California’s ban on high-capacity magazines, which prohibited law-abiding citizens from having magazines that held more than 10 rounds. It is a huge victory for our Second Amendment rights. The question now is, will Attorney General Becerra risk taking the appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court? I’m thinking no. If they were to uphold the ruling, it would apply across the nation.

Retirement in the Age of COVID-19

So, everyone, how is retirement? Traveling much? Loving the outdoors? Fulfilling those dreams? Here is where everyone lets out a heavy sigh and says, “COVID” — the new five-letter four-letter word.

Like many of you, we canceled plans, had to avoid gatherings, wear masks and all that. As retirees, we are at a little higher risk, and some of us are at much higher risk of getting really, really sick, so we have basically stayed inside since March. I hope you are all finding things to do to keep busy. I can say our home is cleaner than ever; the honey-do list has gotten down to the “clean lint from toes” level and nothing is broken around the home. (Gail is great at handiwork!)

I wanted to touch base with you all about the things going on. The LACERA election is going on right now, and I hope you all voted for the safety members who have shown your best interest to be their priority, not politics. The



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new voting system over the internet is confusing to many, especially those retirees whose idea of technology is a solar-powered calculator!

The LASD and County are once again embroiled in the battle of the budget, and the County seems to be trying to “defund via redirect” funds. I personally would have had no problem being a trash collector in a crime-free world, but we don’t live in one, and I feel the short-sightedness of the board, if successful, will implode public safety in L.A. County. It is an unnecessary move to appease the loudest of the loud. There are other ways to accomplish their goals without taking the easy road of vilifying law enforcement. I think everyone reading this agrees that there could be more done in areas of Los Angeles to better education and jobs. But those goals should not be attempted with further risk to public safety. Large companies that

enjoy incredible wealth in the state are having no problem advertising their support for current political movements and increased criticism of law enforcement, but you don’t see their offices or training centers invested in some of these impacted communities. I personally believe that law enforcement is so visible and necessary in these communities due to the complete failure of other systems. I hope moving forward that politicians realize the police are not the evil they are being portrayed to be. Could there be better training? Of course, and we welcome it. But to expect us now to do even more with even less is completely inappropriate. The idea of sending a social worker to a domestic dispute has a very high probability of not ending well. Maybe not on the first call, but we all know how bad the real world is. The new ideas being pushed forward are from people who have never experienced how bad things can change very, very quickly.

I encourage all of you to be ready to vote when the time comes. Try to convince family members who don’t understand that you, too, would be willing to redirect resources if the police weren’t so necessary in the short term. We have received support from at least one of the Board of Supervisors members (thank you, Supervisor Barger) over the past few days when she acknowledged that law enforcement is getting their hands tied and will be more concerned about their family and freedoms before they take those extra steps to combat crime.

Yes, we will do our jobs, but every action will be precluded by these thoughts. And in our job, delays — even slight ones — can be deadly.

Until next month, please try to enjoy retirement every day. Inside, outside, front yard, backyard, kitchen, pool, RV, whatever your personal circumstances may be. This will all end hopefully sooner than later. What is important now is to stay safe. 🍷



PPOA ANNUAL

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom video conference.

All full dues-paying PPOA members are invited.

RSVP to info@ppoa.com to receive email with meeting invitation link.

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Fighting the Good Fight for Retired PPOA Members



Since its inception in 1951, PPOA has been fighting for its membership — both retired and active. In fact, one of the first documented fights for PPOA's founders was the quest to improve the retirement system. Some of these fights are newsworthy, some get ugly, some are controversial, some are less than victorious and many of them improve the quality of life for more than just our membership. But they are all fights worth fighting. The confrontations take place in union offices, at headquarters, in the Hall of Administration, in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. The list of battles waged by PPOA (among friends or on our own) on behalf of our retirees is too long for this page, but here are a few examples:

- **Ventura II**
- **Pension protection**
- **Remarriage bill**
- **Workers' compensation**
- **HR-218 federal legislation**
- **DMV confidentiality**
- **Peace Officers Bill of Rights**
- **Gun bill amendments**
- **4850 lawsuit**
- **Sewards v. IRS lawsuit**
- **Medical presumptions (heart, back, cancer, etc.)** ♥

RETIREMENT:

THE NUMBERS

2034

The year when there will be more people over the age of 65 in the U.S. than under 18

2026

The year when the number of American workers over age 55 will compose 23.3% of the labor force

15%

Percentage of the U.S. population that is retired

\$48,000

Average yearly household income for retirees

10,000

Approximate number of baby boomers who retire every day

79%

Defined-benefit retirement plans (pensions) are available to **79% of union workers** and **17% of nonunion workers.**

17%

20 million

Number of Americans who have stopped making regular retirement contributions during the pandemic

Sources: AARP, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Population Reference Bureau, *USA Today*, Investopedia, U.S. Department of Labor, Edward Jones Investments

IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR RETIREES

Fraternal Order of Police

www.fop.net
(615) 399-0900

L.A. County District Attorney's Office

<http://lda.lacounty.gov>
(213) 974-3512

L.A. County Employees Retirement Association

www.lacera.com
(800) 786-6464

L.A. County Medical Examiner-Coroner

<https://mec.lacounty.gov>
(323) 343-0512

L.A. County Professional Peace Officers Association

www.ppoa.com
(800) 747-PPOA

L.A. County Sheriff's Department

www.lasd.org
General info: (213) 229-1700
CCW renewal: (323) 526-5500
Annual qualification:
(323) 267-2730

POPA Federal Credit Union

www.popafcu.org
(800) 369-7672

Retired Employees of L.A. County

www.relac.org
(626) 308-0532

Retired LASD Deputies

www.lasdretired.org

Sheriffs' Relief Association

www.sheriffsrelief.org
(800) 544-4772

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

www.va.gov
(800) 827-1000

U.S. Government Resources

www.usa.gov

By Greg Torres,
PPOA Public Relations Coordinator

PPOA Retirees: State by State

If you endured the apocalyptic heat waves that fried much of the nation to a crisp in July and August, you may have crawled into September wondering whether it's possible to find a retirement destination with a little more shade. Naturally, more retired members call California home than any other state, but each year we all watch friends flee the Golden

State the moment their final shift is done. We compared today's state-by-state numbers with the figures we published in the PPOA Retiree Report 20 years ago, and the results are intriguing. As you can see, some states are quickly gaining popularity (triple gains in Georgia and Texas!) while others (insert Oregon sad face here) seemed to have lost their luster. 🥲

State	Retired Members (August 2000)	Retired Members (August 2020)
Alabama	1	4
Alaska	7	0
Arizona	72	140
Arkansas	5	6
California	1,740	2,458
Colorado	10	27
D.C.	0	1
Florida	15	18
Georgia	5	17
Hawaii	5	3
Idaho	33	47
Illinois	1	0
Indiana	0	1
Iowa	1	2
Kansas	2	4
Kentucky	1	4
Louisiana	0	2
Maine	2	1
Maryland	1	2
Michigan	0	1
Mississippi	1	0

State	Retired Members (August 2000)	Retired Members (August 2020)
Missouri	9	9
Montana	9	19
Nevada	74	95
New Hampshire	1	1
New Mexico	10	8
New York	1	1
North Carolina	5	5
Ohio	4	2
Oklahoma	6	6
Oregon	57	36
Pennsylvania	1	3
South Carolina	0	5
South Dakota	0	2
Tennessee	0	10
Texas	16	45
Utah	11	14
Virginia	4	4
Washington	50	41
Wisconsin	3	2
Wyoming	1	4

WHOM TO CALL WHEN A SPOUSE DIES

When a spouse dies, the last thing you need is confusion about whom to contact. Filing this checklist may help keep a sorrowful event from becoming even more painful. The order in which you place the calls is not important.

- PPOA: (800) 747-7762
- Sheriffs' Relief: (800) 544-4772
- LACERA: (800) 786-6464
- Social Security Administration: (800) 772-1213
- Department of Veterans Affairs: (800) 827-1000
- POPA Federal Credit Union: (800) 369-7672
- Banks and credit unions
- Doctor of deceased
- Insurance companies
- Three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion)
- Auto registration and insurance
- Utility bills
- Credit cards and loan companies
- Church
- Employer of deceased (if he/she was employed)
- Mortgage company

Don't forget to call extended and distant family members and friends as well. If you are simply too overwhelmed, you can avoid hurting others' feelings by asking someone to do this for you.

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kamryn.pokorny@yahoo.com

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HR-218: Retiree Qualification Procedures

Please note that HR-218 qualifications may be limited due to public health orders.

The purpose of this article is to inform retired LASD sworn personnel of the current Department procedures to certify them under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004. This federal law allows honorably retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm nationwide, but requires annual proficiency certification. The LASD Weapons Training Unit has developed a firearms test for those retired members who wish to take advantage of the privileges afforded to them under the law.

(Active-duty personnel should refer to Sheriff’s Bulletin #523 and the Field Operations Support Services Newsletter, Volume 4, Number 25, for further information.)

ANNUAL QUALIFICATION

The Department firearms proficiency test for retirees assesses general firearms safety and proficiency in handling and firing weapons. It is available to any retired LASD deputy who retired in good standing. California residency is not required, but the retiree must possess a valid LASD identification with CCW endorsement.

The Biscailuz Center Armory has HR-218 testing by appointment every Thursday at 11 a.m. For retirees visiting

from out of state or Northern California, you can contact the range at (323) 267-2730 to arrange a special appointment.

HR-218 testing is also conducted during the annual Retiree Roundup in Laughlin; however, the Department is not allowed to sell ammunition in Nevada.

Retired personnel who successfully complete the firearms proficiency test will immediately be issued a certification card, which is valid for one year from the date of certification. Retirees must carry this card with their Department identification.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Sheriff has directed that the firearms proficiency test and annual certification be provided at no cost to LASD retirees. You will need to bring your own ammunition. Due to changes in California law, the Department is no longer allowed to sell ammunition.
- Retirees who do not wish to carry a concealed firearm outside of California do not have to qualify under the federal law. However, if they wish to



continue carrying in California only, they must renew their CCW permit through Personnel Administration as currently required, not through the Weapons Training Unit.

- Only LASD retirees can be HR-218 certified at the Biscailuz Center Armory or at the annual Retiree Roundup in Laughlin.
- HR-218 allows for LASD retirees living in other states to be certified by that state if the state offers such a test. Retirees living out of state should contact their local law enforcement agency to determine if such a test is available.

Any questions regarding the contents of this article may be directed to the Biscailuz Center Armory at (323) 267-2730. 📍



DMV CONFIDENTIALITY REQUEST

The DMV Confidentiality of Home Address covers LASD retired peace officers holding a valid California driver’s license. The Request for Confidentiality of Home Address (INV 32) forms are no longer available for pickup at local DMVs. They are available only through qualifying agencies.

LASD retired peace officers can request the INV 32 form by contacting:
 L.A. County Sheriff’s Department
 Personnel Operations — EPTS Support Unit
 211 West Temple Street, 4th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: DMV Confidentiality Coordinator, (213) 229-1731 — Jean Marie Lewis





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Peter Ramirez: Three Decades of Dedication

PPOA is grateful to the many delegates who have stepped forward to help the union move forward. This month, we're proud to shine the spotlight on Custody Assistant Peter Ramirez, a fixture at Industry Station who has been a dedicated public servant since 1988.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is being part of the best team ever: the LASD. For the past 31 years, I've worked many different assignments at many different units, some good and some not so much. However, I've chosen to remain at Industry Station for the last 22-plus years because of the camaraderie and real family atmosphere of the station. Most of my partners and supervisors are actually very close friends. Unlike a custody assignment, this assignment has been and continues to be very rewarding as it provides an opportunity to work with community leaders and members.

If not this career, what would have been your second choice?

Law enforcement was always my first choice, but if I had to choose an alternate career, I would probably be a P.E. teacher/coach, because of my love for outdoor sports activities and my zest for not taking life too seriously.



What do you enjoy in your free time?

Outside of work, I enjoy golfing and running. Although not a fast runner, I find great pleasure in a long, scenic run. Doing just about anything with my family is another hobby I thoroughly crave and enjoy.

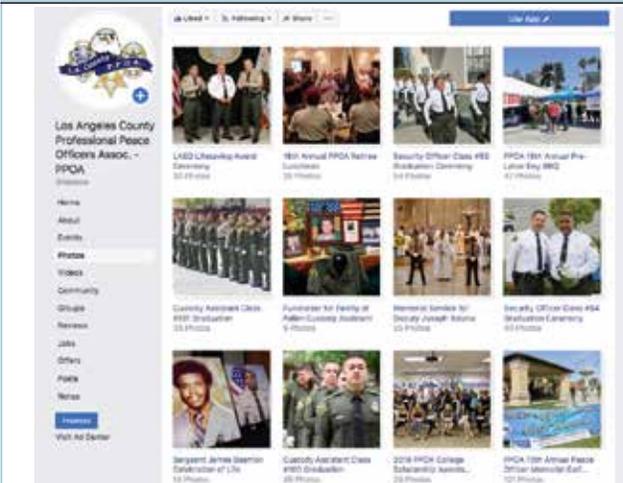
Why serve as a PPOA delegate?

Serving as a PPOA delegate has been very rewarding. As a delegate, I see firsthand how our union is working for us and get to relay to co-workers the intricate details of the battles and issues PPOA faces daily that affect our lives and working conditions.

What advice would you offer to newly hired custody assistants?

My advice to young, newly hired custody assistants is this: Take pride in this career; it's actually a great one. Always be prepared for anything, and fight the urge of complacency. It's very easy to get jaded and negative in this career because of the very nature of our working environment. For the most part, we are locked in with some of the most dangerous and unappreciative people in society, but our job is to keep them safe and healthy, and that is invaluable. 🛡️

FOLLOW LAPPOA ON FACEBOOK



In addition to breaking news and announcements, the "LAPPOA" Facebook page features more than 2,000 photos and videos from events, graduations, memorials, dedications, ceremonies and other noteworthy occasions. We're honored to document the diligent work of PPOA members and meaningful moments for our law enforcement family.



www.facebook.com/LAPPOA

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERRA RETREAT

October 16–18

Serra Retreat Center

3401 Serra Road, Malibu, CA 90265

The weekend of October 16–18 marks the 74th anniversary

of the Sheriff's Department Law Enforcement Retreat at the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu. The retreat center is now open for retreats and following state and CDC guidelines regarding cleaning protocols, social distancing and mask-wearing. All home-cooked meals and voluntary presentations will be held in open-air areas. The retreat center is a 38-acre Franciscan facility located on a hilltop in Malibu. Keep in mind, outside patios are surrounded by immaculately maintained gardens, paths and trails throughout the property with breathtaking views overlooking the hills and the beautiful Pacific Ocean.

The retreat staff has made adjustments to the room assignments in order to meet standards set by the state and CDC. Each couple or individual will have a private bedroom and bathroom. Because of safe distancing, there will be fewer rooms available. Attendance will be based on confirmed commitments.

Attendees will have opportunities to go on quiet walks and enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Malibu Hills. They may also choose to quietly reflect and enjoy the beautiful setting by relaxing in the informal environment, or may simply just sleep and enjoy great home-cooked meals. Positive, uplifting presentations will also be offered to everyone on a voluntary basis. Many retreatants enjoy walking or running down to the beach.

Retreat attendees will begin their experience by checking in any time after 3 p.m. on Friday, October 16. (Try to avoid traffic by leaving early.) Friday's dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. to accommodate late arrivals. Check-out time will be approximately 12 p.m. noon on Sunday, October 18.

All religious denominations are invited. This retreat is open to active and retired civilian and sworn members from all Los Angeles County law enforcement agencies. Spouses, relatives and friends are also welcome to attend.

For further information regarding the cost and reservations, please contact any of the following:

Tom Yetter
(949) 456-0908

Patty Norris
(818) 381-7698

Chuck Norris
(818) 381-7649

Michelle Emeneger
mremenger@lasd.org

Jay Sevoian
(661) 992-4369

Andy Thompson
adthomps@lasd.org

Chickie and Norm Nelson
(562) 760-0875

John Valencia
(951) 316-3633

Leo Bauer
(661) 388-9650

Ingrid Jefferys
ingridjeff@outlook.com

Gino Reale
(661) 425-1219

Directions: The Serra Retreat Center is located at 3401 Serra Road, Malibu, CA, 90265. Serra Road is located between Sweetwater Canyon Road and Cross Creek Road, directly off the Pacific Coast Highway. It is south of the Old Malibu Sheriff's Station and across from Malibu Lagoon State Park.

Marie Walker: PPOA Scholarship Recipient

A few months ago, PPOA awarded college scholarships to 17 very deserving students. In fact, we've been honored to contribute more than \$100,000 toward the educational goals of PPOA members and their sons and daughters since the inception of the scholarship program nearly a decade ago.

One of this year's scholarship recipients was Marie Walker, daughter of longtime PPOA Delegate/Crime Analyst Joe Walker. She wrote the letter below about earning the scholarship and shared a harrowing challenge she faced while headed to a police memorial event years ago.

I would like to start off by thanking PPOA for this amazing scholarship. I will be using this money toward my tuition at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in the spring.

My ties with PPOA go way back, actually to within a few months of my birth. My father has worked for Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for over 30 years. After I was born, my family traveled to several events to represent PPOA. On one of these trips, in the spring of 2002, we drove to Sacramento to participate in the California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation ceremony, where they were honoring a fallen peace officer who had died many years earlier but who my father had



Marie Walker
 Temple City High School Class of 2020 (interrupted by COVID-19);
 University of Tennessee Class of 2024 (fingers crossed)

identified as not having been recognized and whose name was being put on the memorial wall. On the drive there, we stopped at a farm that allowed children to pet and observe livestock. Unbeknownst to me, being around farm animals and agricultural settings can be very dangerous to newborns, as there exists a type of bacteria that babies do not have the ability to fight with their developing immune systems.

I contracted what is called "infant botulism." It is extremely rare, with fewer than 50 cases per year in California in 2002. Every pediatrician in the hospital was brought in and out of my hospital room on a daily basis, as most had never seen an actual case outside of a classroom/academic setting. I was hospitalized for two weeks in Sacramento and brought back to Los Angeles, where I was hospitalized for another several weeks. Eventually, my parents were asked if I could participate in a trial study for a vaccine. My parents consented and I recovered quickly. Years later, I was given a plaque from the Infant Botulism Foundation with a sample vial of the medicine, called "BabyBIG," that saved my life and the lives of many others after me.

I obviously survived the ordeal, but it is ironic that 18 years later I am receiving a scholarship from PPOA, who has essentially been in my life since birth. To sum things up, I am very thankful to have been awarded this scholarship and am very optimistic about my future life endeavors. 🍀



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614 Negotiations

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By Greg Torres,
PPOA Public Relations Coordinator

The Invaluable Work of Unretired Retirees

Occasionally, a story pops up about a retired PPOA member who has made the decision to *unretire* and return to “work” (the word most retirees do not dare to mention) alongside the same Department members he or she worked with prior to the short-lived retirement that gave way to the *unretirement*. Eventually, the member tires of the unretired life and chooses to *un-unretire* in order to truly retire.

Last month, we caught wind of two retired/unretired PPOA members truly making a difference and wanted to share a bit about their accomplishments.

Joe Purcell graduated from the LASD Academy in 1976 and retired as a sergeant 33 years later. He then unretired in order to help Homicide Bureau crack cold-case murders. One of the cases involved the 1996 violent murder of an elderly woman at a retirement home in Covina. In fact, Joe was among the first detectives on scene 24 years ago to investigate the tragic death of the 67-year-old victim. Little did Joe know at the time, this case would remain unsolved for nearly a quarter century until he reopened the cold case. Unfortunately, just as Joe was building a solid case and closing in on the killer, he and most of his fellow cold-case detectives were laid off on July 1 due to severe budget cuts for the Sheriff’s Department. Homicide Captain Kent Wegener put it in perspective for ABC7 Eyewitness News: “The combined experience of the unsolved unit detectives is over 500 years, and as of July 1, they were dismissed because of budget cuts.”

Joe responded in a way many outside of law enforcement wouldn’t understand: he

LASD detective worked for free to catch 1996 killer of Covina grandmother in nursing home

A Los Angeles County Sheriff Department cold case detective axed by county budget cuts solved the 24-year old murder of a 67-year-old woman in a Covina assisted living center.

By Miriam Hernandez and Lisa Bartley
Saturday, August 8, 2020



decided to work for free. Ultimately, the tireless investigator and the LASD Crime Lab unraveled the mystery following a positive DNA match and the suspect was arrested in early August.

You can read the full ABC7 article about this case on the PPOA Facebook page. If you run into Joe anytime soon, please thank him for his perseverance and dedication. It wouldn’t hurt to buy him a beer, too. Because if anybody deserves a cold one, it’s a volunteer, unretired retiree who’s been fighting crime for 44 years.

Richard Alvarez retired as a lieutenant in 2005, but later unretired to return to the Department as a 120-day contract employee to assist Personnel Bureau in accomplishing a major hiring feat. The 30-year veteran used his



experience to help the combined Pre-Employment/Intake/Operations team hit it out of the park with the number of newly hired deputies in 2019. In fact, Richard’s work as part of that collective mission to ramp up hiring was acknowledged with a Distinguished Service Award issued by the Sheriff’s Department last month (see full list of award recipients on page 25).

That’s how these unretired retirees roll: one makes sure there are fewer bad people on the streets and the other ensures more good people are being hired to do the same.

Retired Commander **Jay Sowards** was recently researching the history of the

Rookies Roost is a column that chronicles the lives of some of the most interesting people we know: retired PPOA members. It first appeared in Star & Shield magazine in 1973, and we are grateful to those who have authored the column over the years, including Ev Carter, Lee Mealy and Bob Lindsey. From time to time, PPOA sends surveys to retired members, and we appreciate so many of you who have taken the time to share your stories with us over the years. You can email Greg Torres at gtorres@ppoa.com.



1965 Watts Riots

Los Angeles County Marshal's Office (1952–1994) and wanted to let fellow marshal's deputies know about that Department's deployment during the 1965 Watts Riots. Jay wrote: "The Watts Riots, known as the Watts Rebellion, was a large series of riots that broke out August 11, 1965, in the predominantly black neighborhood of Watts in Los Angeles. The Watts Riots lasted for six days, resulting in 34 deaths, 1,032 injuries and 4,000 arrests, involving 34,000 people and ending in the destruction of 1,000 buildings, totaling \$40 million in damages."

You can find an extensive article about the Watts Riots, including a photo gallery with images of marshal's deputies, in the August 27, 1965, issue of *Life* magazine. A free download is available online at archive.com. 



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

(August issue — the hidden word appeared on page 17)

Jane Carson, Public Response Dispatcher II
Prescilla DeHaro, Law Enforcement Technician
Christopher Tse, Senior Criminalist

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Supporting PPOA Members

To help support the health and wellness of our members, PPOA's Star & Shield Foundation has teamed up with New Life Cardio Equipment (NLCE) to secure treadmills and ellipticals for employee gyms. The machines are purchased by the Star & Shield Foundation at discounted pricing and delivered by PPOA to units in need.

Last month, PPOA donated a new elliptical machine to the gym at Central Arraignment Court and supplied members there with hand sanitizer, masks and more. Deliveries to additional units are scheduled to take place once the pandemic restrictions on businesses in Los Angeles are lifted and NLCE is able to reopen.

PPOA has also arranged for NLCE to extend special PPOA pricing to any members who are interested in purchasing cardio equipment for personal use at home. For more information, contact Jason at New Life Cardio at (323) 345-7216. ♥



END OF WATCH

PPOA extends sincere condolences to the family members and friends of the following members who passed away in July:

Retired Law Enforcement Technician
Willie Dixon
EOW: July 2, 2020

Retired Sergeant
Esther Spencer
EOW: July 19, 2020

Retired Sergeant
Barry Perrou
EOW: July 21, 2020

Retired Sergeant
Conrad Alvarez
EOW: July 24, 2020

Retired Sergeant
Lenora Raia
EOW: July 24, 2020

Retired Sergeant
Dale Underwood
EOW: July 26, 2020

MEMBERS CAN WIN!



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 September 30, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. PDT.

This month's hidden word is:
Halcyon
Characterized by happiness, great success and prosperity

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



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*Original list price: \$10,500, plus endowment care fee. Price includes double depth concrete vault and interment rights for two. Offer expires 09/30/20. Additional services and merchandise required. 10% savings not applicable to cash advance items. Offers may not be combined. Whittier / FD 970 / COA 610.

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Board of Supervisors Move Forward With Defunding Initiative

On August 4, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors finalized the vote on a proposed ballot initiative seeking to “redistribute” funding away from public safety. If approved by L.A. County voters this November, public safety resources for the Sheriff’s Department, the District Attorney’s Office and the County Probation Department would be significantly cut.

In a 4-1 decision (Supervisor Barger again standing alone as the “no” vote) that fateful afternoon, the Board of Supervisors voted to place this ballot measure with a proposed County Charter amendment on the ballot for the November election. This will ultimately require voters to decide whether to endorse a reconfiguration of allocations for L.A. County budget priorities, which would represent a potential 10% defunding of public safety. These funds would then be reallocated to “address racial injustice, over-reliance on law enforcement interventions, limited economic opportunity, health disparities, and housing instability.” (To read the original motion from Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Hilda Solis, visit <https://bit.ly/3hiW1LC>.)

PPOA President Tab Rhodes again addressed the County supervisors via phone during the online hearing. Below is the statement from President Rhodes:

“The Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association represents more

than 9,000 current and retired County employees. Our members who live and work in this community remain profoundly concerned about this motion and very much opposed to this charter amendment, which could have a devastating effect on County residents and the unionized employees of Los Angeles County.

“PPOA continues to emphasize that we are not just representing a law enforcement viewpoint, but also a *labor* perspective as well as a genuine concern for the detrimental impacts this amendment will have in the community. PPOA is first and foremost a labor organization, and while we represent sworn peace officers in three County agencies, we also represent numerous classifications of non-sworn unionized members, including dispatchers, custody assistants, criminologists, security officers and crime analysts, some of whom are facing irreparable financial uncertainty and harm as a result of this motion.

“As for general comment, your offices have been provided a comprehensive legal analysis of the proposed motion outlining the failures of this board to adhere to its own established rules, negotiated bargaining rights and the law. County Counsel has commented with concerns regarding the legality of the proposed motion. The CEO has expressed concerns with the uncertain financial plight our County faces as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our labor

partners in the Coalition of County Unions and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor have expressed their formal opposition to this proposed charter amendment. I have personally had conversations with each of you and/or your staff, identifying many of the unintended consequences that would impact the citizens of Los Angeles County.

“PPOA, joining with the *L.A. Times* Editorial Board, our brothers and sisters in our labor coalitions as well as many civic organizations, emphatically oppose this motion. We strongly urge the honorable supervisors of the board to put aside the emotions of this moment, live up to the expectations and responsibilities of the constituents who put you in office and govern through analysis and careful consideration.”

While the causes of the heightened emotion levels within today’s society are numerous (COVID-19 isolation, police reform protests, unemployment, no school, etc.), many elected officials are taking advantage of “the moment” to push their progressive social change agendas, much to the detriment of Los Angeles County and California in the long term. We are sincerely grateful to our current and retired PPOA members who volunteered their time and participated in opposing the Board of Supervisors’ ill-advised action through numerous emails and willingness to speak during the meetings. 🇺🇸



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Proud to Support Members in the Field

P POA was proud to partner with ALADS to provide lunch for personnel from Community Partnerships Bureau during an extensive search warrant operation in Chatsworth. In the end, the raid on a multiacre property yielded more than 2,000 roosters being bred for cockfighting and hundreds of livestock “in various states of health.” Several people at the property were also detained. 🇺🇸





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Congratulations to Custody Assistant Class #103

→ Executive Board member/Custody Assistant Tony Coleman attended the graduation ceremony for Custody Assistant Class #103 on July 31. PPOA congratulates all 19 hardworking graduates and wishes them the best of luck as they begin promising new careers with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department. 



Photos by Noel Cabrera/PPOA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these dates are subject to change. These events and more can be found on PPOA's online calendar at PPOA.com. Do you know of a Department-related event we can help promote? Email details to gtorres@ppoa.com.

September 9
PPOA Board of Directors Meeting

September 15
Deadline to Submit PPOA Board Nominating Petition
Due by 5 p.m.

September 17
PPOA Delegates Zoom Meeting Followed by General Membership Meeting
Details will be emailed.
See page 6

October 2-3
Compton Station Family Reunion
Hilton Palm Springs
Info: storminnorman1@outlook.com

PPOA Members Among Recipients of Distinguished Service Awards



→ The dedicated work of more than 40 LASD employees was acknowledged by the Department last month at a Distinguished Service Awards ceremony. We are particularly proud of the following PPOA members and congratulate them for their outstanding efforts to help Personnel Bureau accomplish a “major hiring feat” in 2019:

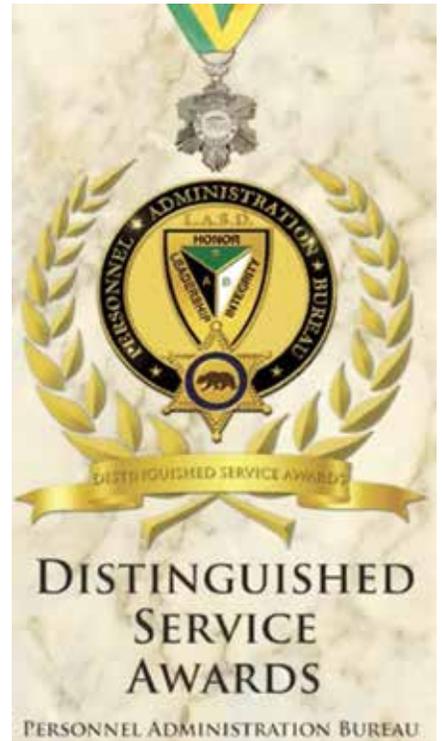
Distinguished Service Award

- Retired Lieutenant Richard Alvarez (returned as 120-day contract employee)
- Lieutenant Michael Del Real
- Sergeant Brian Kehoe

- Sergeant Kim Lam
- Sergeant Brian Mann
- Captain John McBride
- Sergeant Jose Salgado

Unit Commander Commendation

- Lieutenant Ernie Bille
- Lieutenant John Carter
- Sergeant John Castro
- Custody Assistant Regina Chavez
- Sergeant Mark Cho
- Lieutenant Chadney Watters





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Creating a Retirement Budget to Put Your Mind at Ease

For many retirees, the fear of running out of money is a major worry. This is where a retirement budget is helpful because it shows how much money is coming in, how much money is allocated for expenses and where adjustments can be made to fill in the gaps. It also helps in preparation for unexpected expenses, such as a major home or car repair or unforeseen medical bill. Below is a starting point to creating a retirement budget.

GATHER YOUR FINANCIAL RECORDS

To make a plan, you need to know where you are financially. Access your financial statements (including your credit card statements) for the *past year*. Tax season is a good time to do this, since you are using much of this information to fill out your IRS forms.

MAKE A LIST OF YOUR MONTHLY FIXED EXPENSES

These are expenses that are the same every month. For example: your rent or mortgage payment, a car payment, your Medicare payment and anything else you do that gets billed in equal monthly amounts, from a gym membership to your cable and phone bills.

LIST YOUR REGULAR MONTHLY VARIABLE PAYMENTS

This step is a little harder since the bills change every month. They might include utility bills, medical expenses, grocery bills, entertainment costs, etc. Total these variable expenses for the year and divide that amount by 12 to get your monthly average cost.

FACTOR IN NONRECURRING EXPENSES

If you are planning to take a vacation or buy a new car this year, that's a special expense that requires advance planning. There are other bills that you pay only once or twice a year (e.g., insurance bills, medical bills, holiday gifts, etc.). Once you figure out what occasional expenses you have, add them up and divide the amount by 12 to get your monthly average cost for this category.

ESTIMATE YOUR RETIREMENT INCOME

Add up your monthly retirement income from all expected sources. This can include, but is not limited to: a Social Security benefit, a pension, withdrawals from retirement accounts and interest or dividends from other savings and investment accounts, income from a part-time job, a rental property, etc.



COMPARE YOUR TOTAL EXPENSES TO YOUR INCOME

Add your monthly fixed expenses, average monthly variable expenses and average monthly nonrecurring expenses. Since this number includes averages and estimates, you may find yourself going over or under budget from month to month. If you are spending too much, then you'll have to make some changes. Having a budget will make this change easier, since now you know where your money is going and where you can most easily cut back — whether it's a minor adjustment like reducing travel or a major lifestyle decision like downsizing to a less expensive home.

CHECK YOUR BUDGET PERIODICALLY TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE ON TARGET

A budget is a guideline meant to ease the stress and anxiety in your retirement.

Contact POPA Federal Credit Union at (800) 369-7672 and ask about our savings products that may help with your retirement budget! 💙



2007 ROADTREK RV FOR SALE

Roadtrek 210 Popular, 21' Class B. Power sofa converts to king bed. Bathroom w/ shower. 3-way fridge. Microwave/convection oven. Loaded! Excellent condition. Need to sell due to the big "D." \$52,995. Contact Hal: (213) 248-1949. (0120)

SHOTGUN FOR SALE

Winchester model 23 classic 20 GA. 2x2 w/ factory case. Raised "Golden Pheasant in Flight" on base of receiver. Three-digit S/N. \$1,500. Call (714) 350-7914. (0920)

MONTEBELLO HOME FOR RENT

3BR/1.5BA. 2-car carport. Newly remodeled. Split-type A/C units for all rooms. Stove included. \$2,300 mo. + deposit. LASD family preferred. Contact Matt, (626) 625-7301. (0819)

2012 ALLEGRO RED MOTORHOME FOR SALE

34-foot diesel. Washer/dryer, low mileage. Contact Ervin: (760) 630-8155. (0420)

RENTAL NEEDED FOR ELDERLY, DISABLED FEMALE

Retired deputy seeks small rental unit for elderly, disabled mother. Ground-level studio or 1 bedroom needed. Range \$900-\$1,100. Chino area preferred. Contact Matthew: (909) 418-7121. (0819)

MOBILITY SCOOTERS FOR SALE

Two scooters in excellent condition \$500-\$600 each. Contact Pat: (951) 430-1502. (0419)

2007 BOUNDER RV FOR SALE

Cat diesel engine, electric steps, 3 side outs, sat. dish, auto leveling, power awnings, queen bed, fridge. \$51,000 OBO. Contact Ken: (909) 873-5343. (0720)

HARLEY-DAVIDSON FOR SALE

2003 H-D Dyna Low Rider, white pearl. Approx. 4,800 miles. Screamin' Eagle pipes, no frame mods, custom cruiser, 1450 (88 cubic inches), V2, 4-stroke. \$8,500 OBO + accessories. Call (818) 822-4497. (0919)

2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED FOR SALE

Black exterior/black leather interior, loaded. Excellent condition. Only 16k miles. Selling for \$28,000. Contact Martha, (626) 340-9360. (0220)

SEEKING AR-15 FOR SALE

Looking to buy an AR-15. If you have one you want to sell, please email me with price and pictures: amorgaemail@yahoo.com. (0720)

1949 9EL LINCOLN (AKA BABY LINCOLN)

337 ci flathead V8. Body in great shape. Needs total restoration. Inc/chev. 454; see L.A. Craigslist. Call Tom, (541) 416-0995. (0220)

RANCH SITTER WANTED

Looking for a retired person to take care of our small ranch and animals located in South Riverside County. Contact Joe: (562) 743-0772. (0420)

SO. ONTARIO HOME FOR RENT

3-bed/2-bath, 2-car garage, partially furnished corner lot w/pool, alarm system, A/C & Spectrum hookup (family room & master). No pets. \$2,350, plus \$1,200 sec. dep Contact Elvia: (909) 947-4578. (0420)

HUNTINGTON BEACH HOME FOR RENT

2-story, single-family residence in very desirable neighborhood a few miles from beach. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus bonus room & 3-car garage. Home recently upgraded. 2,000+ square feet. LE family preferred. No pets. \$3,600 month w/ \$3,500 deposit. Available mid-summer 2020. Call/text: (714) 717-6177. (0720)

COMPANION MAUSOLEUM CRYPT FOR SALE

Located at San Fernando Mission Catholic Cemetery. Companion crypt holds 2 caskets or 2 urns. Includes 1 crypt plate, 1 insert & 1 vase. Prime location height. Approximately 5 ft. high. Asking market price \$20,000. Call Laura: (626) 222-3040. (0720)

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